

East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership Minutes of the Board Meeting

Wednesday 24 January 2024

Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn, DH6 5AT

Board Members

Attendance: Cllr Chris Lines, Cllr David Brown, Cllr Jan Blakey, Cllr Gary Hutchinson, Tony Cutmore, Insp Sarah Honeyman, Angela Stobbart, Mark Readman, Melvyn Carr, Stuart Dunn, Allan Blakemore

Officer Attendance: Jane Bellis – AAP Co-ordinator
Claire Craft – Community Development Project Officer
Emma McLoughlin – Community Development Project Officer (Towns and Villages Team)
Marie Ainscough – AAP Support Officer

Presenter: Michelle Douglas-Allison, Rose Cottage Community Hub

Forum Members

Attendance: 4 forum members attended the meeting

Apologies: Cllr Chris Varty, Parish Cllr Sandra Dowson, Malcolm Gray, Dave Tempest, George Storey, Tim Dredge

1 Introductions and Apologies

Angela Stobbart, Chair welcomed everyone to the Board Meeting of the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership (EDRC AAP) and a round of introductions followed.

A warm welcome was offered to Michelle Douglas-Allison from Rose Cottage Community Hub. Michelle had been invited to the meeting to provide an update on The Wellbeing Project at Rose Cottage which the AAP had funded, see Item 7 below.

Apologies [as above].

The Chair highlighted that although the names of Board and Forum members are not included in the body of the minutes; advice given in relation to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), is that the board minutes are made public, therefore should anyone wish to remain anonymous they were to state this.

Anyone present who had a conflict of interest in any item on the agenda, was asked to declare an interest at the start of the agenda item to ensure this was formally recorded in the meeting minutes.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 November 2023 & Matters Arising

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3 Local Neighbourhood Issues (LNI)

3.1 Locality Policing Issues

Neighbourhood Insp Sarah Honeyman provided an update on local policing issues –

- ❖ Four firearms had been found in Fishburn and a male arrested.
- ❖ A male had been referred to the Youth Offending Team following his behaviour around Trimdon Village Hall.
- ❖ Durham is one of 16 'trailblazer' areas and £120k had been made available to tackle anti-social behaviour. This will be delivered in the Trimdon(s) and Sedgefield areas.
- ❖ Damage had been caused at Hardwicke Park.
- ❖ Staffing situation – Stephen Ward had replaced John. Have had a vacancy for a Sedgefield PC for the last 4 years and Sarah said she had someone lined up who had 4/5 years left to work and had a keen interest in rural crime. PCSO Amy had been replaced and a new starter is currently being trained.

Sarah explained that Sgt Kevin Hall had been in touch with the forum member who had raised concerns at the last board meeting.

Update from Neighbourhood Insp Phil Carter (Peterlee Team)

- ❖ Good progress had been made re prolific shoplifters and individuals will serve weeks in prison.
- ❖ Big issue with off road bikes; 3 had been seized in 3 weeks.
- ❖ 15-year-old male from Trimdon going to court.
- ❖ Team looking to do night shift following incidents around individuals going around trying door handles.

Update from Sgt Kevin Hall (Sherburn)

Usual Pact dates on are on Police.uk

Bowburn

Apparently there is a gap along the fence line above the A1 and Highways have said this is a policing issues top prevent injury and harm on the roads. I

don't know whether this has been raised before but they were very passionate about this. You are able to drive a vehicle through the side and land directly into the carriageway underneath.

B6121 is a 40 mph – it should be 20mph – These needs addressing. Speedwatch have provided ample data to demonstrate a reduction and the new chief is pro 20 mph so why isn't this done already?

Coxhoe

Take away drivers use the path to park outside the takeaway in Coxhoe and on the zebra crossing. They drive up and down the path and use this as a parking area and Police do nothing. Nothing is done about this and apparently this is placing the community at significant risk of harm.

I made it clear, DCC, speedwatch and Highways are all needed as part of the about to reduce, prevent and fund the plans. However, I said I would pass this on.

The meeting was opened for questions –

- It was highlighted that neighbourhood watch in Sedgefield had ceased.
- Discussion ensued around the Police Station in Newton Aycliffe. Sarah informed the meeting that they would be moving to another site, The Excel Centre for at least 18 months and would be looking for a permanent site on the industrial estate.
- The AAP team were thanked for their support on the work put in to getting the Fighting Loneliness through U3A activities project for Sedgefield and District U3A processed.
- A forum member who had previously raised his concerns, said the response from the Police on issues raised had not been good enough. Jane explained that Mark Readman, Head of Highways would be joining the meeting late and may be able to provide an update for him. She agreed to speak to Mark about this after the meeting.
- A question was asked about speed cameras and whether there were any plans to install them.
- Cllr Gary Hutchinson advised that a warning had been issued in relation to take away drivers using the path to park outside the takeaway in Coxhoe.
- Jane also agreed to speak to Mark Readman on an issue raised about the 40mph speed limit in Parkhill.

4 [Community Engagement Review](#)

Jane Bellis, AAP Co-ordinator provided an update on the Community Engagement Review and explained that all AAP Co-ordinators had been allocated to sit on groups and these had started. The Board will be updated as these develop.

A Microsoft Teams group had been set up for AAP staff to feed in anything they felt was relevant.

Cllr Gary Hutchinson advised that boundaries were currently being looked at and would be going out to consultation.

5 Priority Updates (from Task Group and Project Leads)

[Tony Cutmore declared an interest in the following item of business]

5.1 Area Budget Projects

Board members approved the following Area Budget project and agreed to run the Girl Empowerment project alongside the new project out in the community rather than via Sedgefield Community College as the school weren't engaging on this. The aim of the project was to tackle anti-social behaviour and engage young people in activity. Following a meeting with colleagues from the Police who were originally going to be the applicant, and Tony from The Cornforth Partnership, it was agreed that The Cornforth Partnership would be the applicant.

- ❖ Football 5vies, The Cornforth Partnership - £14,372.01

{Cllr Chris Lines left the meeting}

No further task group meetings had been arranged and the AAP team are currently in the process of setting future board meeting dates.

5.2 February Half Term 2024 Fun and Food

We received five Fun and Food applications for February Half Term 2024 totalling £3,883.50. We were oversubscribed and worked with the fun and food team to ensure all applications could be funded within budget. The Board was happy to support -

- ❖ Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, Fishburn Youth Club - £560.00
- ❖ Creative Youth Opportunities CIC, February trash to treasure challenge - £825.00
- ❖ Deaf Hill Ward Regeneration Partnership, Feb fun - £868.50
[Cllr Jan Blakey declared an interest in the following Fun and Food project]
- ❖ DJ Evans Youth Club, Bowburn Youth Project, Feb Half term - £738.00
- ❖ Groundwork North-East, Eco Kids - £892.00

Tony Cutmore from The Cornforth Partnership highlighted that they had an underspend and Jane said she would speak to Tony about how best it could be spent.

6 Countywide Partner Issues:

6.1 Highways Issues

Mark Readman - Head of Highways, Durham County Council delivered a presentation on Highways Overview and the Capital Programme.

The meeting was opened for questions –

- ❖ A comment was made on road markings and Mark explained that the county council didn't have the budget to refresh them.
- ❖ A concern was raised about the state of the railings and bollards in Coxhoe. There was limited budget available for these works however if there were volunteers who were happy to paint them, the county council would provide the materials required to carry out the improvements.
- ❖ Mark agreed to investigate the visual signs on Durham Road in Sedgefield following a comment made.
- ❖ How much impact does storm damage/climate change have on the budgets?
- ❖ Mark confirmed that 32% of the profit made on highway schemes goes into the Medium-Term Financial Plan and reinvested into other council services.

7 Co-ordinator's Report

Jane sadly reported that Christine Carter, a public representative on the board was unwell and she and Marie would be arranging a visit. The board agreed that a card be sent to Christine.

Michelle Douglas-Allison from Rose Cottage Community Hub provided an update on The Wellbeing Project at Rose Cottage which the AAP had funded. Michelle firstly thanked the AAP for their support and gave a brief overview on how the project was running. 80 people use the hub each week and take part in various activities and some attendees are now teaching the sessions; with one lady running an art class which helps sustain the project. A craft shop had now opened selling fabric and they are selling crafts that people had made in the sessions. The project had helped many people who were suffering from social isolation and was bringing different communities together. It was suggested that a visit to the hub be organised.

8 Neighbourhood Budget Projects

The following Neighbourhood Budget projects were shared with the Board –

[Stuart Dunn declared an interest in the following neighbourhood budget project]

Name of Scheme: Coxhoe Banner Group Storage Case
Councillor(s): Jan Blakey / Gary Hutchinson / Maura McKeon
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £3,600.00

Name of Scheme: Verge Hardening – Dunelm Road
Councillor(s): Lucy Hovvels / Jake Miller / Chris Varty
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £22,235.00

The Board was happy for these projects to go ahead.

9 Date and time of next board meeting

Date and time of next meeting – Thursday 21 March 2024, 5.00 pm – Cassop Community Centre

Subsequent Board Meeting Date

- To be confirmed

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed.