



Minutes of the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership Board Meeting

Thursday 23 February 2023

Bishop Auckland Football Club

Present

Partner Representative

Steven Robson (SR) – Business Representative – Vice Chair
Insp Andy Reeves (AR) - Durham Constabulary
Deborah Richardson (DR) - Community and Voluntary Sector Representative
Paul Cooper (PC) – Durham County Council
Colin Davis (CD) - County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

Public Representative

Peter Quinn (PQ)
Tony Bird (TB) - Chair
Jayne Nicholson (JN)

Elected Members

Cllr George Smith (GS) – Elected Member
Cllr Samantha Townsend (ST) – Elected Member
Cllr Shirley Quinn (SQ) – Elected Member – Vice Chair
Cllr Cathy Hunt (CH) – Elected Member

Officers

Andrew Walker (APW) – Senior AAP Co-ordinator
Sheilah Metcalfe (SM) - AAP Community Development Project Officer
Emma Walton (EW) - AAP Support Officer
Peter Henderson (PH) - AAP Towns and Villages Team Community Development Project Officer

Apologies

Tommy Taylor (TT)
Rachel Edmunds (RE) – Believe Housing
Bernadette Crooks (BC)
Kirstie Hutchinson (KH)
Cllr Andrew Jackson (AJ) – Elected Member

Cllr David Bell (DB) – Town and Parish Council Representative
Cllr Joanne Howey (JH) – Elected Member
William Lightburn (WB) - AAP Community Development Project Officer

Public / Other Attendees – 5

A1. Introduction and apologies

Introductions and apologies were made.

Please see page 1 & 2 for attendees and apologies.

TB welcomed Board and Forum members to the meeting and introduced Jayne Nicholson newly appointed Public Representative to the BASH Board and Paul Cooper and Colin Davis to their first face to face meeting.

A2. Agreement of minutes and matters arising from previous meeting held 26 January 2023

The Board agreed the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

A3. Declaring an Interest

Cllr Shirley Quinn, Cllr Samantha Townsend and Peter Quinn declared an interest in the Coronation Meadow – Shildon Town Council project.

A4. Local Neighbourhood Issues

APW stated a presentation on the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service's Community Risk Management Plan consultation was due to take place at tonight's meeting however this has been rescheduled for the March Board meeting.

APW confirmed there has been one neighbourhood issue raised, in advance of the meeting. A forum member asked for information on energy saving initiatives in particular the Dene Valley area. APW stated a response has been provided to the Forum member by PH. In addition, a meeting will be arranged, with the forum member and Durham County Council's Housing Regeneration Officer, to discuss the support available.

A5. Priorities and Action Plans

➤ Area Budget - Community / COVID 19 Recovery

APW reminded the Board that at the November Board meeting they agreed to approve £177,403 Area Budget funding to 10 projects as identified in the Board report.

The team have been working on each application. As each project will be at various stages of development, regular updates will be provided to the Board. Project leads will be invited to future Board meetings to provide an update on the funding received.

Woodhouse Church Community Centre

APW invited DR to provide an overview of the Grief and Bereavement Councillor and the Day Clubs Coordinator project which were approved by the Board in November.

DR gave an overview of her role and highlighted the support and services provided by Woodhouse Church Community Centre. The AAP has supported several activities and projects through Area Budget, Holiday Activities with Healthy Food and Neighbourhood Budget including:

- A Grief and Bereavement Councillor
- A Day Clubs Coordinator
- A proposed extension at Woodhouse Church Community Centre
- A New Van for Meals on Wheels
- To provide holiday activities with healthy food throughout the school holiday periods.

These projects have all contributed to help the local community and those in need. DR stated that the number of crisis cases has increased from 21/22 by 8%. Last year support was provided to 972 single households and 854 family households. This equates to 1984 adults and 1290 children receiving food and fuel support. DR reported that £31,352 worth of fuel support has been provided. In addition, support is also being provided, until March 2023, by Durham County Council's 'Household Support Fund' to those households who may be struggling with their energy and food costs.

DR thanked the BASH AAP and local elected members for their ongoing support and the funding received.

APW thanked DR for her ongoing work and the support she has provided in the local community.

TB thanked DR for the update.

➤ **Holiday Activities with Healthy Food**

Durham County Council has secured additional funding from the Department for Education to continue to deliver holiday activities with healthy food during the school holidays. Individual allocations to AAPs were based on the number of free school meal eligible children and child poverty rates for 5 –15 year olds. BASH AAP has been allocated £90,273. The funding available is to be allocated in 2023 and is for the Easter, Summer and Christmas holiday periods.

In addition, funding has been secured from Durham County Council for holiday activities with healthy food during the school half terms. BASH AAP has been allocated £46,156. The funding available is to be allocated in 2023/24 and is for the February, May, October, and February 2024 half term periods.

The first round of funding was for the February 2023 half term. Following a call for projects 9 applications were received for approx. £15,000. Each application was assessed and considered by the funding panel which agreed 8 applications to the project value of £11,474.50. The following projects were supported:

- AYCC - February Fun and Food
- Little Chef Big Chef - LCBC Breakfast Club
- King James I Academy- Multi-skills course with AJ Sports
- Groundwork - Eco Warriors
- Shildon AFC - Feb Half Term Holiday Camp
- Wear Rivers Trust - Bishop Auckland Holiday Provision
- Influence Church - Family Brunch
- Daisy Arts- All Things Visual

This would leave a remaining balance of £34,681.50 for the next 3 half term holidays.

The next round of funding was for the Easter School Holidays. Following a call for projects 11 applications were received for approx. £16,800. Each application will be assessed and considered by the funding panel. The Board will be updated accordingly.

APW thanked panel members and the BASH AAP team for the work that has taken place.

APW asked if any Board members would like to support the funding panel to inform a member of the BASH team. JN volunteered to join the funding panel.

➤ **Town and Village Revitalisation**

PH reminded the Board that BASH AAP had an additional £210,000 funding to address the priority of Towns and Villages over 3 years. In addition, elected members also received an additional £10,000 each to address Town and Villages Revitalisation.

PH gave an overview and an update on the following projects:

AAP Towns and Villages Funding

- **King James Academy** - £13, 575 – The project is now complete and final monitoring has been issued.
- **Dorset Place, Henknowle** - £75,000 – work has commenced.
- **Bishop Auckland Rec** - £27,000 - Following approval from the Board the application has been forwarded to the DCC Funding Team for a full technical appraisal. The appraisal queries have been addressed and an offer letter will be issued soon.
- **Wi-Fi in Shildon** - £37,715 - Following approval from the Board the application has been forwarded to the DCC Funding Team for a full technical appraisal.

- **Oakley Cross MUGA** - £14,000 - Following approval from the Board we are currently awaiting permission from DCC assets.
- **Escomb Car Park** – The designs have been developed and are currently awaiting final costings, prior to consulting with residents.
- **ASB in Eldon and Dene Valley** – £26,855 - Following approval from the Board the application has been forwarded to the DCC Funding Team for a full technical appraisal.

Cllr's Towns and Villages Funding

- **Shildon Cemetery** - £7,000 each from Cllrs Quinn, Townsend, and Johnson – The project is nearly complete.
- **Hackworth Park Footpaths, Shildon** – £3,000 each from Cllrs Quinn, Townsend, and Johnson - Following approval from the Board the application has been forwarded to the DCC Funding Team for a full technical appraisal. The appraisal queries have been addressed and an offer letter will be issued soon.
- **Northumberland and Ravensworth Avenue** – £10,000 each from Cllrs Zair and Johnson – The project is now complete.
- **Watling Road** - £10,000 each from Cllrs Hunt and Howey – work has commenced.
- **Leeholme Play Area** - £10,000 Cllr Kay – The project has been signed off and is currently awaiting the offer letter.
- **New Street (West Auckland Play Area)** – £7,840 each from Cllrs Yorke and Roberts - An offer letter has been issued; work is due to start in the coming weeks.

PH reported that the AAP Towns and Villages and the Councillor's Towns and Villages Budget has now been fully allocated.

ST queried additional Town and Village funding for other projects not supported through the AAP Towns and Villages programme. APW stated that there is funding available from Durham County Council Economic Development to support Towns and Villages. Durham County Council administer this funding, this is different to the AAP Towns and Villages funding which is managed through the AAP task groups and Boards. In addition, each councillor has £10,000 to spend on a Towns and Villages project in their own ward area.

ACTION – PH to update ST on Towns and Villages Funding and provide a contact in Durham County Council Economic Development for further information.

SQ thanked the BASH AAP team and PH for their work in allocating the Towns and Villages funding.

➤ **Neighbourhood Budget**

The Board received the following Neighbourhood Budget applications for information, comment, and approval. Each project is subject to a full application and satisfactory project appraisal.

- **Coronation Meadow - Shildon Town Council**

NB Contribution – £832 (Cllr Quinn)

Match Funding - £2,606.66

Total Cost - £3,438.66

Cllr Shirley Quinn, Cllr Samantha Townsend and Peter Quinn have a declaration of interest in this project.

There were no comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

The Board received the application and **APPROVED** a recommendation of approval of £832.

- **Early Years Play and Learn – Woodhouse Community Primary School**

NB Contribution – £6,000 (£3,000 each from Cllr's Howey and Hunt)

Match Funding - £14,094

Total Cost - £20,094

There were no further comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

A6. Coordinators Update

➤ **Review of Community Engagement**

APW reported that the review of community engagement is now complete. The findings and recommendations have been circulated to Board members. Sessions will be held for Board members to feedback their thoughts on the report and its recommendations. The planned sessions are due to commence in March 2023. APW encouraged Board member to participate in the sessions and /or provide feedback.

The findings and recommendations will be presented to cabinet in June 2023 where a decision on the future direction of AAP's and the County Council's Community Engagement function should be agreed

➤ **Future Board Meetings**

The Board discussed the timings, venues, format, and the frequency of future Board meetings. The Board **AGREED** future Board meetings will be held face-to-face, bimonthly. A schedule of dates will be circulated.

A7. Countywide Partner Issues

➤ **Police / PACT Update**

Insp Andy Reeves gave an update on the main priority issues for the BASH area.

- AR reminded the Board that the home office has changed how ASB is reported.
- Overall crime, for Bishop Auckland has increased by 2%. ASB is down by 32%.
- Overall crime in Shildon is down by 3%. ASB in Shildon is down 42%
- Vehicle crimes have increased.
- The Police continue to meet with local elected members.
- The 'Now You're Talking' event took place at the beginning of the month. This was a positive well attended event with several organisations present.
- Work is now taking place at Bishop Auckland Viaduct.
- There has been several horse related crimes at St Helens. Work is ongoing to deal with this issue. SM reported that work is taking place with elected members to secure a particular area at St Helens.

TB thanked the Police for their current focus and presence in Eldon.

SQ highlighted that some councillors have been approached by Durham Agency Against Crime, who wish to deliver crime awareness prevention sessions in schools, with a targeted approach.

A8. Date / Time / Venue for next Board Meeting

TB thanked Board and Forum members for attending the meeting.

Board - Thursday 23 March 2023, 4pm, Microsoft Teams