



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

Thursday 14 July 2022

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present

Partner Representative

Andy Palmer (AP) – Durham County Council
Sgt Victoria Ord (VO) - Durham Constabulary
Rachel Edmunds (RE) – Believe Housing – Vice Chair
Steven Robson (SR) – Business Representative

Public Representative

Peter Quinn (PQ)
Tony Bird (TB) - Chair
Philippa May (PM)
Kirstie Hutchinson (KH)

Elected Members

Cllr Shirley Quinn (SQ) – Elected Member – Vice Chair
Cllr Andrew Jackson (AJ) – Elected Member
Cllr Cathy Hunt (CH) – Elected Member
Cllr George Smith (GS) – Elected Member

Presenters

Ben Kesley – Leisure Transformation Programme Manager – Durham County Council
June O'Neil – Project Manager - Durham County Council
Kimberley Ward – Head of Operations – Girls Friendly Society

Officers

Andrew Walker (APW) - AAP Co-ordinator
Sheilah Metcalfe (SM) - AAP Community Development Project Officer
Emma Walton (EW) - AAP Support Officer
Peter Henderson (PH) - CDPO Towns and Villages Team - Durham County Council

Apologies

Tommy Taylor (TT)

Bernadette Crooks (BC)
Cllr Samantha Townsend (ST) – Elected Member
Andrew Coxon (AC)
Cllr David Bell – Town and Parish Council Representative

Public / Other Attendees – 4

A1. Introduction and apologies

Introductions and apologies were made.

Please see page 1 & 2 for attendees and apologies.

APW 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 welcomed Board and Forum members to the meeting and introduced the following:

- Ben Kesley – Leisure Transformation Programme Manager – Durham County Council
- June O'Neil – Project Manager - Durham County Council
- Kimberley Ward – Girls Friendly Society
- Kirstie Hutchinson – New public representative

A2. Agreement of minutes and matters arising from previous meeting held 16 June 2022

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

A3. Declaring an Interest

Cllr Cathy Hunt and Rachel Edmunds declared an interest in the Henknowle Community Improvement Scheme - Durham County Council.

A4. Local Neighbourhood Issues

➤ Leisure Centre Transformation

Board members received a presentation from Ben Kesley (BK), Leisure Transformation Programme Manager.

BK provided an overview of the leisure transformation programme for Woodhouse Close Leisure Centre. A background to the communications and engagement plan was provided.

BK provided an outline of the new building design. The plans include new elements to create more opportunities for physical activity, positive wellbeing, improved accessibility, and environmental improvements. The proposal will allow the existing building to remain open with minimal disruption. The library will be reaccommodated during the works.

BK highlighted the engagement process and activities taking place. The consultation will be live on Wednesday 20 July 2022 for 6 weeks.

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

The Board made the following comments:

CH commented positively on the new building design and the job opportunities this will create.

SQ asked what the timescale of the building work will be? BK stated that the deadlines will be subject to consultation and will depend on feedback given. BK stated that the consultation will be live until September. Once the consultation period has closed the information will then need to be evaluated. The planning application and the detail design stage will take place in the New Year. The technical design stage will be completed by late Summer / Autumn 2023. During this time a procurement process will take place for a contractor. It is anticipated that work will start in September / October 2023 with the new leisure centre opening in October /November 2024.

APW offered the support of the BASH AAP in promoting the consultation through the BASH AAP networks.

APW welcomed an update on the consultation and the progress of the refurbishments at a future Board meeting.

A copy of the presentation is available by contacting a member of the BASH AAP Team on bishopshildonaap@durham.gov.uk or 03000 268663.

TB thanked BK for the presentation.

A5. Priorities and Action Plans

➤ Girls Friendly Society

APW highlighted that the Girls Friendly Society (GFS) received £11,610 Area Budget through the AAP last financial year to continue the work in Eldon and build further opportunities for girls and young women aged +7 in Bishop

Auckland. In addition, the GFS were allocated £1,700 to deliver enriching holiday activities during the Summer Holidays.

APW invited Kimberley Ward (KW), GFS, to give an overview on the work taking place. KW stated that projects focus on building confidence, self-esteem and resilience offering a safe, girl's only space, with positive female role models from the local community. The GFS offers a broad range of new opportunities and experiences.

In the BASH AAP area sessions are taking place in Eldon, Henknowle and Woodhouse. In total there are 40 participants.

KW encouraged board members to promote the work of the GFS and explained the volunteering opportunities available.

TB commented positively on the work taking place in Eldon. KW stated that thanks to the funding received from BASH AAP this enabled GFS to employ a worker to develop the group. This is now one of the best attended groups with 18 young girls and 6 - 7 volunteers registered.

APW thanked KW for the update.

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

APW stated that at the AGM the Board agreed a single priority of 'Community / COVID Recovery' for 2022/23. APW highlighted that a task group has been established. The task group agreed the key themes identified in last years brief were still valid and allow a flexible approach to deal with local issues. The group also discussed the Healthy Relationship funding and agreed this funding should be split from the main Community / COVID recovery part of the brief.

APW thanked those Board members that attended the task group meeting.

The Board were provided with the draft brief for the call for projects.

SQ thanked the work of the task group in developing the brief.

The Board **AGREED** the brief for the call for projects.

APW reported that the total Area Budget for the 2022/23 financial year will be approx. £160,000 comprising of some underspends from 2021/22.

The Board were provided with the proposed timeline for allocating Area Budget. APW discussed the timeline and highlighted the process and key dates.

As a result of the brief being agreed by the Board the call for projects will be launched on Monday 25 July 2022 and projects will be invited to submit their applications. The call will be live for 7 weeks with the closing date for applications being 12pm Monday 12 September 2022. Each application received, with the support of the AAP team, will be assessed and considered by the funding panel. The panel will make recommendations on which projects to support, and these will then be presented at either the October or November

Board meeting. Once the Board have approved the project applications, they will then be submitted to the DCC Funding Team for a full technical appraisal.

➤ **Holiday Activities with Healthy Food**

Funding was available for activities for children, young people, and families during the Summer Holidays. A further 9 projects were supported allocating £39,822. There is £31,150, DFE funding, remaining for the Christmas Holiday period.

APW reported that additional funding has been secured from Durham County Council to deliver holiday activities with healthy food over the October Half term. BASH AAP was allocated £8,995 with a minimum project value of £500. This funding will be launched on Monday 18 July 2022. The deadline for completed applications is Wednesday 7 September 2022, 12 Noon. Each application will be assessed and considered by the funding panel. An update on the projects supported will be provided at a future Board meeting.

Board and Forum members were encouraged to promote the funding available for the October half term holidays through their networks.

➤ **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. To date BASH AAP has allocated £13,575.

The task group continues to meet and have 5 projects in development. The projects are geographically spread across the whole of the BASH AAP area. Once developed, applications will be submitted to the funding panel, for consideration. In addition, there have been a number of new project proposals in the early stages of development, these are currently being explored.

APW thanked Cllr Joanne Howey for chairing the task group meetings.

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

- **Henknowle Community Improvement Scheme - Durham County Council**
BASH T&V Contribution – £75,000
Match Funding - £158,000
Total Cost - £233,000

Cllr Cathy Hunt and Rachel Edmunds have a declaration of interest in this project.

The Board were supportive of the project.

There were no further comments from the Board.

The Board received the application and **APPROVED** a recommendation of approval of £75,000.

APW reported this will leave a remaining balance of £121,425 to allocate.

➤ **Neighbourhood Budget**

There were no Neighbourhood Budget applications to present at tonight's meeting.

A6. Coordinators Update

➤ **F & P Scotto Charitable Trust**

APW provided a brief overview of the work that has taken place with the F & P Charitable Scotto Trust.

A visit has now been scheduled to take place on the 8th and 9th August 2022. The team are currently identifying projects to present to the Trust. Project ideas were welcomed however APW suggested an initial conversation with a member of the BASH AAP team.

APW suggested Board members come along and meet the representative from the F & P Scotto Charitable Trust. This was welcomed by the Board. Any interested Board member are to inform a member of the BASH AAP team.

PQ commented positively on the work of the Trust.

➤ **New Board members**

APW highlighted that there were three vacancies on the Board:

- Community and Voluntary Sector Representative
- Public Representative
- Town and Parish Rep

A recruitment process has taken place for the public rep and community and voluntary sector rep vacancies. APW welcomed and introduced new public representative, Kirstie Hutchinson. APW reported that there were no applications received for the Community and Voluntary Sector Representative. However, since the recruitment process Deborah Richardson from Woodhouse Close Community Centre and Church has expressed an interest in the role.

The Board **AGREED** to appoint Deborah Richardson as the Community and Voluntary Sector Representative.

CH and AJ commented positively on the appointment.

In addition, having worked alongside the Town and Parish Councils, Cllr David Bell (Shildon Town Council) has been appointed as the Town and Parish Rep.

➤ **Review of Community Engagement**

The consultants (ERS) for the Review of Community Engagement have now been appointed. The review will cover the AAP roles, funding, remit, governance and geography etc. Board members contact information has been provided to the consultants should they wish to contact a member of the Board.

The consultants hope to attend the September Board meeting. This will provide them with the opportunity to observe proceedings and speak to Board members.

AP highlighted that he is leading on the review for Durham County Council. AP provided an overview of the review and the information that is being obtained. AP stated if there are any issues or queries to get in touch.

The feedback from the review will be available in December 2022.

SQ stated that AAPs are a valuable asset to support consultations, community engagement, raise neighbourhood issues and to support and encourage partnership working. SQ stated she is proud to be part of this AAP.

Cllr Joanne Howey (JH) highlighted that general awareness of AAP's varies across the County. APW encouraged project leads, organisations and board and forum members to promote the work of the AAP.

CK asked will the consultants be visiting community groups. AP confirmed this will be the case, community groups and local organisations will also be included.

Cllr JH thanked the BASH team for the ongoing support and advice.

APW thanked the Board for their support and highlighted the positive work of all AAP's.

A7. Countywide Partner Issues

➤ **Police / PACT Update**

Sgt Victoria Ord gave an update on the main priority issues for the BASH area.

- ASB and drug related issues continue to be an issue at Stranton Street and Nelson Street
- Board and Forum members were encouraged to report local issues to the Police
- A 'business watch' scheme is currently in development at South Church.
- Engagement work will continue to take place through Facebook. The Police will be attending events to promote local messages.
- PACT meetings continue to take place each month. There is now 3 months of dates set. These will be promoted locally. The Board highlighted several ways to promote the PACT meetings including Bishop's Press and the Town Crier.

- A time limited project will be taking place in Eldon. The ‘walk about’ took place yesterday.
- ASB awareness week is taking place between 18 – 24 July 2022. The week will focus on the impact of anti-social behaviour on young people, and the importance engaging with the wider public about their vital role in tackling ASB.

CH stated that attendance at the Woodhouse PACT meetings is poor. Are there ways this can be improved? VO stated work is taking place to improve attendance.

A8. Date / Time / Venue for next Board Meeting

TB thanked Board and Forum members for attending the meeting.

Board - **Thursday 15 September 2022, 4pm, Bishop Auckland Football Club.**