

**3 Towns Partnership Board Meeting
6pm on Thursday 19 May 2022 at Crook Civic Centre**

PRESENT:

Partner Organisations

Gordon Elliott
Graham Tomaszko
Insp. Ed Turner
Helen Ward

Public Representatives

Jay Conlon
Allan Coleman
Mary Hall
Fiona Nicol
David Dixon
Eddie Tomlinson
Peter Chisholm

Elected Members

Councillor Richard Manchester, Durham County Council
Councillor Mike Currah, Durham County Council
Councillor Olwyn Gunn, Durham County Council
Councillor Paul Stokes, Tow Law Town Council

Co-opted Members

Councillor Margaret Elgie, Greater Willington Town Council

Officer Attendance:

Sandy Denney	AAP Coordinator
Nicola Woodgate	Community Development Project Officer
Kelly Hughes	AAP Support Officer
Joanne Ashworth	CDPO Towns and Villages

Presenters:

Chris Pratt – Hunwick Cricket Club
Claire Ritson and Liz Mather – Sunnyside Community Association
James Shepherd, Mica Rouse, Harrison Coles and Ellena Ince – Jack Drum Arts

Public Attendance:

10 members of the public were in attendance

Apologies:

Cllr Fraser Tinsley, Cllr Anne Reed, Cllr Patricia Jopling, Liz Bradley, Robbie Roddiss, Paul Cummings, Chris Ebdon

AGM

A1. Welcome and Introductions

GE opened the meeting and thanked the Board for attending. Board members introduced themselves.

A2. 3 Towns Partnership Annual Report

SD informed the Board that the Annual Report is complete and will be available in an electronic format and printed for those who request it.

A3. Presentations by 3 Towns Partnership Funded projects

CP gave a presentation on behalf of Hunwick Cricket Club. It showcased the work the club have done with the funding from the help of the AAP.

LM and **CR** gave a presentation on behalf of Sunnyside Community Association. The presentation showed what the organisation has done with their funding and how this has benefited their community. Beneficiaries talked about how great and helpful the projects have been.

JS, **EI**, **HC** and **MR** gave a presentation on behalf of Jack Drum Arts. **JS** explained to the Board how the AAP funding has helped develop their Games Night. Several young people from the Games Night project attended and gave their views and opinions on the project.

GE ended the AGM by thanking everyone and introducing **JC** and **DD** as new public representatives. **GE** thanked **ET** and **PC** for their roles as public representatives for the last 4 years on the Board and introduced **MH** as the new Chair and **OG** and **ET** as the Vice Chairs.

Refreshment Break

3 Towns Board Meeting

A1. Welcome

MH started meeting and introduced the co-opted reps to the Board.

A2. Agreement of Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

A3. Local Neighbourhood Issues

Neighbourhood Budget Applications and Neighbourhood Budget Report

NW gave an update on Neighbourhood Budget and directed the Board to the report in their packs and said two applications had been circulated to the Board electronically since the last meeting.

NW said there were 3 applications to go through at the Meeting.

1. Foundry Fields, Durham County Council

Councillor Patricia Jopling and Councillor Mike Currah

NB £8,317; Match £0; Total £8,317

The Board were informed that the project was for information and comment.

No comments were received.

2. TA287 Unc, Wolsingham Road, Brancepeth

Councillor Olwyn Gunn and Councillor Fraser Tinsley

NB £1,982.83; Match £0; Total £1,982.83

The Board were informed that the project was for information and comment.

No comments were received.

3. Hunwick Noticeboards

Councillor Olwyn Gunn and Councillor Fraser Tinsley

NB £1,332; Match £0; Total £1,332

The Board were informed that the project was for information and comment.

No comments were received.

A4. Priorities and Action Plans

Action Plan and Project Updates

SD informed the Board that project updates would be circulated electronically due to time overrunning in the meeting.

Current Budget Position

SD updated the Board on the current budget position. The Budget 2022/23 - The Board were informed how much has been allocated to date and how much is still to allocate from the individual pots. £210,000 Town and Villages Funding (to be fully allocated by the end of 2023/24)

- £100,000 Area Budget Funding
- £44,938 Fun and Food to cover Easter, Summer, and Christmas 2022 school holiday periods (additional resources for half-term holidays are yet to be confirmed)
- £25,000 Older Peoples Social Isolation Funding
- £9,902 Youth Funding
- £10,000 Welfare Reform Funding
- £10,000 Young Peoples Healthy Relationships Funding

Priority Voting feedback and Discussion

SD updated the Board regarding the Priority voting. As part of a return to pre-covid working practices all AAPs have, once again, asked their individual communities to guide their work and see which priority themes they should concentrate their efforts on for the coming year. The survey allowed residents/stakeholders to have their say on keeping 'Community Recovery' as an overarching theme, instead of returning to individual priority themes that AAPs have traditionally consulted on pre Covid-19.

Residents and stakeholders were also given an opportunity to suggest additional priorities for their local area, and an opportunity to remove themes from the 'Community Recovery' Priority. This gave residents and stakeholders a chance to suggest bespoke localised issues for their individual AAP. Additionally, residents and stakeholders were asked to identify; *'What would make your town or village a better place to live in?'*

The Board were informed that the priority survey was circulated electronically, and paper copies were made available to community groups to encourage their members to take part. Results from the survey showed that the majority of those who responded thought that the priority of community recovery should be continued. The top suggestion of other themes to be included, was a variety of new community facilities (cinema, swimming pool), however, these could not be provided within the AAP budgets.

The second and third most popular priorities to be added were Local Environment / Climate change and Community Safety. **SD** recommended to the Board that the overall priority of Community recovery, and the 9 themes within it, were continued, and that themes of Local Environment/ Climate Change and Community Safety were also included.

BOARD AGREED to continue with the Community Recovery priority and add Local Environment / Climate Change and Community Safety to the 9 themes.

SD explained that in previous years, the Board has delegated decisions on Call for Projects for Area Budget funding and Fun and Food funding to a grants panel made up of Board members. **SD** asked the Board if they would be happy to continue this delegation to a funding panel.

BOARD AGREED that it was happy to continue delegating decisions for Call for Projects and Fun and Food projects to a funding panel made up of Board members.

Towns and Villages Update:

JA gave a presentation on the Towns and Villages programme within 3 Towns. The Board were informed the Priority Survey included a question on 'What will make your Towns and Villages better?' **JA** explained that as over half of the responses on the priority survey were from Crook, she had been liaising with smaller communities across the 3 Towns to give them the opportunity to also put their ideas forward.

JA gave a summary of the issues raised so far and the Board were informed that a Task Group will be set up to discuss these issues further. The task group will take place on Thursday 16 June at 5pm via Microsoft Teams.

The Board discussed the demographics of the people who had responded to the towns and villages survey and a suggestion was made that schools, childcare providers and youth groups be approached to seek their views on towns and villages.

JA confirmed contact had been made with youth groups but not schools or childcare providers, but this is something that can be explored. Anyone questions can be sent directly to **JA**.

A5. Countywide Partners

Local Police Update

ET gave a policing update to the Board. They were informed that PACT meetings are the mechanism for the police and community to work together. Currently there is an issue in Crook as there is no budget available for room hire and sourcing venues available free of charge is proving difficult. A Board member suggested that their workshop room at St Cuthberts Centre may be available free of charge for the PACT meetings. They agreed to discuss this further outside of the meeting.

The Board were informed that the success of the 3 Towns Speed Watch van has led to the scheme being rolled out across 3 new areas which is making a huge difference to those communities and continues to go down well in 3 Towns.

ET discussed the ASB issues within the 3 Towns Crime Figures show there is a minority of young people committing ASB in the area, however, this has been sensationalised by media. The police have made good inroads and taken some individuals to task under Operation Habu and this collectively has made a difference.

Crook Police are working with DCC and the lead for ASB at the Police and Crime Commissioner's office to help tackle the ASB. **ET** stated that the Commissioner's office has been approached to request more funds to pay for diversionary activities in the town. **ET** also reported that the young people who were smashing bus windows in January and February have all been dealt with.

The Board discussed the issues around ASB, and the following points were raised:

- Adults who are involved in ASB also need to be targeted as well. If adults are seen to get away with bad behaviour, then children and young people think that they can also get away with it. The Board were informed that it is unacceptable for ASB from adults or children, however, most children do follow the rules. Police are encouraging people to report all incidents.

MH reminded the Board that it has been identified tonight that community safety is an issue via the Priority Survey and the Board have agreed to include this as a priority for the coming year. Suggestion of Task Group to explore the theme.

- It is important to say a lot of those who attend organised activities aren't those involved with ASB. The groups have tried to engage with these youths; however, they do not want to engage. Suggestion to look at other police forces and see what schemes they have in place.

ET responded that there is a wider issue around family support, police intervention is a short-term solution to ASB. If police aren't involved with these individuals, they need reporting so they can intervene. It is difficult if they and their families do not want to be involved or helped, there is not much that can be done. Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC) can be agreed. It is important to focus on the positives not just the negatives.

- It was raised that it is Countywide problem, not just 3 Towns. There are very complex issues involved and long-term problems, but they do need to be addressed and everyone has a responsibility to do this.
- A statement was made that the residents of Crook are afraid to go out and that there is no policing.

ET responded that he understands people have a fear to go out, however, there are only 1.6 incidents of ASB per day reported in this area. ASB is broken down into 3 categories, kids on a street corner, neighbour dispute, and noise issues. The public need to phone and record the issues, nothing can be done if they haven't been recorded. There will be 236 extra police in Durham in the coming years from government funding, however, the force has lost more than double that over the last 10 years.

- One Board member stated that they had seen no experience of ASB in Crook despite being in the town at various times in the day regularly.
- Concerns were raised that the public were unable to contact the police to report issues and that the police station wasn't open.

ET responded that there is someone in the police station 24/7. The counter is only open at times when people would use it – there is no point in being open at 2am. However, there is a phone on the front of the building that people can use which will connect them to the police working in the building.

It was stated there is a disconnection between the communities and this needs to be explored as to why these issues happen. Police can stop them when it happens but need to find out why it happens to help the issues.

ET informed the Board funding is available for youth work however it is very hard finding youth workers to provide these services (youth hubs).

SD stated community safety is important and a Task Group will be set up. This will be circulated, and members of the public can get involved.

Action – AAP team to set up Community Safety task group and circulate the date to Board and Forum members

Action – Police to look into the possibility of holding the PACT meeting at St Cuthberts Centre.

A6. Date and time of next meeting

6pm on Thursday 7 July 2022 at Crook Civic Centre