

Durham Area Action Partnership Minutes of the Board Meeting
Tuesday 30 January 2024
Merryoaks Community Hall, Park House Road, Merryoaks, Durham,
DH1 3QF

Board Members

Attendance: Jen Straughan-Hawley, Dave Clarke, Sam Humble, Gary Tough, Victoria Ashfield, Cllr Lucy Hovvels, Cllr Bill Kellett, Cllr Lesley Mavin, Cllr Liz Brown, Hannah Shepherd, Paul Howard, Lee Alexander, Chris Tindale, Georgia Donohue, Colin Stephenson

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

Presenters: Tom Midgley, Nigel Bryson, Dr Anne Allen

Apologies Board: Cllr Eric Mavin, Sarah Burns, Maureen Boettcher, Sheela Bell, Gary Tidbury, Rebecca Ashby

Forum Members: 20 forum members attended the meeting

1 [Welcome from the Chair, Introductions and Apologies](#)

Jen Straughan-Hawley (Chair) welcomed everyone to the Durham AAP Board Meeting and Board members introduced themselves.

Craig asked if anyone objected to him taking photographs at tonight's meeting.

Apologies for absence, [as above].

2 [An introduction to Climate Fresk](#)

Tom Midgley provided a brief update on Climate Fresk, a workshop setting out the science of climate change and what we can do about it. Climate Fresk have offered to do a session for the AAP Board which Craig will look to organise with them.

3 Presentation: Police and Crime Commissioner's Officer

On behalf of Joy Allen, Nigel Bryson provided a general overview on some of the key things they had been dealing with. Joy Allen is coming towards the end of her term and the Police and Crime Commissioner election will take place in May.

Rachel Bacon was appointed at the end of last year as the new Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary.

Consultation had been carried out on the precept and a panel meeting will be held on Thursday 1st February, where they will be looking at the draft budget for the next financial year. Information on this will be made public after the meeting had taken place.

Work is ongoing around domestic abuse and violence against women and girls. The White Ribbon Campaign encouraged individuals and organisations to make consistent choices and actions so that women and girls may live their lives free from the fear of violence.

They continue to focus on homicide prevention and Durham Constabulary had introduced the use of a drug which overcomes the effects of a drug overdose. Officers had been trained and can provide life-saving treatment. They had also been involved in Road Safety Week.

The PCC has produced two annual reports up to the end of March 2024. Finance had been put into a variety of things like Farm Watch which was being reinforced and will be extending into further areas. Public accountability meetings had been held around retail crime and preventive work is being done. There is further information on YouTube about this and how the police are dealing with shoplifting. £4.4M had been granted over the next two years to tackle anti-social behaviour. Nigel reported that 80% of calls to the police are nothing to do with crime but are around other social issues.

The meeting was opened for questions –

- What % of the 80% of calls are to 101 and 999?
- Are there any plans for more CCTV? We have seen an increase in knife crime and off-road bikes is a big issue as well as shop lifting which CCTV would help with.
- Do we know how many more police officers will be employed and where the money will come from?
- Neighbourhood Watch - is there an opportunity for volunteers to be trained to help prevent drivers from speeding?

Andrea Petty agreed to get answers to the questions raised and feedback to Craig.

The Chair thanked Nigel for his presentation and he and Andrea left the meeting.

4 [Presentation: World Heritage Site](#)

Dr Anne Allen delivered a short presentation on the World Heritage Site and a short video was played. Work had started on the management plan for 2025-2035 and she was keen to know what people thought and gather their views.

The meeting was opened for questions –

- Can you explain where in this structure are the people who experience the site? Where is their voice?
Local organisations like the City of Durham Trust are already involved and there have been ‘meet and greets’ at events such as graduations. More does need to be done though.
- How do we create ownership and engage everyone as it’s such a special space?
Examples such as what happens at the Bowes museum were mentioned. The Oriental museum also has youth ambassadors.

Anne agreed to send social media information to Craig who was happy to share with our AAP networks.

If Board members are keen a more detailed discussion can be organised.

