

East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership Minutes of the
Board Meeting
Thursday 21 March 2024
(Virtual Meeting - held via Microsoft Teams)

Board Members

Attendance: Cllr Chris Varty, Cllr Gary Hutchinson, Cllr Jan Blakey, Cllr Chris Lines, Dave Tempest, Sarah Honeyman, Angela Stobbart, Mark Readman, Tony Cutmore, George Storey, Allan Blakemore, Stuart Dunn, Mel Carr

Officer Attendance: Jane Bellis – AAP Co-ordinator
Claire Craft – Community Development Project Officer
Marie Ainscough – AAP Support Officer

Forum Members

Attendance: 4 forum members attended the meeting

Apologies: Cllr Maura McKeon, Tim Dredge, Emma McLoughlin, Cllr David Brown, Parish Cllr Sandra Dowson

1 [Introductions and Apologies](#)

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

Everyone was reminded of the meeting etiquette.

A warm welcome was offered to Sharon Gray from Crimestoppers.

Apologies [see 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 24 January 2024 & Matters Arising](#)

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2024 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 –

- Team had reported increased foot and mobile patrols in Hardwick Park because of ASB reported issues. There had been several meetings to discuss options for problem solving. Issue was currently being discussed at MAPS.
- Off road bikes at telly tubby field; Traffic 183s had been issued.
- On 24 March a community tree planting event will be taking place. Wombles had been invited to attend.
- Issue with ASB at Trimdon Village Hall. Reports of criminal damage caused by youths.
- Following complaints at Sedgefield Hardwick School PCSOs had assisted the school and the parking campaign conducted a walk around with year 4 pupils.
- Sedgefield PACT meetings were up and running. Well attended.
- Police team had policed the annual ball game. Went smoothly but it had been decided a road closure would be put in place.
- Countywide and off-road bikes – funding for the drone and pilot around this had been agreed.
- Funding for e-bikes had been approved in Sedgefield.
- Internet safety presentations had been delivered across key stage 2 in both primary schools in Sedgefield.
- Sedgefield team had undertaken Operation Trailblazer, and this continues.

Update from Sgt Kevin Hall (Sherburn)

- Issues with off road bikes more frequently at the Kelloe Nature Reserve area.
- No highlighted ASB hotspots at present although Operation Trailblazer is ongoing.
- Usual PACT dates on police.uk website

Update from Neighbourhood Insp Phil Carter (Peterlee Team)

Nothing to report.

The meeting was opened for questions and comments –

- Cllr Chris Varty commended Dan and Sophie who had attended the recent PACT meeting in Trimdon Village. Traffic at the school had been reported to the County Council.
- Is there a procedure members of the public should be aware of in respect of the drones and off-road bikes?
- A forum member had previously reported an issue with an Evri driver entering a residential property. He agreed to get more details to forward to Sarah who said she would investigate further.
- The speed limit in Parkhill had been flagged up again. Would like a formal response in relation to this. Sarah was unable to provide an answer as it was not a Police matter. Cllr Gary Hutchinson advised that the Police were aware of the situation and a community speed watch would be taking place.
- In relation to the motorway bridge and safety concerns, Sgt Kevin Hall had referred this to the Highways Department. Mark Readman agreed to take a log of any actions that were highways related and allocate it to the traffic team to pick up.
- Issues were raised in relation to parking around the school in Cassop. Sarah agreed to arrange for the beat officers to contact George Storey. Mark Readman said he'd speak to the traffic team and get some guidance on parking around schools and feedback to the AAP.
- Which schools are you delivering the online cyber bullying training in? Sarah to put Sharon Gray in touch with the right people about this.
- Which areas will the drones for ASB be focussed on?
- As the local neighbourhood watch was no longer active, Cllr Chris Lines asked if he along with others could team up with Police outside of this meeting. Sarah agreed to forward a report Sophie had prepared to Chris.
- There were also school parking problems in Kelloe and Coxhoe, wardens had been out visiting the sites and warnings had been issued in Coxhoe.

4 Community Engagement Review

The groups that AAP Coordinators had been allocated to in relation to the review continue; some changes had started to take place, for example, Councillors had a contact in the Funding Team for any queries, in addition to being able to speak to the AAP Team. Jane to update with further progress as and when relevant.

5 Priority Updates (from Task Group and Project Leads)

5.1 Area Budget and Towns and Villages Projects

Jane announced that Emma McLoughlin, Community Development Project Officer (Towns and Villages Fund Team) would be leaving at the end of March. Emma had prepared a presentation but unfortunately was unable to join the meeting.

On behalf of Emma, Jane delivered her presentation on the Towns and Villages Fund, an allocation of funds to deliver localised projects to revitalise and enhance towns and villages. Projects could be capital or revenue with an aim to

make a real difference and a significant impact to beneficiaries within their communities. Each AAP received £210,000 Main Fund and each County Councillor received £10,000 each. Ten projects had been funded and delivered in this AAP area.

Jane personally thanked Emma for her hard work; she had been a valuable member of the team. On behalf of the Board, the Chair asked for their thanks and best wishes to be passed on to her.

6 Countywide Partner Issues:

6.1 Presentation – Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP)

Dave Tempest from County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service delivered a presentation on the Community Risk Management Plan 2024-2027. The presentation included information about them, their achievements, performance, and commitments.

From 16th February 2024 - 10th May 2024 you can take part in the consultation. To have your say:

- Visit the website and fill in the online survey <https://www.ddfire.gov.uk/community-risk-consultation>

[Community Risk Management Plan Consultation 2024 - 2027 \(smartsurvey.co.uk\)](https://www.ddfire.gov.uk/community-risk-consultation)



- Check out their twitter feed @CDDFRS and look for the survey link.
- Look at their Facebook page @ County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service and follow the link to the survey.

Due to the recent spate of fatalities in the county, and access issues created for the fire service; safe home visits were emphasised.

Dave agreed to speak to their communications team, and get back to the AAP as it wasn't stated where to send the completed surveys to.

Everyone was encouraged to take part in the consultation.

7 Co-ordinator's Report

Jane continued to attend countywide groups as well as local meetings, and recently arranged for a Coordinator from another AAP area to come along to the Public Health Suicide Prevention Alliance to discuss more ways of working in partnership to tackle clusters of suicides.

With it coming towards the year end, Jane reported that there were a couple of items that needed to be tabled.

Firstly Bowburn Play Area Improvements; Board members were asked to note that Cllr Hutchinson was contributing £10k and Cllr Blakey was contributing £5k, both from their Towns and Villages Neighbourhood Budget allocation.

[Stuart Dunn declared an interest in the following item of business]

Finally, Board Members had previously agreed to fund the Active Life Centre at Coxhoe for improvements to the entrance and gym, however, due to lower members post-covid and the increase in energy prices, this work was not being carried out which meant the centre had gone from making a surplus to losing money each month. They were therefore reluctant to use reserves as match funding for this project as they needed them to keep the centre running, while they make changes to close the gap in income and expenditure. They had recently turned their focus onto making the centre more energy efficient to reduce costs. Part of this had been the Solar Panels project which the AAP had part funded. The other project they thought would make a difference, was the installation of an additional set of doors at the entrance, as the heat escaped out of the doors when open and the reception area was very cold.

The Board agreed to fund an additional set of doors at the Active Life Centre at Coxhoe instead of what they had originally applied for.

Jane introduced Sharon Gray from Crimestoppers who was in attendance to explain her role. She started as a Fearless Outreach Worker in County Durham in November, however she did not start delivering until January. Fearless provides workshops and assemblies aimed at 11–18-year-olds in a school or youth setting and provides awareness sessions to professionals who work with young people and for parents/careers. She also provided some background information around her previous employment.

If anyone would like a copy of the monthly report which provided an overview of the work Sharon had been involved in, they were asked to let the AAP team know.

She will be doing her first campaign at the end of March/beginning of April based on snitching. This will run for 2 weeks and was funded from a countywide pot. Feedback to follow.

The meeting was opened for questions –

- Do you come out to community youth groups?
- Is the report available online?
- Are there barriers that you think the AAP and the breadth of the people we talk to, can do to help you?
- Will you be talking to the Children and Young People's Committee?

8 Neighbourhood Budget Projects

[Cllrs Chris Lines and Chris Varty declared an interest in the projects within their wards]

The following Neighbourhood Budget projects were shared with the Board –

Name of Scheme: Speed Matrix – Sedgefield & Fishburn
 Councillor(s): Chris Lines / David Brown
 Interest Declared: No
 Amount: £23,386 (£11,693 each)

Name of Scheme: Entry to Care and Care Leavers Packs
 Councillor(s): Jan Blakey / Chris Lines / Chris Varty
 Interest Declared: No
 Amount: £900 from EDRC Councillors / £18,200 total NB across the county

Name of Scheme: Armed Forces Day Event 2024
 Councillor(s): Lucy Hovvels / Jake Miller / Chris Varty
 Interest Declared: No
 Amount: £3,000.00

As there were no interests declared, Board Members noted the projects.

9 Date and time of next board meeting

Date and Time of Next Board Meeting – Tuesday 14 May 2024, 5.00 pm at Trimdon Grange Community Centre

Subsequent Board Meetings (all starting at 5.00 pm)

- Tuesday 16 July 2024 – Fishburn Community Centre
- Thursday 19 September 2024 - Bowburn Community Centre
- Tuesday 26 November 2024 – Coxhoe Village Hall
- Wednesday 22 January 2025 – Cassop Community Centre
- Thursday 27 March 2025 – venue to be arranged.

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed.