



## **Minutes of the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership AGM / Board Meeting**

**Thursday 11 May 2023**

### **Bishop Auckland Football Club**

#### **Present**

##### **Partner Representative**

Colin Davis (CD) - County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service  
Deborah Richardson (DR) - Community and Voluntary Sector Representative  
Insp Andy Reeves (AR) - Durham Constabulary  
Mark Jackson (MJ) – Durham County Council  
Rachel Edmunds (RE) – Believe Housing  
Steven Robson (SR) – Business Representative – Vice Chair

##### **Public Representative**

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

##### **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  
Cllr Charlie Kay (CK) – Elected Member

## **Officers**

Andrew Walker (APW) – Senior AAP Co-ordinator  
Sheilah Metcalfe (SM) - AAP Community Development Project Officer  
William Lightburn (WB) - 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)  
Cllr David Bell (DB) – Town and Parish Council Representative  
Bernadette Crooks (BC) – Public Representative  
Cllr Joanne Howey (JH) – Elected Member  
Kirstie Hutchinson (KH) – Public Representative

## **Public / Other Attendees – 11**

## **Annual General Meeting**

### **A1. Introduction from current Chair / Coordinator**

TB gave an overview of his time as the BASH Chair for 2022/23, thanking past and present Board members, Forum members and the BASH AAP team for their time and dedication to the work of the partnership.

TB wished the new chair all the best to for 2023/24.

### **A2. Election of Chair and Vice Chairs**

APW explained the procedure for the election of Chair and Vice Chairs. The Board agreed the Chair / Vice Chairs for the Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP for 2023/24 will be:

- Cllr Shirley Quinn – Chair – Elected Representative
- Tony Bird – Chair – Vice Chair - Public Representative
- Rachel Edmunds – Vice Chair – Partner Representative

The above roles were **AGREED** by the Board.

APW thanked TB for his time, support and dedication as Chair of BASH AAP.

### **A3. 2022/23 Progress and Finance Update**

APW gave a presentation to the Board regarding the work carried out and the progress made by BASH AAP in 2022/23. A brief overview of the projects supported through the following funds was provided:

- Area Budget
- AAP and Cllr's Towns and Villages Revitalisation
- Neighbourhood Budget
- Healthy Relationships
- Holiday Activities with Healthy Food
- Queens Jubilee Celebrations

The presentation included a video presentation of the Fun and Food projects supported Countywide throughout the Easter Holidays and Food Solidarity - Shildon Alive – Paula Nelson

APW highlighted that work continues to take place with the F & P Scotto Charitable Trust. The Trust funded a further 6 projects to a value of approx. £35,000. To date 169 projects have been supported to the value of £1,189,357.

The Board were provided with a financial overview of the funding available to the AAP this financial year and were informed of the future opportunities and challenges faced.

APW thanked the Chair, Vice Chairs, the BASH Board, Forum members, project leads and organisations for their continued involvement with the AAP throughout the year. Finally, APW thanked the BASH AAP team for their hard work.

CH thanked BASH AAP and Believe Housing for the partnership work that has taken place to progress the Henknowle Community improvement scheme.

A copy of the presentation is available by contacting a member of the BASH AAP Team on [bishopshildonaap@durham.gov.uk](mailto:bishopshildonaap@durham.gov.uk) or 03000 268663.

APW thanked everyone and closed the AGM.

### **Board Meeting**

#### **A4. Introduction and apologies**

Introductions and apologies were made.

Please see page 1 & 2 for attendees and apologies.

SQ welcomed Board and Forum members to the meeting and introduced Nicola Craddock, newly appointed Public Representative, to the BASH Board. Along with Mark Jackson attending his first meeting in person.

#### **A5. Agreement of minutes and matters arising from previous meeting held 23 March 2023**

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

#### **A6. Declaring an Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **A7. Local Neighbourhood Issues**

There were no neighbourhood issues raised.

TB gave an overview and an update on the work of Dene Valley Cree. TB showcased the recent work that has taken place to develop a piece of stain glass artwork to commemorate the Kings Coronation. APW congratulated Cree members on their hard work. MJ suggested exploring further publicity opportunities to showcase the artwork.

#### **A8. Priorities and Action Plans**

##### **➤ Area Budget - Community / COVID Recovery**

An update on Area Budget - Community / COVID Recovery was provided as part of the AGM.

The AAP will have the following funding resources available to allocate in the financial year 2023/24:

- £100,000 Area Budget Funding
- £9,902 Youth Funding
- £10,000 Welfare Reform Funding

APW highlighted that contrary to previous years, there will be no Older Peoples Social Isolation or Young People's Healthy Relationships Funding in 2023/24.

APW reported that the Board have agreed the single priority of 'Community / COVID Recovery' for 2023/24. A task group to discuss the agreed priority will be established. The task group will identify key themes to be incorporated into a brief for a call for projects. A call for projects will be launched and projects will be invited to submit their applications. Each successful project proposal is subject to a final application and full technical appraisal.

APW asked that if any Board members would like to be involved in the task group they are to inform a member of the BASH team. CH, JN, MJ, RE and TB volunteered to take part in the task group.

**ACTION** – BASH team to organise a task group meeting.

#### ➤ **Holiday Activities with Healthy Food**

An update on Holiday Activities with Healthy Food was provided as part of the AGM.

WB reported that 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. BASH AAP has £74,255.50 left to allocate for the 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 last round of funding was for the May half term. Following a call for projects each application was assessed and considered by the funding panel which agreed 5 applications to the project value of £8,181. This leaves a remaining balance of £26,500.75 for the October and February 2024 half term holiday periods.

The next round of funding is for the Summer Holidays and will be launched on 22 May 2023. Board and Forum Members were encouraged to promote the funding available for the summer holidays through their networks. APW suggested that new groups / organisations have an initial conversation with a member of the BASH AAP team prior to applying for funding.

JN gave an update on Eric Knows CIC. Eric Knows CIC was funded through HAHF funding to deliver Easter crafts and sensory work for primary and secondary school aged children. JN commented positively on the project delivery and staff expertise. Further information on Eric Knows CIC is available on their website.

APW thanked JN for the update.

APW reported that as part of the monitoring the HAHF team arrange visits to projects that are delivering in school holidays. APW encouraged Board members to be involved in any future visits.

#### ➤ **Town and Village Revitalisation**

An update on Town and Village Revitalisation was provided as part of the AGM.

The AAP Towns and Villages and the Councillor's Towns and Villages Budget has now been fully allocated.

#### ➤ **Neighbourhood Budget**

There were no neighbourhood budget applications to present at tonight's meeting.

APW highlighted that several neighbourhood budget applications have been circulated to the Board for their consideration via correspondence, however responses to these emails have been limited. APW stressed that for those applications with a declaration of interest, need to be approved by at least three members from each sector of the Board to be quorate. If a 'quorate' decision isn't reached the application cannot be progressed through to appraisal.

**ACTION** – Board members to respond to all Neighbourhood budget applications circulated via correspondence.

## **A9. Coordinators Update**

### ➤ **Review of Community Engagement**

The consultation on the ERS Community consultation review is now complete. 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. An update will be provided at the next Board meeting.

APW thanked those Board members that took part in the consultation and attended the online sessions.

RE asked when will the Board see the report that has been presented to cabinet? APW stated once a decision is made by Cabinet information will be fed back to the Board.

SQ asked if the AAP staff have been consulted with throughout the consultation process. APW confirmed this.

SR commented positively on the partnership work and engagement that has taken place across several AAP's.

### ➤ **F & P Scotto Charitable Trust**

An overview of the work that has taken place with the F & P Charitable Scotto Trust was provided as part of the AGM.

The next visit will hopefully take place in June 2023. The team are currently working on identifying projects to present to the Trust. APW welcomed project ideas.

## **A10. Countywide Partner Issues**

### ➤ **Police / PACT Update**

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

- Overall crime, for Bishop Auckland has increased by 4%.
- There has been an increase in shoplifting.
- The number of burglaries and vehicle crimes has decreased.
- 2 new officers have joined the team.
- The home office crime reporting is changing.
- Operation Octopus was an intelligence led operation that is currently ongoing.
- Off road biking and drug related issues continues to be an issue. Board and Forum members were encouraged to report any issues to the Police.
- PACT meetings continue to take place. These are promoted on social media and via the Police website.
- Issues regarding the 101 service were highlighted.
- The 'Community Crime Prevention Evening' took place on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023, 5.30 – 7.30pm at Bishop Auckland College. APW commented positively on the event and the networking opportunities it provided.
- CH stated a group has been established to tackle the issues of derelict buildings, the police will be invited to attend.
- The issue of energy drinks and associated concerns were raised. ST suggested raising this issue to the local MP. APW reminded the Board of previous work that has taken place within the BASH AAP, resulting in the 'HYPER' project. 'HYPER' leaflets are available from the BASH Office upon request.
- The Bishop Auckland Community Fire Station is holding its annual family day on Saturday 19 August 2023, 10am – 4pm. Board and Forum members were welcomed. SQ suggested informing CJ of any future local community events for the Fire Brigade to attend.

#### **A11. Date / Time / Venue for next Board Meeting**

SQ thanked Board and Forum members for attending the meeting.

**Board - Thursday 6 July 2023, 4pm, Civic Hall, Shildon**