



## **Teesdale Area Action Partnership – Board Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Held: 12 July 2023 (Gainford Village Hall)**

### **Elected Members:**

Cllr George Richardson  
Cllr Ted Henderson  
Cllr Richard Bell - Chair

### **Public Representatives:**

Roger Peat  
Susan Bainbridge  
Elaine Laurie  
Lynne Oxby  
Christine Watters

### **Partner Representatives:**

Craig Jewkes  
Insp Ed Turner  
Linda Bird  
Jeff Garfoot

### **Presenters:**

Paul White, Communications Consultant – Capital Delivery, Northumbrian Water  
Jonny Mells, Assistant Project Manager, Northumbrian Water

### **Officer Attendance:**

Adam White, TAP Coordinator  
Annalisa Ward, TAP Community Development Project Officer  
Peter Henderson, AAP Towns and Villages Team Community Development  
Emma Walton, TAP Support Officer

**Observers:** 5 x Forum Members

**Apologies:** Bob Danby, Wendy Greenfield, Cllr Robert Potts, Cllr James Cosslett, Cllr James Rowlandson, Robin Brooks, Rachel Tweddle (TAP Chair), Tim Viggars

## Teesdale Action Partnership Board Meeting

### 1. Welcome from Chair, Introductions and Apologies

**Cllr RB** welcomed everyone to the Board meeting of Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP). In the absence of Rachel Tweddle, it was agreed, that **Cllr RB** would Chair the Board meeting.

**EW** confirmed that apologies for absence had been received, as noted above.

### 2. Declaration of Interest and Meeting Protocol

**AW** made the Board aware of the declaration of interest procedure and informed all Board members that this is a standard item on the agenda.

**Christine Watters** declared an interest in the Cockfield Community Christmas Decorations - Cockfield Christmas Light project.

**AW** informed the Board and Forum Members of 'house rules/etiquette' for the meeting.

### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The draft minutes from the meeting held on 17 May 2023 have been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. **AW** reviewed the minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy.

Action 2 – page – 5 - **Cllr RB** asked for an update on the levels of engagement through the Holiday Activities with Healthy Food projects supported by TAP. **AW** confirmed this action is complete and information has been circulated to the Board. A forum member requested this information. **AW** to circulate the data to the forum member (**ACTION 1: AW**). **AW** stated an update on Holiday Activities with Healthy Food will be provided at a future Board meeting.

**AW** confirmed there were no further outstanding actions. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed by the Board as a true and accurate record.

### 4. Northumbrian Water – Tees Pipeline Works

Board Members received a presentation from **Paul White (PW)** - Communications Consultant – Capital Delivery and **Jonny Mells (JM)**, Assistant Project Manager at Northumbrian Water on the Tees Pipeline Works. **JM** gave an overview of the work taking place, during phases one and two. Key elements for phase one include the route preparation, start of construction of Tees Tunnel and Alwent Beck Pipe Bridge, systems in operation with the completion of phase one in Summer 2025. Phase two includes the surveys and ground investigation, public consultation, submission of the planning application, public information events with completion being in Summer 2028.

**PW** stated a community portal is available to follow the progress of the project. In addition, TAP has been added to the stakeholder list to receive regular updates.

A Q&A session took place, and the following points were noted:

**RP** queried why a tunnel had been chosen to be built through the Tees rather than a bridge? **JM** stated that several options were explored. However due to the landscape, the management, and the cost benefit analysis it was decided a tunnel was most appropriate.

**Cllr GR** asked why the submission of the planning applications were not made from the initial project concept. **JM** stated this is the natural timescale for project progress. Due to phase two construction works taking place in 2025 planning permission will be requested shortly. **JM** confirmed that ongoing engagement takes place with the relevant partner agencies.

A **forum member** asked if a more detailed map of the works taking place in Gainford is available. **PW** to obtain a more detailed map and circulate to **AW**, this will then be circulated to the forum member (**ACTION 2:PW / AW**). **PW** reported that as the project moves into different areas consultation takes place with those members of the community that will be affected.

**RP** asked if the decommissioned pipelines are being removed. **JM** confirmed an analysis of the decommissioned assets will take place. Areas will be identified where the pipes can remain in situ; this includes abandoned assets. Where the pipes have collapsed, they will be removed. **Cllr RB** requested further information on Silver Bridge. **PW** to source further information on the work that will take place at Silver Bridge. (**ACTION 3: PW**)

A **forum member** suggested receiving an update on sewage and wastewater treatment on the River Tees. **AW** to arrange an update at a future Board meeting (**ACTION 4: AW**). **PW** reported that Northumbrian Water works on a 5-year operating period. The plans for 2025 – 2030 hugely focus on the environment and storm overflows. **PW** reported that several large investments have already been made.

**AW** highlighted that Northumbrian Water have a social / corporate responsibility within the community. As such, main contractors (Farrans Construction Ltd) are happy to meet with community groups to provide advice, guidance and conduct small scale community projects. **PW** reported that Northumbria Water have several grant streams available for environmental projects.

**Cllr RB** asked how old the existing piping is. **PW** stated the current piping is over 100 years old. On average pipes last approximately 80 years.

At a previous Board meeting a forum member requested an update on the Tees Pipeline works. The **forum member** thanked **AW** for the information received and for the presentation delivered at tonight's Board meeting.

**Cllr RB** thanked **JM** and **PW** for the presentation.

## 5. Area Budget

**AW** confirmed that a copy of the full Area Budget applications has been circulated, in advance, with the meeting papers. **AW** highlighted that Board members were given the opportunity to provide any comments to the TAP team in advance of tonight's meeting. No comments were received.

**AW** reiterated that 'all' the AB applications have been considered by the Community Recovery Task and Finish Group and are recommended for Board approval.

**AWard** gave a brief overview of each application.

### 5.1 YMCA Community Cafe Support – YMCA

**Area Budget requested: £12,000**  
**NB Contribution: £3,800 (Cllr Cosslett £2,400 and Cllr Potts £1,400)**  
**Match Funding: £50,680**  
**Total Cost of Project: £66,480**

No comments were raised, and the Board **APPROVED** the application.

### 5.2 Ingleton Play Area – Ingleton Parish Council

**Area Budget requested: £8,380**  
**NB Contribution: £3,500 (£1,750 from both Cllr Rowlandson and Cllr Richardson)**  
**Match Funding: £8,431**  
**Total Cost of Project: £20,311**

No comments were raised, and the Board **APPROVED** the application.

### 5.3 Cockfield Christmas Lights – Cockfield Community Christmas Decorations Lighting Committee

**Area Budget requested: £6,000**  
**NB Contribution: £2,782 (£1,390 from Cllr Potts and £1,392 from Cllr Cosslett)**  
**Match Funding: £8,698**  
**Total Cost of Project: £17,480**

**CW** declared an interest in the project.

**Cllr RB** asked will the electricity be turned off when the lights are not in use. **CW** confirmed the lights will be connected for 7 weeks and then will be disconnected for the rest of the year.

No further comments were raised, and the Board **APPROVED** the application.

#### **5.4 Evenwood Cricket Club – Practice Nets**

**Area Budget requested: £12,000**

**NB Contribution: £10,594 (Cllr Cosslett £5,071 and Cllr Potts £5,523)**

**Match Funding: £11,000**

**Total Project Cost: £33,594**

No comments were raised, and the Board **APPROVED** the application.

#### **5.5 Turrets Youth Theatre – The Witham Hall Ltd**

**Area Budget requested: £6,000**

**Match funding: £14,613**

**Total Cost of Project: £20,613**

No comments were raised, and the Board **APPROVED** the application.

**AWard** to forward the Area Budget applications to the DCC Funding Team for technical appraisal. **(ACTION 5: AWard)**

### **6. Towns and Villages Funding**

**AWard** gave a brief overview of the application for Towns and Villages Funding:

#### **6.1 New Pavilion - Raby Castle Cricket Club**

**TAP T&V Contribution: £30,000**

**TAP Area Budget: £10,000**

**TAP NB T&V Contribution: £10,000 (£5,000 each from Cllr Richardson and Cllr Rowlandson)**

**NB Contribution: £8,000 (£4,000 each from Cllr Richardson and Cllr Rowlandson)**

**Match Funding: £140,900**

**Total Cost of Project: £198,900**

**Cllr RB** asked which schemes the Section 106 was being allocated from. **AWard** stated that the Section 106 Funding was from Darlington Road, Barnard Castle development that sit within the Barnard Castle East Ward. **AW** explained once funding is secured a full tender exercise will take place. **AW** reiterated that costs are currently based on QS and the appointed architect costings. **AW** stated that cost savings are continuously being explored. **AW** stated that further funding will be required for phase 2. The Board discussed phase 2 and it was **agreed** that the applicant should be informed that future funding, from TAP, for phase two is not guaranteed.

No further comments were raised, and the Board **APPROVED** the application.

**AWard** to forward the Towns and Villages application to the DCC Funding Team for technical appraisal. **(ACTION 6: AWard)**

## 7. Neighbourhood Budget

**AWard** confirmed that a summary sheet for the NB proposals has been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. **AWard** gave a brief outline of each proposal.

### 7.1 Lands Village Hall – Lands Village Hall Noticeboards

**AWard** confirmed that the request for NB is £2,313 (£1,157 from Cllr Potts and £1,156 from Cllr Cosslett)

No comments were raised.

### 7.2 Cockfield Parish Council – Recreation Ground Improvements

**AWard** confirmed that the request for NB is £2,425 (£1,212 from Cllr Potts and £1,213 from Cllr Cosslett)

No comments were raised.

**AWard** to forward the NB applications to the DCC Funding Team for technical appraisal.  
**(ACTION 7: AWard)**

## 8. Locality Neighbourhood Issues

### 8.1 Locality Policing Issues

Insp Ed Turner gave an update on the key issues for the TAP area:

- The community speed watch van continues to be available. The van can be booked by contacting the Police via social media or contacting Insp Ed Turner directly.
- A meeting to discuss the Kinninvie crossroads will take place on 19 July 2023, 7pm at Marwood Social Centre. Relevant partners will attend the meeting to outline their plans.
- The migration to Appleby Fair is now complete. A debrief meeting will take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> July. Overall, the migration to Appleby Fair has gone well. Due to travellers gaining 'early access' to the Shawbank, Temporary Stopover Site in Barnard Castle, action was taken to remove those onsite. Toilet provision was provided; however, some reports of damage have been received. In preparation for next year's migration target hardening will take place at Shawbank to prevent early access to the site. The Demesnes have not been breached this year, due to target hardening. As a result, Barnard Castle Town Council are exploring options for providing long term target hardening provision.

- Local policing updates are provided online.

**Cllr GR** highlighted a local incident. **Insp Ed Turner** informed the Board that this is part of an ongoing investigation, and he cannot provide any comments, at this stage, on a 'live investigation.'

## **8.2 Towns and Villages Update**

**PH** gave a countywide overview of the AAP Towns and Villages Fund and Cllr's Towns and Villages Funding. **PH** highlighted the funding that has been approved, that is in development and the remaining funds to be allocated. The match funding figures were also highlighted.

To date TAP have supported 6 projects through the AAP Towns and Villages Fund and 4 through the Councillor's Towns and Villages funding.

**AWard** continues to support elected members in order to allocate their remaining Towns and Villages funding.

## **9. Coordinators Update**

### **9.1 Area Budget Spend Profile**

The Board were provided with the Area Budget Spend Profile for 2023/24. The report includes the status of each project. A copy of the spend profile was circulated, in advance of the meeting, with the meeting papers.

**AW** highlighted that £20,000 is in the process of being clawed back from Teesdale Business Improvements – DCC project. This funding will be reallocated to a play area project in Gainford.

### **9.2 Q4 Monitoring Updates**

**AW** stated that the quarterly updates (Jan - March 2023) have been circulated to Board members. **AW** stressed; if any Board members would like to submit individual comments for circulation that they are more than welcome to do so.

From the previous quarterly updates, **AW** confirmed that extension have been given to Durham Wildlife Trust, UTASS, Middleton Scouts, DCC (Ramshaw Play Area), DCC (Barnard Castle Wayfinding) and the Witham. In addition, final monitoring has been requested for Middleton in Teesdale Silver Band, YMCA, Middleton Wanders and Brightwoods Forest School.

### **9.3 TAP Press Article**

The Board were provided with an update on the press coverage TAP has received in Teesdale Mercury over the January - March 2023 period.

## 9.4 Community Engagement Review

**AW** informed the Board that the Community Engagement Review consultation is now complete. The findings and recommendations have been presented and **agreed**, by Cabinet today (12<sup>th</sup> July 2023)

**AW** highlighted the main salient points from the report. **AW** gave an overview of the new model, new governance arrangements, review of the terms of reference and an explanation of funding and 4-year plans was also given. The timescales for adoption were also explained. **AW** confirmed that the new model will go live in May 2025.

**CJ** asked when will planning for the new model begin. **AW** confirmed that as the report has now been agreed, work on the new model will commence shortly.

**Cllr GR** asked will there be enough interest if parish councillors are not permitted to sit on the Board as Public Representatives. **LB** stated parish councillors are invaluable within their community.

**Cllr RB** welcomed a 4-year local plan and highlighted that the review represents an 'evolution of the AAPs and not a revolution'.

**LB** stated that nonadherence to terms of reference, within an AAP, is an issue that should be addressed by the AAP Co-ordinator, in the first instance, failing a resolution senior management should deal with this. **LB** expressed that 'consistency' across all AAP's is vital.'

A **forum member** stated that a lot of information is coming down the chain, but information is not being fed back up the chain. There should be a requirement of other council departments to feed into the work of the AAP.

## 9.5 AONB

- **Rural Development Opportunities Event**

**AW** reported that **Cllr RB, LB**, and himself attended the Rural Development Opportunities Event at Mickleton Village Hall on 11 July 2023. The event focused on how rural areas contribute to the wider economy, whilst supporting their communities, culture, and heritage. **AW** highlighted that rural areas face a range of challenges, including providing housing and sufficient development and growth to ensure they remain vital, viable and healthy places. The meeting focused on the rural west of County Durham with issues such as funding opportunities, economy, housing, and infrastructure being discussed. **Cllr RB** highlighted that linked to this 'The Housing Strategy' consultation that is now live. Board members were encouraged to take part in the consultation.



**AW** highlighted that previously a rural network group was established but this group no longer meets. **AW** suggested re - stabilising this group. **Cllr RB** welcomed this suggestion (**ACTION 8: AW**).

#### **10. Date/Time/Venue for Next Meeting**

**Cllr RB** thanked Board members for attending the meeting.

The TAP Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 13 September 2023, 6pm, Etherley Methodist Church.