

**Culture, Tourism and Heritage Task Group**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017, 2:00pm**

**Function Room, Durham Dales Centre, Stanhope**

**Attendees:**

Tony Griffin (TG)	WAP Board Member (Chair)
Deborah Connell (DC)	Durham County Council
Kari Vickers (KV)	Tyne & Wear Building Preservation Trust
Kate Gill (KG)	WAP Forum Member
Oscar Watson (OW)	Durham Dales Centre
Phil Chatfield (PC)	WAP Board Member
Val Murray (VM)	Drama in the Dale
Val Livingston (VL)	Drama in the Dale / Weardale Visitor Network
Angelina Maddison (AM)	WAP Coordinator
Christine Davison (CD)	WAP Community Development Project Officer
Fiona Barber (FB)	WAP Support Officer

**Apologies:**

Anna Collins	Northern Heartlands
Beryl Brown	Stanhope Community Centre
Clare Benson	Weardale Visitor Network
Cllr Anita Savory	Unitary Councillor, WAP Board Member
Helen Barrass	Muggleswick Parish Council
Jane Henderson	Wolsingham Parish Council
Jennie Garrod	WAP Forum Member
Lisa Wall	Durham County Council
Mike Powell	Altogether Archaeology
Tariq Imam	Northern Heartlands
Tim Wright	Durham County Council

**Distribution List:**

Andrew Hutchinson	WAP Board Members (21 members)
Anne Marie Parkin	WAP Forum Member
Carol Oulton	Frosterley Village Hall
Chris Stephenson	WAP Forum Member
Craig Wilson	Bradley Burn Farm
Dave Sugden	Visit County Durham
David Heatherington	Wolsingham Parish Council
Debbie Watson	Weardale Visitor Network
Gillian Welsh	Durham County Council
Ian Forbes	Durham Dales Centre
Liz Gill	WAP Forum Member
Maria McArdle	Drama in the Dale
Marzia Aloisio	Killhope
Michelle Gorman	The Enterprise Agency
Olive Wilson	Visit County Durham
	Witton-le-Wear Parish Council

## Weardale Action Partnership 2017-18

Pam Forbes  
Sarah Hudspeth  
Shane Harris

WAP Forum Member  
WAP Forum Member  
North Pennines AONB  
Hunstanworth Community Association  
Muggleswick Parish Council  
Stanhope Parish Council  
Witton-le-Wear Parish Council  
Wolsingham Parish Council

### 1. **Introductions, Apologies and Declaration of Interest**

TG welcomed members to the meeting. Introductions were made around the table. Apologies are recorded above.

Any Declarations of Interest to be raised during the meeting. PC declared a potential Conflict of Interest due to his association with the Weardale Visitor Network.

### 2. **Terms of Reference**

The Terms of Reference outline how the Task group meetings are conducted, the purpose and remit of the meetings, the role of the Chair etc.

TG queried the brief of the group – is it to appraise project proposals or can the group proactively create initiatives? AM confirmed that the group could do both. She advised that some groups have contacted the WAP team during the last few months and had initial discussions about project proposals. Some of these have been brought to the group as a summary, others have representatives attending the meeting.

**Decision: The Task Group accepted the Terms of Reference**

### 3 **Discussion of Background Data (Delivery Plan)**

The Delivery Plan document is common to all of the Task Groups. Its purpose is to give an overview and flavour of the thoughts of the local community.

TG was enthusiastic regarding some of the project ideas contained in the document e.g. creating cycleways. AM advised that some of these projects would require funding in excess of our budget but that it is within the remit of this group to work with larger organisations if the group felt this is the right thing to do.

AM confirmed that there are no projects being carried over from the previous financial year.

TG asked whether the Tourist Board have a master plan for Weardale. DC informed the group that Visit County Durham have a destination model with Durham City as a hub and spreading into the wider county. AM advised that Visit County Durham do receive the information from this meeting and that they would be happy to attend if invited.

DC advised that Durham County Council is working with Killhope to increase the visitor footfall. She also outlined a project underway in Barnard Castle 'Live After 5' where local businesses are being encouraged to open later for the benefit of local residents. She also advised that if the group wanted to talk to similar organisations in other

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counties and / or learn from their experiences then this is something that Visit County Durham could help with.

KG queried whether any kind of audit had taken place as to what societies / events are available in Weardale. DC advised that she carried out such an audit last year which she continually updates. For data protection reasons this is only available within Durham County Council.

PC requested a table which depicts the results of the three surveys in the Delivery Plan as one combined piece of information. **Action: WAP Team**

### 4. Identify gaps in provision

AM advised that some project proposals have been submitted to the WAP team in advance of this meeting. Additionally 2 projects which are cross-cutting with this Task Group have been considered through the Children, Young People and Families Task Group.

#### **Project proposals submitted:**

Altogether Archaeology  
Weardale Visitor Network  
Westgate Chapel

#### **Cross-cutting projects (have gone through Children, Young People and Families Task Group:**

The Weardale Tub  
Ps

#### [Altogether Archaeology](#)

Altogether Archaeology is a local, voluntary organisation which is looking at a 2 phase project at Westgate Chapel and Frosterley. The group has a bid into the Heritage Lottery Fund for £90,000 (our funding would be match to this – it does not supersede the need for it). The group considered the application summary.

PC queried the siting of the Interpretation Panels on the boundary of the private land. How far away would they be from the site itself? Is there any potential for people to visit? AM advised that there are negotiations taking place with the land owners.

The funding requested from WAP is for refurbished and new display cabinets at Weardale Museum and a feasibility study.

PC requested a historical breakdown of WAP funding contributions to the Weardale Museum. **Action: WAP Team.** AM acknowledged that the Weardale Museum has had a lot of support from the WAP over the years but not necessarily large sums of money.

The group asked if Altogether Archaeology could be invited to the next meeting of this group (if possible with photographs taken from the potential sites of the Interpretation Panels to give an idea of how much visitors can see of the archaeological sites from the boundary locations) to help better the groups understanding of the project. **Action: WAP Team**

#### [Drama in the Dale](#)

VM informed the group about a young woman who is wanting to write a play about a murder on Killhope Moor in the 1920s. AM advised that the WAP is unable to fund an individual however Drama in the Dale as a group

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could submit a project proposal. AM also advised that if the young woman is looking for someone who could help her with her writing then an approach to NorthPens creative writing group could be beneficial.

### Weardale Visitor Network

AM advised the group of a meeting she had with Clare Benson and Cameron Gordon of the Weardale Visitor Network (WVN). The WVN are looking for £20,000 to fund a worker to look at upgrading the website, digital promotion, increasing the WVN membership etc. and address any issues which may arise.

The group asked for background information on previous funding to the Weardale Visitor Network. AM advised that the WVN received funding in 2014 for Social Media training and website update. Money had to be 'clawed back' from this project regarding specific elements of the website.

The group felt that this was a lot of money for a website project. The group requested that the WVN provide further information including:

- The impact of previous funding on the WVN – how has it added value?
- The spread of previous funding to the general membership of the WVN
- Joomla training was undertaken. How many WVN members are actively working on the WVN site who attended the training?

TG noted that the WVN is made up of businesses and queried whether WAP funding can be used to fund businesses. AM confirmed that the WVN is a registered charity and that businesses can be funded where it can be demonstrated that there is a benefit to the wider dale.

**Group decision: Request further information of WVN as detailed above**

### Westgate Chapel

KV advised that the Tyne and Wear Building Preservation Trust (TWBPT) is currently looking at Westgate Chapel which is being looked after by Heritage Chapels Trust. Westgate Chapel is a large building which has not been open to the public for a number of years.

TWBPT specialise in restoring buildings and finding a new use and tenants for the restored buildings. They propose a 3 phase project and are looking for WAP funding for the first stage of this project in the amount of £4,820. KV advised that they have been successful in securing 50% of the required funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund. Phase 1 will look at what is possible in the building including what's possible in terms of its listed status.

OW asked what the benefits of this restoration would be to the Weardale Community. KV suggested that the chapel building is central to Westgate and to allow the building to fall derelict or even be demolished would change the landscape of the village significantly. She also advised that as soon as the building is made safe it could be opened for Heritage Open Days and tours.

PC asked about the frequency of access to the building if the chapel was in private ownership as 'some access' was mentioned in the presentation.

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KV advised that it is anticipated that the tenant would be required to open the Chapel for a certain amount of time as part of their lease – e.g. once a quarter.

DC asked what type of tenancy would be created. KV advised that no firm decision has been made as yet but that any tenant would need to be self-sustaining. TWBPT does not look to duplicate a facility which is already present in the locality.

KV advised that she could provide electronic copies of the documents which were circulated at the meeting.

As the funding request was for less than the Area Budget minimum of £5,000 the group decided that this project should be forwarded to the Small Grants Fund for consideration.

**Group decision: Project to apply to the Small Grants Fund.**

### **Battle of Stanhope Festival 2018**

OW outlined a project he is developing with the Battlefield's Trust to host a week of medieval activities. They are submitting a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £20,000 and are approaching WAP for £5,000. The event will include: films; talks; medieval music; medieval banquet.

The group liked this project as it has the potential to involve and reach a lot of local residents.

**Group decision: Invite project to submit a full application for £5,000**

## **5. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting**

To be confirmed.

TG closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.