



**GREAT AYCLIFFE & MIDDRIDGE PARTNERSHIP (GAMP)
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY 24 MAY 2022, 6:00PM (VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS)**

PRESENT:

Cllr Eddy Adam – DCC, Cllr Jim Atkinson – DCC (**incoming Chair**), Cllr Neville Jones – DCC, Cllr Ken Robson – DCC, Cllr Tony Stubbs – DCC, Cllr David Sutton-Lloyd – DCC, Sue Cooke (outgoing Vice Chair), Julie Dudley, Simon Hocking, Kate Hopper, Chris Hutchinson, Natalie Whitworth (incoming Vice Chair), Daniel Blagdon – Health Representative, Nigel Brough – (representing Carol Gaskarth, Voluntary & Community Sector), Andy Coulthard – Livin Housing (incoming Vice Chair), Insp Sarah Honeyman – Police (outgoing Chair), Malcolm Woodward – Fire Service, Brian Riley – GAMP Coordinator, Victoria Grieves – GAMP Community Development Project Officer, Paula Stockport – GAMP Support Officer, Angela Blanchard – GAMP Towns & Villages Officer

APOLOGIES:

Peter Gallone, Peter Shovlin, Oliver Sherratt

OBSERVERS:

Mr R Adamson

Annual General Meeting

a. Introduction from Outgoing Chair

Insp SH opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. Insp SH has thoroughly enjoyed her two years in the role of GAMP Chair, and thanked all partners and Cllrs for their ongoing support. BR thanked Insp SH on behalf of the GAMP team and Board members for her time as Chair.

BR took the Chair.

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 Items 3 & 4 of today's agenda.

b. Election of Chair & Vice Chairs

BR confirmed that he has contacted all three sectors of the Board to coordinate Chair & Vice Chair nominations, and noted the following:

- Cllr Jim Atkinson has volunteered as Vice Chair representing the Elected member third, and will therefore take the Chair for 2022-23;
- Andy Coulthard has volunteered as Vice Chair representing the Statutory Partner third;

- Natalie Whitworth has volunteered as Vice Chair representing the Public Rep third.

The above roles were **AGREED** and ratified by the Board.

c(i). Final Area Budget Update 2021-22

BR confirmed that a final statement of Area Budget spend for 2021-22 had been circulated in advance with the meeting papers, for information.

c (ii). Final Neighbourhood Budget Update 2021-22

BR confirmed that a final statement of Neighbourhood Budget spend for 2021-22 for all DCC Elected Members had been circulated in advance with the meeting papers, for information.

d. 2021-22 Annual Report

BR confirmed that the draft Annual Report for 2021-22 will hopefully be ready to circulate for comment within the next few weeks; Board members will be updated in due course.

e. GAMP Review 2021-22 and Looking Forward to 2022-23

BR gave Board members an update presentation, with a look back at the work of GAMP during the 2021-22 financial year, as well as looking ahead to this year and the various funding allocations. As GAMP Coordinator BR is proud of what we have achieved as a Partnership to help support our communities, particularly during the pandemic and beyond. BR also noted thanks to VG and PS for their work as part of the GAMP team.

Standard Board Meeting

1. Introductions & Apologies

Cllr JA took the Chair, and thanked Insp SH as outgoing Chair. Cllr JA asked Board members to be mindful of the agenda/meeting timings when raising any points.

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

BR informed Board members, for reference, that our Business Rep, Peter Gallone, has recently commenced a new role as a consultant on the business park.

2. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 29.3.22 – Matters Arising

The draft minutes from the Board meeting held on 29.3.22 had been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. BR confirmed there were no outstanding actions. There were no 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 there were no planned partner presentations for today's meeting. If any partners need space on a future meeting agenda, please contact BR.

4. Local Neighbourhood Issues

4.1 Neighbourhood Policing Update

Insp SH updated Board members in relation to antisocial behaviour figures and emerging issues. Generally, ASB is down across the area, and the team have been doing a lot of work on this over recent months.

In terms of the GAMP-funded CCTV cameras, Insp SH confirmed that the equipment has now been ordered and should hopefully be in use shortly; Insp SH will keep Board members updated on progress once the cameras are up and running.

Insp SH commented that the team have been doing more engagement work recently, e.g. in schools, particularly around antisocial behaviour. The team are always looking at different innovations to help tackle issues with ASB, and will be looking at potential future project ideas. Support from GAMP and the local Cllrs is greatly appreciated by Insp SH and the team.

Cllr JA thanked Insp SH for the update (a copy of the report will be circulated with the minutes).

5. GAMP Coordinator's Update

5.1 AAP Priority Survey Feedback

BR confirmed that a summary of the key headings/feedback from the recent 'AAP Community Priorities' survey that took place countywide had been circulated with the meeting papers, for information; this had already been touched on verbally at the last Board meeting prior to the official data being collated.

