



## **Teesdale Area Action Partnership - Board Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Held: 15 March 2023 (The Witham, Barnard Castle)**

### **Elected Members:**

Cllr George Richardson  
Cllr Ted Henderson  
Cllr Richard Bell  
Cllr Wendy Greenfield (Town & Parish Council's Representative)

### **Public Representatives:**

Robin Brooks  
Roger Peat  
Christine Watters  
Susan Bainbridge

### **Partner Representatives:**

Craig Jewkes  
Insp Ed Turner  
Linda Bird  
Tim Viggars  
Jeff Garfoot

### **Presenters:**

Craig Jewkes - County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

### **Officer Attendance:**

Adam White, TAP Coordinator  
Annalisa Ward, TAP Community Development Project Officer  
Peter Henderson, TAP Town and Villages Community Development Project Officer  
Emma Walton, TAP Support Officer

**Observers:** 6 x Forum Members

**Apologies:** Lynne Oxby, Cllr James Rowlandson, Peter Locke, Elaine Laurie, Cllr Roberts Potts, and Rachel Twedde

## **Teesdale Action Partnership Board Meeting**

### **1. Welcome from Chair, Introductions and Apologies**

**Insp ET** welcomed everyone to the Board meeting of Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP).

**Insp ET** reminded meeting observers they would be welcome to comment under items 9 and 10 on the agenda.

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

## **2. Declaration of Interest and Meeting Protocol**

**AW** made the Board aware of the declaration of interest procedure and informed all Board members that this is a standard item on the agenda. **AW** informed the Board and Forum Members of 'house rules/etiquette' for the meeting.

**Wendy Greenfield** and **Cllr Ted Henderson** declared an interest in Egglestone Memorial Garden – Egglestone Parish Council project. **AW**, in her absence, also informed the Board that Lynne Oxby has also declared an interest.

## **3. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising**

The draft minutes from the meeting held on 18 January 2023 have been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. **AW** reviewed the minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy.

### **Matters Arising:**

**Action 6** – A forum member asked for an update on the progress of the Levelling Up Bids within the Bishop Auckland Constituency. In particular information on the Barnard Castle – Bishop Auckland Railway Line and Whorlton Bridge.

**AW** reported that Craig MacLennan has provided the following update, DCC:

*The LUF1 Round 1 funding was for the former Stockton to Darlington railway alignment (Darlington boundary to Witton Park).*

*However, we have been working on the Barnard Castle to Bishop Corridor too. Various structures information collated, land titles gained, environmental and other receptors/sensitivities mapped. We will now look to add the design and costing detail over the next couple of months.*

**AW** highlighted that the DCC website has bespoke pages dedicated to Whorlton Bridge, with regular updates and relevant information.

**AW** stated that a regular update will be requested from Craig MacLennan. **(ACTION 1: AW)**

**AW** confirmed there were no further outstanding actions. The minutes of the last meeting were **agreed** by the Board as a true and accurate record.

## **4. Gypsy Roma Traveller Update**

## **4.1 Gypsy Roma Traveller Update – Clare Hubbard (CH) – Team Leader Safer Communities – Durham County Council**

**Insp ET** informed the Board that the above presentation has been cancelled. **AW** apologised for any inconvenience caused to Board and Forum members. **AW** highlighted his disappointment that the presentation was cancelled, and he informed the Board that the AAP team were informed of this on the morning of the Board meeting.

**Insp ET** gave a brief overview of the work taking place, locally to manage travellers as they come through Teesdale and migrate to Appleby. **Insp ET** explained that new legislation, which has been in place since June 2022, to deal with trespassers who set up camp illegally on other people's land or in local communities. The legislation states that this is now classed as a criminal trespass where historically this has been a civil trespass. However, for the Police to consider using the Act for criminal prosecution there must be evidence of damage, disruption and/or offensive conduct and the threshold must be classed as significant.

A forum member raised several issues, which have taken place in previous years, on the land near to Enterprise House / Harmire Industrial Estate. **Insp ET** stated that the land identified is private land and engagement with the landowner has been problematic.

**AW** reported that a Section 106 Funding application is currently being processed from Barnard Castle Town Council to provide targeted hardening work, to the Lower Demesnes, to mitigate any potential issues.

A forum member commented positively on the partnership working taking place.

**GR** suggested a portable toilet be situated at Harmire Industrial Estate for lorry drivers.

**AW** stated an update has been provided by Louise Stokoe, GRT Team, DCC. This will be circulated to Board and Forum members attending this evening's meeting. **(ACTION 2: EW)**.

## **5. CDDFRS Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) Consultation**

### **5.1 CDDFRS Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) Consultation**

#### **Craig Jewkes (CJ) - County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service**

Board Members received a presentation from **Craig Jewkes (CJ)** - County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) on the Community Risk Management Plan Consultation, which is seeking views on how the service plans to tackle the risks our communities face every year, including deciding where and how resources are used. **CJ** outlined the current response standards and the new proposed standards.

