

Chester-le-Street & District Area Action Partnership (AAP) Board Meeting Minutes of Meeting held Monday 24th July 2023.

Present:

Councillors: Alison Batey, Elsie Forrester (Parish Council Representative), Phil Heaviside, Emma Waldock, Julie Scurfield.

Partner Organisations: Joanne Malki (Business Association Representative), Graeme Carr (Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue) Colleen Baker (VCS Rep) and Sgt Stephen Clegg (Police, Deputy).

Public Representatives: Clare Todd, Khaled Malki, Chris Hoy, Janet Ford Davidson and Jake Rollings, Howell Davies.

Officer Attendance: Michael Wilkes (Principal AAP Co-ordinator), Allyson Rose (Community Development Project Officer), Laura Sloan (Community Development Project Officer), Bill Lightburn (Towns & Villages) and Lesley Lines (Support Officer).

Apologies: Marion Ingleby (DCC), Inspector Lee Morris (Police), Colin Stephenson (NHS), Aaron McCormack (Public Representative), Suzanne Jobson (Karbon Homes), Cllr Bill Moist and Cllr Tracie Smith.

Public Attendance: Five members of the AAP Public Forum were present at the meeting.

Introductions, Apologies and Virtual Housekeeping Code of Conduct/Protocols

Cllr Alison Batey (Chair) opened the meeting. Housekeeping arrangements were noted. Apologies were also noted as above.

The Chair welcomed Jake Rollings back to Board as a Public Representative. The Chair also welcomed Cllr Julie Scurfield (Councillor Representative) and Colleen Baker (VCS Representative) to their first meeting.

Declaration of Interest

Item 4 – Project - One Youth – Youth Worker – Clare Todd declared an interest.

Agreement of minutes from the previous meeting held on Monday 25th May 2023 & Matters Arising

The Chair went through the minutes page by page.

The Board agreed the minutes of Monday 25th May 2023.

Matters Arising – Page 2 - Michael noted the presentation had been circulated.

Page 11 – Health Representative – Michael to meet with the new health rep next week.

Neighbourhood Issues

Michael advised that no neighbourhood issues had been raised prior to the meeting.

Housing Strategy Phase 1 Presentation

Marie Smith, Housing Manager, Housing Services, Durham County Council and Paul Salles, introduced 'The Housing Conversation'. Marie noted that this was the time to give the public the opportunity to engage and give them the chance to highlight issues within each of the 14 AAP areas.

All comments will be used to develop the draft County Durham Housing Strategy, which will be presented in the Autumn. The expectation is to finish the document and it to be adopted by Cabinet in March 2024.

It will be delivered in partnership through the County's Housing Forum and in discussion with the county's residents, the private sector and other agencies as appropriate. The current housing strategy will remain in place until the new one is ready.

The County Council is beginning the process to develop a new housing strategy for 2024, which will update and replace the strategy agreed in 2019. The strategy outlines what the council and its partners need to do to ensure County Durham will be a place of good quality affordable homes that meet the needs of both existing and future residents including our older and younger generations.

It also aims to deliver quality housing that supports economic growth and contribute to improving health, which creates and maintains sustainable, mixed, and balanced communities where people live long and independent lives.

A Principle and Priorities paper, which outlines draft proposals for the strategy, was agreed for consultation at June Cabinet. [Priorities Paper](#) .

The eight-week consultation runs from Monday 26th June to Friday 18th August and is available for comment here [Housing Conversation](#) .

Marie highlighted that a Homeless Strategy was a statutory document and would be produced as a stand-alone document.

Marie asked the Board for comment on the following two questions:

1. What are the housing issues in your area?
2. What are the potential solutions?

A discussion took place.

The Chair asked what percentage of selective licencing interventions had been successful? It was stated 28% within the past 15 months, but no prosecutions to date.

Who determines if the properties are fit for purpose?

The Inspections Team will go out to determine if the property is fit for purpose.

What should Councillors do if they come across issues with properties e.g. damp in local resident houses?

What will the strategy do to help people who are made homeless?