BR confirmed that we had a total of 190 responses (4th highest across the AAPs), and the majority of respondents (89%) either agreed or strongly agreed that we should retain the overarching 'Community Recovery' priority for 2022-23.

BR highlighted that respondents had been asked to comment on whether they would like to see any additional subthemes not already included, or what they believed could make life in their town or village better, and the most responses on this related to tackling antisocial behaviour.

BR added that Board members had agreed at the last meeting that we would retain the single priority of 'Community Recovery' and its agreed subthemes for 2022-23. At the recent subgroup panel meeting BR held, it was agreed that we would add another subtheme 'tackling antisocial behaviour' as part of this year's callout, given the survey feedback.

Cllr EA commented that, since the survey had been completed peoples' priorities could well have changed, particularly in light of the mounting cost of living pressures being faced by many, and asked whether this could be taken into consideration. BR clarified that the current subthemes that fall within the Community Recovery priority include 'emerging community issues' and therefore this should cover any potential projects coming forward in relation to cost of living/poverty issues.

5.2 2022-23 Funding Allocations

BR highlighted this year's funding allocations, for information:

- £100,000 core Area Budget
- £25,000 Older Peoples Social Isolation funding (OPSIF)
- £10,000 Welfare Reform
- £9,902 Youth Fund

BR confirmed that, as per last year's arrangements, AAPs have permission to amalgamate all of the above funding streams into one overall Area Budget, i.e. a total of £144,902.

BR highlighted that AAPs have been given an additional allocation this year of £10,000 Healthy Relationships funding; specific criteria is awaited on this funding, but it will be allocated outside of our wider project callout.

BR highlighted that we still have £104,473 of our initial £210k Towns & Villages funding allocation remaining (this funding can run until 2024).

BR clarified that in terms of Elected Members' budgets, any unallocated Neighbourhood Budget from 2021-22 will roll forward into the current financial year, on top of this year's allocation of £19,400. Cllrs have been informed that no further carry forward will be permitted at the end of the 2022-23 financial year.

5.3 2022-23 Area Budget Project Callout

BR confirmed that this year's Area Budget project callout was launched on 13 May. Expressions of Interest are invited for grants between £5,000 - £20,000 which address the overarching 'Community Recovery' priority and at least one of the subthemes within it, which as mentioned previously we've now included 'tackling antisocial behaviour'. The subthemes are:

- **Employability initiatives**
- **Advice and Guidance**
- **Mental Health & Wellbeing**
- **Organisational sustainability**
- **Food provision and support**
- **Social Isolation**
- **Support for the Voluntary and Community Sector**
- **Tackling antisocial behaviour**
- **Support to small businesses (through a third party, not-for-profit organisation to complement existing DCC and external opportunities)**
- **Emerging community issues**
- **Targeting Older Peoples Social Isolation**

BR advised Board members that we've issued 14 application packs to date, and asked Board members to promote the funding opportunity through their respective networks, signposting any prospective applicants to the GAMP team for further information.

BR highlighted that the closing date for EOIs is 12.00 noon on Friday 17 June. BR will then be in touch to seek volunteers to sit on the subgroup panel who will be reviewing the EOIs, with a meeting likely to take place w/c 18 July.

AC highlighted that Livin currently have some funding available to support projects under four different themes; social isolation, safer places, financial wellbeing, and greener places. There could be potential for Livin to look at match funding for any prospective GAMP-funded projects which fall within the scope of the Livin criteria. Livin's funding is open-ended.

5.4 Towns & Villages Funding Update

BR updated Board members on progress with the Towns & Villages (T&Vs) funding allocation. Four projects have been supported to date:

- School Aycliffe Community Centre - Disabled Toilet = £20,208
- Newton Aycliffe Garden Guild = £22,800
- Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club - Changing Rooms = £25,000
- Burnhill Way Footway Lighting = £12,750

BR noted that the Gardeners Guild project is expecting a planning decision on 6 July, which will hopefully be favourable so that this project can progress.

BR highlighted that there is a project in the pipeline at the moment, to improve the 3 x pedestrian footbridges in the Western area. If successful, this would leave a T&V funding balance of £104,473.

BR advised that we're awaiting final costings for a couple of other pipeline T&Vs projects, and will hopefully be looking to hold another panel meeting some time in early to mid-June.

BR noted thanks to Angela and the T&Vs panel members for their ongoing work on this funding.

Cllr KR asked if there is any indication of a project start date for the Christopher Walk Lighting Scheme supported through Neighbourhood Budget; AB will chase (**Action 1: AB**).

6. **Date/Time of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 19 July 2022, 6:00pm (venue tbc)

BR asked Board members for their view on hosting the July and September meetings in a face-to-face format, and then reverting to Teams for the winter meetings. Board members were in agreement with this proposal; BR will arrange a physical venue for the July meeting (**Action 2: BR**).

Cllr JA thanked all attendees, and the meeting was closed.