

Chester-le-Street & District Area Action Partnership (AAP) Board Meeting Minutes of Meeting held Monday 18th July 2022.

Present:

Councillors: Councillor Cllr Craig Martin, Councillor Alison Batey, Councillor Phil Heaviside, Councillor Emma Waldock, Councillor Tracie Smith, Elsie Forrester (Parish Council Representative)

Partner Organisations: Graeme Carr (Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service), Suzanne Jobson (Karbon Homes), Vicky Murray (Durham County Council) Joanne Malki (Business Association Representative) and Insp Lee Morris (Durham Constabulary).

Public Representatives: Clare Todd, Khaled Malki, Janet Ford-Davidson, Mick Rodgers, Howell Davies, Aaron McCormack, and Chris Hoy.

Officer Attendance: Michael Wilkes (Principal AAP Co-ordinator), Pete Garrod (Principal Community Development Project Officer) Allyson Rose (Community Development Project Officer), Laura Sloan (Community Development Project Officer) and Lesley Lines (AAP Support Officer).

Apologies: Joanne Clennell, Bill Moist, Ian Heaviside.

Public Attendance: Five members of the AAP Public Forum were present at the meeting.

Introductions, Apologies and Virtual Housekeeping Code of Conduct/Protocols

Suzanne Jobson (Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Housekeeping arrangements were noted. Apologies were also noted as above.

Agreement of minutes from the previous meeting held on 9th May 2022 & Matters Arising
The Chair went through the minutes page by page.

Matters Arising

Page 2 – Invite Lindsey Davison (Fun & Food) to the next task group meeting.

Action: Michael

Page 3 – Healthy Relationships Funding criteria – still waiting final criteria. To be circulated as soon as available.

Action: Michael

Michael advised that Clare Todd had been nominated as Vice Chair of the Public Representatives. Michael asked for Board Approval. The Board Agreed to Claire Todd as Vice Chair.

The minutes were then agreed as a true record.

Leisure Transformation Presentation

Ben Kelsey gave a presentation giving details on the communications and engagement plan on the proposed Civic Centre/leisure centre new build. Consultation began Wednesday 20th July and would be open until Friday 26th August.

The full presentation provided at the meeting is available on request.

Ben gave the Board the opportunity to ask questions. The following comments were noted:

- Impact on current library
- Impact on the Town Centre
- Impact on people, walking up a steep bank
- Environmental Impact
- Building Design specifics
 - No viewing area for swimming Galas
 - No Sports Halls

Ben provided a response to questions and highlighted the importance of engaging in the consultation. He highlighted these were early concept designs and the focus of consultation is around whether the provision within the new leisure centre meets the needs of the community. Ben noted that there had been previous success in locating libraries into leisure centres in other parts of the county but noted that each case is different and that the current location of the library in Chester-le-Street will need to be taken into consideration moving forward i.e. the potential impact on the town centre. Ben stated that programme had its own funding and it was therefore independent of other budgets. Ben stated that he would feedback all of the relevant points raised in relation to viewing areas, environmental impact, parking bays etc.

It was highlighted that parish councils had yet to be consulted.

A member of the public highlighted that there was a lack of transparency on plans for the Riverside development. He added the current plans for the Riverside would be displacing public land and should be withdrawn due to the lack of public consultation.

Ben highlighted that the Riverside consultation had now closed.

Cllr Batey asked members around the table if they were aware of the plans in place for the Riverside. She advised, due to the lack of awareness from the AAP and its members, the partnership should contact Culture, Sport & Tourism objecting to the lack of consultation via the AAP.

The Chair asked for an e-mail to be sent to the appropriate officers within Durham County Council

Action: Michael

The Chair thanked Ben for the presentation and encouraged people to attend one of the drop-in sessions.

Poverty Action Strategy and Action Plan Presentation

Debra Kitching, Strategy Team Leader, Durham County Council, gave a presentation.

Debra highlighted that the Poverty Action Strategy and Action Plan for County Durham has been in place since 2014. She noted it was reviewed regularly however this was an opportunity for AAPs to have their say on the current Strategy/Action Plan.

The full presentation provided at the meeting is attached below or available on request.

Debra asked attendees to discuss the objectives outlined and for their general comments.

Cllr Batey highlighted the reality is people don't know how to move forward.

The Chair suggested the challenges were the same, but the scale of the issues have grown, given recent events such as the pandemic and cost of living increases.

Howell Davies highlighted that older people were not claiming the benefits they were due to. He also highlighted that Advice in County Durham had lost many volunteers due to the costs of travelling to work.

It was suggested that a stall be made available at the Market Activity Week event to promote this consultation also the leisure consultation.

The Chair thanked Debra for the presentation and encouraged people to take part in the consultation.

Task & Finish Group Reports/Updates

Pete Garrod updated the Board on the progress and process for the work of the task groups for this financial year, with reference to how the specific budgets will be aligned to the work of the groups. Pete thanked Board Members for aligning themselves to task groups and some of the work already undertaken.

The process document provided at the meeting is attached below or available on request.

Neighbourhood Budget

Michael presented the report and highlighted that there was one project that had a declaration of interest which was for approval/non-approval by the Board.

Councillors Alan Bell & Philip Heaviside – Bournmoor Cricket Lawn Terrace & Football Club – Summer Festival

The aim of this project is to provide various fun activities during the last weekend in August for families of the area. The events are aimed at gaining more support for the club, increasing footfall and also an aid to support anti-social behaviour initiatives within the area.

Declaration of Interest: None

NB Allocation: £2,000 (each Councillor committing £1,000)

Councillors Karen Fantarrow-Darby & Simon Henig – Pelton Fell Community Partnership – Proms in the Park

The aim of this project is to support the overall event with funding to provide food, entertainment, gazebos and safety support for the day.

Declaration of Interest: Cllr Simon Henig (Trustee)

NB Allocation: £1,850 (Cllr Simon Henig committing £1,500 and Cllr Karen Fantarrow - Darby committing £350).

Approved



Better for everyone

Councillors Alison Batey, Paul Pringle & Danny Wood – Pelton Community Centre – Summer 2022

The aim of this project is to provide a raft of sessions for children and parents over the six-week summer holiday period. The sessions will aim to provide food with activities which will support inclusion, health & wellbeing, encourage healthy lifestyle choices etc.

Declaration of Interest: None

NBSG Allocation: £5,299 (each Cllr committing £1,766)

The full report provided at the meeting is attached below or available on request.

Partner Updates

Police

Insp Lee Morris agreed to accommodate the two presenters from this evenings meeting at the up-and-coming Market Activity Week, starting Monday 8th August. Insp Morris highlighted funding was available to community groups from the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner to combat Anti-Social Behavior. People were encouraged to contact Insp Morris for more information on this funding.

Fire & Rescue Service

Graeme Carr noted that the service was busy with inspections and the feedback had so far been good. Graeme highlighted that a drop has been recorded in house fires but advised that secondary fires were at the same level as last year's figures. Graeme noted that, via the work with the AAP, ongoing awareness sessions within schools are taking place on the dangers of open water. Michael thanked all partners and Laura Sloan for her work in leading the recent partnership work around open water safety.

Karbon Homes – Suzanne advised Karbon Homes were hosting 'Holiday Squad', a range of free activities for children of school age, during the summer holidays. Activities will include exploring nature, cooking and arts and crafts. All sessions will include a free lunch.

AAP Co-ordinators Update

ERS – Community Engagement Review – Jenny Wood, ERS Principal Consultant, gave an overview of their lead role/plans with regards the Durham County Council review of Community Engagement which will have a heavy focus on the work of AAPs.

The full presentation provided at the meeting is attached below or available on request.

The Chair thanked Jenny for the overview and highlighted she and many other Board Members looked forward to being engaged and consulted with moving forward.

E-bulletin – Michael noted that this would be distributed fortnightly and sent out to all Board and Forum Members.

Annual Report – Michael advised the Annual Report was now available on the website.



Better for everyone

Board Champions – Michael noted that AAP Staff and Board Members had now started visiting currently funded AAP projects. It was noted that these visits had been really positive to date and that a future report would be brought to the Board

Michael advised that, where possible, any future presentations would be emailed to Board Members in advance of the meeting.

Date and Time of the next meeting

Monday 12th September, Venue TBC