It was noted that this would be covered by the Homeless Strategy. It was highlighted that individuals have 28 days once they get a Section 21 notice. It was noted that everything possible is done to support people to stay in their homes.

A comment was made to say that the strategy needs to be joined up with other strategies.



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Another comment was made to suggest that there is not enough provision for disabled people. Work needs to be done to quicker respond to requests when they are made.

A question was asked with regard to insulation, asking if the Council are looking at ways to make homes more efficient?

It was noted that work is ongoing with the colleagues who deal with the Warm & Healthy Homes initiative to try to improve properties. An example where this had recently occurred in Craghead was noted.

A request was made asking if a list of contact details/initiatives of energy efficiencies offers be sent out to voluntary and community groups.

It was stated that, yes, this will be sent to Michael to distribute.

A comment was made stating that, if there is only a 28% had signed up to selective licencing, how can we get more to sign up?

It was noted that, If Board Members thought it would be useful, we could get someone to come to a future Board Meeting to discuss selective licensing in more detail. Board Members agreed it would be useful.

A question was raised asking if there is a definition of an affordable and what it means in County Durham? It was noted that social housing use a formula, however it was not something Marie could answer in great detail.

A Forum Member asked why no one was building bungalows and can we not do something to encourage builders to build bungalows so older people living in larger homes can downside?

Marie advised that, within the County Durham Plan, there was a requirement of 10% of new builds to accommodate older people. This is a key strategic issue and the matter has been raised with colleagues in Planning, several times. It is a growing area for developers.

Marie advised that she would return later in the year with updates on the strategy.

The Chair thanked Marie and Paul for the presentation.

Area Budget Report

Michael informed the Board that there were two proposals for discussion and approval.

Area Budget Proposal

One Youth – Youth Worker Training Project – Cost of Living Task Group

Clare Todd declared an interest.

The aim of this project is to deliver a 14-week, Level 2 training course for twelve volunteers and paid staff in youth work. This will be followed by an opportunity for progression to Level 3 training in 2024. This is to cover those centres under the umbrella of One Youth. The centres will be Bullion Hall, Brockwell Centre, Grange Villa, Fencehouses (also covering Bournmoor) and will be led by Pelton Youth Club.

The training will be open to volunteers and paid workers in the Chester-le-Street & District AAP area who are currently engaged in support to young people in formal and informal youth group settings. This will include



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groups such as Amazing Girls, run by the Girls Friendly Society, to the open access youth provision that operates weekly through One Youth and other community venues across the area.

This training will add to the quality assurance of the youth work offer in the area and strengthen key areas of knowledge such as understanding and implementing safeguarding, emotional development and mental health support for young people.

It is also intended as a route to employment for volunteers, the opportunity for more and better paid sessional work for existing paid youth workers and to expand the pool of youth workers in the area which the Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) and statutory sector partners can recruit.

There is an increasing demand on the VCS to offer youth provision which can be both piecemeal, because of the lack of continuity from funding arrangements (leading to a stop-start delivery), and very localised and not necessarily where it is most needed.

Youth work is often sessional, delivered for a few hours at a time, mostly in an evening, which means for many it can be difficult to develop as a career. This may potentially mean that the youth sector may disproportionately lose qualified workers to other types of employment.

At a local level, the sector has not been able to recruit sufficient numbers of paid youth workers and volunteers to cover demand. This proposal is intended as a step forward to reverse these trends.

The Level 2 qualification will improve the individual's knowledge base and support their youth work practise, improve the delivery of existing youth provision and provide volunteers with the opportunity for paid employment.

The applicant intends to maintain contact with the group of participants to measure progress in their role at six months after completion of the course and also the number of participants that progress to Level 3.

Area Budget Request - £19,700

Match Funding - £0

Total cost of project - £19,700

The Board Agreed the project.

Chester le Street Business Association – Christmas Event 2023

The aim of the project is to hold a Christmas event that will take place in Chester-le-Street town centre. The Business Association will engage Alan Hilary Events to manage the event. There will be street theatre, staging with sound and lighting, as well as a professional compare and other artists. This event will coincide with other activities managed by Durham County Council (DCC) Cultural Team to enhance the light switch on.

The Town & Villages Task Group have identified the need for a town centre Christmas light switch on event. This is to support the local economy in difficult times. The event will also provide a feel-good factor for the community in the lead up to Christmas. Providing a positive atmosphere in a time that many of our residents are finding difficult. Events and increasing footfall within the town, has been a long-standing priority of the AAP. These events have always proven to be a successful way of encouraging people to visit the town centre.

Request - £8,000

Match Funding - £0

Total Cost - £8,000

The Board Agreed the project.

Michael thanked the Board and advised the date of this event was 2nd December, to link in with Small Business Saturday.

Town & Villages Programme Report

Bill Lightburn presented the following report.

Board Members will be aware that, as part of the County Council's £25M Towns & Villages Programme, each AAP has an allocation of £210,000 to support local projects that help to revitalise and enhance towns and villages. In addition to this, County Council elected members have been provided with an additional £10,000, as part of their Neighbourhood budget. This investment, across the 14 AAP's, amounts to £4.2M.

The £210,000 AAP Towns & Villages allocations are to be committed over 3 years, with all expenditure needing to be planned and approved by the end of March 2024.

Each AAP has been able to determine its own approach to allocating the AAP Towns & Villages Fund, aligned to local circumstances and priorities. Consequently, the Board agreed to support one priority project in each of the 8 County Electoral Divisions, acknowledging that funding may not be divided equally, but that submitted projects should be assessed on their own merits, with any financial support approved to be based on project need.

The Towns & Villages Project Officer was asked to liaise with Elected Members in each Electoral Division to progress this approach.

Programme Update

To date, the Board has approved four AAP Towns & Villages projects, with a combined grant value of £84,278.

Planning work is ongoing in the three remaining Electoral Divisions, with a view to bringing the final projects forward for consideration before the end of the 2023 calendar year.

The approved projects so far, are as follows:

Sacriston Ward Multi Site Play Space Refurbishment - Applicant DCC Clean & Green (£22,085 grant approved in September 2022).

This project is currently out to tender, with the tender period closing this week. The contract, to supply and install new play equipment and ancillary works, will be awarded following evaluation of tender submissions.

Waldridge Village Parking/Traffic Circulation – Applicant DCC Highways (£26,700 grant approved in October 2022)

This project is fully designed and specified with statutory approvals required before release of grant. This included an amendment to the Chester-le-Street Traffic Regulation Order, which has now been approved by the



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County Council's Highways Committee, and Planning Consent. Subject to these approvals it is anticipated that DCC Highways/Transport will be able to plan for the implementation of works from Autumn 2023.

Camperdown Pocket Park Refurbishment – Applicant DCC Clean & Green (£10,400 grant approved in October 2022)

The works contract for this project has been awarded, equipment is currently being manufactured and the DCC Outdoor Facilities Team is awaiting an installation date.

South Pelaw Road Safety/Environmental Enhancement – Applicant DCC Highways (£25,093 grant approved in May 2023)

The grant offer for this project was made on 12th July 2023. DCC Highways Team is looking at a suitable window in which to programme the work.

New Towns and Villages Project Proposal

Durham County Council Clean & Green – Fines Bank Landscape Improvements

This project will seek to improve the appearance of the Fines Bank area of Chester-le-Street (the embankment to the immediate South of Tesco Supermarket). It includes removal of dead/dying and self-seeding trees, crown raising of several mature trees and clearance works to either side and along the full length of the 2 stepped pedestrian routes which run up from Tesco Car Park to Greenbank Terrace /Morningside Court and William Street/rear of Alpine Court, as well as maintenance costs for 3 years.

The project responds to queries raised with the Ward Councillors by residents, regarding the general condition of the area, including concerns for public safety due to poor sightlines as residents walk up/down the main pedestrian routes.

The proposed works are on land owned by the County Council and are located within the Chester-le-Street Conservation area. Discussions have therefore been held with representatives from the County Council's Environment & Design Team (Ecology and Tree Officers) to determine the permissible scope of works.

Consultation has also been carried out with residents who live in the vicinity of Fines Bank, with no objections being raised.

In addition, as works are planned close to the railway viaduct, further consultation has been undertaken with Network Rail Asset Protection.

A grant of £12,200 is requested from the AAP Towns & Villages Fund. This covers the whole project costs.

Subject to approval of grant this project will be implemented in Autumn 2023.

Request - £12,200 Towns and Villages Programme Funding

Match Funding Contribution - £0

Total Project Cost - £12,200

The Board Approved the project.

It was noted that the remaining amount in AAP Towns & Villages Fund was £113,52.

The Chair highlighted that a major project around traffic calming was ongoing and in development for the Pelton area.

Community Engagement Review Update

Michael circulated a paper updating on the Durham County Council Community Engagement Review.

New model and proposals

The new model will deliver Local Networks which will primarily be based on the current AAP boundaries. Subject to outcomes of the Local Government Electoral Boundary Review, Local Networks will have the potential to align current AAP boundaries to the new electoral wards. Local Network boundary alignment will be reviewed following the outcomes of the Local Government Electoral Boundary Review (consultation closes 10th July 2023 and the final recommendations are due to be published on 28th November 2023).

Local Networks will aim to attract involvement of a greater number, and a broader range of residents and local stakeholders through increased use and the relaunch of the current AAP Forum and its 15,000 members to form a County Durham Community Network. Opportunities will be enhanced to use new and traditional engagement tools and activities to improve local residents and partners engagement with Local Networks.

Local Network Panels will govern and manage the affairs of Local Networks in ways that are clear and transparent and demonstrate accountability to the County Council, partner organisations, stakeholders and the wider community.

Local Networks will adopt a more strategic approach to their work and outcomes through focussed Local Network meetings and the development of an individual Local Network Plan in consultation with the County Durham Partnership and its thematic partnerships. Local Network Plans will help inform strategic priorities and identify opportunities for increased joined up working between Local Networks, partners and other DCC services.

Local network plans will be informed by community views (residents and partners) facilitated by Local Network meetings and locality events, consultation and engagement with the County Durham Community Network and County Durham Partnership and its' thematic partnership sub groups and by utilising greater use of empirical data via a unique local profile (e.g. robust and detailed view on the profile and demographics of the Local Network area).

The new model will, in summary:

- Be a rebranded model that attracts new participation and places the emphasis on creating and supporting Local Networks.
- Be aligned to the current boundaries with current staffing structure and resource.
- Repurpose and better utilise the AAP Forum to a new rebranded Durham Community Network that will look at new ways of engaging communities.



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- Adopt a more strategic approach to the work of the Local Networks through the development of Local Network Plans.
- Build closer working relationships with the County Durham Partnership and its thematic partnerships who will be invited to help shape the development of Local Network Plans.
- Introduce a four-year funding planning cycle that will remove the need for meeting end of year spend and allowing more strategic planning.
- Provide opportunities to engage more with communities via the work on establishing Local Network Plans.
- Introduce a significantly simplified funding process for Neighbourhood and Core Budgets, including no decisions being taken at Local Panels on Elected Members' Neighbourhood Budgets.
- Local Networks Panels will replace AAP Boards but maintain main elements of the Board remit.
- Local Network Panels will maintain a non-political nature and consist of twenty-one members made up of seven Elected Members (six County Councillors and one Town /Parish Councillor), seven partner representatives and seven community representatives. Community representatives cannot be Town/Parish Councillors and/or office holders of political parties.

Next Steps

New governance, including Terms of Reference, will clearly define the purpose, structure and functions of the Local Networks.

New governance, including Terms of Reference, will go to DCC Cabinet in September 2024, prior to launch of Local Networks in April 2025

The Chair advised she thought this was going in the right direction, however the fear is that the personell to support the change to Local Networks may not be adequate enough.

Cllr Julie Scurfield advised that her thoughts were, if it's not broken, don't fix it.

