

3 Towns Partnership Board Meeting
5.30pm on Thursday 18 May 2023 at Crook Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Partner Organisations

Gordon Elliott
Liz Bradley
Jill Matthewson
Graham Tomaszko
Insp. Ed Turner

Public Representatives

Jay Conlon
Pauline Moger
Fiona Nicol
Dianne Mackay
David Dixon
Chris Ebdon

Elected Members

Councillor Richard Manchester, Durham County Council
Councillor Patricia Jopling, Durham County Council
Councillor Anne Reed, Durham County Council
Councillor Mike Currah, Durham County Council
Councillor Fraser Tinsley, Durham County Council
Councillor Margaret Elgie, Greater Willington Town Council

Co-opted Members

Councillor Paul Stokes, Tow Law Town Council

Officer Attendance:

Sandy Denney	AAP Coordinator
Nicola Woodgate	Community Development Project Officer
Joanne Ashworth	Towns and Villages Community Development Project Officer
Kelly Hughes	AAP Support Officer

Presenters:

Colin Hemmingway – Foundry Fields Community Garden
Chris Ebdon – Hunwick Social, Community and Environmental Group
Cormac, Hunter, Emily, and Jay Conlon – 3 Towns Youth Panel
Steve Musgrove – Crook Ramblers
Eunice Smith – Friends Together

Public Attendance:

32 members of the public were in attendance

Apologies:

Mary Hall, Helen Ward, Cllr Olwyn Gunn

AGM

A1. Welcome and Introductions

ET opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending and introductions of the Board were made.

A2. 3 Towns Annual Report

SD confirmed the 3 Towns Partnership Annual Report is in development and will be circulated electronically once available. Printed copies are available if needed.

The group were informed that this financial year there has been a total of £534,446.24 allocated from the 3 Towns Partnership across all budgets which is an increase of £129,000 from last year. There has also been £344,996.85 of match funding which is an increase of £34,000 from last year. There have been 94 projects supported in the previous year with:

- 11 Area Budget
- 25 Neighbourhood Budget
- 29 Neighbourhood Budget Small Grants
- 27 Fun and Food

ET thanked 3 Towns team for the co-ordination of the Annual Report.

A3. Presentations by 3 Towns Partnership Funded Projects

CH gave a presentation on Foundry Fields Allotments community garden project.

CE gave a presentation on HCSEG afternoon social project.

3 Towns Youth Panel gave a presentation on the projects they have funded from the Children and Young People's Small Grants.

SM gave a presentation on the Crook and Weardale Ramblers 50th Anniversary project.

ES and the trustees gave a presentation on Friends Together project.

SD thanked the current chair and vice chairs and the three priority champions for their support to the partnership over the year.

Refreshment Break

3 Towns Board Meeting

A1. Welcome and Introductions

SD introduced the new chair and vice chairs. **RM** was announced as the new Chair, **GE** and **MH** were announced as the Vice Chairs for the coming year.

The Board agreed to co-opt Cllr Paul Stokes from Tow Law Town Council to the Board.

A2. Agreement of Minutes from Previous Meeting – 9 March 2023

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

A3. Local Neighbourhood Issues

Neighbourhood Budget Applications and Neighbourhood Budget Report

NW gave an update on Neighbourhood Budget and directed the Board to the report in their packs and confirmed four applications had been circulated to the Board electronically since the last meeting.

There was 1 application to consider at the Meeting.

1. Nordestinos Stage 2, Jack Drum Arts

Councillor Olwyn Gunn and Councillor Fraser Tinsley

NB £1,400; Match £1,369.68; Total £2,769.68

The Board were informed that the project is for comment only.

No comments.

A4. Priorities and Action Plans

Action Plan and Project Updates

The Board were given an update on current projects. The Wi-Fi project from 2021/22 budget is no longer viable, therefore £10,000 will be returned to the AAP budget for 2023/24. The CCTV project is still in progress, there have been issues as the street lighting was not bright enough, new street lighting has been designed however there has been a delay confirming which department would take on the responsibility for the lighting. The AAP are currently waiting on designs coming back. The Towns and Villages Traffic project and Events Fund applications are currently at the funding team.

2023/2024 Budgets

SD updated the Board and informed them that for 2023/24 the funding allocations available are as follows:

- £62,700 Town and Villages Funding
- £100,000 Area Budget Funding
- £9,902 Youth Funding
- £10,000 Welfare Reform Funding
- £46,772 Fun and Food which will cover Easter, Summer, and Christmas 2023. (£42,334.50 remaining to be allocated following easter allocations)
- £19,557 DCC Funded half terms which will cover May and October 2023 and February 2024(17,754.85 remaining after May allocations.)

This is a total of £252,591.35 for the Board to allocate. A suggestion was made to continue with the 8 themes under Community Recovery and add Local Environment and Climate Change and Community safety to the themes for 2023/2024.

- Employability Initiatives
- Advice and Guidance
- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Organisational Sustainability
- Food Provision and Support
- Social Isolation
- Support for the Voluntary and Community Sector, or
- Support to Small Businesses (through a third party, not-for-profit).
- Local Environment and Climate Change
- Community Safety

BOARD AGREED

Towns and Villages

JA updated the Board on the Towns and Villages funding. They were informed the report has been circulated electronically. There is currently £62,700 to allocate from the Towns and Villages fund and the task group met the previous week and considered 4 proposals. The proposals were as follow:

- Project A - The installation of a new play area in Tow Law which is costed at £50,000, including £29,000 match funding, therefore the suggestion is to allocate £21,000 to the project.
- Project B - The installation of a MUGA (Multi games area) in Willington at a cost of £90,000, including £70,000 match funding, therefore the suggestion is to allocate £20,000 to the project.
- Project C - The installation of a new safety gate for Glenholme Park at a cost of £5,000. Other suggestions included a new path to Glenholme Park and gym equipment to be installed within Crook. DCC staff have discussed placing gym equipment elsewhere in Crook, however, this is not viable due to a variety of reasons. The suggestion to the Board is to fund the safety gate and keep the other £15,000 to be decided upon at a later date.
- Project D - The final suggestion was any leftover funds to be allocated to the find and fix and clean and green teams for environmental improvements across the 3 Towns area, including bulb planting. The funding would be towards materials for the projects, not staffing/labour costs. The locations etc would be agreed following further consultation.

THE BOARD AGREED TO DEVELOP PROJECT'S A, B AND C WITH £20,000 EACH AND THE REMAINING £2,700 TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS.

A5. Countywide Partners

Local Policing Update

ET gave a police update. It was explained there is currently a trend of young men on bikes with balaclavas, the police are aware and are dealing with these. The police need more information from the public on the bikes which are used illegally, such as where they are stored. They can now use the drone to gather intelligence. The Board were informed that police cannot pursue those on bikes due to safety concerns, therefore this intelligence is needed. Believe housing currently collaborate with the police when their tenants are involved.

An update was given on the arson attack in Milburn Street and Wilson Street from March 2023. The perpetrator admitted 10 counts of arson with endangering life and will be sentenced at court tomorrow, Friday 19 May 2023.

There has been a spate of shoplifting in Crook, however, an arrest has been made and it is almost 2 weeks since any incidents.

The Board were informed that the last PACT meetings at Howden and Crook were poorly attended. PACT meetings are currently advertised online, and Crook police are investigating how to advertise more and encourage people to attend. A suggestion was made to relocate the PACT meetings; however, the Board were informed this is not an option due to costing. The next meetings are Tow Law Friday 19th May at 6.30, Willington Thursday 25th May at 6.30pm.

SD updated the Board on the AAP plans for the year. There was a suggestion for the possibility of having a networking event to encourage the voluntary and community sector to come together, informing the AAP of what they are doing, what they believe is needed in the local areas and how to meet those local needs.

BOARD AGREED TO A NETWORKING EVENT

ACTION - AAP TO ARRANGE NETWORKING EVENT BEFORE JULY 2023 BOARD MEETING.

SD referred to the earlier AGM presentation from the 3 Towns Youth Panel where they asked the Board for additional funding for the Children and Young Peoples Small Grants fund that they manage. A suggestion was made to circulate this proposal electronically for the Board to consider.

BOARD AGREED

ACTION – AAP TO CIRCULATE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES SMALL GRANTS FUNDING SUGGESTION ELECTRONICALLY FOR THE BOARD TO CONSIDER.

A6. Date and time of next meeting

5.30pm on Thursday 13 July 2023 at Crook Civic Centre