



Chester-le-Street & District Area Action Partnership (AAP) Board Meeting – Minutes

Monday 28th January 2019 at 6.00pm in the Parish Centre, Church Chare, Chester-le-Street

Present: **Elected Councillors**
Councillor Heather Liddle (Deputy)
Councillor Tracie Smith
Councillor Alison Batey
Elsie Forrester (Parish Council Representative)

Partner Organisations

Joyce Roberts (Business Association Representative)
Vacancy (Karbon Homes)
Mick Clark (Durham Fire & Rescue Service)
Inspector Dave Coxon (Durham Constabulary Representative)
Stephen Bramwell (North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group)

Public Representatives

Derek Briggs
Howell Davies
Khaled Malki
Jake Rollings (Chair)
Joanne Pugh
Janice Rokni

Officer Attendance: Fiona Kelly (Community Development / Project Officer) and Lesley Lines (AAP Support Officer).

Apologies: Councillor Linda Marshall, Sharon Gollan (Voluntary & Community Sector Representative), Ben Fisher, Councillor Allan Bainbridge, Councillor Paul Sexton, Councillor Danny Wood, Alan Patrickson (Durham County Council) Andrew Megginson (AAP, Principle Coordinator)

Public Attendance: 17 members of the AAP Public Forum attended to observe proceedings.

1. Housekeeping, Introduction and Apologies

Derek Snaith the outgoing AAP Principal Community Development / Project Officer attended the meeting to note his thanks for the support he had received during his 9 year tenure. He wished the Board every success in the future.

The Board thanked Derek and wished him well in his new role as Coordinator of Mid Durham AAP. Derek then left the meeting.

Jake Rollings, Chair of the AAP welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Apologies were noted as above.

Fiona Kelly attending on behalf of Andrew Megginson, ran through housekeeping and asked for any declarations of interest;

Declarations of Interest: Jake Rollings Item 6, Joyce Roberts, Heather Liddle, Alison Batey all declared an interest in elements of Item 5 – neighbourhood Budget

2. Agreement of minutes of the previous meeting, held 26th November 2018 and matters arising

Jake Rollings (Chair) went through each page of the minutes for accuracy. The Board agreed the minutes were a true and accurate record.

2.1 Matters Arising

Page 2 - Item 3 – Market Contract – Fiona highlighted Durham County Council is inviting proposals from businesses, community groups or interested parties who would be interested in operating Chester-le-Street and Seaham Markets. A five year contract will be awarded to each. For Chester-le-Street trading days are Tuesday, Fridays and Saturdays. Interested parties have until Wednesday 20th February to submit their proposals online.

3. Police Precept Consultation – Ron Hogg, Durham Police, Crime & Victims Commissioner

Ron Hogg – Durham Police, Crime & Victims Commissioner, gave a presentation to the Board on the proposed precept increase of 13.24% equating to £24.00 per year for a Band D property. He highlighted that from 2010 Government funding has been cut in real terms by 32%. About 75% of the money spent by the force comes from a Government grant, and the rest of it is paid by Council tax payers through the policing precept.

He highlighted that it was his job to make sure that the very best use was made of public money so that policing in County Durham and Darlington remains efficient and effective.

He added that Durham Constabulary remains the most efficient and effective police force in the country. Mr Hogg highlighted his determination to protect neighbourhood policing, so that there is an effective police presence in the area. However, the long-term reduction in Government funding, in real terms, means that front-line policing will be at risk unless the policing precept is increased.

A discussion took place around extra officers. Mr Hogg highlighted that the extra money would not increase the amount of officers but would allow the force to retain the officers they have. He further highlighted they were working with 56 apprentices giving young people an opportunity to work.

Elsie Forrester, Parish Councillor Representative for the area, highlighted a press report stating that the Office of Durham Police, Crime & Victims Commissioner has 18 support staff, she asked for clarification on the figure.

Mr Hogg explained that by law he had to have a Finance Officer, and a Chief Executive Officer, who to save money are shared between Durham and Cleveland making a saving of £250,000. 4 staff are part funded to look at the Criminal Justice System, they in theory pay for themselves. 4 of the staff are apprentices, and one is a Graduate.

Cllr Smith commended that we do get value for money from our Police Force who work with a proactive attitude. She also commended the PCSO's who also worked with a proactive attitude in the area.

Mr Hogg explained that more affluent areas were able to raise more money due to more 'Band H' homes. Durham County is the second poorest area in the country. Tees Valley will raise £17 million more than Durham because of the band system used to calculate precept rates.

Mr Hogg gave everyone a questionnaire and asked for any comments to be captured on the form.

The Chair thanked Ron for the information and invited everyone to contribute to the consultation by filling in the questionnaire.

4. Flood Prevention Scheme - Update

- 4.1 John Reed, Head of Technical Services gave an update on the scheme following confirmation of the EU Funding and the next steps for the scheme.

Work on a £6.2 million flood prevention scheme for Chester-le-Street will start later this month following the confirmation of funding.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has approved £2.79 million in funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the project.

Durham County Council had already committed up to £1.5 million to the scheme, with the remainder of the cash coming from the Environment Agency, which is contributing £1.9 million.

Chester-le-Street has a history of flooding and was particularly badly affected by a severe storm in June 2012. Opening up the culvert will not only help reduce the risk of flooding, it also give an opportunity to breathe new life into the town centre by using the water course as a focal point.

The money will allow the council to open up a 90m stretch of the Cong Burn, which runs underneath the town's Market Place. As well as reducing the risk of flooding, it is hoped that the move, which will see the watercourse transformed into an attractive landscape, will provide an economic boost to the town.

In terms of social value, John highlighted that the selected contractor Esh Group will contribute social value by supporting a local charitable group with a small grant. They also do lots of work with schools including 'Get into STEM', working with 12 schools across the county, and Initiatives which will include working with Hermitage Academy on site visit days. They will also employ a local worker and an apprentice from a local school.

The work will reinvigorate the existing 'red carpet' area of the market place, creating a location with the potential to host festivals and events as well as the existing market. This work - 'phase 1' to strengthen the area will start in March and include works on the Front Street this work will finish in April. In April the market will then move to this area. The deculverting work will begin April and continue until March 2020.

John highlighted as part of the scheme a budget of £34,000 for public art work is included. He added this work and subsequent consultation for the art, would be led by the Thriving Chester-le-Street AAP Task Group.

- 4.2 A discussion then took place around the artist's impressions and what will actually be delivered.

Some Forum members highlighted that certain aspects on the artist's impression were not included on the drawings submitted as part of the planning application. i.e. a wall around the watercourse. John advised that recommendations around health and safety of the watercourse were taken on board following 'Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents' (ROSPA) advice and a risk assessment process having been carried out; he added the planting shown on the artist's impression was designed to be a natural deterrent to stop people entering the water.

It was further highlighted that the black street furniture was replaced on the artist's impression. John advised that the existing furniture was not designed to be moved permanently, but once moved was identified as been too fragile to be used again, also the red carpet area has been expanded so more furniture would be needed.

Because it was unclear on the actual artist impression, John was asked if there was to be a wall around the open water. John advised that yes, there will be a wall.

Forum members asked about future maintenance to ensure the scheme looks good in the longer term. John advised there would be a contract with the Clean & Green Team & Environment Agency, to maintain the area.

The Chair thanked John for the informative presentation.

5. Neighbourhood Issues and a Summary of schemes being developed by local County Councillors within their Neighbourhood Budget

5.1 Neighbourhood issues raised by the public

The Market Contract – Fiona advised that Andrew would deal with this outside of the meeting.

Action Andrew

The Town Master Plan – A progress report was requested. Fiona advised she would follow this up.

Action Fiona

5.2 Fiona drew attention to the report within the information pack regarding neighbourhood budget contributions. She highlighted approval was needed from the Board for the five projects that held a declaration of interest.

***Councillors Simon Henig and Linda Marshall – The Brockwell Centre, Pelton Fell - Declaration of Interest**

The aim of this project is to replace the external double doors to the entrance lobby, replace a dishwasher which has broken down and contribute a sum to the continuing employment of the cleaner/caretaker of the centre. This work will ensure that the centre can continue to run and give some employment security for the member of staff.

Total Project Cost: £14,850

NB Allocation: £8,957 (split equally between Cllrs Simon Henig and Linda Marshall of £4,487.50 each)

Match Funding: £5,893

The Board approved the project

***Councillors Alan Bell and Audrey Willis – Fence Houses Community Assoc – Contribution to Capacity Building Support 2019 - Declaration of Interest**

The aim of this project is to support the Community Association to continue with the employment of Belinda Lewis from Bullion Community Resource Centre to provide additional capacity support to further develop the organization. This will assist the Association to go from strength to strength. This will include opportunities for funding support, refurbishment works to the building, and support for the trustees in managing the various elements associated with the centre.

Total Project Cost: £6,000

NB Allocation: £3,000 (split equally between Cllrs Alan Bell and Audrey Willis of £1,500 each)

Match Funding: £3,000

The Board approved the project

Councillors Allan Bainbridge, Beaty Bainbridge, Simon Henig, Heather Liddle, Linda Marshall, Craig Martin and Tracie Smith – Chester-le-Street Rowing Club – Quad Racing Boat

The aim of this project is to contribute to the purchase of a quad racing boat, for teams to take part in the Henley Regatta 2019 and other events. They currently have a high-spec boat on loan, and need this type

of boat to race competitively as several of their team members are at selection trials for GB rowing teams.

Total Project Cost: £7,500

NB Allocation: £3,500 (split equally between each Cllr of £500 each)

Match Funding: £4,000

Supported

Councillor Tracie Smith – DCC Clean & Green – Planting at Viador

The aim of this project is to install planting at the junction at Viador, Chester-le-Street as requested by local residents. This will enhance the area for residents and visitors. All work will be undertaken by DCC Clean & Green Team.

Total Project Cost: £7,761.85

NB Allocation: £4,000

Match Funding: £3,761.85

Supported

Cllrs Simon Henig and Linda Marshall – Chester West & Central Community Project – Capacity Support

The aim of this project is to contribute to the continuation of the Development Worker for the Chester West/Central Project, as an interim measure, whilst they confirm external support funding. The work will be split between running the project and undertaking courses with refugee families.

Total Project Cost: £3,000

NB Allocation: £3,000 (split equally between Cllrs Simon Henig and Linda Marshall of £1,500 each)

Match Funding: £0

Supported

***Cllrs Allan Bainbridge, Beaty Bainbridge, Simon Henig, Craig Martin, Linda Marshall, Paul Sexton and Tracie Smith – Regeneration & Local Services – Chester-le-Street Sea Cadets install new door and gas safety works - Declaration of Interest**

The aim of this project is to install a new door for the cadets to access the changing rooms/toilets from the boat deck, which is currently a safeguarding issue. Also there is an issues with the gas supply and a new solenoid gas valve is required – this is currently a health and safety issue.

All works will be undertaken by DCC Regeneration & Local Services Team.

Total Project Cost: £7,020.52

NB Allocation: £7,020.52 (split in the following way Cllrs Allan Bainbridge, Simon Henig, Linda Marshall and Paul Sexton £1,000 each, Cllr Craig Martin £2000 and Cllr Beaty Bainbridge £1020.52)

Match Funding: £0

The Board approved the project

***Cllrs Heather Liddle and Simon Wilson – Plawsworth & Kimblesworth CCC and Recreation Park – Installation of CCTV at Nettlesworth CC - Declaration of Interest**

The aim of this project is to replace old CCTV equipment with new. There have been a spate of burglaries in the area and the old system is inadequate and new equipment is required.

Total Project Cost: £2,238

NB Allocation: £2,238 (split equally between Cllrs Heather Liddle and Simon Wilson of £1,119 each)

Match Funding: £0

The Board approved the project

***Cllrs Alison Batey, Colin Carr and Danny Wood – Pelton Parish Council - Thornton Lea Play Area, Pelton – Declaration of Interest**

The aim of this project is to remove old play equipment which is a health and safety hazard, and replace with new. Match funding is being sought from Pocket Parks Plus, available via the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Pelton Parish Council are seeking for the land to be vested in their name and they will then take responsibility for maintenance and insurance. This park will support older children and young children.

Total Project Cost: £39,000

NB Allocation: £8,000 (split in the following way Cllrs Alison Batey and Colin Carr £1,000 each and Cllr Danny Wood £6,000)

Match Funding: £25,000 Pocket Parks Plus and £6,000 Pelton Parish Council –

The Board approved the project

- 6. Youth Fund – Allocations for 2018 / 2019** – Fiona gave an update on the 4 proposals that have been agreed by the Supporting Chester-le-Street & District Task Group Allocation of £9,920

As agreed by the AAP Board, the Youth Fund was allocated through a ‘Project Call Out’ approach.

At a specially convened AAP Board Funding Sub Group held on Friday 7th December (due to there being no AAP Board meeting in December), it was **agreed** to fund the following approaches for funding;

- Chester-le-Street Amazons Girls & Women’s FC – Project Active8
The aim of the project is to develop a holiday football fun zone during both the Easter & Summer of 2019 from 10.00am – 2.00pm, and DCC have agreed that this can take place from the One PointHub in Chester-le-Street. The project will be delivered by qualified football coaches. All sessions will contain an element of fitness training using the gym facilities at the One Point Hub and food will be prepared on site. Weekly fitness activities will take place with the young women on an evening from 6.00pm – 8.00pm to build strength, resilience and fitness. Referrals will also be accepted from the Families First and One Point Early Help Teams in Chester-le-Street. This project will address issues of poverty and mental health in young people and the issue of holiday hunger.
Youth Fund Allocation : £3,000
- If U Care Share Foundation – Emotional and mental health support sessions
The aim of the project is to provide emotional and mental health workshops in both Hermitage and Park View schools. Two days provision with 4 sessions each day, with a maximum of 40 pupils attending each session – which would mean that 160 people could be trained per day.
The workshops would use a variety of delivery styles to suit the young people including: videos, group work, discussions, quizzes, interactive activities and power point presentation. At the end of each session support information and resources would be provided to each attendee to assist with their mental health.
Youth Fund Allocation: £2,422
- Pelton Community Association – Grange Villa Youth Club
To continue the delivery of the recently developed youth work sessions in Grange Villa, which will support young people aged 8 – 14 years. To be held on a Friday evening from 5.00pm – 6.30pm. The sessions will start to address the issues of mental health and young people through key areas such as keeping active, eating healthily and group work education. Youth Workers will organise structured activities to develop lifelong skills including cookery and cooking on a budget – all done in an informal and fun environment.
Youth Fund Allocation: £3,000

- **Bullion Community Resource Centre (CRC) – Youth Outreach in Chester West**

This application was discussed by both the Funding Sub Group and the Supporting Chester-le-Street & District Task Group. Members found the approach a little confusing, as it seemed to have two very distinct elements which were competing against each other. The Task Group felt they would like to support the project but noted that they only had £1,480 left from the Youth Fund allocation. It was therefore recommended that this application be taken to the AAP Board Funding Sub Group to discuss.

Bullion CRC undertook a total re-work of the application, with a new project cost of £2,970 focussing just on the outreach work.

It was noted that there was still £2,000 outstanding of Targeted Grant allocation from the previous Health Action Group, and this could be utilised to fund the shortfall in funding for this project if agreed by the Supporting Chester-le-Street & District Task Group. This was discussed at their meeting on Thursday 10th January, where this approach was agreed. The following allocations would be confirmed as:

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Youth Fund Allocation | £1,480 |
| Health Action Group Targeted Fund Allocation | £1,490 |
| TOTAL ALLOCATION | <u>£2,970</u> |

All of the above applications have been submitted to the AAP Funding Team for a full technical assessment to be undertaken. The organisations will then receive their approval letter and terms and conditions of grant.

6.1 Update on Youth Fund Allocations from 2017/18

17YF – CHES01 – 1st Bournmoor Scouts – Project Kayaking – £3,000 – Original Project End Date - February 2019

This project was agreed by the Board and the application and background documents submitted to the AAP Funding Team for appraisal. Queries were raised by the Funding Team and requests have been made to the applicant organisation get answers to these queries. To date these queries have not been answered and therefore funding for this project has not been allocated. Dialogue has been maintained with the Scouts to assist with the appraisal process. The organisation have confirmed that they still wish the project to go ahead and they do still require the funding, The AAP have requested the return of the information as soon as possible.

17YF – CHES02 – Lumley Duke of Edinburgh - Licences - £2,970 – Project - Completed

These funds were to pay for Duke of Edinburgh licenses for 12 months. Also to take a group to Carlton Lodge to take part in a team building weekend. 18 young people aged 13-18 took part.

| Indicator | Target | Status |
|--|-----------|-----------------|
| AB1: No of voluntary & community groups supported | 1 | Achieved |
| CYP1: No of children and young people involved in schemes to help them make healthy choices | 18 | Achieved |
| CYP3: No of C&YP involved in schemes to help them maximise and realise their potential | 1 | Achieved |

17YF – CHES03 – EMDUK (The Keep Fit Association - KFA Dance – Dance Fitness Qualification - £900 – Project Completed

At the KFA National Championships in Nottingham, Northern Lights, the youngest group in the competition were runners up in the Dance and Movement Section and Fitness Freestyle. Members were placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Young Dancer Section. The KFA National Training Committee were so

impressed by their motivation and dedication, that they offered to come to Chester-le-Street to train this group to be Dance, Movement and Exercise Teachers. They will then achieve a nationally recognised qualification. Once qualified they will be able to teach their own classes.

Monitoring forms have now been sent out to this organisation, and we are awaiting their final return.

| Indicator | Target | Status |
|---|--------|------------------------|
| AW6: No of people undertaking formal training | 8 | 6 Achieved 2 to retake |

18AB-CHES001 / 17AB-CHES013 / 17YF-CHES004 - Pelton Community Association – Easter Programme 2018 – £3,000 – Project End Date - March 2019

The aim of the project was to engage with young people who are not currently accessing positive activities within their local communities. The project focused on mainly areas identified on the Index of Multiple Deprivation as within the top 10% most deprived communities, such as Perkinsville, West Pelton and Grange Villa.

This project was funded through a range of support as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Remaining 2017-18 Area Budget | £3049.50 |
| Remaining Youth Grant | £3032.00 |
| 2018-19 Area Budget | £3843.50 |

This project is being monitored through the Area Budget monitoring process.

| Indicator | Target | Status |
|--|--------|--------------|
| CYP3: No of schemes to help C&YP realise and maximise their potential | 120 | 122 Achieved |
| AH1: No of people involved in initiatives aimed at improving mental health/wellbeing | 30 | 24 |

7. Countywide Partner Updates –Key issues that need to be communicated at the meeting on any initiatives relevant to the AAP area

- 7.1 **Police** – Insp. Dave Coxon advised that the Sgt. for Pelton area Mick Richardson has now retired. He added Luke Terry will be his replacement and he will start imminently. Luke’s background is CID. 3 new PCSO’s have started their probation period working in the town.

Speed watch is ever present and will be continuing throughout the area with the involvement of community champions.

Insp. Coxon highlighted that this Saturday he would be spending a few hours volunteering at ReFuse. He added he would be more than happy to receive approaches to support any local events.

- 7.2 **Clinical Commissioning Group** – Steve Bramwell highlighted the 10 year plan was available online, he encouraged members to access it as it links to various elements of health and wellbeing - <https://www.northdurhamccg.nhs.uk/involve-me/stp/>

- 7.3 **Fire & Rescue Service** – Mick advised there had been 14 fires between December and January. All were caused by loose refuse.

- 7.4 **Business Sector** – Joyce Roberts advised she needed more people to be volunteers for the Community Resilience Plan.

8. **AAP Priorities for 2019/2020** Fiona highlighted the report which was for information only. It gave members a chance to see the initial survey results from the online AAP priority survey that was undertaken across all 14 AAPs. Over 8,500 people took part across County Durham. She added this item will be debated more fully at February's Board meeting and this report would give Board members the chance to consider the initial findings.

9. **AAP Funding**

9.1 Fiona highlighted the report which gave an over view of the current Area Budget Position and Projects in development for Board members information. Currently £33,554 is available for new project activity.

10. **AAP Coordinator Update**

10.1 Cricket World Cup – Fiona updated that the Cricket World Cup organising committee would take a lead in dressing the routes to the Riverside Ground and in recruiting around 180 volunteers to support the event at each ground. The Thriving Chester-le-Street Task group will focus their efforts around supporting town centre businesses to seize the opportunity presented by having more footfall around the area during the Cricket World Cup fixtures and may also have a role in adding value to a community festival that is currently being developed by the Durham County Cricket Club Foundation.

Fiona confirmed that organisers are working to mitigate any parking and transport issues presented by the Cricket World Cup fixtures being played at the Riverside Ground. Residents asked for parking permits to be enforced in the surrounding streets.

10.2 **Future AAP Board Meeting dates for 2019/20** – Fiona advised that forthcoming meeting dates had been kept to the fourth Monday of the month where possible. She highlighted that some meeting dates had been brought forward due to bank holidays and summer school holidays;

- Monday **25th February** 2019 (*already agreed*)
- Monday **25th March** 2019 (*already agreed*)
- Monday 29th April 2019 (moved back a week due to Easter Bank Holiday)
- **No Meeting in May**
- Monday 3rd June 2019 (moved back a week due to May BH)
- Monday 15th July 2019 (moved forward one week due to school holidays)
- **No Meeting in August**
- Monday 23rd Sept 2019
- Monday 28th October 2019
- Monday 25th November 2019
- **No meeting in December**
- Monday 27th January 2020
- Monday 24th February 2020
- Monday 23rd March 2020

The Board agreed the dates. Venue confirmed as The Parish Centre up to 29th April. From June venues yet to be confirmed.

11. **The Chair confirmed the date and time of the next meeting as:**

Monday 25th February 2019 – 6.00pm – 8.00pm
The Parish Centre, Church Chare, Chester-le-Street