Michael advised the consultation phase of the review should that AAPs were generally held in high regard.

Clare Todd advised the cost of the rebranding seems to be a waste of money. Clare added that these things could have been looked at within the AAPs. Clare highlighted concerns about Parish Councillors not being able to apply as community representatives and the potential loss of local knowledge.

It was highlighted that , if Parish Councillors were unable to apply, they may be a shortage of community representatives. Most are neutral and they have a lot of knowledge of their local areas.

The Chair highlighted that she agreed if all public representatives stood down after four years, we may struggle to recruit. The Chair asked for the comments of the Board to be forwarded on.



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Howell Davies asked what was meant by 'the forum'. Michael advised this was a database of people who received information from their local AAP.

Michael advised this was pivotal to the report. Michael advised the focus would be on less meetings/administration and more working in communities with more localised plans. A key focus would be broadening engagement and working with, for example, online methods of engagement.

Cllr Phil Heaviside highlighted that things stagnate if they don't change. Cllr Heaviside stated that, if you had asked 100 people if they had heard of AAPs and what they did, many would say no. Cllr Heaviside added that there was a need for change.

A Forum Member who has recently re-engaged with the AAP, highlighted that meetings became uninteresting. He believed a refresh was a good idea.

A Forum Member noted that County Councillors needed to be as engaged as possible, moving forward.

Task & Finish Group Update Reports

Community Support

During 2022/2023, the Task Group's focus was around work taking place to develop the Mental Health Transformation Plan, led by DCC Public Health and Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV). This in turn linked to the Durham Mental Wellbeing Alliance being the 'front door' for quicker/easier access to mental health services across the Chester-le-Street & District AAP area. This is currently taking place virtually and is proving very successful.

This has led to work being undertaken with members of the Durham Mental Wellbeing Alliance to look at gaps around mental health provision. This then led to both If U Care Share and Aspire Learning Support & Wellbeing applying for funding to support their work locally. Both applications were supported by the AAP Board at the January 2023 Board Meeting.

Work is currently on-going with the Durham Mental Wellbeing Alliance to support the development of a physical base in the centre of Chester-le-Street. Members of the alliance attended the May 2023 AAP Board Meeting to present 'Delivering Community Health Transformation' where this was raised as a need within the community.

Recently, the Task Group have been made aware of issues in and around Chester-le-Street Railway Station, which has been added to the Action Plan and will form part of their on-going focus and work. The action plan is available on request.

The Chair thanked Allyson for the report. The Chair asked regarding the Mental Wellbeing Alliance, have they considered outreach into community buildings? Allyson advised they were looking into this and talking to foodbanks and others about co-location.

Cost of Living

During 2022-2023 financial year, the Task Group recommended four projects that were ultimately approved by the Board.



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Durham Works received funding for a small grant pot to help young people access support to assist them into employment. Items such as CSC cards, tools for welding courses and childcare costs are examples of the costs that can be supported through the scheme.

Heaven's Kitchen were funded to help extend the lunch time offer of free food by helping to redevelop their kitchen to meet the growing needs of the wider community.

Pelton Community Centre were funded to deliver warm packs throughout the winter period, working in partnership with voluntary groups across the AAP area. Over 200 packs have been given out so far to those most in need.

North East First Credit Union were funded to deliver financial surgeries to encourage residents to get support and advice in relation to their finances. The project also included a targeted leaflet drop to residents across the AAP area.

Towns and Villages

Over the past year, the Task Group have had a number of projects approved in relation to tackling and improving out town and village centres.

The Towns and Villages Programme has enabled the group to recommend a number of schemes for approval that deliver throughout the whole of the AAP area.

As well as the projects aligned to the Towns and Villages Programme funding, the Task Group have also continued to support other schemes that have and will hopefully have a positive impact, in the main, on Chester-le-Street town centre. These projects include the delivery of the annual Christmas Event, Market Activity Week, Chester-le-Street Town Centre Banner scheme and the Chester-le-Street Town Centre Defibrillator project.

Recently the Task Group have received presentations from Graham Sault (Canny Insights), Durham County Council (DCC) Planning and Durham County Cricket Club.

Further presentations are planned, which will include DCC Community Economic Development Team, who will be attending the next meeting of the Task Group in September 2023.

Work will continue within the Task Group to look at ways they can positively contribute to improvements throughout the towns and villages within the Chester-le-Street & District AAP area.

Howell Davies advised these task groups are always looking for people to attend the meetings.

Open Water Safety

Michael advised that a 5-minute video, which the group had commissioned, would be shown to attendees. Michael added that the video will hopefully be shown in schools countywide to highlight the dangers of open water.

Clare Todd thanked the Fire Service and all other partners involved in the collaboration.

The Chair suggested taking the presentation into Youth Clubs etc and spreading the message as far and wide as possible.

Laura Sloan noted that there was a shorter two minute version of the video, available online.

Holiday Activities with Healthy Food (HAWHF) Report

Allyson highlighted eleven applications were approved for funding by the AAP Funding Assessment Panel, totalling £38,028. This would leave £11,021 for the Christmas programme. The projects approved were as follows:

Organisation	HAWHF Funding Allocated	Match Funding	Beneficiaries	Geographical Area/s Covered
Bullion Community Resource Centre To provide arts and crafts, indoor archery, exercise and quizzes.	£2,310	£0	70	All areas. Building is located within the Chester-le-Street West/Central Ward
Pelton Fell Community Partnership To provide over 90 hours of dedicated holiday activities	£10,650	£2,695	115	Pelton Fell and Chester-le-Street West/Central Ward
Pelton Youth Project To provide a total of twenty-three activities for young people, including healthy food.	£4,078	£12,996	160	All areas – Building is located within the Pelton Ward
Pelton Community Association To provide forest school activities, including outdoor play and food	£1,521	£50	40	Pelton and surrounding areas – Building is located within the Pelton Ward
Community Fitness CIC To provide fitness activities for children, alongside nutrition workshops and a healthy meal. The club is aimed at children aged 5-11years.	£3,240	£370	300	All areas – Building is located on Front Street, Chester-le-Street
Cornerstones Centre for the Community To provide three (in-person) sessions. Make Lunch provides space and resources for free play, colouring activities, board/card games, an active activity and a reflective activity.	£1,960	£478	80	All areas – Building is located on North Burns, Chester-le-Street
Fence Houses Community Centre To provide indoor football/dance drama and self-defence sessions with food.	£1,980	£0	40	Fence Houses and surrounding areas – Building is located within the Lumley Ward
Grange Villa Community Enterprise To deliver arts and crafts, movement sessions and games.	£1,253	£0	90	Grange Villa and surrounding areas – Building is located within the Pelton Ward
Little Treasures To provide physical activity, outdoor games and a mini science session with food	£775	£0	70	All areas – Activities taking place in Nettlesworth & Great Lumley



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OASES To provide twelve Nature Explorers play sessions for children and their families at two sites in CLS.	£3,332	£0	120	Sessions taking place at Hilda Park, South Pelaw and Millennium Green, Waldrige
Ouston Community Association To provide a sports party, dance and music party and arts and crafts sessions.	£2,272	£0	150	All areas – Sessions will be run from the centre at Ouston
MK Sports To provide fun packed sports activities for children aged 4-11 from Great Lumley Methodist Church	£4,656	£0	24	Sessions will run from Great Lumley Methodist Church
Total	£38,028	£16,589	1,259	

The Chair thanked Allyson for the report. The Chair highlighted these sessions needed to be promoted. The Chair asked if the AAP could circulate further information on what was free and wavailble for families in the six-week holiday period.

Action: AAP to circulate the information they have available to Board Members.

Neighbourhood Budget Report

Neighbourhood Budget Small Grant Allocations

Councillor Craig Martin – DCC Street Lighting – Dressing of Northlands Christmas Tree 2023

The aim of this project is to dress the Northlands Christmas tree at the beginning of the season in December 2023 and undress the tree at the end of the season in January 2024.

Declaration of Interest: None

NBSG Allocation: £948

Supported

Councillor Alan Bell and Councillor Phil Heaviside - Continuation of Great Lumley Toddlers

The aim of this project is to provide running costs for the toddler group to run twice a week during term times.

Declaration of Interest: None

NBSG Allocation: £999 (£499.50 per councillor)

Supported

Neighbourhood Budget Allocations

Councillor Craig Martin – Park View School – North Lodge Library Project

The aim of this project is to offer a much improved area for students to attend before school at lunch and after school. This will include custom made shelving and book shelves, new tables and chairs and new flooring. This will enable the school to hold various clubs within this area and hopefully improve literacy levels.

Declaration of Interest: Cllr Martin is a Trustee

***NB Allocation: £17,000**

Agreed

Councillors Bill Moist and Paul Sexton – Chester le Street Town FC – Boundary Fence Renewal Project

The aim of this project is to renew storm damaged wood fencing and the replacement of metal boundary fence which will give better security to the complex on the east side of the ground. It will also assist with the meeting of National FA Ground Grading requirements, necessary to ensure the club retain both the men and ladies teams in the FA National League structures.

Declaration of Interest: None

NB Allocation: £2,000 (£1,000 per Councillor)

Supported

Councillors Alan Bell and Phil Heaviside – Bournmoor Cricket Club – Summer Festival

The aim of the project is to provide a summer festival for the local community to attend, free of charge. This event will be held over the bank holiday in August, using a host of volunteers. There are a number of activities for families to enjoy, whatever their demographic. There is live music throughout the event for the families to enjoy and this funding will help towards the costs of arranging the live music.

Declaration of Interest: None

NB Allocation: £ £2,000 (£1,000 per Councillor)

Supported

Partner Updates

Police

Sgt Stephen Clegg gave the update. Sgt Clegg introduced himself as the Neighbourhood Town Sgt.

Sgt Clegg highlighted a PCC funded initiative 'Trailblazer' that had taken place two weeks ago. This funding had allowed for police overtime to tackle ASB. In total, 122 hours were dedicated to tackling local problems. Over the two weeks, fifteen ASB reports were reduced to nine, with vehicle seizures and two cannabis farms located during this period. Social media updates were well received by members of the public.

Sgt Clegg highlighted that the Family Hub on Bullion Lane were doing great work with children via initiatives like Kids Anger Management courses.

Sgt Clegg noted the amount of work Adrian and Christine had put into this Market Activity Event and asked all in attendance to promote.

Sgt Clegg noted that, with regards off road motorcycles, more intelligence is coming in with residents talking to the PCSOs. Sgt Clegg added that the Police cannot do anything without the help of residents reporting. He highlighted the use of drones and long lensed cameras in the battle to overcome crime.

Fire & Rescue

Graeme Carr highlighted that they had also tapped into PCC funding to tackle 250 secondary fires. He further highlighted that the crews had been working with vulnerable people within the area and had carried out 500



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data lead home visits. Graeme thanked the partners who had worked with them on these visits.

Business

Joanne Malki highlighted that the Town Trail would be re-launched to run throughout August.

AAP Coordinators Update

Annual Report – Michael advised the Annual Report has now been signed off and will be available on the AAP website from next week.

AAP VCS Representative – Michael advised Colleen Baker was now in place.

Board Champions – Michael advised an allocation would be distributed soon to visit new projects.

Bus Board Representative – Michael asked for expressions of interested. Khaled Malki advised he would be interested in taking on the role.

Flood Defence – An information sheet was distributed. It was highlighted that the culvert had worked to help with flooding.

The Chair thanked everyone involved in helping with the down pour at the weekend. Clare thanked DCC for their response with the gully suckers to clear blocked drains.

Family Hub – Cllr Julie Scurfield asked that the Board invite someone to a future meeting to highlight their work.

The Chair thanked everybody for their attendance and wished them a safe journey home.

Date and Time of the next meeting

Monday 25th September. Venue TBC.