



Minutes of the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership Board Meeting

Thursday 17 February 2022

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Partner Representative

Andy Palmer (AP) – Durham County Council
Insp Peter Lonsdale (PL) - Durham Constabulary
Rachel Edmunds (RE) – Believe Housing - Chair
Steven Robson (SR) – Business Representative
David McCreedy (DM) – Voluntary Sector Representative
Colin Davis (CD) - County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

Public Representative

Tony Bird (TB) – Public Rep - Vice Chair
Andrew Coxon (ACoxon) – Public Rep
Philippa May (PM) – Public Rep
Fred Langley (FL) – Public Rep
Bernadette Crooks (BC) – Public Rep

Elected Members

Cllr Cathy Hunt (CH) – Elected Member
Cllr Samantha Townsend (ST) – Elected Member
Cllr Andrew Jackson (AJ) – Elected Member
Cllr Joanne Howey (JH) – Elected Member

Presenter

Alison Clark (AC), Head of Culture Sport and Tourism - Durham County Council

Officers

Andrew Walker - (APW) AAP Co-ordinator
Sheilah Metcalfe - (SM) AAP Community Development Project Officer
Emma Walton - (EW) AAP Support Officer

Apologies

Tommy Taylor (TT)
Peter Quinn (PQ)

Cllr Charlie Kay (CK) – Elected Member
Cllr Shirley Quinn (SQ) – Elected Member – Vice Chair
Robert Milner – (RM) NHS County Durham CCG
Stephen Nicholson (SN) – Public Rep
Claire Craft - (CC) AAP Community Development Project Officer
Peter Henderson – (PH) CDPO Towns and Villages Team

Public / Other Attendees – 3

A1. Introductions and apologies

Introductions and apologies were made.

Please see page 1 & 2 for attendees and apologies.

RE explained the protocol for Microsoft Teams Meetings this included:

- Attendees will be invited to speak by the Chair.
- All participants should mute their microphone if they are not speaking.
- Forum members were asked to turn their cameras off unless invited to speak by the Chair.
- If attendees would like to speak this should be done by using the raise hand function or alternatively the chat function. Board members will be invited to speak first followed by members of the forum, where appropriate.
- When finished speaking lower your hand and remute your microphone

APW informed the Board Lee Brown has stepped down from the Board and will be replaced by Colin Davis. APW welcomed and introduced Colin Davis, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service to the BASH Board, as a partner representative.

APW reminded the Board that due to the resignation of a public rep from the Board and a number of public rep's terms coming to an end a recruitment process has taken place. 3 new public representatives have been appointed to the BASH board. APW welcomed and introduced Stephen Nicholson, Bernadette Crooks and the returning public rep, Tony Bird.

APW and the Board thanked Tracey Bellas and Lee Brown for their time on the BASH Board.

A2. Agreement of minutes and matters arising from previous meeting held 20 January 2022

The Board agreed the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

A3. Declaring an Interest

Cllr Samantha Townsend and Fred Langley declared an interest in the Shildon Town Council - West Road Cemetery Building Replacement project.

A4. Local Neighbourhood Issues

➤ Durham County Council – Library Consultation

Board members received a presentation from Alison Clark, Head of Culture Sports and Tourism, Durham County Council on the Library Consultation. AC gave an overview of the library service and highlighted their current membership and usage. AC reported that Bishop Auckland Town Centre library has 8293 members and has lent 36,700 books. Shildon Library has 5962 members and has lent 54,701 books.

AC highlighted the importance of the library services post COVID and what has been learnt during COVID.

AC provided an overview of the 3 phases of the transformation of the libraries. The consultation is currently in phase one. Phase one is in place to provide a needs assessment from staff and public engagement. In phase two a full public consultation will take place seeking the views on the proposals for the future of library services exploring viable, sustainable, affordable options in line with needs assessment and the council's statutory requirements. These proposals will be presented at a future AAP Board meeting. A final report on the recommendations will be submitted to Cabinet in November 2023. Agreed service changes will be implemented in April 2024.

The Board made the following comments:

TB asked how often does the mobile library van visits Dene Valley? AC stated that wherever there isn't a library in situ the mobile library van will attend. AC stated she will confirm the planned route and will feedback to the Board. TB stated that Dene Valley Community Partnership are happy to promote the library services and the current consultation.

ACTION – AC to forward promotional material to Dene Valley Community Partnership.

FL asked for the statistics of the category of books that are the most popular. AC stated that this data is available upon request.

CH asked is there any literature available in schools? AC stated some schools attend their local libraries and highlighted that there are plans in place to grow the children's library spaces.

CH asked are there any plans in place to improve IT facilities? AC stated there will be improvements to IT equipment such as book scanners, check out systems etc. These improvements will allow librarians to carry out more effective engagement work.

SR stated that there have been positive collaborations with business resources in the British library and asked could this be considered in the future library service delivery? AC welcomed this delivery proposal however stated that appropriate

measures need to be in place first. Any feedback regarding this would be welcomed as part of the consultation process.

ACoxon stated that some young people have limited Maths and English creating a barrier to employment. ACoxon asked can this service be provided through the libraries. AC commented positively on the suggestion and recommended feeding the comments in through the consultation process.

Board members were encouraged to respond to the consultation. Further details in relation to the consultation are available via the website:

www.durham.gov.uk/consultation

APW highlighted information on the library consultation will be promoted through the BASH AAP networks.

RE thanked AC for the presentation.

A5. Priorities and Action Plans

APW explained that due to some elected members needing to leave the meeting early and the Towns and Villages Neighbourhood Budget application requiring Board approval this agenda item will be moved forward.

APW explained the Neighbourhood Budget and declaration of interest process for new Board members.

➤ Neighbourhood Budget - Towns and Villages

APW reminded the Board that each Elected member has received an additional £10,000 each to address Town and Villages Revitalisation.

The Board received the following Towns and Villages Neighbourhood Budget application for information, comment, and approval. The project is subject to a full application and satisfactory project appraisal.

- Shildon Town Council - West Road Cemetery Building Replacement

Towns and Villages Councillors NB Contribution – £21,000 - Cllrs
Matt Johnson, Shirley Quinn and Samantha Townsend – (£7,000 each)

Match Funding - £2,000

Total Cost - £23,000

Cllr's Matt Johnson, Shirley Quinn and Samantha Townsend have a declaration of interest with this project as such this project requires Board approval.

FL asked if match funding been sourced from the War Graves commission. APW stated that funding has not been sourced from the War Graves commission.

FL asked is there a map of where the graves are in relation to the new facility. APW suggested speaking with Shildon Town Council for further clarification on the question raised.

There were no further comments from the Board.

The Board received the application and **APPROVED** a recommendation of approval for the Neighbourhood Budget allocation of £21,000.

➤ **Town and Village Revitalisation**

APW reminded the Board that BASH AAP has an additional £210,000 funding to address the priority of Towns and Villages over 3 years. Elected members have also received an additional £10,000 each to address Town and Villages Revitalisation.

The Towns and Village Revitalisation task group has met for the fourth time. The group are now working on several potential project proposals that will take place across the whole of the BASH AAP area. Once developed, applications will be submitted to the funding panel and will then be presented to the Board for approval.

JH commented positively on the work of the group and the projects coming forward.

APW reported that after the last task group a project proposal at Henknowle had been misinterpreted in a social media post by a member of Bishop Auckland Town Councillor who had been in attendance at the meeting. This has been addressed to hopefully alleviate an issues at future task group meetings.

TB complimented the task group and stated that the meetings are open and transparent. This was echoed by CH.

The next task group meeting will take place on Tuesday 15 March 2022 at 1pm.

Board members were encouraged to attend the Towns and Village Revitalisation task group.

➤ **AAP Priority Voting**

APW reported that the consultation on the AAP priorities is now live. The closing date is 5pm on 11 March 2022. To date BASH AAP has received around 40 responses.

Following the consultation, AAPs will report the findings of the consultation and the feedback received will help BASH AAP to decide which priority themes BASH AAP will concentrate its efforts on for the coming year. The results from the consultation will be available from May 2022.

Board and Forum members were encouraged to promote the AAP priority voting through their networks.

➤ **Area Budget - Community / COVID 19 Recovery**

APW reminded the Board that at the November Board meeting they agreed to approve £244,237 Area Budget funding to 11 projects as identified in the Board report.

The team have been working on each application and 7 out of 11 projects have been submitted to the DCC Funding team for appraisal.

As each project will be at various stages of development, regular updates will be provided to the Board. Project leads will be invited to future Board meeting to provide an update on the funding received.

If any Board member would like an update from a specific project, please inform a member of the BASH AAP team.

➤ **Holiday Activities with Healthy Food**

APW reported that a further £50k across all 14 AAP's was secured from Public Health to deliver holiday activities with healthy food over the February Half term 2022. BASH AAP was allocated £5,732 with a minimum project value of £500. The funding was launched in the first week of January. Each application was assessed and considered by the funding panel who met on Thursday 27 January, 10.30am. An update will be provided at a future Board meeting.

APW highlighted following the successful delivery of the HAHF programme in 2021 Durham County Council has secured additional funding from the Department for Education to continue to deliver holiday activities with healthy food in 2022. Funding was allocated to each AAP based on FSM numbers in each area. BASH AAP has been allocated £83,513. The funding available is to be allocated in 2022 and is for the Easter, Summer and Christmas holiday periods. To date there is currently no funding available for the May and October Half terms, if this changes the Board will be updated accordingly.

The next round of funding is available for activities for the Easter Holidays. This funding is now live, completed applications to be received by Wednesday 2 March 2022.

Board and Forum members were encouraged to promote the funding available for the Easter Holidays through their networks.

SM then gave a presentation the Christmas 2021 projects. SM highlighted that £14,792 was available for activities for children young people and families to deliver enriching holiday activities including healthy food during the Christmas Holidays. The deadline for completed applications was Monday 15 November 2021. Following a call for projects BASH AAP received 6 applications totalling £13,836. Each application was assessed and considered by the funding panel who agreed to support the following 6 projects:

- Woodhouse Close Church & Community Centre - £2,941
- ATOMS Education CIC - £1,250

- Gateway Northeast - £1,395
- Dene Valley One Stop Shop - £1,780
- Shildon Early Years - £1,670
- AYCC - £4,800

SM provided an overview of the key countywide outcomes. This included:

- 6434 'unique' children engaged with projects
- 614 of these children had additional needs
- 5637 were primary aged, 794 secondary aged and 3 preschool/16+
- 3253 children were eligible for FSM
- 162 projects were delivered through VCS partners, private providers, leisure centres, libraries, community arts, short breaks providers and local attractions
- The Fun & Food team faced challenges collecting online monitoring information to be used as part of the return to the DfE. They supported groups where possible and inputted over 1500 children onto the online system. They estimate that approximately 1000 additional children engaged however monitoring was not received to evidence this.
- In the BASH AAP area 228 children and young people benefitted, 22 children with special needs, 101 FSM eligible children and young people. The expected number of beneficiaries across all 6 projects was 454, however two projects have not submitted their monitoring reports. Any data submitted now cannot be used as the DfE report has already been submitted.

JH and AJ left the meeting.

The Board were shown a video presentation of the Fun and Food projects supported Countywide throughout the Christmas Holidays.

CH left the meeting.

ST commented positively on the experience / opportunities that young people are being provided with throughout the school holidays. This was echoed by FL and TB.

FL stated that the manager at Shildon Civic Hall has decided to make a donation of Easter Eggs to young people and asked would funding be available for Easter Eggs? APW advised that funding from Easter Eggs alone would not be eligible as projects need to provide both activities and healthy food. APW suggested the Civic Hall manager contact a member of the BASH AAP team to discuss the application process.

➤ **Neighbourhood Budget**

The Board received the following Neighbourhood Budget application for information and comment. The project is subject to a full application and satisfactory project appraisal.

- **Sedgefield School Sport Partnership CIC Trading as Go Well – Bishop DASH**

NB Contribution – £4,000 (Cllrs Andrew Jackson, Samantha Townsend, Sam Zair and Joanne Howey £1,000 each)

Match Funding - £4, 715

Total Cost - £8,715

FL asked if a cost breakdown be provided. SM stated that the funding will support site set up and delivery, health and safety and venue hire. A cost breakdown has been requested for each of these elements.

There were no comments from the Board.

A6. Coordinators Update

➤ **BASH Office**

APW reported that in accordance with corporate guidance and policy, AAP teams will be returning to their locality bases from the week commencing 28 February 2022. In line with this guidance, it is planned that the team will implement a hybrid form of office/homeworking.

➤ **Public Rep Recruitment**

APW stated that due to the resignation of a public rep from the Board and 2 public rep's terms coming to an end the recruitment process has now taken place. APW stated 5 public rep interview took place and representatives were appointed.

APW welcomed new public representatives Bernadette Crooks, Stephen Nicholson and returning member Tony Bird.

➤ **BASH AGM**

APW reminded the Board that at the BASH AGM meeting the Chair and Vice Chairs for BASH AAP will be elected for 2022/23. It is the turn of the Public Representative to take the Chair for this year. APW explained the process and encouraged Board members to consider the roles of Chair and Vice Chair.

ACTION - APW asked that any members of the Board interested in the role of Chair / Vice Chair to contact a member of the AAP team.

A7. Countywide Partner Issues

➤ **Believe Housing - Apprenticeships**

RE reported that Believe Housing are currently recruiting Trade Apprentices to join the believe housing team in September 2022. The apprenticeships will be available in the following trades:

- Plasterer
- Joiner
- Electrician
- Gas Engineer

The closing date for applications is Friday 28 February 2022. Further details in relation to the funding are available via the website:

<https://www.believehousing.co.uk/about-us/apprenticeships/>

➤ **Police / PACT Update**

Insp Peter Lonsdale gave an update on the main priority issues for the BASH area.

- ASB continues to take place at Eldon Lane and Tindale Retail Park.
- There has been an increase in shoplifting at Tindale Retail Park
- A drug warrant has taken place in Eldon. As a result, 950 cannabis plants have been removed.
- Mental Health is a rising issue and the demand on the police is increasing as a result of this.
- A recruitment process for PSCO's is live.
- The issue and concerns regarding off road biking in the area remains. Several vehicles have been seized. TB stated that off road biking is a national issue.
- There have been several burglaries that have taken place in the Woodhouse, St Helens, and West Auckland area.
- There have been a number of horse related crimes at St Helens. Work is ongoing to deal with this issue.

FL stated that after attending a meeting he was informed that County Durham will be allocated 190 new officers and asked how the officers will be distributed across County Durham area. PL explained the recruitment process and how teams are allocated across the area.

FL highlighted the issues with ASB and vandalism to cars at Shildon. PL stated that work in this area is ongoing.

A forum member asked if social prescribers, that are linked to GPs, can support the work of the police with regards to ASB. This support was welcomed by PL.

A8. Date / Time / Venue for next Board Meeting

RE highlighted that as part of the meeting papers Board members were provided with a list of future Board dates for 2022/23. Board members will have now received electronic diary invites to these meetings. RE notified the Board that when meetings return to face-to-face, dates, venue and timings of future meetings will be reviewed.

RE thanked Board and Forum members for attending the meeting

Thursday 24 March 2022, 4pm, Microsoft Teams.