

East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership Minutes of the
Board Meeting
Thursday 19 September 2024
(Virtual Meeting - held via Microsoft Teams)

Board Members

Attendance: Cllr Viv Anderson, Cllr Gary Hutchinson, Cllr Chris Lines, Angela Stobbart, Dave Tempest, Malcolm Gray, Allan Blakemore, Stuart Dunn, Dave Jasper, Mel Carr

Tim Dredge had problems joining the meeting.

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

Presenter: Jennifer Jones - Team Leader Community Action, Durham County Council

Forum Members

Attendance: 0 forum members attended the meeting

Apologies: Mark Readman, Neighbourhood Inspector Sarah Honeyman, Cllr Chris Varty, George Storey

1 [Introductions and Apologies](#)

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

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.

[Cllr Chris Lines declared an interest in the two Sedgefield projects]

2 [Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 July 2024 & Matters Arising](#)

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Jennifer Jones had been invited to come along to the meeting to give a short introduction to the Community Action Team project, which will be starting in Trimdon Station/Deaf Hill on 30 September. The project will be split into 3 phases over an 11 week period and residents, businesses and members of the local community will be asked for their input in areas and problems they would like the team to tackle. Face to face events and walkabouts are planned and telephone and paper surveys will be available.

The Chair thanked Jennifer for her update and one question was asked –

- Are you engaging with the Safer Neighbourhood Team at Believe Housing?

Jennifer left the meeting.

3 Countywide Partner Issues

3.1 Believe Grants Update

Angela Stobbart delivered a presentation on Believe Housing's Community grants programme – funding pots and the recently funded projects in the EDRC AAP area.

Further information on the grants available can be found on the website www.believehousing.co.uk/community-funding/ or email: CommunityGrant@believehousing.co.uk

Angela to send Marie information on the above to be included in September's edition of the e-bulletin.

It was highlighted in the presentation that applications were needed from Cassop, Kelloe and Quarrington Hill, and Cllr Viv Anderson agreed to raise this.

4 Priority Updates (from Task Group and Project Leads)

In relation to Area Budget, which included Youth Fund and Poverty Action Funding; we had £110,000 available to allocate this financial year.

We launched Area Budget on 17 July with a deadline of 30 August; four application packs were requested, and three were received totalling £22,851 which were discussed at the task group meeting on 17 September. Task group

members were happy to support all three projects and recommended that they be brought to this Board meeting for agreement. Board Members had received these applications with the board papers for information.

Board members were asked to promote the pot widely, and it was highlighted that particular interest be made to capital projects as there was over £15,000 left to allocate. Board members were asked if they had ideas for projects.

Board members considered the following applications -

1. Hardwick Park Waymarking and Interpretation Project - Durham County Council

An application had been received for £9,670 towards a total project cost of £16,951.

2. Craft and Sewing Club - From Loft to Loved Workshops CIC

An application had been received for £2,600 (Neighbourhood Budget) and £5,000 (Area Budget) towards a total project cost of £18,000.

3. N-Dance Trimdon 2.0 - Nuvo Wellbeing

An application had been received for £8,181 towards a total project cost of £8,931.

Board members were happy to support all three area budget projects and they were approved. There was £48,804 remaining, and the Area Project Callout will be relaunched on Monday via the e-bulletin.

Cllr Chris Lines commented in the chat function and said he would catch up with Jane regarding some potential capital projects for Area Budget, one of which was Station Road playing field goalposts.

5 [Co-ordinator's Report](#)

Quarterly monitoring returns are available to Board members upon request for any project whose lead had submitted them.

Jane continued to take part in other countywide groups and committees such as the Public Health Suicide Prevention Alliance, and the Teenage Pregnancy Steering Group, as well as local meetings.

In relation to the Community Engagement Review, AAP Coordinators and other AAP staff continued to take part in workstreams in relation to this; the results of the boundary review will be presented to Cabinet in November.

The Credit Union Officer that was appointed to work across East Durham and East Durham Rural Corridor AAPs had resigned so unfortunately this project was on hold until further notice.

6 Local Neighbourhood Issues (LNI)

6.1 Locality Policing Issues

Neighbourhood Inspector Sarah Honeyman was unable to attend the meeting but did provide the following written police update -

Update from Neighbourhood Insp Phil Carter (Peterlee Team)

We have had a strange couple of months as the riots affected staffing across the force, with us sending officers all over the country to support the policing effort. We are back to business as usual now thankfully.

For Sedgefield / Trimdon areas the team has recommenced PACT meetings - these have been Pop Up meetings in Sainsbury's so far as in the past they were not well attended, and we have found that more people approach us when we are in public places. We will advertise the upcoming meetings. There has been some vehicle crime in Sedgefield in recent weeks including the theft of a van in early September.

The Peterlee team have been carrying out work across their area and into all of the Trimdons, so far, the results have been:

- Stolen Land Rover recovered
- Drugs seized
- 3 arrests so far
- And loads of intelligence gathered with another few arrests to come in the pipeline

No updates from the Durham / Bowburn team - they have replied but have nothing to report of any note.

7 Neighbourhood Budget Projects

The following Neighbourhood Budget projects were shared with the Board –

Name of Scheme: Craft and Sewing Club – Loft to Loved Workshops CIC

Councillor(s): Chris Lines / David Brown

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £2,600

Name of Scheme: Hardwick Park Waymarking and Interpretation Project

Councillor(s): Chris Lines / David Brown

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £5,000

Name of Scheme: Outdoor Play Tunnels

Councillor(s): Jan Blakey / Gary Hutchinson

Interest Declared: Yes, Cllr Blakey is a school governor.

Amount: £3,000

Name of Scheme: Kelloe Play Area Sensory Panels
Councillor(s): Jan Blakey / Gary Hutchinson
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £1,836.44

Board Members noted the projects and the interest as declared.

8 [Date and time of next board meeting](#)

Date and Time of Next Board Meeting – Tuesday 26 November 2024, 5.00 pm
at Coxhoe Village Hall

Subsequent Board Meetings (all starting at 5.00 pm)

- Wednesday 22 January 2025 – Cassop Community Centre
- Thursday 27 March 2025 – Bowburn Community Centre

A joint board meeting of the East Durham Rural Corridor AAP and 4 Together Partnership had been arranged for Tuesday 22 October 2024 from 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm via Teams to discuss Durham County Council's Budget Consultation.

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed.