

East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership Minutes of the Board Meeting

Wednesday 25 January 2023

Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, Butterwick Road, Fishburn, TS21 4ED

Present: Cllr Chris Lines, Kester Noble, Neighbourhood Insp Sarah Honeyman, Cllr David Brown, Tony Cutmore, Angela Stobbart, Allan Blakemore, Tim Dredge, Mark Readman, Parish Cllr Sandra Dowson, Stuart Dunn

Officer Attendance: Jane Bellis – AAP Co-ordinator
Claire Craft – Community Development Project Officer
Emma McLoughlin – Community Development Project Officer (Towns and Villages Team)
Marie Ainscough – AAP Support Officer

Forum Members: 7 forum members attended the meeting

Apologies: George Storey, Cllr Chris Varty, Cllr Jan Blakey, Cllr Maura McKeon, Mel Carr

1 Introductions and Apologies

In the absence of Cllr Chris Varty, Allan Blakemore chaired the meeting. Everyone was welcomed to the Board Meeting of the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership and a round of introductions followed.

Apologies [see above].

The Chair highlighted that although the names of Board and Forum members are not included in the body of the minutes; advice given in relation to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), is that the board minutes are made public, therefore should anyone wish to remain anonymous they were to state this.

Anyone present who had a conflict of interest in any item on the agenda was asked to declare an interest at the start of the agenda item to ensure this was formally recorded in the meeting minutes.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 November 2022 & Matters Arising

The Chair reviewed the previous minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy.

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

The Christmas Fun and Food video is now live on the Durham County Council webpage [Videos of previous fun and food activities - Durham County Council](#) and was played at the meeting.

3 Countywide Partner Issues:

3.1 Believe Housing funding pots currently open and how to apply

Angela Stobbart from Believe Housing provided information on the funding pots currently open and explained how to apply.

The Keep Warm, Keep Well community grant is a new fund to assist communities with projects addressing the energy and cost-of-living crisis. Further information can be found on the website:

[£500 small community grant | believe housing](#)

The larger £1,000, £5-10,000 and capital £10-30,000 grants are closed, however groups can still get in touch to talk over an idea for a larger grant for when they reopen.

- ❖ Bowburn Warm Space – Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn, DH6 5AT
A space to keep warm, enjoy free tea, coffee and newspapers and phone charging. No charge. Tuesdays.
- ❖ Warm Space for Cassop – Cassop Community Centre, Front Street, Cassop, DH6 4RJ
Bingo and coffee mornings with extended opening times. Providing free tea, coffee and snacks. No charge. Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons (from 02/02/2023 - 24/05/2023)
- ❖ Parkhill Residents Group Home Support – Parkhill
Distribution of flasks, hot water bottles and warm throws to residents in December to keep them warm during the winter months. No charge.

Discussion ensued around the rise in energy costs and the various pots of funding available and if there was something that could be done collectively.

4 Local Neighbourhood Issues (LNI)

4.1 Locality Policing Issues

Neighbourhood Insp Sarah Honeyman provided an update on local policing issues.

Update from Sgt Kevin Hall (Sherburn)

- Changes of staff continue. PC Dawn Lee has moved to the positive action/recruitment/cohesion role, and we are awaiting a PC replacement to fill the gap.
- An increase has been seen in the theft of Ford motor vehicles, specifically Ford Fiesta and Focus ST vehicles, owners to be aware and can contact Sherburn NPT for crime prevention advice.
- We are currently investigating a number of arsons in the Bowburn area, a male youth has been named by the community and enquiries are ongoing. Local councillors have been updated.

Update from Sarah Honeyman

- There had been incidents of motorbike thefts in Fishburn and Trimdon.
- Peterlee area – major crime team involved in relation to the recent shop ram raid.
- High level meetings had been organised around the national crime recording rules around anti-social behaviour and how to get the message out as it will affect policing and the fear of crime when the community see the crime figures. Sarah gave some examples of anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, and public order. She did not have any answers however wanted to make us aware.

Update from Neighbourhood Insp Phil Carter (Peterlee Team)

- No update.

5 Priority Updates (from Task Group and Projects)

5.1 February Half Term 2023 Fun and Food

Four applications were received for the Fun and Food Scheme for February Half Term 2023, and these were approved by the Board.

1. Bowburn Youth Project, Feb Half Term 2023 - £900.77
2. Learning a New Way CIC, Wellbeing for all - £575.00
3. STARS Community Learning CIC, Eat Well, Keep Fit - £2,362.00
4. Trimdon Community College Association, TCCA February Half Term 2023 - £2,476.00

Fun and Food for Easter 2023 was launched on Monday 23 January 2023. The closing date for completed applications is 12 noon on Wednesday 15 February 2023. Six applications had been sent out to date.

5.2 Area Budget

The closing date for Area Budget applications was noon on Monday 9 January 2023. Five applications were received totalling £80,079.60; a summary on each project had previously been circulated.

[Allan Blakemore declared an interest in the following item of business]

- Sedgefield Methodist Church, Sedgefield Methodist Church Hall – Boiler Replacement - £6,000

- Fishburn Youth & Community Centre, Community Events Co-ordinator - £17,541
- Fishburn Park Upgrade (DCC), Fishburn Stobart Terrace Play Space Refurbishment - £20,000 (Area Budget) and £20,000 (Towns and Villages Funding)
- OASES, Forest Bathing Nature Therapy - £22,863
- Rose Cottage Community Hub, The Wellbeing Project at Rose Cottage - £13,675
- From Loft to Loved CIC, Craft Club - £1,523.26

The Board approved the Area Budget projects [as listed above]. There is no Area Budget remaining from this year's budget.

Towns and Villages Funding

The closing date for applications was noon on Monday 9 January 2023 and three applications were received.

[Parish Councillor Sandra Dowson declared an interest in the following item of business]

- Fishburn Parish Council, Fishburn Cemetery Phase Four Improvements – £11,760

[Cllr Chris Lines declared an interest in the following item of business]

- Sedgefield Town Council, Active Travel – Sedgefield – Bike Racks - £10,000
- Trimdon Grange Community Association, A place to meet and for meetings – £11,161.39

The Board approved the Towns and Villages Funding projects [as listed above].

There is £45,559.61 of the Towns and Villages Funding left to allocate.

5.3 Fishburn Youth and Community Centre – Update on Projects

Lynne Watson, Manager at Fishburn Youth and Community Centre thanked the East Durham Rural Corridor AAP for the funding they had received and gave a brief update on the work that had been carried out throughout the building. Photographs were available for people to look at. A grant from the AAP was used as match funding for a lottery bid of £135,000: collectively covering the wages for all five community centre staff for 3 years (Centre Manager, Cleaner, 2 x Cooks and a Delivery Driver).

6 Co-ordinator's Report

Quarterly monitoring returns on projects are available to Board members upon request.

Review of Community Engagement: the report from the consultants will be progressing through the relevant process. Board members will be updated in due course.

The Durham Savers project which had been withdrawn by the applicant left the EDRC AAP with £10,000 for a project in keeping with it. Following a conversation with colleagues from East Durham AAP, a proposal had been received for a Credit Union Business Development Officer, dedicated to working with East Durham Rural and East Durham communities, for a 2-year period on a full-time basis. This will be provided by NEFirst Credit Union, which is a co-operative financial services social enterprise dedicated to making people and neighbourhoods across the North-East better off by working together to provide ethical savings and fair loans. The cost for the post including overheads is £85,540, and the contribution from this AAP would be £18,818.80 based on 22% population.

Board members agreed to use the £10,000 for this project, with a view in principle to the remainder being funded from next year's pot.

Several consultations had gone live this week. Everyone was asked to respond and/or share. They are:

[Review of Customer Access Points](#) We are reviewing our Customer Access Point (CAP) Services including looking at locations and services offered. We are also proposing to change the opening hours in the least used CAPs at Barnard Castle, Chester-le-Street, Consett and Stanley. The consultation is open until 5pm on 6 March 2023.

[Review of the Public Space Protection Order \(PSPO\) for dog ownership 2023](#) We are currently reviewing the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for dog ownership, which we have in place to deal with issues arising from irresponsible dog ownership. Despite improvements, following the PSPO's initial introduction in 2017, dog fouling and other dog related issues remain a key concern for communities across the county, so we are proposing to expand the PSPO to help. There are five countywide proposed additions to the PSPO and one location specific related to the 'slope' beach in Seaham. The consultation is open until 5pm on 13 March 2023.

[Review of traffic sensitive streets](#) We're currently reviewing our list of traffic sensitive streets following reforms to criteria made by The Department of Transport. Any roadworks on streets, or parts of streets, which are designated as traffic sensitive will have a bigger impact, so anyone wanting to carry out works must give a greater amount of warning and apply for permission. We are talking to businesses, contractors and other people who carry out work that may affect the use of these roads and footpaths eg need to dig them up. We

are also interested in hearing the views of local businesses, organisations and those involved in organising major events or attractions in the county. The consultation is open until 5pm on 24 February 2023.

[Development of a new play area at Hardwick Park](#) Investment is currently being made to improve Hardwick park's play facilities. We're asking residents and visitors to tell us what they would like to see in a new play area for children aged seven and above. People can visit the park from today (23 January), through the half term holiday, until 26 February, to see what might be available in the play area and fill in a survey, which is also available online.

Information on the consultations will be shared with Board members and uploaded onto the East Durham Rural Corridor AAP Facebook page.

7 Neighbourhood Budget Projects

The following Neighbourhood Budget projects were shared with the Board –

Name of Scheme: Fishburn Stobart Terrace Play Space Refurbishment
Councillor(s): Chris Lines / David Brown
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £10,000 (£5,000 each)

Name of Scheme: Craft Club
Councillor(s): Chris Lines / David Brown
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £4,063 (£2,031 Cllr Brown & £2,023 Cllr Lines)

The Board was happy for these projects to go ahead.

8 Date and time of next board meeting

Date and time of next meeting – Wednesday 22 March 2023, 5.00 pm at Cassop Community Centre

Marie is in the process of setting dates for future board meetings and is awaiting responses from some of the parish/town councils as to when their meetings will be held. Where possible the AAP will try to avoid clashing with other meetings.

Board members will be notified once dates have been set.

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed.