

Teesdale Action Partnership – Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Held: 31 January 2024

Microsoft Teams

Elected Members:

Cllr Robert Potts
Cllr Ted Henderson
Cllr Richard Bell – Vice Chair
Cllr George Richardson
Cllr James Rowlandson

Public Representatives:

Susan Bainbridge
Rachel Tweddle – Chair
Lynne Oxby
Elaine Laurie
Robin Brooks

Partner Representatives:

Craig Jewkes
Insp Ed Turner
Linda Bird – Vice Chair
Alison Clark
Bob Danby
Peter Locke

Co-opted Member:

Bob Danby - UTASS

Presenter:

Ruth Chittenden - Community Engagement Officer - The Story at Mount Oswald
Craig Jewkes – County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

Officer Attendance:

Adam White, TAP Coordinator
Annalisa Ward, TAP Community Development Project Officer
Peter Henderson, TV Community Development Project Officer
Emma Walton, TAP Support Officer

Observers: 7 x Forum Members

Apologies:

Christine Watters

Roger Peat

Cllr Wendy Greenfield (Town & Parish Council's Representative)

Teesdale Action Partnership Board Meeting

1. Welcome from Chair, Introductions and Apologies

RT welcomed everyone to the Board meeting of Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP).

EW confirmed that apologies for absence had been received, as noted above.

2. Declaration of Interest and Meeting Protocol

AW made the Board aware of the declaration of interest procedure and informed all Board members that this is a standard item on the agenda. **AW** informed the Board and Forum members of 'house rules/etiquette' for the meeting. **AW** asked Board members to be aware that the TAP team weren't recording the meeting but couldn't guarantee that other attendees wouldn't be making their own recording.

There were no declarations of interest.

AW reminded meeting observers they would be welcome to comment under Items 4,5 & 8 of today's agenda.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The draft minutes from the meeting held on 23 November 2023 have been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. **AW** reviewed the minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy.

Matters Arising:

Action 1 – page 2 - A forum member asked if a written update from Digital Durham can be obtained and circulated. **AW** confirmed that Alli Walker, Digital Durham will be attending the March Board meeting. In addition, a brief update was received yesterday. This update will be circulated to Board members and those Forum members in attendance. **(ACTION 1:AW)**

AW confirmed there were no outstanding actions. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed by the Board as a true and accurate record.

4. The Story at Mount Oswald

Board Members received a presentation from **Ruth Chittenden (RC)** - Community Engagement Officer, Durham County Council on the Story at Mount Oswald project. **RC** stated that the project will restore the grade II listed Mount Oswald to create a new local history centre for the county and a new register office. The centre will bring into one central location the story of the history and heritage of the county, told through historic records, photographs and objects. The building will host the Durham County Records Office, DLI Collection, Historic Environment Records and Archaeology, Historic Registration Records and local studies. It is anticipated the building will open in the early Summer.

RC provided an overview of upcoming activities that have been funded by the National Lottery.

RC provided an update on the work that has been taking place across the County including community led pop up displays, historical research groups in localities and wellbeing – reminiscence and intergenerational sessions.

A Q&A session took place, and the following points were noted:

RC asked the Board for any groups / organisation that would like to become involved in the programme. A **forum member** suggested linking with U3A and Bowes Museum.

RT asked if car parking is available at the site. **RC** confirmed there will be a car park onsite for 80 cars. It is also situated next to the park and ride.

A **forum member** stated that there are several artifacts that have been held at Bowes Museum and suggested speaking with Bowes to see if any collections can be used in future exhibitions. In addition, suggested using the Museum to host future exhibitions / sessions. **RC** stated a lot of the archaeology and historical collection was held at Bowes Museum this has now moved to Seven Hills, Spennymoor, to be held in the interim before being moved across to Mount Oswald.

RB queried that as a lot of documents have been digitised, including wills, would the original documents be retained. **RC** confirmed there are still hard copies of the documents that have been digitised. These documents were digitised with the primary focus of allowing more people to access collections and not as a way of replacement. **RC** stated that information regarding wills can be obtained by contacting the professionalised collections team.

RT thanked **RC** for the presentation.

5. One.Network

Board Members received a presentation from **Craig Jewkes (CJ)** – Station Manager, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service on One.Network. **CJ** gave an overview of the One.Network service. One.Networkt is a platform to plan, monitor, communicate and analyse traffic disruptions.

CJ reported that the fire service will continue to promote One.Network through their social media networks. **AW** offered the support of TAP to promote the resource available.

A Q&A session took place, and the following points were noted:

RD asked if future roadworks are logged on the site. **CJ** confirmed future roadworks are reported on the site and alternative routes are available.

Cllr RB reported that several complaints have been received regarding road works in Middleton in Teesdale. **Cllr RB** said that local councillors can only become involved if the roadworks are over running or if works have turned into a full road closure.

A **forum member** asked if utility / company works are logged on the site. **CJ** confirmed that utility companies have a responsibility to inform the council of the upcoming road works. They are required to pass on information and warning notices with regards to any obstructions or road closures. However, they do not need to apply for permission to undertake the works. The reporting and communication of roadworks is vital to emergency services.

A **forum member** suggested promoting this resource to the town and parish councils.

RT thanked **CJ** for the presentation.

6. Area Budget

AW notified the Board that there is one Area Budget application to review for East Shotton Improvements – East Shotton Campsite Committee on behalf of Girlguiding Durham South. This application is to allocate the remaining £5,066 Area Budget for 2023/24. The application has been considered by the Community Recovery Task and Finish Group and relevant service provider. **AW** stated that the application will be circulating to the Board for their consideration, via email, shortly. **AW** stressed that the application would need to be approved by at least three members from each sector of the Board. This is to ensure a 'quorate' decision. Once agreed the application will be forwarded to the DCC Funding Team for technical appraisal. If a 'quorate' decision isn't reached the application won't progress.

7. Neighbourhood Budget

AWard confirmed that a summary sheet for the NB proposals has been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. **AWard** gave a brief outline of each proposal.

7.1 Butterknowle Village - Hall improvements – New cooker and external CCTV

AWard confirmed that the request for NB is **£3,188** (£3,188 from Potts)

No comments were raised.

7.2 Mickelton Parish Council – Village Benches

AWard confirmed that the request for NB is **£1,200** (£600 each from Cllr Bell and Cllr Henderson)

A **forum member** commented positively on the 'Find and Fix' project.

No comments were raised.

AWard to forward the NB applications to the DCC Funding Team for technical appraisal.
(ACTION 2: AWard)

8. Locality Neighbourhood Issues

8.1 Locality Policing Issues

Insp Ed Turner gave an update on the key issues for the TAP area:

- There are no particular crime trends or patterns of note.
- Recorded crime has risen in Teesdale by 11% from 701 to 781 crimes. This rise is mirrored against the force average and nationally where there have been similar increases.
- Reported incidents to the police locally are up by 9% from 2390 to 2596.
- Currently 19-20% of all crime in Barnard Castle are solved- this is much higher than the national average of 6%.
- Teesdale is a low crime area. Crime types vary from car thefts, thefts, shop lifting, violent offences, and drug related incidents.

Cllr GR raised concerns with the reporting of incidents through the 101 service. **Insp ET** stated that the Police look through each log and investigate the information provided in these calls as appropriate.

AW confirmed that no neighbourhood issues have been raised in advance of the meeting. **AW** reported that TAP is aware of the ongoing issues regarding vehicles hitting Egglestone Bridge. The relevant Council officers are aware of the issue.

9. Coordinators Update

9.1 Area Budget Spend Profile

AW gave an overview of the Area Budget Spend Profile for 2023/24. The report includes the status of each project. A copy of the spend profile was circulated, in advance of the meeting, with the meeting papers.

AW stated that a more detailed update on the projects supported through TAP funding will be provided at the TAP AGM.

9.2 Quarterly Monitoring Updates

AW stated that the quarterly updates (Oct - Dec 2023) will be circulated to Board members shortly. **AW** stressed; if any Board members would like to submit individual comments for circulation that they are more than welcome to do so.

9.3 TAP Press Articles

The Board were provided with an update on the press coverage TAP has received in Teesdale Mercury over the November 2023 – January 2024 period.

10. Date/Time/Venue for Next Meeting

RT thanked Board members for attending the meeting.

A **forum member** suggested further promotion of upcoming Board presentations. **AW** stated at the March Board meeting there will be a presentation on Digital Durham and on the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan.

The TAP Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 13 March 2024, 6pm, at Cotherstone Village Hall.