



**GREAT AYCLIFFE & MIDDRIDGE PARTNERSHIP (GAMP)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY 13 JULY 2021, 6:00PM (VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS)**

PRESENT:

Cllr Eddy Adam (DCC), Cllr James Atkinson (DCC), Cllr Neville Jones (DCC), Cllr Alan Jordan (Middridge Parish), Cllr Ken Robson (DCC), Cllr David Sutton-Lloyd (DCC), Sean Barnett, Sue Cooke (Vice Chair), Simon Hocking, Chris Hutchinson, Carl Robinson, Peter Shovlin, Daniel Blagdon (Health Representative), Sgt Andy Boyd (Police, representing Insp Sarah Honeyman), Carol Gaskarth (Voluntary & Community Sector Representative), Oliver Sherratt (DCC Head of Service), Malcolm Woodward (Fire Service), Brian Riley (GAMP Coordinator), Victoria Grieves (GAMP Community Development Project Officer), Paula Stockport (GAMP Support Officer)

APOLOGIES:

Andy Coulthard, Caroline Fenwick, Insp Sarah Honeyman

OBSERVERS:

Mr S Day, Mr R Adamson, Mr R Forster, Ms H Brewster

Standard Board Meeting

1. Introductions & Apologies

SC took the Chair in the absence of Insp Honeyman and handed over to BR for general housekeeping info. BR welcomed new Public Representatives Simon Hocking & Peter Shovlin to their first Board meeting.

BR reminded Board members of the standard Declaration of Interest item on the agenda. BR reminded meeting observers they would be welcome to comment under Item 4 on the agenda.

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

2. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 22.6.21 – Matters Arising

The draft minutes from the Board meeting held on 22.6.21 had been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. There was an action for MW to arrange for the Fire Station Manager to contact Cllr EA to discuss the issues relating to secondary fires that was raised at the previous meeting; Cllr EA confirmed he has had discussion with a Fire Officer but not the Manager and MW agreed to chase this up (**Action 1: MW**).

There were no further outstanding actions or matters arising, and the minutes of the last meeting were **AGREED** by the Board as a true and accurate record.

3. Countywide Partner Issues

BR confirmed that the planned presentation from DCC in relation to their Library Needs Assessment has been postponed.

There were no additional partner updates. BR reminded partners to get in touch if they need space on a future meeting agenda.

4. Local Neighbourhood Issues

4.1 Neighbourhood Policing Update

Sgt Boyd updated Board members in relation to ongoing antisocial behaviour issues, local PACT priorities, crime data, as well as current and emerging issues. Sgt Boyd highlighted that the GAMP-funded ebikes are proving extremely beneficial to the area and gave examples of where they've been used to make a real difference.

Sgt Boyd talked about the PIER project which will aim to divert youths away from ASB through a multiagency approach. This project is looking to identify a suitable venue located close to the 'hotspot' Western area and Sgt Boyd would welcome suggestions of potential options from Board members.

A brief Q&A took place, with the following points noted:

- Cllr EA asked whether there was any assistance Cllrs could offer to support the Police's ongoing efforts, e.g. funding. Sgt Boyd commented there could be scope to look at a potential project around installation of additional cameras in certain areas, but this doesn't just involve the initial purchase, there are issues around longer-term arrangements to cover monitoring etc to take into consideration. Sgt Boyd added that a separate problem-solving group has been set up, with Cllrs involved, where this could be looked at in more detail.
- Cllr KR offered support to provide funding for a camera in the Williamfield Way area; Sgt Boyd advised this could be discussed further at the separate problem-solving group meetings.
- Cllr KR commented that Darlington Police have publicised a number of good results in relation to off-road bikes recently and asked whether the different policing teams share information on best practice. Sgt Boyd confirmed the teams regularly do this. He added there is a time-limited countywide project currently ongoing, with a range of key partners such as housing providers, DCC etc, which it is hoped will bring some impacts over the coming months.
- CH asked whether any recruitment is planned for the NH policing team. Sgt Boyd confirmed that the current focus for recruitment across the Force will be towards 'high harm' areas, e.g. safeguarding and CID. There are currently 2 x PC vacancies within the NH policing team, and it is anticipated these should be filled by around January 2022.

SC thanked Sgt Boyd for his update (a copy of the update report will be circulated with the minutes).

5. GAMP Coordinator's Update

5.1 2021-22 Area Budget Project Callout

BR confirmed that a funding subgroup panel meeting was held yesterday, and thanked those Board members who had kindly volunteered to sit on the panel. The

following points were agreed in relation to this year's callout, for final Board approval:

- this year's callout will be launched with one amalgamated Area Budget pot of funding (£244,902);
- all projects will be required to address the overarching 'Community Recovery' priority;
- grant limits between £5k - £25k were agreed;
- capital projects will be encouraged;
- projects will be requested to include a minimum of 5% match funding;
- the callout will launch w/c 19 July (or potentially later this week if all relevant paperwork is ready) and be open for 8 weeks (closing date 13 September).

Board members **APPROVED** the above recommendations from the subgroup panel.

BR requested that Board members promote the callout as widely as possible following the launch and signpost any prospective applicants/groups to the GAMP team.

5.2 Public Representative Recruitment

BR confirmed, as previously advised, that we welcome SH and PS to the Board, and we have also retained SC in the Public Rep role. BR advised that we were also able to appoint 3 x reserve reps who can be contacted should future vacancies arise on the Board; the next scheduled vacancy will be January 2022. BR thanked Andy Coulthard and Cllr Atkinson for sitting on the 2 x interview panel meetings. BR was pleased as Coordinator with the amount of applications submitted and the standard of candidates during this round of recruitment.

5.3 New Online Funding Application Form

BR confirmed that the new online funding application form is now available for use, across all AAPs. This will be used for all Area Budget, Neighbourhood Budget and Towns & Villages funding applications going forward. The form is hosted on the Council's 'Do It Online' platform, and should hopefully prove straightforward enough for applicants, especially if they are already familiar with the Council system as residents. Support will of course be available from the GAMP team for any applicants who need it.

BR reminded Cllrs who are discussing potential NB projects/funding, to please signpost all groups to Victoria in the first instance so she can provide relevant information and a link to the application form (it will be 'open' on the DCC website but we want to avoid a situation where groups complete an application without the GAMP team and/or Cllrs being made aware of the project, so that we can ensure groups are eligible in the first instance and that Cllrs have available funding).

5.4 Towns & Villages Funding

BR confirmed that a report had been circulated in advance of the meeting, for Board members to note. AAPs were expecting to receive an update presentation at our July meetings from DCC Regen colleagues in relation to this additional funding allocation, however this has been delayed; we are expecting presentations to be given at our September or November Board meetings. BR highlighted the important points to note from the report:

- each AAP is allocated £210k to support scheme development;

- this is a 3-year funding programme and doesn't need to be allocated in the current financial year;
- the minimum grant limit is £10k and projects must include at least 30% 'match funding';
- the T&Vs funding can be pooled with Cllrs' additional £10k T&V funding if agreed;
- the decision as to how and where to focus the £210k resource will rest with the AAP Board;
- additional staffing resources are available if needed;
- it is recommended is to 'establish a sub-group' to look at the specifics of this funding.

BR will contact Board members by email to seek expressions of interest to join the subgroup to look at this funding in more detail (**Action 2: BR**). BR highlighted that one main point for discussion will be whether to host a specific project callout to allocate this funding, or whether to look at a more targeted approach.

Cllr EA asked whether the T&Vs funding can be used in privately owned locations, e.g. Newton Aycliffe Town Centre, and also to support private businesses. BR clarified that based on the criteria currently available this would be possible in theory.

OS suggested that local data could be provided from DCC's environmental teams in relation to areas where there are issues, which may be helpful when looking at development of potential schemes, and will forward to BR (**Action 3: OS**).

CG commented that there are various similar pots of funding available for community use and suggested that a more targeted approach to allocate the T&Vs funding would be CG's preferred option rather than an open callout. Given the allocation of £210k, whilst not a huge amount, would still provide potential to fund a large-scale project, which may ultimately prove more beneficial to the area than funding several smaller, disparate schemes.

6. Date/Time of Next Meeting
Tuesday 28 September 2021, 6:00pm (venue tbc)

BR confirmed that Board members are due to receive the postponed update on the DCC Library Needs Assessment at the next meeting, and potentially an update from DCC Regen in relation to the Towns & Villages funding.

SC/BR thanked all attendees and the meeting was closed.