The Board were asked to feedback their comments through the consultation routes on the following questions:

1. We propose to crew all of our Wholetime fire engines with four firefighters. Do you agree with this proposal?
2. We propose to review the Risk Based Inspection Programme for business premises to ensure our proactive protection and enforcement activities are aligned to identified risks, to maintain the reduction of non-domestic fires and ensure the continued safety, from fire, of employees and visitors to these premises. Do you agree with this proposal?
3. Do you have any overall comments about our CRMP and approach to allocating our resources?

Board members were encouraged to respond to the consultation. Further details in relation to the consultation are available via the website: [www.ddfire.gov.uk](http://www.ddfire.gov.uk). The closing date for comments is 11 May 2023.

A Q&A session took place, and the following points were noted:

A forum member asked if farms are classed as business premises. **CJ** confirmed this.

A forum member asked whether there was an emergency flooding plan in place to coordinate response from partner agencies. **CJ** confirmed that multi agency work takes place to deal with emergency situations. There are several prepositioned resources in place e.g, flooding packs that can be deployed where required.

**CJ** reinforced that this plan will not affect the services which are delivered within County Durham and Darlington.

A copy of the presentation and the link to the consultation will be circulated to Board members. **(ACTION 3: EW)**

## 6. Area Budget

**AW** confirmed that a copy of the full Area Budget application has been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. **AW** highlighted that Board members were given the opportunity to provide any comments to the TAP team in advance of tonight's meeting. No comments were received.

Both applications have been considered by the Community Recovery Task and Finish Group and the relevant service providers and are recommended for Board approval.

### 6.1 Eggleston Memorial Garden – Eggleston Parish Council

**Area Budget request: £7,157**

**Match Funding: £1,739**

**Total Project Cost: £8,896**

**AW** stated that due to several declarations of interest the meeting will not be quorate, as such, the Area Budget application will be circulated to the Board for their consideration, via email, tomorrow. The need for a quick response was highlighted. **AW** stressed that the application would need to be approved by at least three members from each sector of the Board. This is to ensure a 'quorate'

decision. If a 'quorate' decision is not reached the application will not progress to technical appraisal by DCC Funding Team (**ACTION 4: AW / Board members**).

## 7. Towns and Villages Funding

**AWard** gave a brief overview of the application for Towns and Villages Funding:

### 7.1 Three Villages Traffic Calming – Durham County Council

**TAP T & V Contribution: £10,000**

**TAP NB Cllr T & V Contribution: £10,000** (£5,000 each from Cllrs Rowlandson and Richardson)

**TAP NB Contribution: £9,985** (£4,808 from Cllr Rowlandson and £5,177 from Cllr Richardson)

**Match Funding: £5,594**

**Total Cost of Project: £35,579**

No further comments were raised, and the Board **APPROVED** the application.

**AW** thanked **AWard** for her work on the application.

**AWard** to forward the Towns and Villages application to the DCC Funding Team for technical appraisal. (**ACTION 5: AWard**)

## 8. Neighbourhood Budget

**AWard** confirmed that a summary sheet for the NB proposals has been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. **AWard** gave a brief outline of each proposal.

### 8.1 Etherley Big Band Day - Etherley Parish Council

**AWard** confirmed that the request for NB is £2,908 (£1,830 from Cllr Potts and £1,078 from Cllr Cosslett)

The project has previously been agreed by the Board however they were asked to note a change to the overall project value and parish contribution as the applicant had included some reclaimable VAT. The Board noted the changes.

No comments were raised.

### 8.2 Hutton and Magna Village Hall – Roof Insulation

**AWard** confirmed that the request for NB is £6,600 (£3,300 each from both Cllrs Richardson and Rowlandson)

No comments were raised.

**AWard** to forward the NB applications to the DCC Funding Team for technical appraisal. (**ACTION 6: AWard**)

## 9. Locality Neighbourhood Issues

### 9.1 Locality Policing Issues

**Insp Ed Turner** gave an update on the key issues for the TAP area:

- Areas of ASB were identified in Barnard Castle Town.
- Statistical information on local policing can be found by visiting the Durham Constabulary website.
- The Home Office has changed how ASB is reported. As a result of the new reporting there looks to be a 7% increase in crimes, this is not due to more crime taking place, but rather because of the new reporting rules.
- Partnership work is taking place in response to the recent traffic incident at Kinninvie. A range of avenues are being explored. **Cllr RB** stated a meeting will be taking place in the next few weeks.

### 9.2 Neighbourhood Issues

**AW** confirmed there has been four neighbourhood issue raised, in advance of the meeting.

- 1) An enquiry regarding the winter road surfacing programme and issues in the Harmire Road and Galegate (Barnard Castle) areas were highlighted.

**AW** stated that the winter road surfacing enquiry, relating to Harmire Road, has been forwarded to Paul Watson, DCC Highways for an update.

**AW** reported that recent discussions regarding some of the yards and wynds of The Bank (Barnard Castle) have taken place with DCC Highways. **Cllr RB** has challenged the proposed repairs. DCC Regeneration have stated that there is a maintenance backlog. Paul Watson, DCC Highways has been informed about the issue.

- 2) An enquiry regarding additional adopted cemetery provision. **AW** reported that the cemetery at Barnard Castle is at capacity and future interments are being directed to Startforth cemetery. **AW** stated that from a discussion with Ian Hault, DCC that the council is open to dialogue with landowners to secure suitable land. **AW** stated that a potential site has been identified and has been forwarded to Ian Hault by **Cllr RB**. The forum member thanked **AW** for the information provided.
- 3) Concerns have been raised regarding the Diocese's plan to sell Startforth Memorial School building. The community centre is a much-valued facility in Startforth and enjoys considerable support from residents and local groups and stated that residents are concerned that the facility might be lost. **AW** stated

that TAP is aware of the situation and highlighted its complexities. An update has been requested from DCC, Assets. **Cllr RB** stated the building is co-owned by DCC and the Diocese. DCC have stated that they have no intentions to sell the building.

- 4) A forum member raised concerns with the work due to take place at Lartington to replace the mains water pipe and highlighted the impact this will have on residents. **AW** stated **Cllr RB** will be writing to the project manager James Dawes, Northumbrian Water to obtain further information on the work expected to be undertaken. The Board will be updated accordingly.

### **9.3 Relevant Partner Updates**

There were no partner updates.

## **10. Coordinators Update**

### **10.1 TAP Press Article**

The Board were provided with an update on the press coverage TAP has received in Teesdale Mercury over the January - March 2023 period.

### **10.2 Area Budget Spend**

The Board were provided with the Area Budget Spend Profile for 2022/23. The report includes the status of each project. A copy of the spend profile was circulated, in advance of the meeting, with the meeting papers.

### **10.3 Q3 Monitoring Updates**

**AW** stated that the quarter 3 updates (October – December 2022) have been circulated to the Board. **AW** stressed; if any Board members would like to submit individual comments for circulation that they are more than welcome to do so.

### **10.4 Chair / Vice Chairs 2023/24**

The TAP AGM will be held on Wednesday 17 May 2023, 6pm at UTASS. The AGM will provide an opportunity to showcase a number of projects that have been supported by TAP.

**AW** reminded the Board at the AGM the Chair and Vice Chairs for TAP will be elected for 2023/24. It is the turn of the public representative sector to take the Chair during 2023/24. **AW** explained the process and encouraged Board members to consider the roles of Chair and Vice Chair.

**AW** to email the TAP Board for nominations for the role of Chair and Vice Chair from each sector of the Board. (**ACTION 7: AW/ TAP Board members**).

## 10.5 TAP Forward Plan 2023/24

At the AGM, the Board will be presented with the TAP Forward Plan 2023/24. **AW** highlighted some of the primary areas of interest that will be outlined in the plan:

- Budgets
- TAP Priorities
- Approach to funding

## 10.6 TAP Board Dates 2023/24

The Board were provided with a list of Board meeting dates for 2023/24. **EW** to circulate diary invites to Board members. **(ACTION 8: EW)**

## 10.7 Community Engagement Review

**AW** reported that the review of community engagement is now complete. The findings and recommendations have been circulated to Board members.

The consultation programme for the ERS Community Engagement Review has now gone live. The consultation will be live for 6 weeks. The deadline for comments is 23 April 2023. The findings and recommendations will be presented to cabinet in June 2023 where a decision on the future direction of AAP's and the County Council's Community Engagement function should be agreed.

The consultation will provide the opportunity to feedback on the 4 main sections from the report:

- The Model
- Boundaries
- Funding
- Community Development

Board and Forum members were encouraged to respond to the consultation. Further details in relation to the consultation are available via the website: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/interview/227951a8-657c-4cf9-9532-be9adf9d3a89>.

There are a variety of ways to submit your comments to the review including online sessions for staff and Board members, there will also be a dedicated e-mail address for feedback and questions and an online survey.

**AW** suggested holding a meeting for interested Board members to discuss a collective TAP response to the consultation. This was **AGREED** by the Board. **(ACTION 9:AW)**.

A forum member suggested inviting task group members to attend this meeting.



## **11. Date/Time/Venue for Next Meeting**

**Insp ET** thanked Board members for attending the meeting.

The TAP Board / AGM meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 May 2023, 6pm, UTASS.