The Chair thanked Anne for her attendance, and she left the meeting.

5 [Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 November 2023](#)

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record subject to the following amendment –

- Page 8 – should read Dan Lonsdale – Students’ Union President and not Durham University

Matters Arising

Durham County Council’s Budget Consultation will be going to Full Council on 28 February 2024; papers can be viewed on the Durham County Council website.

Two projects that had been approved had received their offer letters -

1. Peskies Park
2. Durham Scouts

6 [Presentation: Project Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2023/24 \(October to December 2023\)](#)

Craig delivered a presentation on the Quarter 3 project progress report for the period 1 October 2023 – 31 December 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.

7 [Budget Updates](#)

Neighbourhood Budgets updates and approvals

The following neighbourhood budget projects were shared with the Board -

Name of Scheme: The 'LAB' Project

Councillor(s): Lesley Mavin

Interest Declared: Yes – Cllr Mavin is trustee of both Laurel Avenue and Belmont Community Associations

Amount: £1,000.00

Name of Scheme: Heaviside, Gilesgate – Salt Bin

Councillor(s): Lesley Mavin

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £1,405.00

Name of Scheme: St Cuthberts Churchyard Project

Councillor(s): Elizabeth Scott / Liz Brown / David Freeman / Richard Ormerod

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £17,290.00

Name of Scheme: St Cuthbert's Hospice – Car Park extension

Councillor(s): Elizabeth Scott / Liz Brown

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £7,267.00

Name of Scheme: Merryoaks Community Hall Fencing & Bollard

Councillor(s): Elizabeth Scott / Liz Brown

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £2,500.00

Name of Scheme: Rennys Lane Underpass Safety Fencing
Councillor(s): Eric Mavin
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £6,882.00

Name of Scheme: Musgrave Gardens Estate, Gilesgate 20 mph
Councillor(s): Christine Fletcher / Eric Mavin / Lesley Mavin
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £42,731.00

Name of Scheme: Redhills – Restoration of Gate and Gardens
Councillor(s): Elizabeth Scott / Liz Brown
Interest Declared: Yes – Cllr Elizabeth Scott is a Trustee
Amount: £7,267.00

Name of Scheme: Pride
Councillor(s): Liz Brown
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £3,092.00

The Board was happy for the projects to go ahead and the interest as declared.

Fun and Food (Holiday Activities with Healthy Food)

Durham AAP received 6 Fun and Food applications for February Half Term 2024 totalling £11,443.00. There was £7,781.50 available for this holiday period. All applications had been appraised by the AAP Team and Fun and Food Team. At a panel meeting the Board was happy to support the following projects -

1. Witton Gilbert Community Association - £500.00
2. Harbour Support - £500.00
3. Go the Distance - £1,747.50
4. MK Youth Sports - £1,108.50 (they originally applied for £4,770.00)
5. Cheesy Waffles - £990.00
6. Durham Area Youth - £2,935.50

The next round of fun and food funding is for Easter 2024 and the deadline for the submission of applications is 12 noon on 7 February 2024.

8 [Durham AAP Priorities 2024/25](#)

Board members had received a report, the purpose of which was to provide them with an opportunity to review and consider the priorities that Durham AAP would like to address in 2024/25. The report also outlined the options for board meeting formats, dates, and times.

Time was allotted on the agenda for round table discussions on what the priorities should be for 2024/25 and how meetings should be run going forward.

Craig proposed to collect the notes and update the themes and priorities list to include the comments made. He would draft the new priorities and send to Board members for their approval.

9 AAP / Coordinators / Chairs Update

Coordinator's Update

Craig had been involved in the work around The World Heritage Site and attended a MAPS meeting where they discussed Trailblazer (Anti Social Behaviour) funding. Some detached youth work will be starting in the city on a Friday night. He also attended a 'Vision for Durham City' meeting and rounded up by thanking the AAP team.

Chair's Update

No update.

10 Partner Updates

Police Update

Dave Clarke addressed the questions asked earlier on in the meeting following the presentation on the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner. *(Dave also provided additional information after the meeting which has been included).*

- There will be an uplift in extra police officers. They are currently being trained and there is a new style of entry.
There has been a considerable uplift in PC numbers (still awaiting numbers) and most response shifts are now at a reasonable strength. We are waiting for some of them to finish student period, when they will be able to specialise in things like neighbourhood policing / CID and to support communities in different ways. The uplift is from the government and is ongoing as we speak. We hope that the removal of the mandatory degree element for recruits will help us to attract more people from a diverse range of background, who may have been put off by the academic element.
- 80% of calls are not crime related but people should not stop ringing the police unless it can be signposted elsewhere.
This is quite a difficult question to answer as it's such a complex area on call demand and allocation. It's fair to say that many calls aren't 'crime' related, some of which aren't really police related, however, people ring the police as they don't know who else to turn to – which is something that we would never discourage as we are there to keep people safe. Some of the bigger picture concerns initiatives like 'right care, right person' which ensures that the care of individuals rests with the right professional, whether they be from the police or an alternative agency. The new Single Online Home and other improved IT systems will signpost people in the

right direction and the force control room are reporting huge improvements in call answering times following the implementation of an improved contact management team.

- Addressing issues around off-road bikes is a challenge. *Operation Endurance addresses off road motorcycle use – is slightly limited by the police riders availability, which is the most effective tool. We have now got long range cameras and other tactics and have started use Section 59 warning signs to allow us to seize bikes when first caught using antisocially.*
- 300 community speed watch sessions have taken place this year. If people would like to volunteer get in touch with the p[olice and they will sign you up. *We have completed nearly 300 community speed watch this year. The stats also help us get additional resources if identified as a speeding hotspot. If you'd like to volunteer get in touch and we will sign you up. You can contact one of the three NPT Sgts directly for the area where you live – if you aren't sure which section covers your home address you can put your postcode into <https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/> and it will tell you. The contact details are
City D1 – Sgt Dan Beardmore Daniel.beardmore@Durham.Police.uk
Framwellgate Section Office D4 & D5
Sgt Mark Mallatratt Mark.Mallatratt@Durham.Police.uk
Sherburn Section Office D2 & D3 Sgt Kevin Hall
Kevin.Hall@Durham.Police.uk*
- £150k have been allocated from safer streets funding and digital CCTV cameras are to be installed around the City and Gilesgate. *We have received £150k for an upgrade of the CCTV system in the city and Gilesgate areas, which will improve the quality of CCTV footage with the replacement of the aging cameras with digital upgrades. The same funding will purchase 11 moveable cameras for use in any areas that have identifiable problems. The use of these is under review as to whether they will be managed by police or council in relation to who will own the assets.*

The meeting over-ran, other partners who had an update was asked to provide this in writing and forward to Craig and these would be included in the board meeting minutes.

Update from the Smaller Councils – Cllr Maureen Boettcher

Meeting 15th February.

An agreed agenda is forwarded to the representatives of the Smaller Parish Councils in advance of the forum. Representatives have the opportunity to forward suggested agenda items raised in their parish. Representatives are encouraged to exchange their own views as well as those on behalf of their parish and to consider the wider implications of their decisions within the framework of CDALC and NALC. Agenda items are followed and the meeting is chaired by an elected representative or in his or her absence a vice chair. The meeting is minuted.

Both Larger and Smaller Councils' representatives agreed in principle on a motion raised regarding the Mayoral candidates policy on Parish and town councils. In smaller councils representatives discussed the option of each candidate making a written statement on policy.

11 [Any other Business](#)

None.

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

It was proposed that the next board meeting scheduled to take place on Tuesday 12 March 2024 be cancelled and moved to April which will be Durham AAP's Annual General Meeting. It was suggested that the meeting would be held on 16 April at 6.00 pm face to face. Board members were asked if they opposed to this decision. Craig said he would work with the Chair/Vice Chairs and set board meetings/task group meetings and application deadline dates.

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed.