

## DERWENT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the **DERWENT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP BOARD** was held in Consett Salvation Army Hall on Wednesday, 17 July 2019 at 6.00pm.

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors**

Ivan Jewell, Alan Shield, Watts Stelling and Alex Watson.

**Partner Organisations**

Mark Clelland - Derwentside Trust, Gary Scott - Do Business Network (DBN) and Insp Keith Wardle - Durham Constabulary.

**Public Representatives**

Mike Clark, Jeannette Harold, Helen Marley, Susan Mellor, Shelley O'Brien and Donna Summerson.

**APOLOGIES:**

Craig Farrage - Co Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service, Rachel Rooney - Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Joanne Waller - Durham County Council (DCC) - Partner Representatives and Marlene Boyles - Public Representative.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Corinne Walton - AAP Co-ordinator, Kath Clements and Pete Garrod - Community Development / Project Officers, Lynn Dougal - Support Officer.

**PRESENTERS:**

Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships, DCC

Members of the Public – 11

**1. Durham History Centre**

Officers leading on the development of the Durham History Centre were in the refreshment room at the Salvation Army Hall. Display boards and information were available for Board and Forum members to look at and complete the survey on the proposed development.

**2. Introductions**

Corinne Walton welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Lorraine O'Donnell who was giving a presentation on the County Durham Vision. Board members introduced themselves and apologies were noted as above. There were no declarations of interest.

Before moving on to the next item, Jeannette Harold said she is delighted to be voted in as the new Chair. She has worked in Local Government, the Health Service and in the voluntary sector and currently runs her own Community Interest Company (CIC). She also volunteers in the community and is the Chair of the Eden Miners Centre in Leadgate.

Jeannette said as there is a lot to get through on the agenda, each item will be time limited.

**3. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting (22 May 2019)**

*Matters arising*

Page 8. Regarding BRASS, Corinne said the Board chose not to fund any Brass related activities this year, however some elected members expressed an interest in funding Brass activities in their local schools and funds have been secured from those who were interested.

There were no further comments or matters arising and the minutes were AGREED.

Jeannette reminded everyone about the exhibition on the Durham History Centre in the room next door.

#### 4. County Durham Vision 2035 – Our Future is Durham

*Lorraine O'Donnell gave a presentation on the County Durham Vision which has been developed to reflect the views and aspirations of the community and opportunities for improvement (a copy of the presentation is available upon request). Tom Gorman, Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager was also in attendance.*

The vision is changing as the Altogether themes have served us well over the last 10 years and the world has moved on in that time. We have achieved a lot since 2009 but we still have many challenges and things that we want to achieve into the future, therefore the vision is being revised to reflect this.

'Our Future is Durham' video was shown to everyone. The video is available to watch at <https://www.durham.gov.uk/vision>.

DCC are consulting on the final draft and asking residents, communities, businesses and special interest groups to feedback their responses to the following questions:

1. Do you agree that our Vision strikes the right balance of priorities and ambitions for the county?
2. We all need to work together to achieve our aspirations. How can we work together to achieve this?

Copies of the Recording/feedback Sheet on the Vision were given out at the meeting and Lorraine asked everyone to complete it.

Gary Scott said partnership working has made a huge impact and asked if DCC could work with local partnerships to help improve the infrastructure in this area. Lorraine said she would take this issue back.

Cllr Shield mentioned various development and employment opportunities around the county and asked what opportunities there are for this area. He said this area has the second highest housing development outside of Durham City and he fears this area will become a commuter belt for other areas. The County Durham Plan (CDP) states over 30k houses are to be built across County Durham and if we do not have the infrastructure (i.e. schools, roads, etc) some areas will prosper more than others.

Lorraine said she visited the Genesis site recently to see what has been developed and what other plans there are. Although we have sites like Bowburn and NetPark, the Genesis site is a great development opportunity. The comments made around infrastructure and facilities will be taken on board.

John O'Connor (Forum) thanked everyone who supported the Consett Cycle Festival, particularly the DVP team and the local Councillors who helped fund the event. He said it was very disappointing that they had still not been paid for the event and he will be taking this up with the Funding Team.

Regarding the vision statement, John said it is an ambition, but it does not say how it will be achieved. As the vision will form part of the CDP, he thinks the vision statement should come first and once it has been agreed, then incorporate it into the CDP. Yet it is the other way around and asked at what stage are the 2 documents brought together.

Lorraine said she was sorry to hear about the funding issue and said that this will be followed up.

The CDP was started in the previous vision i.e. Altogether Better and the vision was intrinsically linked to the plan at the time. Feedback from the CDP has also fed into the development of the vision too. We have worked quite hard to develop the two jointly and the CDP and any other strategies will be linked to the vision.

Cllr Watson said he would like to see more ambition on ways to improve the road networks and a commitment made to support and finance initiatives. Congestion at peak times is going to increase due to the growth in development in this area.

Lorraine said the vision will drive our bidding for government funding and support transport issues in the future.

Mike Clark said in the vision there are a lot of references to 'we' which he assumes is the County Council and there are not many references to partnerships. He feels this area has suffered as it is not considered a deprived area and funding gets focused elsewhere. He also asked why the private sector is not engaged from a development and lack of infrastructure point of view. He would like to see other partnerships (other than public sector) included in the document.

Lorraine said 'we' means the wider County Durham Partnership which businesses and the private sector are a part of. The private sector is on the CDP and the CDEP Boards as well as businesses represented in each AAP. However, this information needs to be made clearer if it is not coming across. The Powered by People campaign references all investment made by private, public and university sectors. We were not telling the story as effectively as we could so people came to us, hence the Powered by People campaign.

Donna Summerson said she is disappointed the Council has not looked further into green energy to help reduce fuel poverty, etc. Lorraine said at Full Council today they received a Climate Change Strategy. It is at draft stage and consultation is still to be agreed. Once finalised it will be going out to all AAPs and will include green energy and more.

Jeannette asked what the young people's priorities are and what gaps have they identified. Lorraine said from the young people's survey, not only did they highlight the issues for them, they also identified issues for older people.

Tom Gorman added that one of the big areas was around mental health in young people as well as transport issues and access to leisure opportunities.

Jeannette thanked Lorraine for the presentation and to both of them for answering questions.

Jeannette said if anyone has any further questions, they could fill in the feedback sheet and it will be collected at the end of the evening and passed to DCC.

## **5. Area Budget (AB) and Older Person Social Isolation Fund (OPSIF) project callout update and next steps**

Corinne gave an update on the project callouts for the AB and OPSIF.

The Board agreed to split the AB (£80k) and the OPSIF (£25k) between the three Task Groups with each group receiving £35k for projects that addressed the action plan themes and OPSIF. A project callout was launched on 12 June with a deadline of 12 July 2019 and was widely promoted on social media, local press, email, etc.

We received 21 expressions of interest, however the number of returned applications (11) was disappointing. We are not sure why the applications are low, but the team will look into this

further. As we have new action plans, groups/organisations may feel the themes/criteria are too restrictive.

After sifting the applications for eligibility, the split is as follows:

- EET: 5 - total funding request approx. £43k with match funding approx. £53k
- HAWB: 3 - total funding request approx. £29k with match funding approx. £16k
- Enviro: 2 - total funding request approx. £16k with match funding approx. £4k
- OPSIF (linked to HAWB): 1 - total funding request approx. £5k with no match funding

Total AB request across the 3 priorities is £92,468.54 with £12,531.46 remaining and £20,269.17 remains for OPSIF – subject to the project applications being successful.

The eligible applications will be presented to the respective task groups for comment/questions and returned to the DVP team by 26 July 2019. However, if an application is submitted by a task group member, they will not receive any applications to comment on they will only be invited to the task group meeting to present their project.

The comments from the task groups will be collated and then passed to the applicant for a response. The applicants will be invited to attend the respective task group in August and September to outline/discuss their project. The task groups' recommendations will be presented to the Board in September for the Board to decide which projects to fund.

In the meantime, more work needs to be done around the OPSIF monies as the call out for projects has not been successful. Last year the task groups came up with ideas and this is something the Board may wish to consider.

John O (Forum) suggested that the task group members come up with ideas as they tend to have good networks.

Mike Clark wondered if it was the criteria and/or eligibility that was the issue. As not for profit organisations can only apply, he feels this excludes residential homes, for example, who could deliver a project, especially linked to OPSIF. Corinne said the criteria for eligibility is policy and across all AAPs. The DVP ran advice and information sessions on the process and received ineligible applications from those who did not attend the sessions. However, those that did attend also sent in ineligible proposals. Corinne said more exploration needs to be done to ascertain the low turnout.

Shelley O'Brien asked if there was another call out, what is the latest date they could apply by and is there a cut off by the funding team. Corinne said there is no specific cutoff date, but they do need to allocate monies by 31 March 2020. After the September Board meeting, we will have an idea what monies are left and the Board can then decide how we move forward.

Cllr Shield wondered why there is a huge difference in the match funding especially in the Employment task group. Corinne said it could be down to the nature of the project and the other sources of funding they can apply for. Also, the match funding may or may not be secured.

Cllr Shield thinks the match funding should be clarified first so an informed decision can be made. Corinne said if the Board wishes to support a project with unsecured match funding, the funding would not be released until match funding was evidenced. Match funding is not essential but desirable and projects have worked well without match funding.

## *Youth Fund*

Corinne gave a brief update on the Youth Fund and said the Youth Panel met to review the applications and allocated the funding of £9,902 as follows:

- Consett Neighbourhood Police Team - Young person/s recognition award, received £1,082 (full request).
- Consett Churches Detached Youth Project – Drop in youth sessions, received £2,780 (part request).
- CBS Theatre Group - Pantomime, received £643.85 (part request).
- Consett Air Training Corps - Training and equipment, received £2,450.15 (part request).
- 1<sup>st</sup> Blackhill Scouts - Summer camp, received £1,146 (full request).
- Land of Oak & Iron - Heritage orienteering activities, received £1,800 (full request).

Corinne thanked those who took part in reviewing the applications.

## **6. DVP work plan – summer and winter 2019**

Corinne outlined the ongoing and planned work of the DVP team.

The OPSI Environment Small Grants Fund was launched on 3 July with a deadline of 2 August 2019. This money (£8,333) is from the 2018/19 financial year and is for environmental activities to engage older people (50+) to combat social isolation. Groups/organisations can apply for a grant of up to £2k with a minimum of £500. There have been 2 expressions of interest to date.

The Welfare Reform fund (£10k) will be launched shortly, for projects linked to reducing the impact of austerity through welfare reform, with a deadline of 30 August 2019.

Groups/organisations can apply for a grant of up to £10k with a minimum of £5k. There has been new guidance issued with stricter criteria, and applicants need to demonstrate they have the support of the Welfare Rights team to ensure there is no duplication in provision.

The 'Greening Derwent Valley' competition, through the Environment task group, will be open from 5 August and will close on 30 September 2019. There are 6 categories for people, businesses, schools, organisations – everyone - to enter. Judging will be in Spring, Summer and Autumn 2020 and there will be one winner per category and awarded a £100 voucher.

Flyers for the competition were available on the night and Corinne advised these will be distributed across the partnership area.

Corinne said as AAPs we get the opportunity to present at Full Council at County Hall. In the past we would present questions to Full Council and they would be answered. This year the AAPs are presenting at Full Council and the DVP will be there on 23 October 2019 at 10am. Jeannette, as Chair of the Board will present to Full Council to give them an update on the work of the Partnership.

Corinne said the DVP team are planning to go out and about and visit the various projects we have supported. The idea is to engage with the community more, take photos, increase publicity of the DVP, etc. Board members are welcome to come along too.

This year we will have Christmas in Consett on Saturday 30 November from 5.30 – 6.30pm in Middle Street. There will be entertainment and the Christmas Tree light switch on – more information will follow in due course.

Cllr Shield asked who decides who the winners are for the Greening Derwent Valley competition. Corinne said a judging panel needs to be set up and ideally will include a representative from

each of the 3 Board categories. Regarding the allotment category, clarification will be sought as to what can or cannot be grown.

Jeannette also added that the competition is not just about flowers and growing things but about improving the environment, e.g. recycling.

Mike asked for support from the DVP regarding the Visit Consett website, which is linked to the new footpath and heritage trail project. He would like help from the wider community, via the DVP, to contribute to the content on the website to ensure it is as attractive, informative and representative as possible, i.e. include events and activities in the Derwent Valley area.

He is looking for volunteers to be involved in this and who will speak to the website developer and content writer. Project Genesis Trust (PGT) is funding the website for 3 – 5 years and hopes the website will be useful to the community and help improve the visitor economy. He would also like to see the site attract sponsorship and advertisers to help sustain it.

Regarding the Greening Derwent Valley competition, Corinne said the Environment task group would like this to be an annual competition and hopefully get local businesses involved, e.g. to sponsor some of the prizes.

Corinne said in 2017 the DVP funded the Consett Destination Development Plan (CDDP) and within the document is an action plan that includes increasing heritage and promoting tourism. The DVP has plans to pick up the CDDP and create a working group to look at the actions within the plan.

## **7. Consett Cycle Festival feedback**

Many comments were made about the event being a huge success, well organised with a great turnout. Congratulations were made to John and all those who were involved. However, it was noted that the event was not publicised enough.

John O (PGT) said the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) process is very lengthy and they only received confirmation that the event had been passed by SAG on the Thursday before the event. Therefore, they were unable to publicise the event much earlier. As this event will be taking place next year, they have already started the SAG process so publicity should be available much sooner.

Cllr Shield said the event was partially funded by local councillors and happy to do so, however, the provision from DCC was disappointing. Both he and John have been in touch with Steve Howell at DCC with regards to extra funding for next year's event. He said he would also like to see the bike race extended across the Derwent Valley area to some of the outlying villages.

## **8. Partner updates**

Mark Clleland said Glenroyd House on Medomsley Road, Consett is offering a community fridge, freezer and pantry for people to access. The food is delivered to them on a Monday around 12.30pm and is available until it has gone. He asked everyone if they could help to spread the word about this. They have also opened a clothes bank and any donations would be greatly appreciated and again he asked everyone to pass this information on.

Insp Keith Wardle talked about a new scheme Durham Constabulary has introduced called Young Heroes, which has been partly funded through the DVP Youth Fund. The scheme recognises young people in our community who deserve recognition for their actions. People can nominate a young person who has had a positive impact in the community. Young people

generally get a lot of bad press, so this is a good way to promote the good things that they are doing/have done.

The first presentation took place in June at Consett Police Station and was awarded to 5 young people who intervened to help an individual who was having a mental health episode and feeling suicidal. Two presentations took place in July – a young girl who did litter picking and a young boy who helped an individual in distress.

A young person/s will be nominated each month and if anyone wants to nominate a young person for an award, please go to Consett Police's Facebook page.

An event is organised in 2020 at Consett AFC where all the nominees will be invited and formally recognised at a presentation ceremony.

On another note, over the last few days there has been a lot of activity with helicopters flying over the Consett area. This was in relation to someone who was wanted for domestic violence, arson and various offences; they have been arrested and in custody.

Cllr Jewell mentioned a Community Payback Scheme (CPS) where offenders are given community service orders. He said he will forward an email about this to Corinne to circulate as it asks local communities if they have any schemes the offenders could work on.

Cllr Shield said he and the Police have tried to engage with the Probation Service and wondered if this was the same scheme. The Probation Service agreed to offenders working in the community as long as Councillors/Police supervised them – which they could not do.

Cllr Jewell said it is a different scheme as the CPS is more formal and supervised.

Insp Wardle said he is not aware of the scheme and thinks it is through the Probation Service.

#### *Any other business*

A discussion ensued about the changes to bus services by Go North East. From Sunday 21 July 2019, bus timetables, zones, fares and bus numbers will be changing. It was established there was no information available (either at Stanley and Consett bus stations) other than on Go North East's website. A request was made that everyone look at Go North East's website and share the link/information as widely as possible. It was suggested that Go North East are contacted to ask them to engage in a public consultation.

John O (Forum) said as the town centre regeneration meetings have stopped, he asked Jeanette if she would like to restart them. Jeanette said she would like them to restart and was planning on discussing this with Mike Clark. In the meantime, she suggested her and John meet in August and progress from there.

Mike wondered if the consultation on Shotley Bridge Hospital (SBH) is still planned for September and if an update could be given at the September Board meeting. Corinne will contact Rachel Rooney to ask her to present at the next meeting.

## **9. Meeting Close and Date of Next Meeting**

Jeannette thanked everyone for their attendance and reminded everyone that the next Board meeting will be on Wednesday 25 September 2019 at 6pm in the Salvation Army Hall, Consett.

Signed as a correct record: .....

Date: .....