

**East Durham Area Action Partnership & Board Meeting**  
**6pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at The Glebe Centre, Murton**

**PRESENT:**

**Elected Members**

Cllr Angela Surtees (AS) (Chair)  
Cllr Kevin Shaw (KS)  
Cllr Julie Griffiths (JG)  
Cllr Isabel Roberts (IR)  
Cllr Jake Miller (Cllr JM)  
Cllr Ivan Cochrane (IC)

**Public Representatives**

Rona Hardy (RH)  
Gill Rodgers (GR)  
Annabelle Lumsden (AL)  
David Blackwell (DB)

**Partner Representatives**

Insp Phil Carter (PC)  
Sgt Lucy Oxley (LO)  
Ian Porter (IP)  
Joanne Angus (JA)  
Jim Murray (JM)

**Co-opted Members**

Amanda Moon (AM)  
Edna Connor (EC)

**Officer Attendance:**

John Murphy (JM) – AAP Coordinator  
Laura Towers (LT) – AAP Support Officer  
Wayne Gibson (WG) – Community Development/Project Officer  
Peter Henderson (PH) – Towns & Villages Community Development/Project Officer

**Presenter:**

Jenny Swainston, SeaScapes Delivery Manager

**Public Attendance:**

2 members of the public were in attendance

**Apologies:**

Graham Easterlow, Cllr Terry Duffy, Cllr Stacey Deinali, Insp Joanne Eales, Danny Dickinson

## **1. Introductions & Apologies**

JM ran through house-keeping and health and safety.

AS welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made.

Apologies were noted, as above.

## **2. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising**

The minutes of the previous Board Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023 were accepted by the Board as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

JM noted that the ERS Review has been pushed back to July's Cabinet meeting.

## **3. Police & Fire Report**

AS handed over to Inspector Phil Carter and Sergeant Lucy Oxley to provide the police report. Chris Williams had submitted apologies, so there would be no fire report.

### **Insp Phil Carter – Peterlee**

It has been a busy month. The weather has now changed and this sometimes changes crime.

Two people were arrested following the theft of a motor vehicle from an Arctic Monkeys concert in Middlesbrough. This was found in an industrial unit in Horden. 30 vehicles had been stolen from the concert. The offence was dealt with in the Durham area and two principal OCG members were detained. Investigations will take some time.

More security will be implemented around off-road bikes. Some Safer Streets funding has been asked for around Elsdon Close.

As an update on the Wheatley Hill arson where the side of a house was burnt, a female received courts sanctions, including a rehabilitation order, an alcohol treatment plan, £100 court costs and six points. Deductions would come off benefits in small amounts.

An OCG member was arrested and their car was seized. The car was made using stolen car parts and has been taken off the roads.

Two suspects made off during a two-in-one in Hatfield Place. The helicopter was launched. Another off-road bike was caught as a result, but this was unrelated.

A male who was causing issues in the Johnson estate has been given a Community Protection Warning (CPW) and is moving out of Wheatley Hill.

A Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) has been confirmed for a male youth in Trimdon.

Three rooms of cannabis were cleared from Yoden Way.

11 Fail to Appear have been arrested in the last few weeks.

The U Choose programme has been launched in schools around the area.

Three people were caught and charged following copper being stolen in two burglaries.

### **Sgt Lucy Oxley – Seaham & Easington**

The operation for cannabis grows has continued. This has seen positive results in Seaham, The Avenue and South Hetton.

Looking at pursuit of off-road bikes is a difficult issue. The helicopter may be used due to the risks involved. A plan is being developed to address this.

The mechanics project at Seaham is changing to look at the motorbike side of things, concentrating on education and consequences. It is difficult finding somewhere for them to ride. A reward is being looked at to teach them how to do it legally. Monitoring will be stringent.

Education and engagement is very important in schools in relation to the hot weather and ASB. There have been some incidents with weapons lately.

Good results in relation to vehicle crimes from a cross-border operation with Northumbria. There are good links and information-sharing with the teams at Northumbria Police.

Three brothers from Murton are now in prison.

LO thanked the housing providers for working well together with the Police. A Premises Closure Order ran at the same time as an eviction from a housing provider. The tenant left. In Murton, an abandonment notice was served on another property. It makes things easier when working together.

AS updated that at Planning an application for an off-road track at Thornley went through on a 12-month trial basis to see if this reduces ASB on bikes.

AS noted that the mechanics project has been funded through the AAP.

AS questioned whether it is the right thing to do to take benefits away in the current climate in relation to the arson in Wheatley Hill.

KS highlighted that when people are removed from social housing that the council has a responsibility to house them and this results in moving people to private landlords. It is the behaviours which need to change.

LO noted that Selective Licensing has made this easier to manage now. It is not about moving a problem. Support is offered before any Premises Closure. PC added that there are examples where people are not evicted also, but these are the extreme cases.

AS thanked Insp Carter and Sgt Oxley for the police report.

### **4. SeaScapes Update – Jenny Swainston, SeaScapes Delivery Manager**

JS delivered a presentation to the Board providing an overview of the SeaScapes project.

This a £5m project from the Tyne to the Tees and six nautical miles out to sea. It is a landscape partnership with 23 projects. Partners include universities, local councils, the Heritage Coast and

Groundwork. The project aims to inspire and empower individuals, communities and businesses to better understand, explore and protect our coastline, making sure it can still be enjoyed by future generations.

A range of work is being undertaken, including work at Red Acre Point and Hartlepool Marina. Some history-related and sand work is also underway. Durham University is leading on geology. Walks will be available in the autumn. Work is also being carried out with the National Trust and Durham Wildlife Trust on preservation as well as a food-based project with Newcastle University.

The Beneath The Waves project with Newcastle University looks at wrecks off the coast. Four to five wrecks will be fully mapped with models created.

Volunteers are still needed. This is a Lottery requirement. Beach cleans, Little Terns and Divers are heavily dependent on volunteers. Volunteers and volunteer team leaders will be trained up.

One of the main priorities is getting people to the coast. BlueScapes (National Trust) is looking at getting people out onto the water, doing activities on the beach and using the coast eg for youth groups.

Beach care projects include Beach Care & Aware (Northumbrian Water) and Events, Engage, Activity (SeaScapes). Since 2001, over 1,500 bags of rubbish have been removed from beaches and more.

A coastal app will be coming out in December 2023.

The SeaScapes community grant scheme is open until 19<sup>th</sup> June.

Cllr JM commended the good work on the beach clean on behalf of sea swimmers.

JMurphy asked whether there are any project which SeaScapes would like to see come forward for the community grants.

JS advised that they should be anything to do with community activities at the beach.

AS noted that work on the steps at Easington would be beneficial.

## **5. Neighbourhood Issues**

None noted.

## **6. Priority Working Group Updates**

### **Maintaining the Social Fabrics of our Communities (MSFOOC) - Amanda Moon (Vice Chair)**

AM gave an overview of the last MSFOOC Priority Group Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

AM apologised to the online attendees due to Wi-Fi issues.

The year's budget was outlined at the meeting:

### **Area Budget**

£76k revenue (£65.5k ring-fenced in principle to the Credit Union application)

£24k capital

### **Youth Fund**

£9.9k (CYPF Priority Group)

### **Welfare Reform**

£10k

Discussion took place looking at priorities for the group.

Two presentations were delivered at the meeting. The first presentation was from Andrew Gillman on Love to Ride which is looking at getting people into bike riding and collecting data on this. The second was a presentation on Multiply which works with local councils and charities to improve maths skills.

The group considered an infographic on East Durham. There was a potential future proposal from an NHS programme, however, the group felt that it would be better to focus on grassroots programmes.

KS updated at the meeting that the East Durham College 50 project had been inundated.

BC also provided an update on the PATHH project.

AS noted that it was important to be able to read and write before looking at maths.

### **Children, Young People & Families - Rona Hardy (Chair)**

The draft minutes from the previous CYPF meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were circulated to the Board.

There was a presentation from the Citizens Advice Help to Claim Service who are seeking feedback from under 35s on the accessibility and use of the service.

Jon Niblo presented an overview of the draft Youth Strategy. The group were asked to provide any feedback on this.

The Fun and Food Free School Meals percentage has gone up from 25% to 40%. Monitoring has improved. Under 5s are not included in the data. RH noted the importance of ensuring the data is correct to ensure the statistics are as accurate as possible. The Fun and Food Summer Holidays applications closed today.

AS noted that the monitoring and recording has changed.

JMurphy noted that the Fun and Food is the biggest pot of funding now that the Towns and Villages funding is committed.

There will be a presentation on the Duke of Edinburgh Award at the next meeting.

## **Neighbourhoods & Place - John Murphy (AAP Coordinator)**

At the first Neighbourhoods and Place Priority Group Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023, three priorities were identified by the group:

1. Place and regeneration
2. Community safety including ASB
3. The green agenda

AAP Towns & Villages funding: £3,551

A proposal for an uplift of £3,551 to the Towns & Villages Connecting the Coast project was circulated to the Board. Works would include a section of boardwalk which extending to combat a particularly muddy section of path and some steps which need attention on the England Coast Path and Horden FP10 and to provide 12m of broad walk plus 5 steps.

The Board agreed to the uplift of £3,551 to the T&V Connecting the Coast project.

AS highlighted that funding is available from the Towns & Villages Improving Community Resilience Fund.

PH added that this is from the main T&V fund.

ACTION: Information to be shared.

## **7. NBs for notification or endorsement of a declared interest**

The NB spreadsheet was circulated to the Board prior to the meeting, as per the spreadsheet below.

JM highlighted the following NB projects with conflicts of interest. The Board approved these projects.

### **Project Name: Ray Lonsdale Sculpture**

**Councillors:** Adcock-Forster & Griffiths

**Project Cost:** £36,000

**NB Amount:** £22,500

**Description:** Following discussions and ideas from Parish council members and members of the public, Murton Parish Council have commissioned Ray Lonsdale to design a life size sculpture relevant to a theme relating to Murton heritage. £10k each from the councillors towns and villages funding and £2,500 from Cllr Adcock- Forster's NB.

**Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Adcock-Forster & Cllr Griffiths. Both Cllrs are Murton Parish Cllrs. The Board approved this project.**

### **Project Name: Eden Hill People's Centre Tables and Chairs**

**Councillors:** Fenwick, McLean & Roberts

**Project Cost:** £19,044

**NB Amount:** £9,000

**Description:** The centre would like to use the funding to help buy new tables and chairs for the extension, this would also fit in with our new kitchen area, where the new development is to provide

hot and cold food, to the community alongside this, local people will be involved in the design of the set up. it would be good to have nice seating area to accommodate our new building work.

**Conflict of interest declared by Cllr McLean. Cllr McLean is the Secretary of the Rugby club from which the Eden Hill People Centre operates out of. The Board approved this project.**

**Project Name: Centre Running Costs**

**Councillors:** Higgins

**Project Cost:** £8,400

**NB Amount:** £4,200

**Description:** To support Wingate and District Community Association with funds to help with support for the centre's utility bills due to recent increases.

**Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Higgins. Cllr Higgins is also a trustee of the centre. The Board approved this project.**

**Project Name: The Police Community Garden**

**Councillors:** Adcock-Forster & Griffiths

**Project Cost:** £10,000

**NB Amount:** £5,000

**Description:** The Community Garden we propose to set up in Murton will be for the use of everyone within the community. The garden will give the Seaham, Murton and Easington Neighbourhood Police Team an opportunity to engage with the public and show presence within the community.

**Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Griffiths. Cllr Griffiths is a helper at the garden. The Board approved the project.**

**Project Name: East Durham Veterans Trust Counselling Programme**

**Councillors:** Batey, McKenna, Kennedy, Shaw

**Project Cost:** £6,000

**NB Amount:** £6,000

**Description:** East Durham Veterans Trust has been providing counselling for the veterans community since it was formed in 2020. The Veterans trust was set up in order to support veterans and their families with mental health and addiction issues. We are looking for funding to help support this service by providing an additional 500 hours of counselling for the veterans and their families of East Durham.

**Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Shaw & Cllr McKenna. Cllr Shaw is chair and Cllrs McKenna and Kennedy are trustees. The Board approved the project.**

**Project Name: Replacement Dog Bin for Hesleden**

**Councillors:** Crute & Deinali

**Project Cost:** £500

**NB Amount:** £500

**Description:** Replacement dog bin for Hesleden.

**Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Crute & Cllr Deinali. Cllr Crute's wife is Chair of the Parish Council who are the applicants. Cllr Deinali is a Parish Councillor. The Board approved the project.**

**Project Name: The Welcome Centre**

**Councillors:** Surtees & Boyes

**Project Cost:** £51,600

**NB Amount:** £20,000

**Description:** Towns and Villages Application - This previously came to the board as an application from Easington Colliery Regeneration Partnership; however the applicant has changed to Focus

Easington (Charity) Limited who are applying for funding to renovate what will be the Welcome Centre, the former Methodist Church in Easington Colliery. The Welcome Centre will be a new community venue delivering a range of support services.

**Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Surtees. Cllr Surtees is trustee and secretary. The Board approved the project.**

**Project Name: Hazelwell Centre**

**Councillors:** Cochrane

**Project Cost:** £2,500

**NB Amount:** £2,500

**Description:** Some small jobs needed such as painting, floor repair, general cleaning, etc need to be undertaken in order for the centre to reopen.

**Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Cochrane. Cllr Cochrane is now a trustee of the centre. The Board approved the project.**

**Project Name: Garden Party (Fete)**

**Councillors:** Boyes & Surtees

**Project Cost:** £1,800

**NB Amount:** £999

**Description:** Easington Colliery Regeneration Partnership are applying for funding to hold a garden party for the coronation.

**Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Boyes & Cllr Surtees. Cllr Boyes is chair of the group and Cllr Surtees is treasurer. The Board approved the project.**

The Board made no comment to the other NB projects which were presented.

## **8. Any Other Business**

None raised.

## **9. Date and time of next meeting**

**6pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at The Lisa Dixon Centre**