

Notes of the Weardale Area Action Partnership Board Meeting – 19th January 2023



Online via Microsoft Teams

ATTENDEES

Board Members

Public Representatives: Adrian Holden (AHo)
Richard Lawrie (RL)
Alison Humble (AHu)

Partner Representatives: Damian Pearson (DP) – Believe Housing – **CHAIR**
Insp. Ed Turner (ET) – Durham Constabulary
Edwin Craggs (EC) – Fire & Rescue Service
Julian Haynes (JH) – Voluntary Sector
Sarah Lee (SL) - Health

Elected Members: Cllr Anita Savory (AS)
Cllr Helen Barrass (HB) – Muggleswick Parish Council
Cllr David Sugden (DS) – Wolsingham Parish Council
Cllr Olive Wilson (OW) – Witton-le-Wear Parish Council

Officers Angelina Maddison (AM)
Tracy Edwards (TE)
Fiona Barber (FB)
Bill Lightburn (BL)

APOLOGIES

Public Representatives: Kevin Roddam
Will Wearmouth

Elected Representatives: Cllr John Shuttleworth
Cllr Angela Hawkes (Stanhope Parish Council)

Partner Representatives: Jeff Bell – Business Representative
Michael Kelleher - Durham County Council
Dan Wootton (DW) – Fire & Rescue Service

BOARD MEETING

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made and apologies recorded as above.

2. Declaration of Interest

JH declared an interest for both the Community Wellness Coordinator and the Stanhope Barrington Wraparound Care projects.

HB declared an interest in the Champing at Muggleswick project.

The Chair asked that Board members declare any additional interests as they arise on the agenda.

3. Agreement of Notes from Board Meeting held on 1st December 2022 and Matters Arising

The notes of this meeting, as circulated, were **AGREED** and confirmed as a true record by those present.

There were no matters arising.

4. Weardale Action Partnership Update

Warm Spaces

AM advised that the Weardale Action Partnership Team has received vouchers from the Co-op to be offered to venues providing a warm space in order to assist with the purchase of teas and coffees.

DS referred to a query in a previous Board meeting as to whether pubs who are providing a warm space would qualify for assistance. AM advised that they would be considered on a case-by-case basis if there was a valid reason – e.g. if rurality is a factor. AM stated that they would be eligible to receive some vouchers from the Team as long as they are solely used for warm spaces activities.

AM asked Board members to encourage anyone offering a warm space to add themselves to the Durham Locate directory <https://www.durhamlocate.org.uk/>

5. Towns & Villages Funding Update

BL gave an update on the various projects which are being considered for Towns and Villages funding.

1. £20K Cllrs Towns & Villages Fund (£10K per Councillor)
 - £10K currently allocated
2. £210K AAP Towns & Villages Fund
 - 1 project approved - Ashcroft MUGA (£32K)
 - Funding ring-fenced for 1 project - Champing at Muggleswick (£50K)

- £128K still to be committed
3. Three projects being explored/developed
 4. Package of improvements to children's play areas held in reserve should any of these projects fail to progress
 5. Funding needs to be agreed and all grant offers issued by 30 March 2024

St Thomas' Church Hall, Stanhope - JH declared an interest (Item 2 above)

At the December Board meeting, a proposal was put forward for improvement works to extend the community use of the Church Hall to allow areas of the building to be used independently of each other.

A site meeting was held in January which included representatives of the Church Hall, Durham County Council's Community Economic Development Team and WAP team.

The building is in a conservation area and pre-planning advice has been sought regarding the proposals. Unfortunately, this was unfavourable regarding the second entrance. Church trustees are making further representation to the Planning Authority. Until a resolution is achieved, it is difficult to move forward.

Project on hold

Champing in Muggleswick – HB declared an interest (Item 2 above)

BL reminded the Board that they ring-fenced £50,000 for this project and are awaiting full application. Faculty application from the church authorities has now been approved. The project is working with Rural Churches for Everyone programme which provides specialist support.

A site meeting took place on 12th January which was also attended by members of Durham County Council's Community Economic Development team. BL advised that updated prices have been received from the project as costs have increased significantly to circa £214K. These costs are a much firmer cost estimate. Costs include work on a website and promotion of the venture. The project also requires a contingency to be included.

This project requires a variety of funding. Potential match funding sources have been identified and applications will be made once the funds are open in the spring.

Weardale Museum

At the December Board meeting several queries were raised. These and others submitted via email have been collated with queries from the Community Economic Development Team and submitted to the Chair of Trustees. A site meeting has also been requested which will allow the Board and Community Economic Development Team to meet with Trustees to view the site and discuss the Chapel restoration and wider improvement plans in more detail. BL advised that he has asked for a response in advance of the site meeting in mid-late February.

The Chair thanked Bill for his presentation. It is evident that a lot of work is happening, and it is nice to see that things are coming to fruition. He noted that a previous concern with the Champing at Muggleswick had been that the Church weren't providing any funding. This updated information shows that this issue has been addressed with the proposed sale of a building to raise funds.

AM advised that Killhope are looking for funding for a bridge over the beck to allow access during times of flooding.

AS commented that she welcomed the site meeting at the Weardale Museum as it is always better to see something in reality to help to envisage what is being proposed.

6. WAP Budgets Update

Area Budget - £117,264

Projects Underway

Stanhope Market Place – Installation of Infrastructure & Lights - **£12,531**

- Project anticipated to complete this year

Killhope Tales - **£13,500**

Small Grants Fund - **£10,000**

Wolsingham Parish Council & Wolsingham Wayfarers – Family Walk Interpretation panels and noticeboard - **£9,500**

Accessible Advice in Weardale - **£19,635** (£10,000 Welfare Reform + £9,635 Area Budget)

Project requiring Board Approval

Stanhope Barrington Wraparound care- £22,657

AM reminded the Board that they had previously indicated that they were happy with this as a one-off project/pilot.

The Board APPROVED the application.

Expression of interest requiring Board Decision

Killhope Wheel - £9,500

An Expression of Interest has been received regarding the Killhope Wheel project. This has been circulated to Board Members for comment.

The Board requested that the applicant be invited to submit a full application.

RL noted that he had discovered on a visit to Killhope that there are additional works required. The Board asked AM to investigate this further.

Welfare Reform - £10,000

Accessible Advice in Weardale – £19,635 - Underway

- **(£10,000 Welfare Reform + £9,635 Area Budget)**

Youth Fund - £9,902

Expression of Interest - Witton-le-Wear Youth Club continuation

An Expression of Interest has been received regarding the continuation of the Witton-le-Wear Youth Club project. This has been circulated to Board Members for comment.

The Board requested that the applicant be invited to submit a full application.

Older Peoples Social Isolation Fund - £25,000

Expression of Interest - Community Wellness Coordinator

An Expression of Interest has been received regarding the continuation of the Community Wellness Coordinator provision. This has been circulated to Board Members for comment.

The Board requested that the applicant be invited to submit a full application.

Young Peoples Healthy Relationships - £10,000

AM provided an update on this funding stream which has an overarching aim of reducing the potential of Domestic Violence. Previously, the Team had looked at a programme of delivery to look at issues such as consent, dangers of social media etc. The idea had been to work with Wolsingham School as other youth groups in Weardale didn't meet the criteria or reach the numbers required. The Team had been advised that the funding could not be used to fund in-school delivery. Updated guidance has now been received which advises that it is now possible to work with schools with this funding.

AS stated that she would be happy to work with the Team to arrange a meeting with the school to discuss ideas. **AS also declared an interest in this potential project.**

Fun & Food

AM advised that in previous years we have overspent our allocation of funding but have been able to access underspend in other AAPs in order to deliver projects in Weardale.

New guidance has been received which states that Weardale AAP has £5,297 to cover the four half-term holidays Feb 23- Feb 24 inclusive. Department of Education funding has been confirmed as £19,699 for Weardale to provide activities during the Easter, Summer and Christmas 2023 holidays.

AM advised that the Fun and Food team are keen to see more suppliers delivering activities in Weardale in the future.

AM confirmed that this February half-term only one application has been completed and deemed eligible – Witton-le-Wear Youth Group.

7. Neighbourhood Budget

Cllr Savory

Neighbourhood Budget

- Winter Warmers – Wolsingham School
- Wolsingham Christmas Market

Small Grant Fund

- Wolsingham Nursery – Repairs to Castle
- Eastgate Village Hall – Printer
- Weardale Flower & Garden Club – RHS event, Newby Hall
- Weardale Community Hospital – Purchase and printing of Tea Towels
- Blind Life – New Age Curling Competition
- Weardale Flower & Garden Club – Wreath Making
- Wolsingham WI - Pantomime

Cllr Shuttleworth

Neighbourhood Budget

- Stanhope Photographic Society – Equipment

- High Pennine Horticultural Society – Support to group
- Weardale Agricultural Society – Weardale Show
- Wear Rivers Trust- Bash the Balsam
- Rookhope Village Hall – Electrical Update
- Rookhope Village Hall – Boiler
- Stanhope Show – CCTV, Barriers & Equipment

Small Grant Fund

- Rookhope Village Hall – Leek Show
- Cowshill Village Hall – Leek Club Running costs
- Wolsingham Football Academy – Karting
- St John’s Chapel Recreation Ground – Repairs & Insurance
- Weardale Together CIC – Warm Hub in Stanhope
- Stanhope Town Football Club – Running costs (Referee, Hall hire & kit)
- Barrington Bites – Christmas Event for the Elderly

Both Cllr Savory and Cllr Shuttleworth have further ideas in the pipeline that are currently being developed.

AM explained that exploratory discussions are underway with regard to St Johns Chapel Play area. She advised that individual play area development as well as a package of work at multiple play areas is being considered. A package of work will allow for economies of scale and a reduction in procurement costs.

8. Countywide Partner Issues

No issues were raised.

10. Dates and Times of Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Weardale Action Partnership Board will take place on Thursday **2nd March, 6:00pm in Eastgate Village Hall.**

An Appraisal Panel will take place on Wednesday 8th February at 1:30pm in the WAP office.

AM asked the Board whether they were happy with the list of future Board meeting dates for 2023/24 as supplied by the Team. The Board indicated their approval.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.