

Durham Area Action Partnership Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting
Wednesday 17 May 2023
Durham Town Hall, Market Place, Durham, DH1 3NJ

Board Members

Attendance: Cllr Lesley Mavin, Rebecca Ashby, Insp Dave Clarke, Cllr Bill Kellett, Gary Tidbury, Victoria Ashfield, Jen Straughan-Hawley, Cllr Liz Brown, Chris Tindale, Paul Howard, Sheela Bell, Sam Humble, Hannah Shepherd, Maureen Boettcher

AAP Officer

Attendance: Craig Morgan – AAP Co-ordinator
Wendy Lavelle – Community Development Project Officer
Lyndsey Hunter – Community Development Project Officer
Marie Ainscough – AAP Support Officer

Apologies Board

/ AAP Team: Alice Wilkes, Sarah Burns, Lee Alexander, Georgia Donohue, Cllr Richard Ormerod, Cllr Lucy Hovvells, Cllr Eric Mavin, PJ Harding

Forum Members: 15 forum members attended the meeting

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Cllr Liz Brown (Chair) welcomed everyone to the Durham AAP Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting and a round of introductions followed.

A special welcome was offered to Sheela Bell, the new VCS representative. Sheela had replaced Joanne Thorns on the Durham AAP Board.

Apologies for absence, [as above].

2 Presentation: 2022/23 Annual Report

Craig delivered a presentation on the Durham AAP Annual Report for 2022/23.

The Durham AAP Annual Report for 2022/23 was accepted by the Board and will be uploaded onto the Durham AAP webpage.

3 Confirmation of Chair and Vice Chairs

The following nominations for the position of Vice Chair from the three categories are as follows. Previous Vice Chairs were eligible to stand.

- Vice Chair (Partners) – to be filled
- Vice Chair (Public) – Jen Straughan-Hawley
- Vice Chair (Cllrs) – Cllr Liz Brown

It is the Public Representatives third of the Board's turn to take the position of Chair for 2023/24 and Jen Straughan-Hawley was appointed as Chair of Durham AAP. The Board agreed to these appointments.

4 Comments from the Outgoing Chair

Cllr Liz Brown thanked the AAP team for their hard work and Board members for their support and handed over to the newly appointed Chair, Jen Straughan-Hawley.

BOARD MEETING

5 Welcome from the Incoming Chair

Jen Straughan-Hawley said she was looking forward to taking on the role as Chair of Durham AAP.

6 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 29 March 2023. Agreement and Matters Arising

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

There were no matters arising.

7 Project Update Monitoring Report Quarter 4 22/23 (January to March 2023)

Craig delivered a presentation on the Quarter 4 project progress report for the period 1 January 2023 – 31 March 2023. Durham AAP is required to monitor all area budget projects it had funded on a quarterly basis and at their completion by the AAP funding team. Neighbourhood budget projects over £10,000 are also monitored.

A comprehensive report on all projects currently being monitored had previously been circulated to Board members for information.

8 AAP Funding Update

An update on the current funding position had been included in the papers.

Area Budget

2023/24 Allocation - £119,902*

(* This figure might have to be amended slightly as there is potentially some carry over from a previous year. This will be clarified once all the 2022/23 funding has been paid out to successful applicants)

Towns and Villages

Total approved: £138,162

Balance to allocate: £71,838

9 Task Group Updates

Healthy and Resilient Communities Project Approvals

Board members had received a copy of the application for each project being considered at this Board meeting.

- Durham Area Youth

An application had been received for £18,460 (Area Budget) and £3,000 (Neighbourhood Budget) towards a total project cost of £150,300

The young people will be engaged in several guidance and wellbeing sessions that will help them develop, resilience, skills, and experience. There will also be an opportunity for young people to develop mini projects around organising events and fundraising. This is designed to develop their volunteering which will benefit the organisation in the long term. The funding will be used to cover elements of staff time, resources, activities, and room hire.

The Board was happy to support this project and it was approved.

- Durham City Cricket Club

An application had been received for £10,000 (Area Budget) towards a total project cost of £19,000

The project is to replace the defective and inefficient single glazed wooden windows and doors with modern energy efficient UPVC double glazed units. After a thorough building audit, the club had recently replaced their electrical installations and upgraded the heating system. The club now need to install energy efficient windows to reduce the substantial increases in operating costs and ensure the building is fit for the 21st century.

The club had recently entered a partnership with Amaani to provide bar and catering services for the club for the next 5 years. This partnership will not only assist in the financial running of the club but will also have a positive impact on the environment as there will be dual use of the facility. It will enable the club to focus fully on cricketing issues while offering members and guests a quality catering experience and help reduce the operating expenditure.

There were no questions raised by the Board however, a forum member asked what the relationship was between the restaurant and the cricket club.

The Board was happy to support this project and it was approved.

- **Durham Learning Library**

An application had been received for £9,970 (Area Budget) towards a total project cost of £11,970

The Learning Library provides learning toys and resources for children with special education needs and disabilities. The equipment is often specialised and is something most families could not afford to buy. The funding had been requested to help with running costs but also to purchase new resources for the use of children and families in the Durham AAP area.

The Board was happy to support this project and it was approved.

Improving Our Villages and City

- **West Rainton Outdoor Gym**

An application had been received for £10,000 (Towns and Villages Fund) towards a total project cost of £45,303

DCC working in conjunction with West Rainton Parish Council would like to install outdoor gym equipment in the recreation ground. The need for this had been identified through consultation with local people and is in the Parish Council's Plan for the area.

A Board member asked how many people had taken part in the consultation.

The application was agreed in principle, subject to a satisfactory response to the question raised being received.

- Framwellgate Moor Memorial Garden

An application had been received for £10,000 (Towns and Villages Fund) towards a total project cost of £25,500

The funding had been requested to enhance the area around the war memorial at Framwellgate Moor. Improvements will include the installation of benches, planting, and interpretation boards. Lighting and electrical works will also be carried out.

The Board was happy to support this project and it was approved.

- Belmont Disabled Play Equipment

An application had been received for £12,144 (Towns and Villages Fund) towards a total project cost of £56,787

The funding will be used to install new pieces of inclusive play equipment at Belmont Recreation Ground. The scheme is being led by Belmont Parish Council with the support of Durham County Council.

The Board was happy to support this project and it was approved.

10 Budget Updates

Neighbourhood Budgets

The following neighbourhood budget projects were shared with the Board -

Name of Scheme: Sherburn Hill Hub – Boiler replacement

Councillor(s): David Hall

Interest Declared: Yes, Cllr Hall is a Trustee of Sherburn Hill Hub

Amount: £5,000.00

Name of Scheme: DCC – The Crescent, West Rainton, Traffic Calming

Councillor(s): Bill Kellett

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £5,853.64

Name of Scheme: DAY – ‘Youth of today, Leaders of tomorrow’

Councillor(s): David Hall

Interest Declared: Yes, Cllr Hall is Chair/Trustee of Durham Area Youth

Amount: £3,000.00

Name of Scheme: Durham City Cricket Club

Councillor(s): Hopgood / Scott / Wilkes / Brown / Ormerod / Freeman / Lesley Mavin / Eric Mavin / Coult & Simpson

Interest Declared: Yes – Cllr Hopgood is a Board Member

Amount: £5,000.00

Name of Scheme: St Nicholas Graveyard
Councillor(s): David Freeman / Richard Ormerod
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £5,000.00

Name of Scheme: Laurel Avenue Maintenance Project
Councillor(s): Christine Fletcher / Eric Mavin / Lesley Mavin
Interest Declared: Yes, Cllr Fletcher is the Vice Chair of the Management Committee & Cllrs Eric & Lesley Mavin are members of the Management Committee
Amount: £10,724.00

The Board was happy to approve the projects and the interest as declared.

Fun and Food (Holiday Activities with Healthy Food)

Four organisations had received Fun and Food funding for May Half Term 2023. Five applications had been received in total; however, one application had been withdrawn.

1. Cheesy Waffles - £547.00
2. Harbour Support - £927.50
3. Durham City Youth Project - £760.00
4. Go the Distance - £1,025.00

Details of the type of activities each organisation will be providing over May Half Term 2023 was included in the papers for information.

The next round of the Fun and Food Scheme for Summer 2023 will be launched on Monday 22 May.

11 [Coordinators / Chairs Update](#)

There was no update from the Chair or the AAP Co-ordinator as this had been covered in the presentations shared earlier in the meeting.

12 [Partner Updates](#)

John Lowe – Durham City Trust

On Saturday 20 May at 2.00 pm, Martin Roberts will be giving a talk about staircases. This will take place in room 85 in the chemistry department, or you can watch it on zoom@durhamcity.org

A leaflet on the Durham City Heritage Trail to mark the 80th Anniversary of the City of Durham Trust is available to the public in Durham Town Hall as well as other public buildings across the city.

Sam Humble – Believe Housing

It was reported that there had been issues in Durham City centre around anti-social behaviour/cuckooing. The housing register continues to be in high demand as well as foodbanks and they had seen an increase in mental health cases. The demolition programme in Farnham Road, Newton Hall Estate had now been approved and they were working closely with residents and families.

Hannah Shepherd – Durham University

The Community Response Team had been relatively quiet but are expecting it to become a lot busier once the exam period ends on 2 June. There were lots of upcoming events planned and any changes/updates would be publicised. The Green Move Out Scheme had shown an increase of 90%, the highest spread and distribution of purple bags.

Insp Dave Clarke – Police

Insp Dave Clarke provided a verbal update on local policing issues. They had been working closely with Believe Housing around anti-social behaviour in the city centre. They had received lots of correspondence around issues in Ludworth. Almost up to full strength with the neighbourhood policing teams but need continued support from the AAP and partners to allow them to work effectively. They had received £50k of funding from the Parish Council for a dedicated police officer and the interview for this post will take place on Friday. 200 leaflets had been sent out asking for people's support in relation to a Public Space Protection Order which is needed and long awaited. Durham AAP had recently received an application for a project 'St Nic's Social Justice Hub' which had been considered at a meeting of the Healthy and Resilient Communities Task Group. Dave provided an overview of the project and gave his reasons why the project was needed.

Sheela Bell – VCS Update

Sheela thanked everyone for having her on the Board and said she looked forward to being involved with Durham AAP and providing updates at future Board meetings.

Paul Howard – Durham BID

They had been facing challenges regarding the empty units and are doing what they can to fill them. 11 new business will be opening in Silver Street. Footfall is doing quite well in the city and some hospitality and leisure businesses are doing well. The shop local campaign will be taking place in the summer, a campaign which gives shoppers the opportunity to win vouchers.

Following a request from a forum member, Craig agreed to pass on a 'well done and thank you' to Hannah Shepherd (who had left the meeting) from Durham University who hosted a 'Coronation on the Big Screen' event on Saturday 6 May at Durham City Rugby Football Club. The community got together to watch and celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

14 [Date and time of next meeting](#)

Thursday 13 July 2023, 6.00 pm, Online

Subsequent Meeting

- Thursday 26 September 2023, 6.00 pm, Sherburn Community Centre

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed.