

East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership Minutes of the  
Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting  
Tuesday 23 May 2023  
Trimdon Grange Community Centre, Salters Lane, Trimdon Grange,  
TS29 6PB

**Board Members**

**Attendance:** Angela Stobbart, Cllr Chris Lines, Christine Carter, Cllr David Brown, Neighbourhood Insp Sarah Honeyman, Parish Cllr Sandra Dowson, Kester Noble, Cllr Chris Varty, Tim Dredge, Mel Carr, Dave Tempest, Tony Cutmore

**Officer Attendance:** Jane Bellis – AAP Co-ordinator  
Claire Craft – Community Development Project Officer  
Emma McLoughlin – Community Development Project Officer (Towns and Villages Team)  
Marie Ainscough – AAP Support Officer

**Presenter:** Catherine Evans – The Cornforth Partnership

**Forum Members**

**Attendance:** 1 forum member attended the meeting

**Apologies:** Allan Blakemore, Stuart Dunn, George Storey, Mark Readman

PART 1 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**1 Election of Chair 2023/24**

Jane Bellis, the AAP Co-ordinator welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting of the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership.

A special welcome was offered to Catherine Evans from The Cornforth Partnership who was providing an update on the Helping Hands project which the AAP had funded [see Item 5.3 below].

Prior to the Election of Chair, the AAP Co-ordinator thanked the outgoing Chair, Cllr Chris Varty for her commitment to the Board and for always supporting the AAP team. Allan Blakemore and Angela Stobbart were also thanked for acting as Vice Chairs and standing in as Chair when needed.

Following the report that was emailed to Board Members on 2 May, outlining the process followed in electing the Chair and Vice Chairs of the AAP, as per the Terms of Reference, it was confirmed that consensus had been reached via email that –

- Angela Stobbart will be the Vice Chair for the partners section of the Board
- Allan Blakemore will be Vice Chair for the public section of the Board; and
- Cllr Chris Varty will be the Vice Chair for the Elected Members section of the Board

This year the Partners section of the Board will hold the position of Chair. Board members were asked for consensus to the appointment of Angela Stobbart as Chair of the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership for 2023/24.

Board members agreed to the above appointments.

## PART 2 – BOARD MEETING

### **2 Introductions and Apologies**

Angela Stobbart, newly appointed Chair welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting of the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership (EDRC AAP) and a round of introductions followed.

Apologies [see above].

The Chair highlighted that although the names of Board and Forum members are not included in the body of the minutes; advice given in relation to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), is that the board minutes are made public, therefore should anyone wish to remain anonymous they were to state this.

Anyone present who had a conflict of interest in any item on the agenda, was asked to declare an interest at the start of the agenda item to ensure this was formally recorded in the meeting minutes.

### **3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 March 2023 & Matters Arising**

The Chair reviewed the previous minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy.

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

#### *Matters Arising*

There were no matters arising.

### **4 Local Neighbourhood Issues (LNI)**

#### **4.1** [Locality Policing Issues](#)

Neighbourhood Insp Sarah Honeyman provided an update on local policing issues -

### *Update from Sgt Kevin Hall (Sherburn)*

No enquiries had been received in relation to Neighbourhood Community Speed Watch volunteers so Kevin asked if this could be repeated -

We are seeking keen and enthusiastic Neighbourhood Community Speed Watch volunteers to develop and deploy CSW within the majority of the 22 villages we cover. Ideally deploying the equipment 2-3 times a week in various locations. All training will be provided, and fuel expenses will be reimbursed.

If anyone wanted further details in relation to the above, they were asked to contact Kevin.

Four volunteers had been trained, although this was for the Shincliffe area rather than EDRC.

### *Update from Neighbourhood Insp Sarah Honeyman*

John Seymour had started a new realm in Darlington. The position had been put on hold; however, Stephen Ward had been covering and he was keen to stay. Sarah wished John well and said she hoped the role would be filled soon.

There had been some sporadic anti-social behaviour issues in Sedgefield, but they had not been as bad as they had been in the past.

### *Update from Neighbourhood Insp Phil Carter (Peterlee Team)*

A lot of neighbourhood resources had been taken up following the murder of a man in Wheatley Hill.

Three nuisance tenants had been evicted from their homes in recent weeks following incidents of anti-social behaviour.

[Neighbourhood Insp Sarah Honeyman left the meeting to attend the GAMP AAP board meeting]

## **5 Priority Updates (from Task Group and Project Leads)**

### **5.1 May Half Term 2023 Fun and Food**

Three organisations had received Fun and Food funding for May Half Term 2023. Four applications had been received in total; however, one application had been withdrawn.

### **5.2 Summer 2023 Fun and Food**

The Fun and Food Scheme for Summer 2023 was launched on Monday 22 May 2023 and the closing date for completed applications and supporting documents is 12 noon on Wednesday 14 June 2023.

### 5.3 Update on the Helping Hands Project

Catherine Evans from The Cornforth Partnership provided a verbal update on the Helping Hands Project which the East Durham Rural Corridor AAP had funded. The support package provided emotional support for families that had been affected by domestic abuse, mental health, or isolation; financial support for those that were struggling with debt or didn't know how to budget their money; family activities, bus trips out, half term holiday activities; housing support, emergency food and fuel and upskilling and qualifications.

126 individuals reported improved mental health and wellbeing; 52 children were able to access activities and outings, 160 hours of information, advice and guidance sessions were accessed, and 19 individuals accessed training.

Catherine brought along handouts to the meeting which included a quote and a case study from individuals who had been supported by the project.

The Chair thanked Catherine for her attendance, and she left the meeting.

## 6 Funding and Priorities Report – 2023/2024

Board members had been provided with a report detailing the current position on the various funding streams managed by the AAP and outlining the financial resources available to the AAP in 2023/24. The report highlighted the main findings from the AAP Priorities Survey 2022, which would enable Board Members to decide which priorities they would like to focus our work on, along with the data within the AAP Profile and local knowledge.

Jane outlined some of the key points contained within the report.

Board members agreed that the AAP priorities would remain the same for 2023/24; the project call out process currently adopted would continue and the task group meetings remain to be held online via Teams. If anyone wished to join the task group, they were asked to let Marie know. The Board also agreed that work would continue to develop the Towns and Villages pipeline projects, and that they are fed through the process (as set out in Appendix 1).

A Board member suggested that when applications are received, we tighten up on the criteria around climate change (for eg). Jane agreed that the AAP would discuss this and potentially embed this in the application process to ensure the value and impact of funding is maximised.

## 7 Co-ordinator's Report

With regards to an update for Board Members in relation to the withdrawal of the European Social Fund and how it would affect our area; Jane said she had chased this with a colleague, but she had not received an update.

Tony Cutmore advised that he had spoken to Julie Anson who had informed him that there was funding available from the Levelling Up Fund. Jane to contact Julie to ask for an update on this.

In relation to what Section 106 monies are available across this AAP area; Board Members had received an email with information as requested. In relation to the query raised about any interest accrued; all Section 106 agreements had a clause in them that index links the initial value of the Section 106 as agreed at Committee to the date of payment. If a developer takes a couple of years to hit a trigger point for payment, then the value of inflation for the said couple of years is added onto the value of the amount. However, as, and when monies are paid in, the value of any interest made is not added onto it. This is used to fund the costs of administering the process, as is the case with other capital grants. The Council receive millions of pounds in other grants where they do not receive it until the expenditure had been incurred and grant claims had been submitted. Therefore, in these instances the Council lose out on the cash flow benefit. This was pointed out many years ago when it was raised, and it was also mentioned that the Council incur the administration costs of the schemes and do not 'topslice' them to cover administration costs. The Ombudsman looked at this and found the approach was sound.

Quarterly monitoring returns are available to Board members upon request for any project whose lead had submitted them.

Jane continued to take part in other countywide groups and committees such as the Health and Wellbeing Board, Public Health Suicide Prevention Alliance, and the Teenage Pregnancy Steering Group.

The period of consultation in relation to the review of community engagement had now ended, and the responses were currently being collated. Updates will be provided on the review as and when Jane received them.

## **8 Countywide Partner Issues:**

### **8.1 [Integrated Risk Management Plan](#)**

Dave Tempest from Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service had informed us on the day of this meeting that the Integrated Risk Management Plan consultation ended on 11 May and as a result would not be delivering his presentation on it. He advised that there would be no drastic changes as part of the consultation.

He did report on some fire related issues that had occurred across the county - investigations are ongoing following the incident on Belmont Industrial Estate; fire crews had been attacked by youths around Coxhoe Leisure Centre and they were working with the Police in relation to this.

A Board member suggested that the fire service attend Fun and Food projects to build up a relationship with young people to prevent arson.

## **9 Neighbourhood Budget Projects**

The following Neighbourhood Budget projects were shared with the Board –

Name of Scheme: Bollards Installation in Trimdon Village  
Councillor(s): Cllr Lucy Hovvels / Cllr Jake Miller / Cllr Chris Varty  
Interest Declared: No  
Amount: £3,952.00

Name of Scheme: Armed Forces Day Event  
Councillor(s): Cllr Lucy Hovvels / Cllr Jake Miller / Cllr Chris Varty  
Interest Declared: No  
Amount: £3,000.00

The Board was happy for these projects to go ahead.

## **10 Date and time of next board meeting**

Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday 18 July 2023, 5.00 pm – Coxhoe Village Hall

### **Subsequent Board Meeting Dates**

- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023, Trimdon Station Community Centre
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024, Cassop Community Centre

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed.