

DERWENT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the **DERWENT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP BOARD** was held in the Consett Salvation Army Hall, Consett on Wednesday, 27 September 2017 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT:

Councillors

Derek Hicks, Ivan Jewell, Alan Shield, Owen Temple and Alex Watson

Partner Organisations

Phillip Curran – Karbon Homes, Helen Lynch – DCC, Anne-Marie Parkin - Durham Community Action, Gary Scott - Derwentside Business Network and Insp Keith Wardle - Durham Constabulary

Public Representatives

Marlene Boyles, Rosemary Morris, Shelley O'Brien and Donna Summerson

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Watts Stelling - Elected Representatives, Craig Farrage - Co Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service - Partner Representative, Jeannette Harold and Christine Wotherspoon - Public Representatives

IN ATTENDANCE:

Corinne Walton - AAP Co-ordinator, Helen Pinkney - Community Development / Project Officer and Lynn Dougal - Support Officer

PRESENTERS:

None

Members of the Public – 17

1. Introductions

Corinne Walton welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced those who were giving a presentation.

Board members were given an opportunity to introduce themselves and apologies had been received as per the above.

The following declarations of interest were made from Shelley O'Brien, Mad Alice Theatre Company; Phillip Curran, Alzheimer's Society project; Insp Wardle, Safer Homes project and Cllr Temple, Derwentside Mind project.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting (19 July 2017)

Matters arising

Gary Scott gave an update on the Town Centre Partnership Board (TCPB) and said a meeting took place on 12 September, although it was not well attended, Board members looked at the GVA Grimley report in detail. Many of the items in the report could, in theory, be handled by the DVP and although some work has been delivered that was identified in the master plan, we are mindful there is to be a refresh of the master plan imminently.

Rosemary Morris said regarding a TCPB, the Grimley report stressed that a partnership approach was needed and it should have responsibility for developing a marketing strategy to promote the town, review planning applications for the town centre and have a monitoring role. Rather than create another structure, Rosemary suggested that the AAP handle those aspects of what Grimley is suggesting as opposed to creating a new structure.

John O'Connor (forum) thinks there should be a working group that focuses specifically on the regeneration of the town centre.

Cllr Watson said he and Cllr Shield met with Ian Thompson (DCC) and Stephen Howell (DCC) who have agreed to establish ownership of the commercial properties within Consett Town Centre. They also offered to provide information on a business scheme that operates in Durham City.

Cllr Shield clarified the group is called Business Improvement District (BID) which is established in the Durham City area. He also said that Ian Thompson was happy to meet with us and we should take up his offer as soon as possible.

Rosemary said the report highlighted the lack of skilled jobs and retail outlets which did not make the area attractive, therefore any group that is set up needs to take these issues into consideration.

Cllr Shield referred to a discussion he had with Terry Collins and he was advised that there is £3.4bn planned investment across County Durham. Cllr Shield is concerned that the north of the county may not benefit from this opportunity.

Cllrs Temple and Hicks expressed an interest in being part of the discussions with Ian Thompson and Cllr Jewell and would like to see the wider area supported and not just Consett Town Centre.

There were no further issues raised and the minutes were AGREED.

3. Task Group Update and Project Proposals 2017/18

Corinne gave a brief update on the task groups and before going on to discuss the project proposals, Rosemary advised that the STEM Routes proposal (under the Employment, enterprise and Training task group) is being withdrawn. Unfortunately Liam Weatherill from the Engineering Development Trust has left the organisation and a replacement has not been found. Consett Academy is concerned there will be no one to run the project and a decision has been made to withdraw the application and take it back to the task group for further discussions with the aim of it coming back to the board at a future date.

Corinne advised that £7,050 (for STEM Routes proposal) will go back into the Area Budget (AB) and the total budget available is £106,533.53. There is the potential to fund all the project proposals if the Board choose to do this.

Cllr Temple is concerned that if projects are awarded funding on a first come first served basis then there is the risk that there will be no funding available later on and some task groups will have had more money than others.

Cllr Shield noted that none of the project proposals related to Welfare Reform where £10k has been ring fenced.

Cllr Jewell thinks that applicants attending task group meetings should not be part of the decision making process.

Gary advised that task group members should declare an interest and that a consistent process for discussing projects should apply across all the task groups. For example, applicants could leave the room when their project is being discussed and should not take part in the decision making process.

Environment

Following a successful project callout, the task group received 12 project proposals totalling £99,087. The group reviewed all the proposals and recommended 6 projects for the Board to consider funding.

1. *Derwentcote Steel Furnace Carpark* - Skill Mill are proposing a clean-up and environmental maintenance project to restore and develop the Derwentcote Steel Furnace car park site, install picnic benches/seating, nesting boxes and bird feeders.

Funding request of £7,250 from the 17/18 Area Budget

Questions were raised as to whether this should be DCC's responsibility and there could be duplication of work as well as querying the long term sustainability of the site.

The Board agreed NOT to fund this project.

2. *Derwent Valley Environment Grant Fund and Tidy Village Competition* – local community groups and partnerships can apply to a small grants fund (£10k), held by the DVP, for projects aimed at improving the environment in their area. Also linked to the fund will be a Tidy Village Competition (£1k) which includes publicity and prizes.

Funding request of £11,000 from the 17/18 Area Budget

Board members could see the value in this type of project that enables the local community to take pride in and improve their environment and a comment was made that this is what the AAP is about.

Cllr Shield asked how the outcomes would be measured given the different villages involved. Corinne advised that those groups that apply to the scheme will be asked to complete a simplified application form and will be asked for specific outcomes they hope to achieve, number of people involved, areas that will be tidied up, equipment bought, etc. Also the RHS are keen to support us and they will have their own indicators.

The Board AGREED to fund this project.

3. *Go Green in the Derwent Valley* – delivered by Groundwork NE & Cumbria, residents are encouraged to travel in an environmentally friendly way and participate in guided cycle rides and walks.

Funding request of £6,790 from the 17/18 Area Budget

Cllr Shield would like to know what has been done with the £3.2m project funding the Land of Oak & Iron (LOI) has received and wondered how this project will supplement LOI's and not cause duplication. He suggested holding this in abeyance until we get clarity on what the LOI has achieved and what the outcomes are.

The Board agreed to defer the decision on this project until more information has been received.

4. *Watling Wood* – Durham Wildlife Trust will train volunteers to manage the wood. Funding will be used for a woodland survey, training sessions, equipment and plants and seeds.

Funding request of £3,785 from the 17/18 Area Budget

Gary said as this project is under the minimum threshold, we should wait to see what underspend is left in the budget, on this basis, the project was deferred for consideration until the next Board meeting.

5. *Waste Creations in Derwent Valley* – DCC’s Strategic Waste Management team will engage with local residents to encourage and promote waste prevention, reuse and recycling.

Funding request of £5,000 from the 17/18 Area Budget

There were concerns that this project may be duplicating services that are already in place and could not see the added value of the activities being proposed.

The Board agreed NOT to fund this project.

6. *Derwent Valley Street Trees and Hedgerow Improvement Planting* – a partnership project through Community Environmental Educational Developments (CEED) and North East Environment Network (NEEN), this project aims to raise awareness on the role of plant life for wildlife and the built environment.

Funding request of £12,640 from the 17/18 Area Budget

Rosemary would like to see the whole community involved in this project, rather than school children as they will be educated on environmental issues through school.

Cllr Shield thinks the schools should be contacted first to see if they can accommodate this and get their agreement before it is approved.

Corinne said OASES will approach the schools to gauge their interest; however the schools need to know what funding is available so they can make a decision. If the Board are in agreement we could get something from the school to say they are happy to engage before it progresses to full application stage.

Also OASES are keen to expand this project outside of the school and involve the wider community.

Cllr Temple asked which other secondary school would be involved as there is only one secondary school – Consett Academy - in the DVP area. Corinne advised St Bede’s in Lanchester would be approached as many children from the DVP area attend the school.

Cllr Shield enquired which 5 primary schools are involved. Corinne advised it would be on a first come first served basis and from past experience if we put a limit on the number of schools that can be involved; we tend to see a bigger up take from the schools. If it generates a lot of interest, OASES could look for further match funding to accommodate the additional school involvement.

The Board AGREED to fund this project on condition that match funding (if appropriate) is obtained and we receive commitment from the schools in the first instance.

Health & Wellbeing

Following a successful project callout, the task group received 13 project proposals totalling £180,370.25. After reviewing all the proposals, the group recommended 6 projects for the Board to consider funding.

John O (Forum) said when the task groups first meet they should know what the rules are, how much money they have been allocated (so we will have an idea of what we have to work with) and what the decision making process is. He was also concerned that if project proposals were rejected early on in order to keep money for later on, we may be left with an under spend if no groups come forward with alternative proposals.

Further discussions took place as to whether the task groups should limit the number of proposals that go to the Board, if there is a need to discuss project proposals further at Board meetings and perhaps the task groups should have executive powers to agree funding.

Although the task groups generally meet the applicants, discuss proposals and recommend projects to come to the Board, it is a two stage application process and the Board acts as a second check and to ask questions. Regarding the last point it was felt that Board members are custodians of the AB and should remain so, task groups have no delegated decision making responsibilities.

The Board then considered the following project proposals:

1. *Safer Homes* – this project, delivered by the Safer Neighbourhoods Policing Team in Consett, will supply and fit small security devices in the home to support a safe personal environment and help promote positive mental health.

Funding request of £5,000 from the 17/18 Area Budget

A question was asked if there are certain criteria for receiving equipment ie means tested benefits. Insp Wardle says there are no set criteria and anyone who is identified as vulnerable/in need of security will get this.

The Board AGREED to fund this project.

2. *Derwentside Mind* – this project aims to offer good quality mental health services to residents in the Derwent Valley area through working with individuals to get the help, support and services they need.

Funding request of £6,912 (part funded) from the 17/18 Area Budget

Corinne said the original proposal for £10,512 has now been reduced as funds have been received from elsewhere, therefore this is a part funded request of £6,912.

The Board AGREED to fund this project.

3. *Growing up healthy and safe* – run by the Pre-School Learning Alliance, this project will visit toddler groups in the DVP area focusing on advice and activities around healthy eating, home safety and keeping active.

Funding request of £5,637.50 from the 17/18 Area Budget

Although we have funded projects, with a lot of success, targeted at this age group, Rosemary said obesity rates for children in Year 6 and upwards are worrying and would like to see projects that are aimed at older children.

The Board AGREED to fund this project.

4. *Falling on your Feet* – Helix Arts' dance for health programme is aimed at older people (65+) and addresses mental health issues older people can face around isolation and loneliness.

Funding request of £12,570 (2 cohorts as opposed to 4 cohorts as originally proposed) from the 17/18 Area Budget

Corinne advised that the original proposal was for £25,140 and after a review from the task group they felt that it should be scaled down to 2 cohorts at a cost of £12,570.

There were concerns that this project may duplicate what is already out there, if the target numbers are not met do they still receive full payment and also the recruitment process seems rather vague.

Shelley O'Brien said that this organisation receives money from the Arts Council and a lot of that money goes on management fees. Although she sees the benefit of dance, she feels the management fee is too high.

The Board agreed NOT to fund this project.

5. *She Wins All The Races - A tragicomedy with Biscuits* – Mad Alice Theatre Company's performance, workshops and drama project aims to improve young people's self-confidence and self-esteem through addressing emotional/personal difficulties through the arts.

Funding request of £10,087 from the 17/18 Area Budget

It was noted that over £26k match funding has been obtained compared to the amount requested from the area budget and that Shelley had contacted DCA for links to young carers groups.

The Board AGREED to fund this project.

6. *Dementia Friendly Communities Co-ordinator* – this 2 year project will work across the DVP and neighbouring AAPs (subject to funding) to develop Dementia Friendly Communities. The project aims to raise awareness, reduce stigma and support people affected by dementia.

Funding request of £12,453.75 from the 17/18 Area Budget

Corinne advised that this is a joint partnership project with Mid Durham, Stanley and Chester le Street AAPs and will also work with the County Durham Housing Association Forum partners. The co-ordinator's post is for 35 hours per week, whereby 21 hours will be allocated across the 4 AAPs with each AAP allocated 5.5 hours which equate to 1 day per week. The remaining 14 hours per week will be allocated to the Housing Association Forum.

Rosemary wondered if an analysis had been carried out to ascertain if there was a greater need in one area over another which could affect how the hours were allocated.

Cllr Jewell thinks the co-ordinator's post of 1 day per week is not the most effective use of time and suggested they cover one AAP for a quarter of the year and review what happened in that area before moving on to the next. It was noted that this could be explored.

The Board AGREED to fund this project.

Employment, Enterprise & Training

As discussed earlier there are no project proposals at this time due to the removal of the STEM project for consideration.

To summarise, the Board AGREED to fund the following project proposals:

Environment Task Group

- Derwent Valley Environment Grant Fund and Tidy Village Competition
- Derwent Valley Street Trees and Hedgerow Improvement Planting

Total request £23,640

Health & Wellbeing Task Group

- Safer Homes
- Derwentside Mind
- Growing Up Healthy and Safe
- She Wins All the Races
- Dementia Friendly Communities Coordinator

Total request £40,090.25

4. Derwent Valley Partnership Events 2017/18

Corinne said AAPs usually hold a winter Forum in November which coincides with the local priority voting and any DCC consultations. This year, the DVP will not be holding a winter Forum; however the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) consultation, which DCC hold annually, will be presented at the October Board meeting.

Corinne asked the Board to consider hosting a small scale Christmas event in Middle Street which would focus on the Christmas tree lights switch on and include some light entertainment. This would take place early December, perhaps linking it with Small Business Saturday which is on Saturday 2 December.

5. AAP Priorities 2018/19

At the last Board meeting there was a brief discussion around keeping the current priorities (Environment, Health & wellbeing and Employment, enterprise & training) for another year. This would mean there would be no local priority voting at the end of this year.

The Board AGREED to retain the current priorities for 2018/19.

6. DVP Youth Fund Update

Corinne gave an update on the Youth Fund and advised 24 expressions of interest were made to the DVP, however only 6 completed applications were received. The Youth Fund Panel met on 24 August to review 6 applications and the outcome is as follows:

Organisation	Project Name	Cost	Total Cost	Outcome
Consett Cricket Club	Cricket Taster Sessions	£1,080	£1,080	£0
React! Youth Theatre	Adventures of Mr Toad performance	£1,800	£12,000	£1,000
Go Ahead Training	Bring Your Kids Coding 2018 conference	£3,000	£3,000	£2,457.50
Consett Phoenix Youth	Recording the Phoenix music workshops	£2,987	£3,487	£2,987

CBS Theatre Group	Cbees Youth Theatre and Performance	£2,000	£25,000	£1,000
Spotlight Community Theatre	Performance Without Limits portable staging	£3,000	£3,162.81	£2,457.50

The fully and part funded project applications are currently being processed by the AAP Funding Team and all projects will be subjected to monitoring at the same level as the AB projects.

7. Any Other Business

Consett NPT Police Update September 2017

Insp Wardle gave an update on the Consett and Stanley areas:

- There has been a small increase in burglary and theft from motor vehicles. Volunteers involved in the SPEEDWATCH programme at Consett have visited car parks in the Consett area to identify vulnerable vehicles.
- There have been issues with ASB and excessive noise from vehicles in and around Morrison's car park – action has been taken and the car park is looking at installing ANPR cameras.
- ASB incidents have been reported in McDonalds and KFC in Consett involving groups of youths.
- Due to the dark nights creeping in, they are experiencing an increase in dwelling burglaries and Insp Wardle asked everyone to ensure their properties and vehicles are secure.

Derwentside continues to be a hot spot in the country for suicides and have recently dealt with several tragic incidents. Durham Constabulary has mental health workers working alongside them and they work with If U Care Share Foundation. He said over 40% of their work involves mental health issues and in the period January to July Consett and Stanley dealt with 460 reports of suicide and self-harm issues.

Insp Wardle said if anyone has any issues they would like to discuss, he will be available at the end of the meeting.

Gary thanked Insp Wardle for his input at the meeting and special thanks were extended to the police.

DVP Coordinator October 2017 – June 2018

Gary advised everyone that Corinne will be leaving to go on maternity leave on 13 October and Derek Snaith is taking over the role of the DVP Coordinator.

Corinne introduced Derek and said he will take up his role on 16 October. He is currently based at Chester Le Street AAP as Principal Community Development/Project Officer.

Derek did a brief introduction and said he is looking forward to working with everyone and the challenges it may bring. He wished Corinne well for the future.

On another note Cllr Shield said the Derwentside members met with the NHS Foundation Trust and the CCG last November regarding the future of Shotley Bridge Hospital. Cllrs Temple, Watson, Jewell and Shield are part of a Senior Member and Officer Group and will be meeting with NHS and CCG on a regular basis. In November, they were assured that a facility would be provided at Shotley Bridge or in North West Durham. However a facility in North West Durham is

not acceptable and they will be arguing the case for it to be in Consett and Shotley Bridge Hospital. Cllr Shield recommends that this become a core item.

Corinne advised that the Shotley Bridge Hospital Group will be attending the October Board meeting to give an update.

8. Meeting Close and Date of Next Meeting

Gary thanked Corinne for all her support and thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 October 2017 in the Salvation Army Hall, Consett at 6pm.

Signed as a correct record:

Date: