

East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership Minutes of the
Board Meeting
Tuesday 18 July 2023
Coxhoe Village Hall, Front Street East, Coxhoe, DH6 4DB

Board Members

Attendance: Stuart Dunn, George Storey, Kester Noble, Neighbourhood
Insp Sarah Honeyman, Allan Blakemore, Cllr Chris Varty,
Cllr Chris Lines, Parish Cllr Sandra Dowson, Malcolm Gray,
Tony Cutmore, Christine Carter, Cllr David Brown

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

Presenter: Steph Rich, Spatial Policy / Housing Officer – Durham
County Council (DCC)

Forum Members

Attendance: 5 forum members attended the meeting

Apologies: Dave Tempest, Mark Readman, Tim Dredge, Angela
Stobbart, Claire Craft

1 [Introductions and Apologies](#)

In the absence of Angela Stobbart, Cllr Chris Varty chaired the meeting. Everyone was welcomed to the 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.

2 [Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 May 2023 & Matters Arising](#)

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3 Local Neighbourhood Issues (LNI)

3.1 Locality Policing Issues

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

Update from Sgt Kevin Hall (Sherburn)

We are currently dealing with community tensions in Bowburn due to a number of high value fires involving a young male who resides in the village. The youth has been arrested and bailed out of the village until October to prevent further crime and for his own safety. The community are holding a private meeting on the 13/07/23 and we have been in contact with the organiser to provide support and advice. We are working intensively with partner agencies around this youth, who is also subject to MAPS to address his criminal behaviour. This situation is a delicate one given the youths age and neurodivergent issues. Crime enquiries are ongoing and at this time I would ask that if any person has information regarding the fire to contact the OIC PC Paul BLAIR 1653 or myself.

The Northern Echo published an online article - [Arson investigation launched after fire near Durham Amazon | The Northern Echo](#)

Should any person wish for an update regarding this matter then they can contact me directly or attend the PACT meeting in July. The next PACT for Bowburn is on 27/07/23, 1830 hours at the community centre.

Police.uk will show the PACT meetings for the EDRC area.

We have gained another PC on the team on a long-term attachment which means we now have PC Neil TURNBULL 9580 and PCSO Liam BLACKETT 30083 cover the EDRC areas alongside PC Paul BLAIR 1653 and PCSO Ruth DICKINSON 8623.

Update from Neighbourhood Insp Phil Carter (Peterlee Team)

Peterlee Neighbourhood Team have targeted anti-social behaviour (ASB) by upping patrols in the areas and carrying out extra engagement within the areas as well as engaging with our partners. PCSO's have visited the hot spot areas for ASB and carried out the Stamp it Out Stencils.

There has been a Pop-Up PACT at Asda, Peterlee. The officers were able to engage with the community whilst showing a presence in the community.

The week has been a great success with the following results:

- 5 Community Protection Warning Notices issued
- 5 persons issued with Traffic Warning Notices for driving anti socially
- 5 Anti-Social Behaviour Contracts issued to youths in the area
- 1 off road bike seized
- 5 people reported for driving offences
- 1 prolific shop lifter arrested whilst on patrols
- 1 person arrested for driving whilst under the influence
- Over 15 visits carried out in partnership with local housing groups to target anti-social behaviour by tenants.

Update from Neighbourhood Insp Sarah Honeyman

PC Stephen Ward is new to the Neighbourhood Policing Team for Sedgefield, Fishburn and the Trimdons.

Extra patrols had been carried out in the area following government funding.

Newton Aycliffe Police Team are currently based at Newton Aycliffe Fire and Police Community Station; however, the lease had come to an end. They are looking for an alternative location and the MP had been involved. Sarah said she was doing everything she could as this was concerning news for residents of the local community.

[Sarah left the meeting to attend GAMP AAP's board meeting]

4 [Community Engagement Review update](#)

Jane Bellis delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Community Engagement Review update.

A copy of the presentation will be forwarded to board members for information.

Comments were made on streamlining processes especially the application process as this would attract new groups and organisations to apply; and we should be keeping a close eye on looking to support new groups and organisations moving forward.

5 [Priority Updates \(from Task Group and Project Leads\)](#)

5.1 Area Budget Projects

The closing date for area budget applications was noon on Wednesday 21 June. Two applications were received totalling £11,928.65. Board members had received the full applications prior to the meeting.

- Trimdon Village Hall, Trimdon Village Hall Development - £5,740

The Board was happy to support this project and the application was approved.

{Cllr Chris Lines declared an interest in the following item of business}

- From Loft to Loved Workshops CIC, Sewing for All - £6,188.65

The Board was happy to support this project and the application was approved.

There is £107,973.35 of area budget remaining, and the project call out will be relaunched on 19 July 2023.

5.2 Summer 2023 Fun and Food

11 application packs were requested, and 9 applications were returned by the deadline; this resulted in us being massively oversubscribed, leaving us with nowhere near enough funding for the summer holiday period and nothing for the Christmas holidays.

Following appraisal by the AAP and Fun and Food Teams, 1 application still had appraisal queries unanswered by the deadline. The other 8 were returned to us removing costings that could not be funded via this pot, and reducing other costs as suggested to ensure the projects could go ahead with a geographical spread across the AAP area.

As there was only 1 Board Member available for a panel meeting to discuss the 8 applications that were returned; they were sent to Board members for information with the contact details removed for data protection reasons.

Board members were happy to support the 8 fun and food projects for summer 2023; there is £1,918.70 remaining for the Christmas holiday period.

Jane to speak to Tony Cutmore from The Cornforth Partnership in relation to an underspend that could potentially be added to the Fun and Food pot for the Christmas 2023 holiday period subject to approval by the funding team.

5.3 Update on The Wellbeing Project at Rose Cottage

Michelle Douglas-Allison did not attend the meeting therefore there was no update on The Wellbeing Project at Rose Cottage.

5.4 Update on the Shaun Henderson Community Sports Ground, Coxhoe

Stuart Dunn delivered a presentation on the above, formerly Coxhoe cricket ground.

6 Countywide Partner Issues:

6.1 Housing Strategy Consultation

Steph Rich, Spatial Policy / Housing Officer – DCC delivered a presentation on Durham County Council's Housing Strategy, which will provide a strategic framework to inform the actions and investment of the Council and its partners and will also ensure we are well positioned to maximise future opportunities for funding support.

The County Durham Housing Strategy was adopted in July 2019 and delivery had included:

- Development of Targeted Delivery Plans to guide interventions and support mixed and balanced communities.
- Delivery of older persons housing in line with County Durham Plan requirements.
- Selective Licencing covering at least 29,000 properties / 43% of the private rented sector.

The Housing Strategy principles will establish the foundation and rationale underpinning decisions and actions to deliver the vision.

Consultation will ask whether we have the right principles and priorities but also ideas around how we can deliver them. The consultation will run until 18 August 2023 at 5.00 pm; the Draft Strategy Consultation will run from October – November 2023 and the Housing Strategy will be adopted in Spring 2024.

Further information and the surveys can be found on the DCC website at:

www.durham.gov.uk/thehousingconversation or

Email: thehousingconversation@durham.gov.uk

- ❖ What do you think are the housing issues in your area?
- ❖ What do you think the potential solutions are?

The meeting was opened for discussion and the following questions were raised –

- Will the local need be taken in to account?
- Do you consider looking at the infrastructure of the area? Is it included in the Housing Strategy?
- How robust is the policy in relation to affordable housing?
- Are you taking the Neighbourhood Plans in to account?
- Are you planning to look to move students into more affordable areas outside of Durham City?
- Are there plans to build bigger homes for blended families?
- Is there going to investment/regeneration in smaller rural communities?
- Are there plans to build Council houses? If so, how many and where?
- There is a massive issue in Coxhoe where houses are being converted into children's homes.
- Can some of the affordable housing be taken on by Believe Housing/livin?

- There is a problem with students in the city and the university needs to be more responsible for them. Villages are also being affected by this.

7 Co-ordinator's Report

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

8 Neighbourhood Budget Projects

The following Neighbourhood Budget (NB) projects were shared with the Board –

Name of Scheme: Durham Miner's Gala Band
 Councillor(s): Blakey / Hutchinson
 Interest Declared: Yes, Cllr Blakey Chair of the committee
 Amount: £2,000.00

{Stuart Dunn declared an interest in the following NB project}

Name of Scheme: Coxhoe and Area Community Pantry and Foodbank
 Councillor(s): McKeon
 Interest Declared: Yes, Volunteer at the pantry
 Amount: £3,000.00

Name of Scheme: Sedgefield Lyric Singers – 50th Anniversary Project
 Councillor(s): Brown / Lines
 Interest Declared: No
 Amount: £2,000.00

{George Storey declared an interest in the following NB project}

Name of Scheme: Cassop Community Centre Youth Club
 Councillor(s): Blakey / Hutchinson
 Interest Declared: No
 Amount: £1,512.00

The Board was happy for these projects to go ahead and the interest as declared.

9 Date and time of next board meeting

Date and time of next meeting – Thursday 21 September 2023, 5.00 pm – Trimdon Station Community Centre

Subsequent Board Meeting Dates

- Tuesday 21st November 2023 – Bowburn Community Centre
- Wednesday 24th January 2024
- Thursday 21st March 2024, Cassop Community Centre

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed.