

DERWENT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP (DVP) BOARD MEETING MINUTES

25 January 2023, Salvation Army Hall, Consett at 6pm



Present:

Elected Representatives

Cllrs Veronica Andrews, Kevin Earley, Stephen Robinson (Vice Chair), Kathryn Rooney, Alan Shield Michelle Walton and Alex Watson.

Partner Organisations

Mark Clelland (Chair) (Derwentside Trust), Philip Pollard (Karbon Homes), Rachel Rooney (Integrated Care Board) and Joanne Waller (Durham County Council (DCC)).

Public Representatives

Linda Acres and Lea McConnell.

DVP:

Fiona Kelly (AAP Co-ordinator), Lynn Dougal (Support Officer) and Joanne Ashworth (Towns and Villages Officer).

Members of the Public: 17

Apologies:

Public Reps: Helen Marley, Susan Mellor (Vice Chair) and Fraser Neill.

1. Meeting opened by the Chair

Mark Clelland welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone of the Code of Conduct. Fiona Kelly went through housekeeping.

Board members introduced themselves, apologies were noted as above and there were no declarations of interest.

As the Board was not quorate to make decisions (need a minimum of 3 representatives from each Board member category ie Elected, Partner and Public reps) Fiona advised that the Board meeting will go ahead and any decisions made this evening will also be ratified by the Board via email.

Cllr Robinson wondered why the Code of Conduct is mentioned at the beginning of the meetings. Fiona advised that it is on the agenda as standard and is mentioned at the Task Group meetings too.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting (30 November 2022)

Matters arising

The Christmas in Consett event on 1 December was well attended and we received good feedback on the event.

Page 6. Apologies were given that the monitoring report had not been circulated to Board members and this will be sent out, with updates, as soon as possible.

There were no further comments/matters arising and the minutes were AGREED.

3. Task Group Updates

Fiona gave an update on the work of the four Task Groups.

Towns and Villages (T&V) Task Group

The task group met on 11 January and received further updates on the projects previously supported by the Board.

The task group discussed how the remaining £44k could be spent on projects that aim to promote Consett Town Centre, for example, through a marketing and promotion campaign eg Shop Local Consett.

The group is proposing a number of initiatives for the town centre (with approx costs and subject to final agreement) which includes:

- Installation of an internal window digital notice board (the Empire Theatre is being discussed as a possible venue) - £15,000
- Services of a marketing consultant to design the promotion campaign - £8,400
- Marketing campaign using selected bus shelters in the area - £5,000
- Revamp of the DVP's Derwent Valley Life website to include local business information - £5,000
- Town Centre events - £10,600

The above project activities will be overseen by the T&V Task Group or a sub-group.

Board members were asked if they were happy to support the initiatives put forward by the task group and for them to develop these further.

Cllr Shield said that he had been advised by the police that the Community Speedwatch Vehicle would not be available until August 2023. Joanne Ashworth said the appraisal queries have just been dealt with today and an offer letter will be issued shortly. It may be that the police are being cautious with the date as they will be unable to purchase the equipment until they receive the offer letter and funds. Joanne said she will look into this and get back to Cllr Shield.

Jeanette Harold (Forum) enquired what the digital noticeboard would be used for. Joanne said it would be used to promote community initiatives/events and by local businesses to help attract more people into the town centre.

Jeanette (Forum) felt that to attract more people into the town centre there needs to be more events rather than spending money on a digital noticeboard. She asked if her comments would be taken back to the task group.

Rosemary Morris (Chair of T&V Task Group/Forum) said the digital noticeboard would also be used by the larger companies who would be interested in using it to advertise local job vacancies and local interest news.

There were no objections to the task group's proposals by the Board. Therefore the task group will develop the ideas further and more details will be presented to the Board in due course.

The task group also received a presentation from DCC's Spatial Policy team that provided an introduction to Neighbourhood Planning (NP).

The keys points were:

- NP must be community led
- DCC cannot lead but do have a statutory duty to support their development, this would be led by the Spatial Policy team
- In the absence of a Town/Parish Council a forum of 21 members can be set up to lead the plan

Questions raised by Board/Forum members about NP included:

What will it cover and who would facilitate the setting up? There was uncertainty on what it would cover but it is likely to include setting up a forum who would look at the area it is to cover and discuss and agree a way forward. This would need to be approved by DCC. The AAP would have no influence in this as this would come from the community.

Employment, Enterprise and Training (EET) Task Group

The next Task Group meeting will be on 15 February at 6pm in Citizens House, Consett and will be looking at developing projects with the remaining budget of £14,768.

If anyone would like to join this or any of the Task Groups, please let the DVP Team know.

Rosemary (Chair of EET Task Group/Forum) said she has been overwhelmed by the support that they have had from businesses in the Derwent Valley area. Consett Academy and Derwentside College are keen to be involved as well as Business Durham and the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

Health and Wellbeing (HWB) Task Group

Following the call out for projects linked to the Older People's Social Isolation Fund (OPSIF) and the Healthy Relationships Fund (HRF), which went through the HWB Task Group, the group received 6 completed applications for OPSIF and 2 for the HRF by the deadline on 12 December 2022.

The DVP checked the applications for eligibility, and also with the Chair of the HWB Task Group, and one application in each funding category was ineligible and did not progress any further.

Task Group members received copies of the 6 applications (5 OPSIF and 1 HRF) to review, and questions raised by task group members were sent to the applicants. The applicants were invited to a Task Group meeting on 11 January to present their projects and answer any questions.

OPSIF

The amount of funding available was £25,000 (for 2022/23 financial year) and the amount of funding requested, from eligible applications, was £41,694.

After the applicants had presented their projects to the group, individual task group members scored each project proposal, against set criteria, based on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Each project proposal was given a total average score, ranked in order (from highest to lowest) and funds were allocated until the budget was exhausted.

Based on the scoring process, the group would like to recommend the following to the Board.

Due to insufficient funds available the following 2 projects would not be supported:

1. **Ebchester Community Centre** - Ebchester Residents. Funding request of £5,540.
2. **Karbon Homes** - Silver Talk. Funding request of £6,500.

To fund the 3 projects below (although the last project would be partially funded due to insufficient funds available):

1. **Rotary Club of Consett** - Dementia Friendly Choir. Funding requested £9,000 (£3,000 match funding secured).

A dementia friendly choir in Consett that will be open to people with dementia, their carers, friends and family and anyone over 50 who feels socially isolated.

Rachel Rooney wondered about the sustainability of the project. Fiona said that this was discussed at the task group meeting and the rotary club would look at ongoing fund raising which could support the project and also once the funding has been spent, people in the choir could help take it on.

Marlene Boyles (Forum) said the Rotary Club of Consett has been running the memory café in Consett for 14 years and have a long reputation in starting up and sustaining ventures.

There were no further comments and the Board APPROVED funding of £9,000 to the Rotary Club of Consett.

2. **Crookhall Community Association** - Meet at the Seat. Funding requested £12,450 (£1,250 match funding secured).

A safe outdoor space for people to meet, make friends and develop a support network that will include communal seating, paving, raised beds and the creation of a memory garden.

There were no comments raised and the Board APPROVED funding of £12,450 to Crookhall Community Association.

3. **Sport Works** - Health and Happiness Hubs. Partial funding of £3,550 (funding requested was £8,204 (£1,800 match funding secured)).

A mental and physical health programme held at Consett Leisure Centre that includes seated exercise, stretch and flex, dance, bowls and fun/interactive games.

Sport Works will endeavour to deliver a programme with the reduced amount; however this will be reflected in the length of time they can run the programme for. Fiona advised that for this project and for those that were unsuccessful, they will be directed to other sources of funding.

Cllr Shield asked if the match funding of £1,800 would still be provided despite them receiving a reduced amount. Fiona said that this would still apply as it relates to management time.

There were no further comments and the Board APPROVED the partial funding of £3,550 to Sport Works.

HRF

There was only one project proposal received for the full funding amount of £10,000 (for 2022/23 financial year).

1. **Continuum CiC** - I am ME. Funding requested £10,000 (£7,000 match funding secured). The I am ME programme (Independent, Assertive, Mature, Motivated and Empowered) consists of themed workshops targeting young people at risk of entering into a cycle of disengagement.

After the applicant had presented their proposal, group members discussed the project at length (as it was not required to go through the scoring process) and concluded they would like to recommend it for funding and to receive updates on an ongoing basis.

Other than a Board/Task Group member stating that they thought it was a good project, there were no comments and the Board APPROVED funding of £10,000 to Continuum CiC.

Environment Task Group

Fiona advised that a call out for projects linked to the Environment Task Group will close on 30 January 2023.

A task group meeting is planned for 8 February where group members will review the applications, with recommendations going to the Board at the March Board meeting.

4. Fun and Food Update

The DVP also manage the Fun and Food funding which is allocated to projects that deliver activities with healthy food during the school holidays. In 2022 the following projects have been funded:

February Half Term 2022

ATOMS Education CIC, Play to Learn £975
Burnopfield Community Association, Fun and Food £850
Eden Miners Centre, Eden Miners Centre £705
Foundation of Light, Kicks Half Term Clubs £690
Randoms Retreat CIC, Free Fun, Food, Friends and Furrries £1,795

Easter holidays 2022

ATOMS Education, An Easter Extravaganza £1,205
Derwentside Trust, Easter Activities with Healthy Food, Recipes and Activity Packs £2,590
Randoms Retreat, Free Fun, Food, Friends and Furrries £5,018
Stomping Grounds Forest School North East, Forest School Fun, Food and Discovery £3,644

Summer holidays 2022

Glenroyd House, Summer of Fun £6,160
ATOMS, Super Summer Project £1,160
Random's Retreat, Fun, Food, Friends and Furrries £18,195
Stomping Grounds Forest School NE, Forest School Holiday Clubs £8,660

October Half Term 2022

Crookhall Community Centre, Half Term Fun at Crookhall £1,485
Stomping Grounds Forest School NE, Wild Half Term £1,965
Learning a New Way, Wellbeing Wins £1,544
Derwentside Trust, Glenroyd Fiendish Fun, £656

Christmas holidays 2022

ATOMS Education, Christmas Family Fun £1,000
Randoms Retreat, Fun, Food and Furrries £3,354
Derwentside Trust, Grotto with Fun, Food and Activities £7,600

A video showing countywide projects from Christmas 2022, produced by the Fun and Food Team, was shown to everyone.

Funding of £57,540, from the Department of Education, is to be allocated to activities with healthy food that covers Easter, Summer and Christmas 2023 school holidays. A total funding amount of £29,766 is available for February, May and October 2023 and February 2024 Half Term holidays from DCC's Public Health Department.

Cllr Shield asked how the outcomes are monitored. Mark Clelland said monitoring is required such as names of participants, those eligible for free school meals, etc, evidence such as photos, feedback from the parents. The information is then sent to the Fun and Food Team at County Hall.

Fiona said that the monitoring process is thorough and if any deliverer does not comply with the monitoring, they are not likely to be funded again. Also AAP Coordinators receive an analysis of the Fun and Food programme, eg numbers attended, percentages on free school meals.

5. Public Representative Recruitment

The DVP is looking to recruit 3 public reps to join its Board in May 2023. Anyone aged 16 years+ who lives, works, volunteers or studies in the DVP area can apply. Applicants should have a keen interest in their community and attend at least 6 Board meeting each year.

Application packs are available from the DVP Team by email at dvaap@durham.gov.uk or by phone on 07584 479395. The closing date is 6 March 2023.

The vacancies will be promoted on social media and through our networks. Eligible applicants will be invited in for an informal chat with a panel comprising of the Board Executive.

Board and Forum member comments included:

- Encouraging young people to join the Board (eg from Consett Academy) as it would be good to have a young person's perspective on the Board.
- A Shadow Board with young people and giving them a small budget that they would be responsible for.
- The Youth Parliament website – young people who have an interest in and have a say on issues affecting their lives.
- Having a clear pathway of how young people can get involved and what is expected of them.
- Anyone living, working, studying or volunteering in the area can join the Forum from 11years+ and can find out information about the Partnership.

6. Schedule of Board Meetings for 2023/24

The Board were asked to note the dates for the next financial year's Board meetings, which they agreed to.

Wednesday 24 May 2023 (AGM)

Wednesday 19 July

Wednesday 27 September

Wednesday 29 November

Wednesday 31 January 2024

Wednesday 27 March

7. Meeting Close and Date of Next Meeting

Mark thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday 29 March, 6pm at The Salvation Army Hall, Consett.