



4 Together Partnership Minutes of the AGM & Board Meeting Wednesday 3 May 2023 Dean Bank & Ferryhill Literary Institute

PRESENT:

Joanne Burnip – Livin Housing, Richard Morgan – Fire Service, Victoria Murray – DCC, Insp Mike Sammut – Police, Carole Atkinson, Tony Cutmore, Susan Kirby, Dennis Ramsey, Cllr Peter Atkinson – DCC, Cllr Julie Cairns – DCC, Cllr Pauline Crathorne – Cornforth Parish Council, Cllr Joe Quinn – DCC, Lee Copeland – Principal AAP Coordinator, Peter Garrod – Principal Community Development Project Officer, Paula Stockport – AAP Support Officer

APOLOGIES:

Mark Booth, Cllr Curtis Bihari, Liam Fellows, Nigel Jones, Cllr Joe Makepeace, Cllr Elaine Peeke, Oliver Peeke, David Stothard, Paula Nixon, Angela Blanchard

Annual General Meeting

a. Introduction from Outgoing Chair

Cllr JC opened the meeting; she thanked Board members and the AAP team for their support during her time as Chair, which she has thoroughly enjoyed. LC thanked Cllr JC for her input and support with the Partnership during her time as Chair, and this was echoed by Board members.

LC took the Chair.

b. Election of Chair & Vice Chairs

LC confirmed that she has been in touch with all three sectors of the Board to seek nominations for the 2023-24 Vice Chair positions. LC confirmed the following:

- Cllr JM was nominated as Vice Chair representing the Elected Member third;
- DS was nominated as Vice Chair representing the Statutory Partner third;
- DR was nominated as Vice Chair representing the Public Rep third.

LC clarified that, in line with our standard rotation, the incoming Chair of the Board will be from the Public Rep third of the Board, and DR will therefore take the Chair. The above roles were **AGREED** and ratified.

c(i). 2022-23 Area Budget Summary

PG confirmed that a copy of the Area Budget spend update for 2022-23 (including Towns & Villages) had been circulated in advance with the meeting papers, to note for information.

c(ii). 2022-23 Neighbourhood Budget Summary

PG confirmed that a copy of the Neighbourhood Budget spend update for 2022-23 for all DCC Elected Members had been circulated in advance with the meeting papers, to note for information.

PG highlighted that for any Elected Members showing a balance of NB funding, this has been pipelined for spend in 2023-24; all Cllrs were asked to complete an Expression of Intent to Fund form so that any remaining NB funding could be ringfenced and committed to that project/s.

Cllr PC asked whether the c.£9k highlighted as remaining for Cllr EP will carry forward and be added to her 2023-24 NB allocation, or is it ringfenced for a pending project. PG clarified that any Cllrs with remaining NB at the end of 2022-23 were asked to give a clear outline of pipeline projects so that funding could be ringfenced for that specific project/s. Cllr PC and DR asked if details are available for pipeline schemes; PG clarified that an approach can be made directly to the relevant Cllr if any Board member has questions about their pipeline schemes, the AAP team are not permitted to share information about projects that are still in development.

Standard Board Meeting

A1. Introductions & Apologies

DR took the chair, welcoming everyone to the meeting of the 4 Together Partnership Board. Apologies for absence were noted, as above, and a brief round of introductions was given.

LC highlighted that Andrew Shaw (Public Representative) has submitted his resignation from the Board. We currently have no Public Rep reserve list and so will need to go out to recruitment; LC will make the necessary arrangements (**Action 1: LC**).

LC welcomed Joanne Burnip (Livin), and Richard Morgan (Fire Service) as new Partner Representatives, and also Carole Atkinson back in the role of Public Rep.

A2. Agreement of Minutes from Previous Meeting (1.3.23) - Matters Arising

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

The following points were noted:

- In relation to Action 2 (to invite a rep from a local group/s to come along to a future Board meeting to give an update on their work), LC clarified that this would be picked up at a future meeting (**Action 2: LC**).
- In relation to Action 7 (for a rescheduled meeting date towards the end of January/early February 2024 to be arranged), LC clarified that she will delay a decision on this until after the Cabinet meeting in June to see if there are any impacts to meeting schedules arising from the AAP review (**Action 3: LC**).

There were no outstanding actions or matters arising, and the minutes were **AGREED** as a true record.

A3. Countywide Partner Issues

LC clarified there were no partner presentations scheduled for this evening's meeting.

LC highlighted that DCC's Community Engagement Review (which includes AAPs) is ongoing. The public consultation closed on 23 April and the feedback and responses from that are currently being collated. A report is due to be given to DCC Cabinet in June, and we should have more information on the future direction for AAPs after that. LC will keep Board members updated.

TC asked whether the proposed Boundary Commission changes will impact on the AAP boundaries. LC clarified that boundaries are a key theme that has been discussed through the review, with various options and suggestions coming forward, and will need to be considered within the Cabinet report but there's no clear information on this at the current time.

DR highlighted issues with grass cutting in the Laburnum Road/Chester area of West Cornforth (the piece of land as you go up the main road on the left-hand side where houses were previously pulled down). JB will investigate on behalf of Livin and provide feedback (**Action 4: JB**).

Cllr PC highlighted issues with fly-tipping in the Station Road/garages area of West Cornforth, and added that a wall in that area which is in poor repair was going to be looked at by Livin. JB will investigate and provide feedback (**Action 5: JB**).

A4. Local Neighbourhood Issues

LC confirmed that no local neighbourhood issues had been submitted to the AAP team to bring to the Board.

A4.1 Neighbourhood Policing Update

Insp MS updated Board members in relation to activity within the neighbourhood policing team over the last couple of months. Demand for resources continues to be high, and the team continue to deal with incoming jobs as best as possible. There are ongoing issues with offroad bikes, including theft of bikes as well as joyriding, and these issues are countywide. It can be very difficult to deal with as pursuit is not always possible, so work is being done to look at other methods of dealing with the problem, including use of drones and targeting specific areas.

Insp MS highlighted that, on paper, the figures would suggest that ASB is going down, however this is more to do with changes in how incidents are being recorded and dealt with.

Prevalent issues of late have included theft of motorcycles, commercial and residential burglaries, and shoplifting.

Questions were invited from Board members and the following points were noted:

- Cllr PC commented that Cornforth is currently blighted by issues with offroad bikes and fly-tipping. Cllr PC has reported the issues many times, both to DCC and the police but is concerned that no progress is being made to tackle the issues. Cllr PC feels that DCC aren't interested in the problem. Insp MS suggested that work with landowners to block or make access more difficult

would be beneficial. Cllr JQ suggested that Cllr PC could consider contacting Cllr Mark Wilkes directly to highlight the issues.

- Cllr PA acknowledged that Ferryhill has the same problems in relation to offroad and stolen motorbikes. Cllr PA expressed frustration at poor sentencing, particularly for repeat offenders, which he feels doesn't act as a sufficient deterrent. Insp MS noted the frustration, but this is beyond the police's control.
- TC asked whether the Safer Streets project is up and running yet. Insp MS clarified that all elements of the project, i.e. Ring doorbells, boarding up void properties, education etc, are all now in the delivery stage. JB added that Livin has funding available for their Ferryhill tenants to support with digital adaptations, such as Ring doorbells etc.
- DR asked how many, if any, of the recently publicised 20 x additional police officers in Durham were allocated to our area. Insp MS clarified that Ferryhill is currently fairly well staffed compared to some areas. There should be 4 x Police Officers and 5 x PCSOs, and there are currently 3 x Officers and 4 x PCSOs.

[Insp MS and Cllr JQ left the meeting]

A5. Area & Neighbourhood Budget Update

A5.1 2023-24 AAP Priorities & Funding Allocations

PG highlighted that a report had been circulated in advance with the meeting papers, for Board members to note the recommendations. The report highlights the process followed in previous years for Area Budget allocation, as well as previous funding allocations.

For 2023-24, the 4 Together Partnership has been provided with a total AB of £119,902 to support projects which address local priorities. This allocation is made up of £100k Area Budget, £10,000 Welfare Reform and £9,902 Youth Fund. Again, the AAP is permitted to amalgamate these budgets into one overall Community Recovery pot for 2023-24.

Board members were asked to note the recommendations in the report:

- Agree to continue with the single AAP priority of Community Recovery for 2023-24, keeping the same priority themes as last year, and to consider any other relevant emerging priority themes:
 - Activities/resources for all children, young people and families and/or older people in relation to health & wellbeing, including mental & physical health (no one-off events)
 - Local transport (not enough funding resources for wide scale change, but applicants could apply for funding to cover transport costs as part of project applications)
 - Support for facilities – upgrades (including deteriorating condition of play equipment or upgrading, including special educational needs & disability)
 - Making our areas more attractive
 - Safer
 - Support for community groups, including staffing & running costs
 - Employment & training, advice and guidance

- Communication (but not a one-off newsletter)
- Agree to progress with 'project callout' for allocating Area Budget funding for 2023-24.

Board members **AGREED** with the recommended approach. PG clarified that the AAP team will now look at timescales for the project callout and circulate relevant information in due course.

A5.2 Area Budget Update
Covered above.

A5.3 Neighbourhood Budget Update
PG confirmed that a report had been included with the meeting papers, which outlines 2 x Neighbourhood Budget projects for information and comment.

Summary Description – Cllr Curtis Bihari – Durham Pride (Durham Pride UK)

The aim of the project is to support the 10th Anniversary of Pride in Durham. Funding will support the cost of field hire, security, staging, generator hire and marquee hire.

Declaration of Interest: None

NB Allocation: £250

Summary Description – Cllr Elaine Peeke – DCC (Cornforth Library)

The aim of this project is to provide educational and entertaining activities within Cornforth Library for people of all ages. Funding will support the cost of external speakers, additional activity costs and craft supplies.

Declaration of Interest: None

NB Allocation: £1,500

TC commented in relation to Cllr EP's Library project that he feels there is already a sufficient number of craft groups offering similar activities in West Cornforth. TC added that he feels there is a general lack of communication between Cllr EP and Cornforth Partnership as well as other providers such as the Community Centre, which is leading to duplication of provision. LC noted the point but added that it is at the discretion of Elected Members how they wish to allocate their Neighbourhood Budget funding when they are approached with neighbourhood issues and project proposals. LC feels that the issue of improved communication is not relevant to this project and should perhaps be discussed outside of the Board meeting. Cllr JC added that this happens in all areas; as a Cllr, JC wouldn't turn away, for example, the Community College because the Catholic Club is doing something similar. Cllr JC sees NB as a means to support groups who maybe don't have access to any other funding. Cllr JC suggested that the Parish Council could perhaps be the conduit to a wider discussion with relevant parties around duplication in that area.

PG highlighted that he has also provided a full summary of Neighbourhood Budget spend during the current electoral term for all Elected Members, for information. This will be updated at each Board meeting.

A5.4 Towns & Villages Funding Update

PG gave a brief update on behalf of Angela Blanchard. PG highlighted that a panel of Board members had previously agreed to support 5 x projects from the submitted Expressions of Interest, and also had a reserve project should costs for others not escalate.

The 5 x projects are as follows:

- Bishop Middleham Village Hall Regeneration – approved.
- Mainsforth Sports Complex Regeneration (Ferryhill Town Council) – approved.
- Cornforth Memorial Park Phase 2 (Cornforth Parish Council) – approved.
- Regen of Chilton (Chilton Town Council) – still in development, hope to bring to a future Board meeting.
- Mobile CCTV Cameras (Durham Police) – recently supported by the Board via email, currently with the Funding Team for technical appraisal.
- Reserve project is Charlotte Garden (Chilton Town Council) – this will be dependent upon final costs of other projects, which had been given priority by the panel.

Cllr PC asked whether the CCTV cameras will be mobile, and if there is potential for them to be sited in West Cornforth. PG clarified that the project should cover the whole Partnership area, the Police will look at relevant data and the cameras will be deployed accordingly. TC commented that his understanding of the position in Newton Aycliffe where a similar scheme has been funded is that the problems have simply moved to a different area away from the cameras, and the length of time taken for DCC to move the cameras has made the problem worse. TC expressed the view that he feels the same issues will happen in the 4 Together area. PG commented that his understanding is that GDPR regulations dictate that cameras are only permitted to record for a certain length of time in one area before they have to be rotated.

A5.5 Fun & Food Funding Update

PG gave an update on the Holiday Activities with Healthy Food funding programme, which sees each AAP receive an allocation from the Department for Education to cover the main holiday periods (Easter, Summer & Christmas), and from DCC's Poverty Action Group to cover half-terms.

For the main holidays, our total allocation was £34,048; to date we have allocated £7,998 and so we have a balance of £26,049 for Summer & Christmas.

For the half-term holidays, our total allocation was £17,933; to date we have allocated £5,477 and so we have a balance of £12,456 remaining for the 2 x half-terms.

PG clarified that the Summer funding window opens on 22 May – relevant information will be circulated once the funding has launched, please share.

JB asked how strict the funding criteria is around targeting children in receipt of free school meals (FSM). Livin's criteria recognises 'in work' poverty where children aren't necessarily in receipt of FSM. PG clarified that the DFE funding element requires a certain percentage of FSM children to benefit, but not everyone who attends has to be FSM.

A6. Date & Time of Next Meeting:

Wed 5 July 2023, 6:00pm (venue tbc)

DR/LC thanked everyone for their attendance, and the meeting was closed.