

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

**4th April 2019 at Durham Dales Centre,
Stanhope**



PRESENT

Board Members

Public Representatives: Tom Nattrass (TN) – **CHAIR**
Joan Warriner (JW)
Phil Chatfield (PC)
Tony Griffin (TG)
Chris Powell (CP)
Ian Hirst (IH)

Partner Representatives: Julian Haynes – Voluntary Sector (JuH)
Damian Pearson – Believe Housing (DP)
Inspector Ed Turner – Durham Constabulary (ET)

Elected Members: Cllr Anita Savory (AS)
Cllr Brian Thompson – Stanhope (BT)
Cllr Helen Barrass – Muggleswick Parish Council (HB)
Cllr Olive Wilson - Witton-le-Wear (OW)
Cllr David Ellwood – CDALC (DE)
Trish Chapman – Hunstanworth (TC)

Officers: Angelina Maddison (AM)
Tracy Edwards (TE)
Fiona Barber (FB)

Apologies

Public Representatives: Josephine Hayes

Partner Representatives: Stuart Timmiss – Durham County Council
Catherine Findlay - Clinical Commissioning Group
Peter Maddison – County Durham and Darlington Fire and
Rescue Service
Paul Smissen – Business Sector

Elected Representatives: Cllr David Sugden – Wolsingham

Annual General Meeting

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

TN welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the table. DP advised that his company had changed to Believe Housing. Apologies are recorded as above.

2. 2018/19 Area Budget Update

AM gave a summary of the information provided to Board members – an overview is contained in Appendix 1.

Small Grants Fund – Funding provided from the Area Budget has been more than doubled by match funding. The team have been actively encouraging applicants to identify some amount of match funding where possible.

Wolsingham Skate Park - £72,000 obtained from 4 different funders. Work will start in the next few weeks. AM praised this project as a testimony to Board members.

Witton-le-Wear Youth Provision – AM reminded the Board that this was being managed by an external agency in order to ensure that safeguarding requirements are met.

Stanhope Play Area – AM reported that this has now been installed and that Stanhope Parish Council have reported that they are very pleased. An official opening day will be held soon – Board members will be notified when the date has been set.

Underpin Kickabouts Sessions – this project is still in development.

Rural Skills Training – A programme to train farmers for the future with specific courses for agricultural training.

Witton-le-Wear Breakfast Club – The club is going well – the Head Teacher, Mr Stephenson, is very grateful for the funding which helps to promote students wellbeing.

Low Barns Visitor Centre Refurbishment – Work begins this spring and we look forward to progress updates.

Slitt Wood / Groverake Mine / Rookhope Arch – The WAP's part in the project is the work being carried out in the layby areas. The project is part of a bigger European bid to develop augmented reality apps.

Wellness Coordinator – Managed by Durham Dales Health Federation, Lisa is currently visiting groups throughout Weardale. During her time in post she has identified at least 3 people with atrial fibrillation and lifesaving intervention has been implemented.

Weardale Tub – AM advised that the Board will be invited to the unveiling in July. She also advised that the project has been submitted for a regional recognition.

The Board accepted the Area Budget Financial Report

3. 2018/19 Neighbourhood Budget Update

AM talked the Board through the details of the Neighbourhood Budget spend in 2018/19. A copy of this can be found in Appendix 2.

The Board accepted the Neighbourhood Budget Financial Report

4. Annual Report

AM talked the Board through the Annual Report and welcomed comments from Board members.

Wolsingham Skate Park – Cllr AS declared an interest. She reassured Board members that any concerns raised through the consultation process have been addressed and mitigated where possible. AM congratulated Wolsingham Parish Council on their hard work and determination.

Walkers Are Welcome – AM advised that more work will be undertaken in the coming year to help develop walking opportunities in Weardale.

Smiles Across Weardale – TE advised that parents have appreciated the up to date information from Public Health.

Operation Spoke – Insp ET advised that over 100 bikes have been marked in Weardale. He noted that this is a great initiative for the mini police to be involved in.

Rural Advice Worker – AM reminded board members that this is a completely confidential service. She highlighted that for an investment of £10,000 residents of Weardale have managed to recoup £130,000.

Wellness Coordinator – AM asked Board members to get in touch with the team if they know of any groups who would benefit from a visit from Lisa.

The Board APPROVED the Annual Report

Cllr AS asked that it be noted how fantastic it is that the projects supported by the WAP this year have brought in almost £325k of match funding. She hailed this as a magnificent achievement for the partnership.

5. Election of Chair

Before the nominations for Chair and Vice Chairs took place, current chair TN addressed the Board. He thanked the WAP team for the help and assistance he has been given during his time as chair. He encouraged the future chair to look to the team's wisdom and knowledge. He then thanked the team again for their support.

AM explained the process of electing a new chair who would be from the Elected Sector for 2019/20. Board members discussed and nominated the following to Chair and Vice Chair roles:

Chair – Cllr Anita Savory and Cllr Olive Wilson (joint)

Vice Chair – Stuart Timmiss (Partner)

Vice Chair – Phil Chatfield (Public)

AM thanked TN for all his hard work on behalf of the WAP this year. She emphasised his work behind the scenes with the Young Firefighters project. She offered a huge

thank you to him. PC wished to reinforce what AM had said and acknowledged that being nominated as chair was a challenge and that TN had fulfilled the role both positively and effectively and that he was grateful for his service. Cllr AS shared how TN had always been approachable and available and also thanked him for his dedication.

Board Meeting

1. Welcome and Declarations of Interest

Cllr AS took the chair and thanked everyone for their participation so far. She stated that both her and OW will look forward to the coming year and hope that it is as successful as 2018/19.

Cllr AS asked that Board members declare any interests as they arise on the agenda.

2. Agreement of Notes from Board Meeting held on 7th February 2019 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.

3. Local Neighbourhood Issues and PACT

Neighbourhood Issues

AM advised Board issues that the team had dealt with 17 Neighbourhood issues this month raised by members of the public. She explained that each of these had been given the appropriate information. There were no exceptional issues to report.

PACT

Insp ET reassured Board members that there is not a lot of crime in Weardale. He mentioned Operation Spoke which is a great way of helping the Mini Police to integrate. The Mini Police have also visited Bishop Auckland custody suite. He also advised that the Neighbourhood Team are in schools focussing on safe online talks with children. He also informed Board members that a road safety initiative and speeding campaign begins this week.

Insp ET shared that he intends to work closely with the WAP given that Community Safety is now a priority for the Board. It is hoped that people will be able to make a distinction between perception and reality.

The next PACT meeting will take place on Wednesday 17th April at 7:00pm in Wolsingham Town Hall.

4. 2019/2020 Area Budget

AM confirmed that the Weardale Action Partnership has £100,000 of Area Budget for allocation in 2019/20.

Weardale Agricultural Show 2019 (150th Anniversary Year)

AM reminded Board members that the team have collated feedback from a large number of residents who were consulted during 2018. A number of those consulted suggested that WAP support the Weardale Agricultural Show as it celebrates its 150th

year in 2019. AM advised the Board that some initial proposals have been made and these are being developed. **JW declared an interest.** AM asked the Board to consider ring-fencing £20,000 to support costs and to develop special ways of celebrating the 150th anniversary. The ultimate aim of the project will be to ensure that the show is more sustainable.

AM confirmed that there is an exceptionally strong show committee and that a full application process will be undertaken. Cllr AS echoed AM's view that the committee is exceptionally hardworking putting in months and months of effort.

The Board voted on the proposal. **The Board voted and AGREED unanimously to support the project and AGREED to ring-fence £20,000 of Area Budget.**

Walking the Weardale Way

AM explained that there is a project under development to look at how to support walking in Weardale. She explained that a discussion has taken place with the author of 'The Weardale Way' book and that he is prepared to update and republish the book. His book has been chosen as it uses the same maps as those used by both North Pennines AONB and Durham County Council.

AM stated that she would be looking for volunteers to walk the Weardale Way to see what needs to be repaired and to be developed. This investigative work will help to inform the research required to pull down funding from other sources.

TN reminded the Board that Eastgate Village Hall is on the Weardale Way and there is a newly built rest and picnic area – there is also the potential for the Hall to be opened for people to be able to use the toilet facilities.

AM advised that Newton Aycliffe Walking Group will be coming to trial an idea where they will walk the Weardale Way and then use a community building or local business for their lunch and refreshments.

Altogether Archaeology (2017/18 Area Budget ring-fenced)

AM reminded the Board that Altogether Archaeology had had £15,000 ring-fenced for a project to site some archaeological findings of national significance at The Weardale Museum. **CP declared an interest.**

Due to concerns over the future of the museum, the project has been put on hold. AM has approached Altogether Archaeology and invited them to relinquish the funding with the option to reapply when the future is determined. Therefore £15,000 has been added to the Area Budget for 2019/20.

5. Project Updates

Wolsingham Baby and Toddler Group

Parents were really pleased with the equipment they have been able to purchase with funding received through the Small Grants Fund. Board Ambassador, JH, was presented with a thank you card on behalf of the group.

Frosterley Women's Institute – The Open House

The first session had been held this morning and Board Ambassador, OW, had visited. She reported that there were quite a few people there. It was well organised

and there was plenty for people to do. People were catching up with each other. She reported that the group are developing ideas such as transport to get people to the event. The session is held weekly at Frosterley Village Hall. Lisa Turnbull our Wellness Coordinator also popped in to introduce herself and explain the service she offers.

6. Neighbourhood Budget

Primary Transition for Schools in Weardale

Cllr AS and DP declared an interest.

AM reminded Board members that they only approve Neighbourhood Budget applications when a conflict of interest arises.

AM explained that it can be scary for children from small primary schools going to the bigger secondary school for the first time. This project is designed to help the students in their transition and provide a support network for them.

The Board AGREED the Neighbourhood Budget application.

Cllr AS thanked the Board – she expressed that for the small schools it is a big change and September is going to be a big intake for Wolsingham School so this project will be invaluable.

7. 10 Year Celebration

AM explained that this is a sponsored event to be held at Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgfield. It is understood that the sponsors are Esh Group, Tees Croft, Scotto and Banks Group – no conflicts of interest for the Weardale AAP were identified.

On the evening, each AAP and its achievements will be celebrated. All Board members were invited and also asked to suggest which project they would like to nominate for an award.

The Small Grants Fund was the favourite project however we are unable to put this forward as it is administered by the WAP team. Two projects came a close second: Wolsingham Skate Park and Wheels to Meals. One of these will be submitted for the award on the night.

In order to celebrate the good work of the Small Grants Fund the WAP team proposed a Weardale 10 Year Anniversary event. Board members are invited to nominate their favourite projects from over the past ten years for inclusion in the event.

8. Countywide Partner Issues

No issues were identified

9. Dates and Times of Next Meeting

Next meeting – Thursday 23rd May, 6:00pm – 8:00pm, Durham Dales Centre

The Chair thanked everyone for attending, closed the meeting and wished everyone a safe journey home.

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	£43,000	£72,640	
	£20,000	£9,640	£43,000	£72,640	
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	£2,500	£7,500	
Stanhope Play Area	£20,000	£5,000	£20,000	£45,000	£20,000
Underpin Kickabouts £3760 YF	£2,000	£3,902	£2,000	£7,902	
Rural Skills Training	£10,000	£0	£9,346	£19,346	
Witton-le-Wear Breakfast Club	£4,000	£0	£5,880	£9,880	
	£58,000	£11,902	£111,726	£181,628	£40,000
Culture, Tourism and Heritage					
Low Barns - Visitor Centre Refurbishment	£17,000	£0	£69,090	£86,090	£17,000
Slitt Wood / Groverake / Rookhope Arch	£5,000	£0	£46,350	£51,350	£5,000
	£22,000	£0	£115,440	£137,440	£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		£15,000	£18,000	
Witton-le-Wear Youth Provision £3K YF*					
Underpin Kickabouts £3902 YF*					
(*already counted in Children, Young People and Families)	£3,000	£0	£15,000	£18,000	£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	£144,902

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	