

Notes of the Weardale Area Action Partnership Board Meeting – 1st December 2022



VIA TEAMS due to inclement weather the Eastgate Village Hall venue was not used.

ATTENDEES

Board Members

Public Representatives: Richard Lawrie (RL)
Alison Humble (AHu)
Will Wearmouth (WW)

Partner Representatives: Damian Pearson (DP) – Believe Housing – **CHAIR**
Insp Ed Turner (ET) – Durham Constabulary
Jeff Bell (JB) – Business Representative
Julian Haynes (JH) – Voluntary Sector
Gordon Elliott (GE) - Durham County Council

Elected Members: Cllr Anita Savory (AS)
Cllr John Shuttleworth (JS)
Cllr Helen Barrass (HB) – Muggleswick Parish Council
Cllr Angela Hawkes (AHa) – Stanhope Parish Council
Cllr David Sugden (DS)– Wolsingham Parish Council

Officers Angelina Maddison (AM)
Tracy Edwards (TE)
William Lightburn (WL)

APOLOGIES

Public Representatives: Joan Warriner
Kevin Roddam
Ian Hirst

Partner Representatives: Sarah Lee - Health
Dan Wootton – Fire & Rescue Service

Elected Representatives: Cllr Olive Wilson – Witton-le-Wear Parish Council

Officers Fiona Barber

BOARD MEETING

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the table.

Apologies are recorded above.

2. Declaration of Interest

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

Julian Haynes identified an interest for projects- Stanhope Barrington Wraparound care, St Thomas Church Hall Improvements (T&V), and Stanhope Pool (T&V).

Helen Barrass identified an interest for Muggleswick Champing project (T&V)

3. Agreement of Notes from Board Meeting held on 20th October 2022 and Matters Arising

Board notes agreed. There were no matters arising.

4. Weardale Action Partnership Update

Warm Spaces

AM reminded Board members of the previously discussed Warm Spaces information and the funding available. AM highlighted the link to the Durham County Council (DCC) Locate site www.durhamlocate.org.uk/ where information on current Warm Spaces can be found. Currently Wolsingham Library are listed on the site. AM asked if anyone was aware of further Warm Spaces as only the Wolsingham Methodist Church had confirmed information to the WAP team. DS advised that the Black Lion in Wolsingham was offering a Warm Space - AM said she was unsure if pubs were able to access funding.

Faith and Wellbeing Event

AM advised that the meeting had been successful with quite a good turn out and some useful discussion took place with a report to follow by the organisers. AM shared that there had been much discussion about various community initiatives or activities. Many of these were developed with the WAP team – however, this was not always acknowledged which leads to little or no understanding of the level of WAP involvement. AM felt this continues to be an area to work on to help people understand how the WAP are involved in the activities supporting the community. AM also noted that some of the church related groups did not understand that funding was available so long as the activity was non-denominational.

AS, who chaired the Faith & Wellbeing, meeting felt it was a good opportunity to meet and hear of the activities across the area as there was representation from different locations. Communication had been identified as an issue and the Weardale Gazette was missed. Those present had been encouraged to join and let others know about the WAP forum.

Launch of Small Grants Fund

AM advised the Board that the first round of funding had been successfully launched. The appraisal panel looked at 6 applications shown on the map on screen and all groups had been advised of the successful outcome of their application. £3,000 of the £10,000 fund has been allocated.

The second round of funding is now open, and groups have been recommended to come into the office to discuss their projects before making application. The WAP team found that in the first round, the benefit of this is ensuring the project meets the criteria, fully understands the process, and helping the group to provide the necessary associated documentation.

A slide showing the Board Ambassador visit to Thornley Art Group was shown and AS explained she had visited the group with TE. The photos were taken with permission of the group (it was explained that this was for the Board to gain insight into the session). AS said that each member of the group was engrossed in their activities after the initial group chat and greetings and that the tutor went around to each person offering support. AS and TE spoke with each attendee, and they all were very positive about the group. AS explained how with a remote community this is a great social occasion whilst also supporting wellbeing. Also, the refreshments were an important part with recipe swapping.

AM explained the importance of the Board Ambassador visits to both the applicant and Board Member in gaining a greater understanding of the benefits of funding and wider impact to the group.

5. Towns & Villages Funding Update

WL introduced the information he would present on the Towns and Villages update. The slides would cover Current Overall Funding Position, Review of Projects Supported or in Development, Specific Updates on 3 Projects and Discussion/Comments/Decisions with questions. WL explained the information had been circulated in relation to project queries for the Weardale Museum and updates for projects would be discussed during the presentation.

WL advised that the £10K each Councillor received for Towns & Villages was now committed as Cllr Shuttleworth had advised that this money would be utilised with other funding on the play area project for St Johns Chapel. Cllr Savory's funding had already been allocated.

WL noted that of the £210K AAP Towns & Villages funding only the Ashcroft MUGA was in appraisal and that £50K was committed to Muggleswick Champing project leaving £128K.

The programme end date is **30th March 2024** and all projects need to have received their funding by this time and the **deadline for committing the funding is 31st March 2023**, these projects must have a clear spending plan.

WL advised that with the WAP team steps had been taken for the play areas plan which AM had previously outlined. Following a meeting with James Young, Durham County Council (DCC) Outdoor Facilities Coordinator, he confirmed that this could be developed following the outcome of the Board meeting on 19th January 2023.

ANPR Cameras - Board approved

Ashcroft MUGA – Board approved

Application is currently being appraised.

Stanhope Pool Refurbishment – JH declared an interest

Application is currently on hold as the lease needs to be progressed. There has been in depth work and planning on this project so once the funding is in place the group will be in a position to move on.

Witton-le-Wear Community Centre

Project is currently awaiting feedback from the group.

Before the discussion of the following updated projects Cllr AS noted the projects had been ongoing for some time with little or slow movement and her concern for loss of funding if these were not actioned and funding committed.

Champing in Muggleswick – HB declared an interest

WL reminded the Board that they ring-fenced £50,000 for the project. The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) have given faculty approval for the proposed works. There have been no conditions with the approval but some comments/recommendations. The price of the project is still to be resolved and work to get updated quotes from local builders is in hand.

A specialist worker will become involved through the Rural Churches for Everyone Programme (North East based & supported by HLF) and she will work alongside the group to look at funding with the intention of having the full application completed early in the new year.

- AM advised that the T&V funding cannot be used for the roof. DAC had asked for solar panels to be part of/integrated into the roof.
- WW congratulated the group noting he had previously been sceptical of the project and work going on but was persuaded and very positive about the project.
- DP said he was happy that this project was progressing
- AM said she was now more comfortable with having the DAC approval and more assured that things can continue to progress with the support of the dedicated funding officer.
- HB confirmed they couldn't move on with DAC approval and this only came through last week. Helen reiterated the DAC comment in relation to solar panels as part of the roof to blend into the environment and boost renewable status.

DP asked if there was further comment – none were forthcoming. Board to await application to review at the Board meeting in January.

Weardale Museum (High House Chapel Restoration)

WL explained that questions raised from the previous Board meeting had received response and these had been circulated to the Board with the other Board paperwork.

The potential application was to install (13no.) new double glazed sliding sash windows to the North & South elevations of the Chapel as part of a package of outstanding restoration works with an estimated cost of £35K. The work would be planned with other 'at height' works for which applications have been made but not confirmed.

The project is in discussion with regard to funding of £330K from a national organisation. Durham County Council (DCC) economic group are meeting next week to look to look at funding.

For structural work completion – roof, guttering and stonework the total is £283K, the group have raised £111K in addition to awaiting grants responses in next few months.

WL asked for next steps to be considered for the project i.e., do the Board want the project to work up an Expression of Interest (EOI). WL asked if there was the possibility of further funding to complete the externals as some match funding had already been sourced for this. The group did not express any comment and AM advised this may be as it was felt that more communication is required with the community. She asked the Board if a presentation from the group would help progress things.

AHa said this was a good idea as they had presented to the Stanhope Parish Council who had raised questions about how this fit into the strategic plan and funding. The issue of parking was also raised. WW said the group should come to a meeting as the Board need figures and information. WW was not sure the information provided added any clarity and so a meeting is welcomed.

AM asked the Board to note any questions and forward these to the team so the group would be in a position to answer questions at the meeting. WL echoed AM's comments adding that direct conversations will help. Progress is being made but it is a big project so it will be good to know what is wanted at the meeting.

St Thomas' Church Hall – NEW – JH declared an interest

WL advised of this new EOI request (circulated with Board notes) received for building improvement works to maximise the use of spaces within the building. The project will allow simultaneous use of the main hall and rear function room, provide a lift to rooms on the first floor, and improved storage and toilet facilities. This will benefit in having options for users and increase usage.

The total costs are indicated around £100K (architects estimate) with a contribution of up to £70K requested. The building is in a conservation area and so an architect has been instructed who has produced outline designs which have been sent to the planning authority and the group are awaiting feedback.

Match funding will be required - no applications have currently been submitted

DP asked for comments and next steps. It was requested that the group move to application stage.

Play Areas

DP stated the play area project was a good idea and it was sensible to have a back-up plan to fit around the projects being developed. AM advised all projects would be looked at but the ability to progress the play areas quickly is helpful. She also advised the community would like to see the St John's Chapel progress as this is a popular site for families and close to the school.

WL said the options for a number of play areas both DCC and SPC ownership have been looked at and the schemes can be developed and worked up quickly. AM reiterated that the St Johns Chapel site had been identified and Cllr JS has already advised that he would commit both T&V and NB funding to support the play area development.

5. Presentation 2023/24 Budget Consultation - Gordon Elliott

The slides for this presentation have been circulated to Board members. A copy of the presentation is held on file at the WAP Office. For a copy, please contact a member of the WAP team via email at weardaleaap@durham.gov.uk

The Board were advised by Gordon Elliott that the consultation had been kept open until Monday to enable feedback from the group and he was aware that this was a lot of information to consider before feedback.

AM advised that the information would be re-circulated after the meeting to ensure everyone could reply.

6. Area Budget Update

Application for Approval – Weardale Accessible Advice Service - £19,635 (£10,000 Welfare Reform + £9,635 Area Budget)

AM talked the Board through the application for the project continuation. Board members had received the application in advance and no queries were raised. AM asked the Board if they would like Linda to attend a future Board meeting which was agreed. **Action** Linda to be invited to a Board meeting in 2023

The Board APPROVED the funding application.

Expression of interest -Stanhope Barrington Wraparound care- £22,657 JH and DP declared an interest

The application had been circulated and AM advised the school are trying to continue the provision which has been difficult following Covid. Uncertainty for families in the current financial climate meant reasonably priced childcare was needed. TE advised that with FB a meeting at the school had taken place and the Head Teacher explained the need for parents to know what provision was available

to make plans for childcare. Parents also welcomed having one place for care and education.

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

Ringfencing -St John's Chapel play area

AM asked that following earlier discussion that the Board confirmed support to ringfence funding for this project.

The Board confirmed ringfencing of budget to this project.

Budget Overview Allocation

Stanhope Market Place – Installation of Infrastructure & Lights

AM advised that work from NPG is outstanding to progress the project.

Killhope Tales

Work underway on the project. RL Board Ambassador.

Wolsingham Parish Council & Wolsingham Wayfarers – Family Walk

Interpretation panels and noticeboard AS & JB declared an interest

The project is awaiting a response from planning to have the funding released.

Small Grants Fund

On 21st November the Small Grants Fund Appraisal Panel allocated £3,000 in £500 grants to:

- Bowling Club, St Johns Chapel
- Matting Group, Rookhope Village Hall
- Introductory Music Lessons, Stanhope Silver Band
- Equipment, Wolsingham Football Academy
- Resources, Wolsingham Toddler Group
- Spring Sing Concert, Village Voices, Witton-le-Wear

The process ran smoothly with most applicants making an appointment to discuss the project ensuring that all the information required was available for the Appraisal Panel to make decisions.

The fund opened again for projects running March – September 2023 on **Wednesday 23rd November 2022**. The deadline for this second round of funding is **Monday 23rd January 2023**. The support meetings are available again w/c 5th & 12th December 2022 & 2nd/9th/16th January 2023

The Appraisal Panel will meet w/c **6th February 2023**.

Welfare Reform Funding - £10,000 (£19,635 (£10,000 Welfare Reform + £9,635 Area Budget))

The application for the project Weardale Accessible Advice Service was circulated prior to the meeting and as noted in the Area Budget overview the Welfare Reform funding will support part of the funding.

The Board APPROVED the funding application.

Youth Fund - £9,902

AM advised that a meeting is being held 8/12/22 with both Witton-le-Wear Youth Club and Weardale Together CIC in regard to this funding and the Young Peoples Healthy Relationships funding.

Older Peoples Social Isolation Fund - £25,000

AM advised that an Expression of Interest is being reviewed for funding for the Community Wellness Coordinator.

Young Peoples Healthy Relationships - £10,000

AM confirmed that this is still in the early development stages.

Fun & Food (F&F)- Christmas 2022

Rookhope Village Hall applied and received funding for their Christmas Family Fun Day on 22nd December 2022 11:00am – 2:00pm. AM said this is the first time the group have accessed funding from F&F and asked if anyone would like to be a Board Ambassador - RL offered to attend.

Angelina mentioned other projects that were still in discussion around potential requests for funding and work ongoing with youthwork training alongside Teesdale AAP.

- **Wolsingham Christmas Celebrations**
- **Infrastructure & Lights**
- **Norman Wright Pavilion**
- **Community Resilience**, working with 4/5 communities who are interested in funding from Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU) & Northern PowerGrid NPG
- **Wordfest**. Positive feedback about the previously funded project and that the project delivered in local villages. Future funding needs being discussed.
- **Stanhope Silver Band** – 200th Anniversary, the group are looking for funding for uniforms and a celebration event in summer 2023.
- **Play Areas** – dependent on Towns & Villages application
- **Killhope Wheel** – EoI being developed (Capital Project)

7. Neighbourhood Budget

Cllr Savory - Winter Warmers – AS & DP declared an interest

AS spoke about the project describing how it engages both the older and younger generations as catering students are involved. School staff are also volunteering their time to host this event. Places for 12 people are available with a final capacity of 24. AS advised that Lisa, the Community Wellness Coordinator, will attend some sessions to check in and make connections.

Cllr Savory - Wolsingham Christmas Market

Cllr AS advised that the market had gone down well with those attending and the stall holders. Photos from the day had been provided. The Stanhope Silver Band had played on the afternoon, and this was well received by the visitors.

Cllr Savory

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 (in development)

Cllr Shuttleworth

Rookhope Village Hall – Boiler Replacement.

AM advised that this project has been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting and has been approved. No additional issues were raised and so this decision was ratified by the Board.

Stanhope Show – CCTV, Barriers & equipment

AM advised that this project has been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting and has been approved. There was no declaration of interest for this project and so was circulated for comment to add value to the application. This project will be progressed as no additional issues were raised. The decision was ratified by the Board.

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 Works

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 and 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 as outlined.

8. Neighbourhood Issues

None raised

9. Countywide Partner Issues

believe housing

DP advised of the 'Keep Warm, Keep Well' Community Fund in response to the energy crisis. Grants are available to support warm hubs / foodbanks etc. Grants of £500 are available and applications can be made at

<https://www.believehousing.co.uk/your-community/community-funding/>

County Durham Partnership Meeting

DP advised he had attended in his role as Chair of the Board and found the meeting very interesting particularly the information in relation to debt, benefits and increase in food bank users. DP also noted the information provided that pre-covid 38% of children in county Durham were in poverty and this was higher for households with under 5's. He also shared that the highest poverty rates were for under 25's. GE shared that he felt that the information was very interesting and pertinent to the Boards. DP said there was a lot of information and choice of 4 workshops to attend so felt there may be more information to obtain. GE agreed. AM asked if this information could be shared and GE advised AM to contact Julie Bradbury for slides and that links to the information were available.

Stars in Their Eyes- update – 20th January 2023

This event is now in its 21st year and will be held on Friday 9th December at Wolsingham Sports Hall. If anyone would like a ticket, please contact Cllr Savory.

10. Dates and Times of Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Weardale Action Partnership Board will take place on Thursday **19th January 2023, 6:00pm in Eastgate Village Hall or Teams.**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.