

**Notes of the Weardale Area Action
Partnership Board Meeting**

**7th February 2019 at Durham Dales
Centre, Stanhope**



PRESENT

Board Members

Public Representatives: Joan Warriner (JW)
Phil Chatfield (PC)
Tony Griffin (TN)
Josephine Hayes (JH)
Chris Powell (CP)

Partner Representatives: Catherine Findlay - Clinical Commissioning Group (CF)
Julian Haynes – Voluntary Sector (JuH)
Damian Pearson - County Durham Housing Group (DP)
Inspector Ed Turner – Durham Constabulary (ET)
Peter Maddison – County Durham and Darlington Fire and
Rescue Service (PM)
Paul Smissen – Business Sector (PS)

Elected Members: Cllr Anita Savory (AS)
Cllr Brian Thompson – Stanhope (BT)
Cllr David Sugden – Wolsingham (DS)
Cllr Olive Wilson - Witton-le-Wear (OW)
Cllr David Ellwood – CDALC (DE)
Trish Chapman – Hunstanworth (TC)

Officers: Angelina Maddison (AM) - **CHAIR**
Fiona Barber (FB)

Apologies

Public Representatives: Tom Nattrass

Partner Representatives: Stuart Timmiss – Durham County Council

Elected Representatives: Cllr Helen Barrass – Muggleswick Parish Council

Officers: Tracy Edwards

Presentations: Ron Hogg (Police Crime and Victim's Commissioner)
Michelle Robinson (County Durham Plan)

1. Welcome

AM welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the Chair, Tom Natrass, had submitted his apologies. The Board agreed that AM would chair the meeting in his absence. She advised that the meeting would begin with the two presentations.

2. Presentations

Police, Crime and Victim's Commissioner Update – Ron Hogg (RH)

RH gave a presentation to the Board to update them on the findings of the recent National Rural Crime Survey – 581 respondents were from County Durham.

The survey found that 3 out of 4 farmers had experienced crime in the last 12 months. The types of crime experienced in rural areas is similar to that of urban areas, namely: criminal damage, harassment, trespass, theft from outbuildings and fly tipping.

He reported that an estimated 1/3 of crime is not reported to the Police. He urged those present to always report any crime or suspicious activity. It all helps to build a picture and helps to catch the perpetrators. Also, it gives the information necessary when approaching central government for better funding.

The fear of crime in rural areas is higher than in urban areas. However, the likelihood of being a victim of crime in a rural area is lower. Additionally a higher number of crimes are solved in rural areas.

A major part of Police work is gaining intelligence and understanding – building a bigger picture. Criminals come to this area from other parts of the country. Initiatives such as the ANPR cameras really help officers to detect and solve crimes.

Ron Hogg advised that he has recently invested in six new drones which are a great advantage in rural areas. They have infra-red capability allowing them to be used 24 hours a day. Officers are currently being trained in their use.

For further information on any of these issues visit www.durham-pcc.gov.uk

Questions were taken from Board members:

TG asked what the rural equivalent of Neighbourhood Watch is. RH stated that Farmwatch which has been running for 30 years fits this need. The scheme enjoys great support but because it advertises when events are held, criminals can stay away on those nights. It's success is seen in cross border cooperation and sharing of intelligence as a lot of rural crime is in border areas.

AM referred to the allocation of Cllr Savory's Neighbourhood Budget to pay for ANPR cameras which has been noted as being a significant help in detecting crime. She advised that Cllr Savory has offered to pay for two more ANPR cameras to fill an identified gap in the local area. AM asked RH whether he would be willing to fund some local crime / safety projects to match this investment. RH advised that he was confident that he would be able to find £1,500 to put towards such project. He also thanked Cllr Savory for her funding and reiterated that the ANPR cameras help in detecting crime not just locally but regionally and nationally.

JuH referred to the results of the school vote where 40% of young people expressed a concern regarding crime and community safety and wondered if this is something RH had further knowledge of. RH advised that £100,000 of his budget is placed in a Community Safety Fund to fund projects to help ensure members of the community

of all ages feel safe. He advised that in this area schemes like the Mini Police and the Police Cadets allow children to engage with the local Police force and to feel safer in their communities. Board members felt that more work was needed to understand the specific issues and concerns held by the younger residents of Weardale.

AM reminded everyone that it's not always about funding and the partnership working can more often be the means by which solutions are delivered. She thanked RH for his presentation.

County Durham Plan – Michelle Robinson (MR)

MR gave a presentation to the Board of the County Durham Plan which is now in the pre-submission stage. A summary document was supplied to each Board member.

A copy of the presentation is held on file. If you would like a copy of this please email the WAP team at weardaleaap@durham.gov.uk

To find out more and to have your say, visit:

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/7563/Have-your-say-on-the-plan>

Questions were taken from Board members. MR clarified that Weardale is joined with Teesdale in the summary document and referred to as West Durham.

BT queried whether the potential new housing identified for Wolsingham will materialise as they have been proposed on numerous occasions. He also shared his concern that Weardale was becoming a 'trailer park' with the number of caravan sites increasing. MR stated that there are huge viability issues across the county and that this is not just a Weardale issue. Planning is a balancing act and it takes time to get it right.

PC queried where the numbers of additional housing needed comes from. MR confirmed that it is outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework and Durham County Council has to be compliant to this. PC also queried whether DC will build any homes themselves – MR stated that this was currently being explored.

PS shared his concern that people are commuting to outside of the Dale and asked if consideration is being given to protecting employment sites as there isn't the space for small businesses to expand. MR stated that Business Durham have a portfolio of premises available - PS countered that these are not necessarily feasible for small businesses. There are also a lack of starter units. MR also stated that there is an exceptions policy when it is housing related – DCC are proposing that this be extended to commercial properties.

OW asked whether Weardale has the infrastructure to support 106 new homes in Wolsingham. MR confirmed that this issue would be one to discuss with potential developers. Additional funding for healthcare services and education would be available.

DS shared that there is currently planning consent for 6-7 industrial units on the steelworks site but no one wants to build them. He asked if DCC could do something with it. Also there is planning consent for a supermarket in Wolsingham but again nothing has yet happened. DS wondered if this is an opportunity for DCC to do things differently to how things have always been done.

AM thanked MR and her team for the presentation.

3. Declarations of Interest

The Chair asked that any Declarations of Interest be raised at the appropriate time on the agenda.

4. Agreement of Notes from Board Meeting held on 22nd November 2018 and Matters Arising

The notes of this meeting, as printed and circulated, were **AGREED** and confirmed as a true record by those present.

There were no identified Matters Arising.

5. Local Neighbourhood Issues and PACT

PACT – ET advised that there aren't a lot of issues in terms of crime and disorder in the area. The Police continue to work to address complacency in rural areas as another car has been stolen that had its keys left inside it. ET mentioned some Anti-Social Behaviour being experienced at the Durham Dales Centre and reassured Board members that the PCSOs were working on this.

ET advised that 5 arrests had been made in the last week with regard to scrap metal dealers who were taking additional items to those left out for them. He advised that these arrests were helped by the information gathered by the ANPR cameras.

Operation Spoke is a bike marking scheme which the Mini Police and PCSOs have been involved in.

Farmwatch – this scheme is the eyes and ears of the local rural areas with farmers, landowners, gamekeepers etc participating in it. It is a great example of engaging with the local community to help make the area safer.

Counterfeit £20 notes – there have been a number of these in Weardale and ET advised people to be aware. They are very obvious fake Scottish £20 notes.

The next PACT meeting will take place on Wednesday 13th February at St Thomas' Church Hall, Stanhope.

ET advised Board members that anyone can join Farmwatch – subject to checks. Anyone wishing to do so should speak to ET or a member of the WAP team who will pass on the details.

6. Weardale Action Partnership Reports

Options Report

AM explained the report which gives the results of two surveys which were carried out with the local Weardale community. One with schoolchildren and one with the wider community. AM reminded Board members that a lot of the responses are without context. For example, schoolchildren probably have no idea what 'Support to Local Groups' means and therefore it receives a low score. However, if they were to think of it in terms of their local sports club the responses may have been higher.

AM advised that whilst this gives us the statistical information and helps the Board to set priorities, further work will be undertaken to understand exactly what peoples' concerns are within these priority areas. This research will then inform the work of the Task and Finish Groups.

The Board discussed the findings of the survey and decided to focus on the following four priorities:

- Health, Wellbeing and Safety – **Cllr David Sugden**
- Children, Young People and Families – **Josephine Hayes**
- Support to Local Groups (Small Grants Fund) – **Cllr Anita Savory**
- Culture, Tourism and Heritage – **Phil Chatfield**

The Board also discussed the options for allocating Area Budget and opted to maintain the 'status quo' with the Board reviewing each Area application from the task groups and approving each on its merits.

The Board also agreed lead members for each of the Task and Finish group – these are identified above.

AM asked Board members if they wanted to ring-fence some funding for the Small Grants Fund. The Board **AGREED** to ring-fence £20,000 for the Small Grants Fund.

7. Priorities 2018/19 Financial Year

i. Area Budget Update

AM gave an update of the projects supported by the Weardale Action Partnership – a table of this information can be found in the Appendix of these notes.

Wolsingham Skate Park – (AS and DS declared an interest) AM congratulated Wolsingham Parish Council in their successful LEADER and Sport England bids which means that the project can now begin.

Witton-le-Wear Youth Provision – The first session was held on 6th February and was attended by 13 young people. A potential 2 new Youth Leaders have put themselves forward. AM thanked Witton-le-Wear Parish Council for their efforts to make this project a success.

Stanhope Play Area – the project is still in development and is being led by Stanhope Parish Council.

Rural Skills Training – AM informed Board members that Weardale farmworkers were signing up to these courses in advance of the funding being confirmed such is the need for this project.

Witton-le-Wear Breakfast Club is going well. AM asked Board members if they would like to hear from representatives of both Witton-le-Wear Breakfast Club and Stanhope Barrington Breakfast Club to give an insight into what is really happening for families in Weardale. The Board **AGREED** to this idea. **Action: WAP team to make the relevant invitations.**

Low Barns Visitor Centre Refurbishment – The project is awaiting confirmation of LEADER funding.

Social Isolation – Lisa (Wellness Coordinator) continues to identify and work with those at high risk. AM confirmed that two diabetes courses will run in Weardale this year – this was developed from the work that Lisa carries out.

Weardale Tub – this project has now become a Regional Model of Excellence and is likely to be replicated in other areas of County Durham. A number of sessions have taken place already and these have been well attended. There will

be an opportunity for Board members to attend a session at Killhope around Easter time. If anyone is interested, please forward your name to the WAP team.

ii. **Small Grants Fund Update 2018/19**

To date, 32 applications for funding have been received by the WAP team. Of the applications received:

- 24 applications have been approved for the full amount requested
- 4 applications have been approved for part of the amount requested
- 2 applications were deferred in order to obtain more information
- 2 were declined

A map depicting all successful applications can be found in the Appendix to these notes. It was suggested that a copy of the map is sent to all Village Halls in Weardale. **Action: WAP Team**

The balance in the Small Grants Fund is currently £4,434.

PM reported on his visit as Board Ambassador to the Wolsingham Football Club who had received funding from the Small Grants Fund to purchase a new senior strip.

ET reported on his visit to Wolsingham Primary School to see the Mini Police in action as they carried out bike marking project – Operation Spoke. 55-60 bikes were marked up on the day.

Board members also volunteered to be Board Ambassadors for the following projects as follows:

Thursday Open House Mornings (Frosterley WI) – **AS & OW**

Play In A Day (Stanhope Barrington Primary School) – **CP, JuH & PS**

8. **Neighbourhood Budget Update 2018/19**

The Board were shown the details of the Neighbourhood Budgets for both Cllr Savory and Cllr Shuttleworth. Details are contained in the Appendix to these notes

9. **Countywide Partner Issues**

Health – CF confirmed that the Changes to 7-Day Access to Primary care Services Consultation had been extended until the end of January. The CCG is in the process of collating this data and this will be reported in due course.

Fire - PM reported that it was quiet in Stanhope – some controlled burning, car fire and a road traffic accident. He reminded everyone of the necessity of carrying our winter car checks. PM stated that the Stanhope crew continue to carry out Safe and Wellbeing visits and encouraged Board members to refer people to the service who may benefit from it. Information can also be found on their website: <https://www.ddfire.gov.uk/free-safe-and-wellbeing-visit> PM also confirmed that Stanhope Fire Station continues to be manned by a retained firefighter crew.

Housing – DP advised that County Durham Housing Group have launched a new service designed to help tenants who are experiencing in work poverty. It is aimed at those who are wanting to upskill and may be in part time or zero hour contract jobs.

10. WAP Issues

Board member vacancy – AM informed Board Members that DG had reluctantly resigned from the Board due to other commitments. AM encouraged Board members to invite people to apply.

'10 Years of Area Action Partnerships' Celebration – Board members were encouraged to think about ways we can celebrate the work of the partnership over the last 10 years. AM to confirm whether this needs to be coordinated county-wide or whether we can host a stand-alone event.

Potential project – AM advised that some preliminary work has been undertaken to explore a project designed to celebrate 150 years of the Weardale Agricultural Show. This information will be taken to the Culture, Tourism and Heritage Task group meeting.

Potential speakers – Board members suggested having a representative of the Farmwatch scheme come and share information about the scheme. AM suggested that inviting the Head Teachers of both Stanhope Barrington and Witton-le-Wear Primary schools would be a way of finding out about the need for and the impact of projects such as the Breakfast clubs and the Holiday Hunger programmes.

11. Dates and Times of Future Meetings

Next meeting – Thursday 14th March, 2:00pm–4:00pm - Durham Dales Centre.

Further dates for 2019/20 were agreed as follows:

AGM & Board	Thursday 4 th April, 6:00pm – 8:00pm, Durham Dales Centre
Board	Thursday 23 rd May, 6:00pm – 8:00pm, Durham Dales Centre
Board	Thursday 18 th July, 6:00pm – 8:00pm, Durham Dales Centre
Board	Thursday 19 th September, 6:00pm – 8:00pm, Durham Dales Centre
Forum	November – Date and Time to be confirmed
Board	Thursday 6 th February, 2:00pm – 4:00pm, Durham Dales Centre
Board	Thursday 19 th March, 2:00pm – 4:00pm, Durham Dales Centre

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Appendix 1

Area Budget 2018/19 Projects	Budget				
	Area Budget	Other AAP AB/NB Investment	Match Funding	Total	Minimum 20% Capital
Support to Groups in Weardale					
Small Grants Fund (18AB-WEAR001)	£20,000	£9,640	£21,000	£50,640	
	£20,000	£9,640	£21,000	£50,640	
Children Young People and Families					
Wolsingham Skate Park (18AB-WEAR004)	£20,000	0	£72,000	£92,000	£20,000
Witton-le-Wear Youth Provision £3K YF	£2,000	£3,000	£1,500	£6,500	
Stanhope Play Area	£20,000	£5,000	£20,000	£45,000	£20,000
Underpin Kickabouts £3760 YF	£2,000	£3,760	£2,000	£7,760	
Rural Skills Training	£10,000	0	£9,346	£19,346	
Witton-le-Wear Breakfast Club	£4,000	0	£5,880	£9,880	
	£58,000	£11,760	£110,726	£180,486	£40,000
Culture, Tourism and Heritage					
Low Barns - Visitor Centre Refurbishment	£17,000		£69,090	£86,090	£17,000
Slitt Wood / Groverake / Rookhope Arch	£5,000		£15,000	£20,000	£5,000
	£22,000	£0	£84,090	£106,090	£22,000

Area Budget 2018/19 Projects	Area Budget	Other AAP AB/NB Investment	Match Funding	Total	Minimum 20% Capital
Social Isolation x3yrs(£25,000pa)					
Wellness Coordinator	£25,000		£4,492	£29,492	
	£25,000		£4,492	£29,492	
Youth Fund £9,902					
Weardale Tub		£3,000		£3,000	
Witton-le-Wear Youth Provision £3K YF*					
Underpin Kickabouts £3760 YF*					
	£9,902	£3,000	£0	£3,000	£0
Welfare Reform £10,000					
Rural Advice Worker	£10,000		£6,845.80	£16,845.80	
	£10,000		£6,845.80	£16,845.80	

AREA BUDGET SUMMARY	
2018/19 Area Budget Allocation	£100,000
Welfare Reform	£10,000
Youth Provision	£9,902
Social Isolation Fund	£25,000
Total 2018/19 Area Budget	£144,902
Allocated budget	£144,760

Appendix 2

Neighbourhood Budget 2018/19

Cllr Anita Savory

Neighbourhood Budget	
Centenary Outdoor Room – Wolsingham Primary	£2,525
Community Day	£4,500
Stanhope Play Area	£2,500
Resurfacing Play Area – Wolsingham Primary	£2,895
Neighbourhood Budget – Small Grants Fund	
Planters for Wolsingham – Cornerstone	£150
Wearhead Clippy Mat Group – New Boiler	£100
Weardale Flower & Garden Club – Bulb planting	£200
Wolsingham Adult Football Team	£200
Stanhope Silver Band March	£150
Witton Word	£200
Wolsingham Christmas Market	£500
Senior Citizen's Lunch, Wolsingham School	£200
Wolsingham School Craft Fair	£100
Light Up Frosterley	£100
Neighbourhood Grant Remaining - £22,680	

Cllr John Shuttleworth

Neighbourhood Budget	
Weardale Agricultural Show	£2,000
Stanhope Play Area	£2,500
Neighbourhood Budget – Small Grants Fund	
Barrington Bites Luncheon Club	£150
Cowshill Leek Show	£200
Barrington Bites Christmas Lunch	£200
Rookhope In Bloom	£200
Rookhope Village Hall – Art Group	£300
Neighbourhood Grant Remaining - £33,250	