

## DERWENT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the **DERWENT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP BOARD** was held in the Salvation Army Hall, Consett on Wednesday, 29 January 2020 at 6.00pm.

### **PRESENT:**

#### **Councillors**

Derek Hicks, Ivan Jewell, Alan Shield, Watts Stelling, Owen Temple and Alex Watson.

#### **Partner Organisations**

Joanne Waller - Durham County Council (DCC), Craig Farrage - Co Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service, Rachel Rooney - North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group and Gary Scott - Do Business Network.

#### **Public Representatives**

Marlene Boyles, Mike Clark, Helen Marley, Susan Mellor, and Donna Summerson.

### **APOLOGIES:**

Shelley O'Brien - Public Representative and Jeanette Harold - Public Representative (Chair).

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Corinne Walton - AAP Co-ordinator, Pete Garrod - Community Development / Project Officer and Kath Clements – Community Development / Project Officer.

### **PRESENTERS:**

Gary Ridley, Durham Constabulary  
Rachel Rooney, North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group

Members of the Public – 25

## **1. Meeting opened by the Vice Chair / Coordinator**

Corinne Walton welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through housekeeping. Board members introduced themselves and apologies were noted as above.

There were two declarations of interest noted. The first from Councillor Alan Shield regarding the OPSIF funding submission for Medomsley Community Action Group, requesting £5,000 for the I.T Training for over 50's project and the second from Councillor Alex Watson regarding the Area Budget funding submission for Delta North, requesting £3,334 for the Let's Talk About It project.

It was agreed that in Jeanette Harold's absence, the meeting would be Chaired by Vice Chair Gary Scott.

## **2. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting (25 September 2019)**

The matters arising from the minutes were:

Page 8 - Rachel Rooney sincerely apologised for not attending the previous meeting due to it not being in her diary.

Page 9 - Brenda Bell (Forum) stated that further to her highlighting the changes to bus services by Go North East at the last meeting, further short notice changes have been made and details can be found on the website. Joanne Waller stated that she had contacted the Head of Transport and Contract Services at DCC to ensure information is provided to residents in good time.

The minutes were AGREED as a true record.

### 3. Partner updates

#### ***Policing Precept – Gary Ridley, Durham Constabulary***

Gary Ridley introduced himself and stated that he was civilian staff for Durham Constabulary, and he was attending the meeting on behalf of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's Office to provide an update on the budget precept.

Gary stated that during the past 12 months, crime has continued to rise, particularly relating to web based and social media channels which proves challenging to tackle. It was noted that there had also been a rise in reports across the county linked to traffic incidents, welfare and concern calls and general anti-social behaviour.

It was highlighted that the government had committed to recruiting 20,000 new police officers over the next 3 years, 226 of these would be in County Durham and Durham Constabulary would have 68 new officers starting in April 2020 for the next financial year. In relation to current recruitment, there would be over 100 officers recruited in the next 12 months, it was noted however that as it takes 6 months to train a new officer and the new process involves recruits undertaking a Policing degree for three years, it may take some time for a difference to be seen in relation to local policing numbers out on the streets.

Gary stated that members of the public are being asked to comment on proposals to increase the amount of Council Tax which goes to the police service, known as the precept. Funding for policing is made up of two elements: Government grant, and the policing element of Council Tax, which is called the police precept. The unexpected General Election in December led to a delay in the announcement of the amount of Government grant for policing in 2020/21. For 2019-20, the precept was £205.24 per household, or £3.95 a week for Band D properties. It is proposed to increase the precept by £10 per year (less than 20p per week) for Band D properties, with lower increases for the lower Council Tax Bands and higher increases for the others. This is in line with the expectation from the Government as set out in the 2020 Police Funding Settlement.

It was highlighted that the deadline for comments linked to the policing precept consultation was midnight on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Gary stated that it was always difficult to sell an increase in the policing precept, but technology used in policing is very complex, including the infrastructure of the security of the systems, which is expensive. Extra money obtained via the precept will pay for increases in these costs alongside investments in some of the police related buildings, some of which need to be repaired. It was also noted that some new civilian roles will be created, including 14 civilian investigators, in the coming year.

Gary Scott thanked Gary for his presentation and opened up the meeting for questions.

Cllr Watson stated that the increase in precept is needed but queried what the total cost for the precept would be, Gary stated that this would be £38 million in total. Cllr Watson asked how much is spent on administration, Gary replied that all of the benchmarking information held by the Constabulary demonstrated good value for money and some of the I.T used currently is mobile which helps to reduce paperwork and office based processes, there has been an increased focus on I.T to achieve better outcomes.

Cllr Shield queried the makeup of the 68 new recruits in terms of whether these would be Police officers or PCSO's, Gary confirmed that these recruits will be warranted Police officers and the staffing level of the current 142 PCSO's will be kept at the same. It was noted that the new 68 recruits will be based at the current Policing hubs including Consett and the new 14 civilian investigators will be located in the hubs also.

Cllr Jewell stated that 68 recruits sounds a lot but queried what this number is as a percentage, Gary stated that this equates to around 5% of the total number of Police officers and does not replace those officers lost to austerity in the past.

Marlene Boyles stated that in relation to allocating funds to repair Police related properties, Consett Police station is very large and not fit for purpose, Marlene queried whether such properties should be sold and redeveloped and moved to town centres with modern facilities. Gary replied that he would be happy to give Board Members a tour of the Consett station, which is a lovely Grade 2 listed building, he also stated that the Consett station will be busier after the intake of new officers. Gary continued by highlighting that the Constabulary are currently reviewing all of the Police assets to ascertain whether they are required, and it is often challenging to find a new existing facility that meets their requirements, the best option may be to create one from new build.

Marlene stated that there are two large premises already on Middle Street in Consett that could be explored for a potential Police station site, Gary stated that any building explored would need a good IT network and some existing properties do not have this. Cllr Stelling stated that the former post office building is also currently empty. It was noted that listed buildings have restrictions placed on them as to what can be done to them improvement/refurbishment wise, Gary stated that the Constabulary own all of their older buildings outright which are better to retain as newer buildings often have high rental charges imposed by their owners.

Gary Scott thanked everyone for their input and proceeded to offer the sympathies of the Derwent Valley Partnership to the family of the former Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, Ron Hogg, following his passing in December. Gary Ridley thanked the DVP for these kind words.

### ***Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue IRMP Consultation***

Craig Farrage stated that he had requested a very brief update at the meeting to inform the Board and Forum of the current consultation linked to the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020-2023.

Craig stated that national government tasks all Fire and Rescue Services to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan or IRMP, which contains information about local communities, the risks they face and what the Service intends to do to manage those risks. The public then have an opportunity to share their views during the consultation period that runs for 12 weeks until 6th March 2020.

Craig encouraged everyone to visit the website at [ddfir.gov.uk](http://ddfir.gov.uk) where a survey can be completed.

Gary thanked Craig for his input.

## **Shotley Bridge Community Hospital update – Rachel Rooney, North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group**

Rachel again apologised for not attending the previous meeting.

Rachel stated that following a period of community engagement last year in relation to the provision of services and a future model of care at Shotley Bridge Community Hospital (SBCH), a good level of response had been received from local residents and organisations.

It was noted that the previous engagement process did not talk about the physical building of SBCH but had focused on the what type of care people would like to see within a new facility. Rachel highlighted that a consultation process will be commencing in Summer 2020 which will include the proposed model of care for a new building based on feedback received.

It was also noted that an options appraisal had been undertaken for SBCH and potential sites for a new facility had been visited and reviewed, including the current SBCH site. A feasibility study had also been undertaken in relation to these and all this information will be presented as part of the summer consultation process, including the initial list of potential sites and the three that have been shortlisted for further consideration.

Rachel highlighted that there was a new GP Clinical Lead, Jon Levick, who is heavily involved in this work and he is engaged in discussions with the NHS Foundation Trust as to what the vision for a new health facility will be moving forward. It was stressed that there is a need to build something fit for purpose for the next 5 to 10 years which should incorporate wider health and wellbeing facilities for a holistic approach.

Rachel concluded by stating that the summer consultation would run for 12 weeks and a number of public consultation events would be held. Details would follow in due course.

Cllr Watson stated that the investment of £20.1 million is great news.

Brenda Bell (Forum) queried whether the consultation would be held face to face rather than just on-line, Rachel confirmed that a series of public events would be held, and a leaflet drop would also take place.

Gary thanked Rachel for her input regarding this item.

## **Ward 6 and Stroke Rehabilitation Services public consultation – Rachel Rooney, North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group**

Rachel stated that 2 public consultations started last year in relation to Stroke Rehabilitation services and Inpatient Rehabilitation services (Ward 6 at Bishop Auckland Hospital) but due to the General Election, they were halted and then started again in January, running from 14 January – 3 March 2020.

Rachel stated that massive improvements have been made across a number of health-related services including better outcomes for patients, but rehabilitation services need improvement, particularly in the South of the county. Rachel provided a brief summary of how Stroke Rehabilitation and Inpatient / Ward 6 services are currently delivered at both the Bishop Auckland Hospital and University Hospital of North Durham sites (*presentation slides provided*).

There were a number of options currently being considered in relation to both services which are:

*- Stroke Rehabilitation:*

1. Option 1: Do nothing and continue to provide hyperacute care at UHND alongside rehabilitation at Bishop Auckland Hospital. This splits staffing across two sites, requiring time away from patients to travel. Transfers between sites can impact on quality of patient care.
2. Option 2: Co-locate inpatient rehabilitation care within hyperacute facility at UHND and develop an effective and seamless community rehabilitation service.

*- Inpatient / Ward 6:*

1. Option 1: Do nothing and keep it as it is with nurse led 'step down' care, 24 beds and limited therapy staff.
2. Option 2: Re-provide as a nurse-led inpatient rehabilitation ward, with 16 beds and a dedicated therapy input on Ward 17.

Rachel stated that there are a few people from Consett who do use Ward 6 but do we need as many as 24 beds when 16 may be sufficient and the costs saved could be used to fund additional staff time for example. It was noted that the patient discharge process needed to be reviewed, patients should be at home to recuperate as appropriate.

Rachel highlighted that there were other wider local NHS developments taking place including the review of all hospital bed use across County Durham and Darlington sites, opportunities to further utilise Bishop Auckland Hospital site for planned procedures and significant investment in Community Services.

It was noted that there were a number of public consultation events being held in relation to both consultations, primarily in the South of the county, and these were highlighted on the presentation slides. Rachel stated that there needed to be more robust engagement in the South due to the proximity of the hospital, however, a county wide response was needed, and the Stroke Association would be assisting with targeted engagement.

Rachel highlighted a range of other consultation activities through which residents could participate, these included: telephone, online, presentations to specific groups/organisations and a rolling programme of outreach events to public and community spaces.

Regarding next steps, it was noted that all the consultation comments and feedback would be collated in to a report, the outcome of the consultation would be considered by the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Foundation Trust and used to inform their decision making and finally, the feedback for each consultation will also be published on the CCGs websites.

Gary thanked Rachel for her presentation and opened up the meeting for questions.

Gary queried how reducing the number of beds available for specialist care matched up with increasing population numbers. Rachel stated that there were a number of facilities in other areas, such as The Richardson at Barnard Castle, which was also a community hospital that

could be better utilised to support additional bed space.

Craig queried whether the options put forward, as service delivery models, would work in the eyes of the Quality Care Commission for monitoring purposes? Rachel stated that there had been an increase in bed numbers and existing space would be used better moving forward, all these facilities need to be standardised. There will be the requirement for all of the services to be audited and for us to learn from high performing organisations linked to Stroke Rehabilitation, concerns need to be addressed in relation to the sustainability of the two-site model so the recommended option would be to move all facilities to one site.

Cllr Temple stated that people living in Consett also suffer strokes and we should not feel removed, a recent report suggests that there is shortage of beds at UHND and proposals to reduce the length of hospital stay times, in Cllr Temple's view this was unrealistic and the quality of a patients care is imperative and they should not be moved during treatment. It was noted that Bishop Auckland Hospital has a good reputation for Stroke services but some of the more practical issues need to be addressed. Cllr Shield concurred and stated that this should also be reflected in the SBCH process where the business case needs to be balanced with a quality service case.

Rachel stated that it is a very complex process they are trying to resolve. The extra beds for example will be looked for elsewhere in other community-based facilities. Rachel also stated that the best outcomes for patients is what they are trying to achieve.

***Safer Durham Partnership Plan and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy consultations – Corinne Walton, Derwent Valley Partnership***

Corinne provided a brief update in relation to the current Safer Durham Partnership Plan and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy consultations which commenced on Tuesday 17 December 2019 and which will run until Friday 14 February.

Corinne stated that a briefing sheet for each consultation had been included in the meeting paperwork which detailed both opportunities, including how residents could get involved and share their views. Everyone was encouraged to take part in these consultations which will ensure that the plans reflect the priorities of the local communities within County Durham.

