



STANLEY AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP (AAP)

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

Held on Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 5.00pm

Councillor:

Cllr Angela Hanson
Cllr Gordon Binney
Cllr Jeanette Stephenson, Vice Chair

Partner Organisations:

Suzanne Jobson (Karbon Homes)
Barbara Edmundson (Integrated Care Board, NHS)
Martyn Stenton (Durham County Council)

Public Representatives:

John Ullathorne, Chair
Darren McMahon
Linda Tyman
Olga Milburn
Frankie Ward
Carl Gippert

Officer Attendance:

Daniel O'Brien (AAP Coordinator)
Lesley Lines (AAP Support Officer)
Andrea Boyd (AAP Community Development Project Officer)
Joanne Ashworth (Town & Villages, Community Development Project Officer)

Apologies:

Dan Hodgson (Fire Service), Cllr Joyce Charlton, Nerise Oldfield-Thompson (Voluntary & Community Sector), Vicky Walton (Public Representative), Cllr Carole Hampson, Cllr Carl Marshall, Max Wright (Business Representative), N Insp Dave Stewart (Durham Constabulary), and Cllr Joan Nicholson.

Public Attendance:

Four members of the Forum/Public attended the meeting.

1. Introductions and Apologies:

Daniel welcomed everyone to Stanley AAP's second hybrid meeting at Morrison Busty. Apologies are noted above. John Ullathorne Chaired the meeting.

Daniel introduced and welcomed the two new Public Representatives to their first meeting; Frankie Ward and Carl Gippert.

2. Declaration of Interest:

Darren McMahon and Cllr Angela Hanson declared an interest in Item 7 – Stanley Youth Consortium's and PACT House's Area Budget Applications for Approval.

3. Agreement of the Minutes – 5th September 2023 and matters arising not covered on this agenda:

The Minutes of 5th September 2023 were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

4. Fair Foundations: Stanley Place Update

Victoria Keen, Karbon Homes, gave a presentation:

She highlighted that this was a Pilot Project within Stanley, as one in four residents in Stanley live in Karbon Homes.

Tonight's session was to hear more about Karbon Homes' Fair Foundations approach to Place Shaping. To consider the place shaping work already underway in Stanley and to think about what more could be done through collaboration.

Fair Foundations - A New Approach:

- Everyone deserves a fair chance to realise their potential, wherever they live.
- What? A new approach to evaluating places and interventions based on the concept of the foundational economy.
- How? A coalition of active, willing, like-minded partners to tackle the challenges of left behind places.

Sector Recommendations. Victoria highlighted what housing associations and anchor institutions could do:

- Jobs – No zero-hour contracts
- Childcare – Support outside of school hours
- Travel to work – Help with travel to key employer locations.
- Hardship Funds – focus hardship funds on left behind places.

Collaboration Lessons:

- Stakeholders and the community are at the heart of our work.
- Asset based and focus on opportunities (not just challenges)
- Using staff from across all teams in a non-hierarchical way
- Harness the energy of the whole organisation & key partners like the AAP / Council
- Use of Place Champions

- Sector wide support by engaging key players.
- The Fair Foundations Place Network

Victoria highlighted the acquisition of Stanley Board School and advised Karbon Homes were working hard to find an approach for the Board School that will strengthen residual household income in Stanley, and which will meet stakeholder and community needs.

Following Fair Foundations principles, this will need to:

- Increase Residual Household Income
- Support the Foundational Economy
- Offer employability, training, skills, and entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Bring the community together.
- Enliven the high street.
- Increase sense of pride in place.

Victoria opened the floor to questions and asked Board Members for comment:

It was highlighted that a lot of people wanted to rent garages that are in poor repair. John asked are Karbon going to invest in improving the garages condition and rent them or are they intending to demolish them? Victoria suggested a separate meeting to discuss this matter further, she asked that information on where the garages in question are were be sent to her.

Frankie highlighted the lack of supported housing for people who are homeless and veterans. Victoria stated that his is something that Karbon will be talking to Durham County Council about. This will give parameters of what can and can't be done.

Olga highlighted that Karbon were partners in the production of the Stanley Masterplan, and she hoped this document would be referred to as there was no need to reinvent the wheel. Victoria highlighted that they were referring to the document. She recognised that many things within the plan were things they were looking at i.e., purchasing the Board School.

Jeanette asked could a steering group be set up to take these issues further. Victoria suggested she would welcome the conversation and they are going to be working with a consultancy soon to start wider engagement with key partners including the AAP.

Darren highlighted that the AAP would be eager to work with Karbon Homes and be part of a themed group.

Action: Daniel to liaise with Victoria and Karbon Homes regarding working group involvement for AAP Board Members and wider community engagement for their place shaping ambitions for Stanley

Helen McCaughey, AAP Forum Member highlighted that the YMCA at Chester-le-Street had a gated community for around 30 people which is why it is a very successful project. Vulnerable people needed protecting in their homes.

Victoria stressed that it was not a given that the Board School was a housing project. She advised this action plan would be looked at over a three-year period.

The Chair thanked Victoria for the presentation.

5. Consultation on further proposals to balance the Council budget

Martyn Stenton, Durham County Council gave the latest presentation on the County Council's Budget Consultation:

As we continue to work towards finalising our budget proposals for next year, we continue to experience significant financial uncertainty, due to high inflation and service demand. The estimated budget deficit we face next year and across the next four years has increased, and therefore the scale of the savings we need to balance our budget has increased. With that in mind further savings are proposed for consultation.

These further savings are in addition to the ones in the [consultation on our budget proposals for 2024/5 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2025-2028](#).

Update on current picture

The total savings needed at this stage for 2024/25 to balance the budget is now estimated to be £16.308 million - around £4.2 million more than was previously forecast. Across the next four years, the total savings required are estimated to be £67.602 million - around £11.6 million more than was previously forecast.

A total of £5.878 million of savings have already been approved, of which £2.332 million can be delivered in 2024/25. Our Cabinet agreed additional savings proposals of £3.7 million for 2024/25 and £6.617 million in total across the budget planning period, at its meeting in July 2023.

Cabinet have now approved further savings proposals of £1.943 million in 2024/25 and £2.909 million across the four-year period for consultation.

Final decisions on these proposals will not be made until February next year.

The budget forecasts continue to assume that we will apply the maximum increases in our council tax across each of the next four years, in line with government guidance and expectations.

You can read the full report in the [Cabinet agenda and minutes - 11 October 2023](#).

Further savings proposals - October 2023 savings plan

Wherever possible the focus on developing savings options for 2024/25 and the following three years, continues to look for efficiencies, raise additional income and protect front line services.

Savings from back office and making efficiencies.

Savings = £0.4 million for 2024/25

Savings = £0.5 million over the four-year period

Proposals to make efficiencies and savings from back-office areas by reviews of:

- staffing in the Partnerships and Community Engagement section
- funding for Highways section, including looking at how we use external income to part fund staff.
- catering to make sure it is cost neutral (that the cost to run our catering service is not higher than the income it generates)

Raising additional income and reducing our third-party contributions

Savings = £1.3 million for 2024/25

Martyn asked if there were any questions or comments on the latest budget proposals.

Jeanette suggested a separate standalone meeting for Stanley AAP Board Members to discuss the Budget Consultation and agree a joint response.

Martyn highlighted the form which could be filled in and forwarded to Daniel if anyone wanted to fill it in. And the links to the online Budget Consultation Survey.

Action: Daniel to arrange a separate standalone meeting for Stanley AAP Board Members to discuss the Budget Consultation and agree a joint response.

6. Neighbourhood Issues and Locality Policing Issues:

Daniel gave an update on behalf of N Insp. Dave Stewart:

All crime in Stanley is up 6% this month on the twelve-month average. Most of this increase is stalking and harassment crimes, the investigation of which is always given a priority.

Incidents are up 7% in September compared to the twelve-month average. There has been an increase in the ASB figure for September compared to September last year. To put this into perspective anti-social behaviour in all its forms accounts for less than 10% of all incidents we receive. On a positive note, ASB is down 30% across the whole of Stanley year on year. But of course, ASB affects everyone it touches. Every late turn the Neighbourhood policing team in Stanley are designated targeted patrol areas for ASB. That is Wednesday through to Sunday inclusive. Unless incidents of a higher priority (as determined in the Control Room) pull our resources away from that, those patrols are our designated duties.

Over the last few weeks, we have made arrests for incidents, including on Stanley town centre where youths now find themselves on stringent bail conditions while the investigations continue. It is hoped that work will address the ringleaders and have the wider effect on ASB.

The Police are also taking part in the Joint Cadet Forces Presentation on Monday 13th November from 10am at Tanfield School, Tanfield Lea. DH9 8AY.

Daniel informed Board Members that they have all been invited to the above event. Feedback from the event will be brought back to the next AAP Board Meeting.

7. AAP Coordinator Update:

Daniel updated on a range of initiatives that the AAP had been working on.

Area Budget Live Projects Monitoring Update Report

Daniel advised that the Qtr. 2 July – Sept Live Area Budget Projects Monitoring Report had been circulated via email to Board Members. He highlighted that he a meeting with Durham Deafened Support was being arranged considering their non-return of monitoring and to see what if any support was needed. He asked if there were any comments on the report. No comments were received.

Area Budget Applications for approval:

Beamish FC – Updated 9v9 and 11v11 Goals

Project Description: The Beamish Junior Football Club is looking to replace and upgrade all the current goals on their 9v9 and 11v11 pitches. They have recently secured funding for

stage 1 of the project allowing the group to improve and maintain the playing pitches for all children and young adults.

In order to enable stage 2, the group need to increase the number of playing pitches available to the club, this required the purchase of 2 sets of 9 v 9 Heavy Duty Easy Lift Goals and 1 set of 11v11 Heavy Duty Easy lift Goals.

The group are now looking to purchase mobile goals as this will increase the number of participants as well as alleviating damage to the pitches as we can move pitches to allow the goal mouths to regenerate and repair themselves through the season.

The club is growing at a rapid speed, and we like to increase footfall within the centre year on year. This funding will allow us to welcome more attendees to the club if we have more available pitches for teams / training sessions.

Beamish has a good record of managing projects and ensuring their sustainable for the future.

The football club is at the heart of the community and is a lifeline for lots of families within the area. The club is located within a high level of deprivation where families do not have a lot of disposable income. This project is vital for the growth and development of the club.

Project cost £5,634.62

Daniel asked the Board for any comments. No Comments were received.

The Board approved the application.

Collierley Parochial Church Council – Parish Nursing

Project Description: The purpose of the project is to become part of the Mental Health Specialism Parish Nursing scheme that covers both the Teesdale and Weardale areas of County Durham. The purpose of this is to establish an integrated service in which clergy, other ministers and volunteers work closely with NHS primary care services, established groups and community networks to support individuals experiencing mental health difficulties. The employed Parish Nurses will resource clergy and enable them to provide significant help to people who are struggling but unable to quickly access support. It will enable churches to engage with the NHS 'no wrong door' strategy for community based mental health referrals without increasing pressure on clergy as community leaders and complement and add to (but not replace) what is currently available. This project will increase the capacity and expertise available for pastoral care in this parish in an area of heavy deprivation. Clergy will be able to refer people to this service for specialist care in areas such as bereavement, grief and trauma that may be outside of their experience. Clergy will also have the reassurance of another trusted agency that has peoples' welfare as its objective and is able to support them in their response to the increase in mental health issues encountered through pastoral ministry with individuals, families and young people.

Project cost £10,750

Daniel asked the Board for any comments. No comments were received.

The Board approved the application.

Harbour – Recovery Service Survivors Group

Project Description: Harbour Support Services provide support for clients who have experienced domestic abuse across the Stanley area. Harbour's Recovery Service Survivor Groups provide opportunities for women to engage in social interactions with others who

have had similar experiences and are an effective way to help women and families to develop life skills, extend their community and support networks, and most importantly, increase their self-esteem and mental wellbeing. This funding application seeks to enhance the provision of activities offered at the Stanley Survivor Group, drawing on external resources to provide a range of classes and workshops that support mental health and wellbeing and facilitate personal growth. We would also look to increase the range of therapeutic craft activities available to attendees, delivered internally by Harbour staff and volunteers. Funding would be used to cover the cost of staffing, volunteer costs, attendance costs (public transport for attendees), room hire, materials, and delivery of 25 Survivor Groups per year. The Survivor Groups would deliver a range of health & wellbeing activities, such as self-defense classes, pamper sessions, and a range of arts & crafts sessions.

Project cost £5,036

Daniel asked the Board for any comments. No comments were received.

The Board approved the application.

Just for Women - Counselling

Project Description: This project will offer counseling services to women, men, and young people in the Stanley community who are dealing with mental health issues. **Project Implementation:** Initial Assessment: Individuals seeking support will undergo an initial assessment. This assessment helps us understand their specific needs and challenges. **Tailored Support Program:** Based on the assessment results, we will collaboratively develop a tailored support program for each participant. This program is designed to comprehensively address their mental health concerns. **Counselling Sessions:** The core component of our project is the provision of counseling sessions. They will have the opportunity to discuss their challenges, feelings, and thoughts in a safe and confidential environment. **Funding is requested for counselling costs.** **Workshops:** In addition to counseling, we will organise mental health workshops. These workshops will cover topics like stress management, anxiety coping strategies, and building emotional resilience. **1:1 Support:** Participants will have access to one-on-one support sessions, where they can receive personalized guidance and assistance from our qualified professionals. **Crafting and Learning Opportunities:** To promote holistic well-being, we will offer activities like crafting and various learning opportunities. Engaging in creative and educational activities can be therapeutic and contribute to overall mental wellness. **Volunteering Opportunities:** We believe in empowering individuals by providing opportunities for them to give back to the community. Participants can engage in volunteering placements, both within our organisation and in real working environments, which can boost their self-esteem and sense of purpose. **Project Expenditure:** The funding for this project will primarily be allocated to covering the costs associated with counselling sessions. These sessions are the cornerstone of our project and are invaluable in providing much-needed mental health support to our community members in Stanley.

Project cost £7,500

Daniel asked the Board for any comments. No comments were received.

The Board approved the application.

PACT House – Sustaining Services

Project Description: This project will help sustain the work of PACT House by strengthening two of our main support routes; one – access to free and affordable cooked food / meals; two – local self-referral access to mental health and well-being support, from social and learning sessions to 1-2-1 counselling. We are asking for £10000 to support staff in our community cafe (approx. 30% of the staffing costs) offering access 6 days a week. The

PACT House community cafe and community meals currently provide in the region 250 free meals each week, more during school holidays and weekly provide approx. 150 affordable meals with costs ranging from £1.50 to £3.00. Much of the food support focuses on alleviating food insecurities, helps massively in bring a community together to prevent isolation, loneliness and provide a wide base for people to engage, give peer support and share experiences. This route of support opens up ways PACT House can promote and engage with the wider community, supporting with mental health, advice, well-being, addiction, benefits and housing issues and more so currently costs of living and fuel poverty. With a further £10000 to support our mental services manager (approx. 45% of costs). This funding would sustain our Think Positive Durham project, a dedicated mental health support service providing; well-being, social, listening ear and 1-2-1 counselling services. Think Positive, being a member of the Durham Mental Health and Well-being Alliance opens up a gate way to Countywide mental health support and alternative provision.

Project cost £20,000

Daniel asked the Board for any comments. No comments were received.

Daniel advised the Chair that he could use their powers of dispensation to allow Cllr Angela Hanson (who had declared an interest in PACT House's and Stanley Youth Consortium's Area Budget projects and thus not making the meeting not quorate for decision making) to take part in the Board decision. John, the Chair agreed to use the power to allow Cllr Hanson to take part and for it to be noted in the meeting minutes.

The Board approved the application.

Stanley Youth Consortium - Robotics

Project Description: To purchase a 15 pack of Sphero robots, controllers, add ons and sensors, with teaching resources and learning aids. Sphero is a system of orb robots that are used to teach young people about programming, robotics, solving problems through using IT and coding. The robots can be used to compete or complete a collective task, whilst young people use math's, problem solving and coding skills to direct and enable the robot to learn how to undertake tasks and challenges. Robots are controlled and programmed via an app that operates via android / apple or PC hardware. Expanding the project to include the Sphero RVR+ will allow young people to engineer and add additional mechanical parts to the base robotic tracked vehicle in order to build on their own ideas and creative thinking. Our plan is to use this as a resource for the Youth Consortium and affiliate members, loaning it to groups and providing learning materials so that each group can host a robotics session as and when needed. Sessions can be delivered as a fun introduction or be built upon as young people desire to increase their knowledge base.

Project cost £7,013.09

Daniel asked the Board for any comments. No comments were received.

As per above dispensation Cllr Hanson was permitted to take part in the funding decision.

The Board approved the application.

The Activity Den – Den Open Access Work

Project Description: We would like funding for all of our open access youth work which includes a contribution for our Youth Project Lead and Den Assistants wages, core costs, Young Volunteer training costs, activities and the provision of food at all of our groups. Our weekly groups consist of: Sound Hub - Our music project provides opportunities to learn from our expert tutors at an affordable cost. Instruments are provided and members are welcomed regardless of musical ability. Den Shoots – Our club for children aged 6-8 years.

Den Shoots offers games, activities, and arty stuff to get involved with whilst making friends and getting active! Healthy Futures – Our club for young people aged 9-12 years. The group has activities such as crafts, sport, games, and drama on offer as well as healthy snacks and a focus on young people as wellbeing. Later – For young people aged 13+, offering opportunities to chill-out, socialise and take part in youth led activities. Den Download - Our group for ages 10+. Den Download allows a safe inclusive space for the exploration of issue-based topics chosen by them and supports young people to get involved in social action projects. Den Dance - Our new dance project provides opportunities for members aged 6+ to take part in dance lessons delivered by an expert tutor. Young Volunteers Task Force, - For members wanting to give back to the community. Young Volunteers aged 13+ attend as many youth groups and events as possible and support our youth workers in running stimulating activities for children and young people and other tasks. We aim to continue with our current provision which has recently expanded to include two new groups and the provision of healthy food and snacks at all of groups and activities.

Project cost £5,715.28

Daniel asked the Board for any comments. No comments were received.

The Board approved the application.

Poverty Task Group:

The next meeting of the Task Group was due to be held Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 5.00pm in person in The Louisa Centre. As this now clashes with Stanley Town Council's In Bloom presentation evening. The meeting will be moved a week to Wednesday 22nd November. Board Members were reminded that if they would like to join the Task Group to contact Daniel so they can be added to the email circulation list for the meeting.

Fun & Food Christmas 2023:

Daniel advised that the closing date for applications was 12noon on Wednesday 15th November 2023.

8. Partner Work Update / Stanley specific items of interest:

Integrated Care Board, NHS – Barbara highlighted the push in Stanley to target the three nursery schools in Stanley to encourage parents to get their children aged 2 – 3 years vaccinated. She advised there were also drop-in centres available within Stanley. Daniel advised he would circulate this on Facebook and email.

Fun & Food – Darren shared information that came from an online zoom meeting he had been involved in that looked at all the Fun & Food projects. He was delighted to say that Stanley Young Peoples' Club have been asked to be involved in a video to celebrate their Fun & Food project delivery.

9. Neighbourhood Budget Summaries:

DCC Regeneration Economy & Growth – Tanfield Lea Community Centre Fire Doors.

The project will support the replacement of 2 sets of doors in the downstairs area of the building, the kitchen and the double doors to the main hall as on a recent inspection by Durham & Darlington Fire Service they indicated that the internal doors opening on to the main passage in the Community Centre should be replaced by fire doors.

Project Cost: £4,100.00

Councillor Joyce Charlton Contribution: £4,029.00

The Reg Vardy Band – National Finals

The project will support the band to compete at the National Brass Band Championships at the Royal Albert Hall in London October 2023. Only two local bands can qualify for this prestigious competition. The funding will go towards replacing damaged uniforms and travel to and from the championships.

Project Cost: £15,700.00

Councillor Joyce Charlton Contribution: £750.00

Councillor Gordon Binney Contribution: £750.00

Councillor Joan Nicholson Contribution: £750.00

Councillor Christine Bell Contribution: £750.00

Councillor Carl Marshall Contribution: £750.00

Councillor Angela Hanson Contribution: £750.00

Councillor Carol Hampson Contribution: £750.00

Councillor Sam McMahon Contribution: £750.00

Artichoke Trust – Lumiere Recycle Project

This project is part of a County wide project to enhance people's understanding of the environmental impact of single-use plastics. The workshops will be creating art from recycled material and displayed throughout the festival.

Project Cost: £1411.76

Councillor Angela Hanson Contribution: £200.00

Councillor County Wide Contribution: £1,211.76

Small Grants:

Festive Brass Band Concert

Project Brief: To deliver a Brass Band Festive Concert to the local community.

Total Cost: £300.00

Councillor Carl Marshall Contribution: £150.00

Councillor Angela Hanson Contribution: £150.00

10. Pre-Notified Any Other Business:

No pre-notified any other business had been received.

11. Next Meeting:

Tuesday 5th December 2023 at 5.00pm – Morrison Busty Depot/Online (Hybrid).

For further details about these minutes please contact Stanley AAP office,

Tel: 03000 265323 or Email: Stanleyaap@durham.gov.uk