**4. Area Budget (AB) and Older Persons Social Isolation Fund (OPSIF) final budget proposals**

Corinne gave a brief update on the final AB and OPSIF project proposals further to the recent work of the Environment and Health and Wellbeing Task Groups and the project call out linked to the OPSIF monies in October 2019 (deadline for applications being 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019).

***Environment (ENVIRO) proposals***

A brief summary was provided of each of the project proposals in the meeting pack, these had also been circulated one week in advance of the meeting for the review of the Board. It was noted that summaries of each proposal had been provided as opposed to the full funding applications, for the purposes of reducing meeting paperwork and providing a shorter concise summary of the individual projects.

Corinne briefly highlighted the 3 ENVIRO AB project proposals as follows:

1. Footprint Climate Change Conference delivered by Durham Energy Institute. Funding request £1,000.
2. Allensford Biodiversity and Planting project delivered by DCC Ecology Team. Funding request £3,730.
3. School and Community Plastic Recycling project delivered by STEAM Workshops. Funding request £7,390.

The Board felt that all three proposals were worthy of support and no concerns or queries were raised. The Board subsequently *AGREED* to fund all three projects.

Total funding request from the 2019/20 AB is £12,120.

### ***Health and wellbeing (HAWB) proposals***

Corinne briefly highlighted the HAWB AB project proposal as follows:

1. Let's Talk About It, delivered by Delta North. Funding request £3,334.

Further to the brief summary of the project, Corinne highlighted some additional information regarding this project for the benefit of the Board as follows:

- A meeting with Delta North and Public Health colleagues had been held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 to discuss the proposal in more detail and it was agreed that the application would be redrafted to take into account their feedback.
- It was noted that unfortunately there are lengthy waiting lists for mental health assessments and a consistent lack of support for young people.
- There was a need for fast-track mental health counselling to be able to provide a more immediate response to young people in crisis.
- Unfortunately, Delta North do not have the appropriate I.T equipment to edit any of the young people's viral videos, hence the request for funds for this element within the application.
- Self-soothing kits have been included within the application as there is a recognition that if young people are self-harming, it needs to take place in a safe environment.
- It is difficult to ascertain how many counselling sessions a young person may require and also the specific number of beneficiaries at this stage.
- Delta North will be liaising with Public Health colleagues re: advice on an appropriate counselling deliverer.

Gary opened up the meeting for Board comments regarding this application.

Susan stated that her main concern regarding the application was the small proportion of budget being spent on the actual counselling element. Donna highlighted that often young people tend to engage better with technology, rather than actual people, to express how they feel so a range of mediums to accommodate this need to be used.

John O'Connor (Forum) highlighted that the clientele at Delta North do suffer from serious issues so there was a need to engage and work closely with Public Health so the funding application can be revised appropriately.

Rachel concurred that from a health perspective, Public Health need to be engaged with regards to safety, governance and quality of care for the young people.

Cllr Shield stated that mental health is a huge issue in local schools and the current mental health services are oversubscribed. There was disappointment raised that Public Health had not contributed any funds towards this project.

The Board *AGREED* to support the concept of the project proposal at a cost of £3,334 subject to a revised funding application being presented to the Board at the March meeting.

Based on the above discussions, the total funding request from the 2019/20 AB was *AGREED* as £15,454 (*utilising the remaining AB funds*).

### *OPSIF proposals*

Corinne advised that further to the project call out back in October 2019, there were five project proposals for the Board to consider. It was also highlighted that the collective funding request had resulted in the OPSIF being oversubscribed by £8,733. The proposals received were as detailed below:

1. Silver Talk delivered by Karbon Homes. Funding request £5,409
2. Fast Track Drop-in Service delivered by Derwentside Mind. Funding request £8,776
3. Great Woodland Get Together delivered by Durham Wildlife Trust. Funding request £8,181
4. IT Skills for Over 50s delivered by Medomsley Community Action Group in partnership with Hamsterley Mill Residents Association and Burnopfield Community Association. Funding request £5,000
5. Positive Changes delivered by Durham Constabulary. Funding request £9,700

CW highlighted that a summary of each project had been provided as part of the paperwork for the meeting and had previously been circulated for review by the Board.

Gary opened discussion for Board members.

In relation to the IT Skills for Over 50s project, Marlene stated that there was a very similar project being delivered with DVP funds at St Patrick's Church Hall in Consett which aims to address the lack of I.T. skills for older people, she would therefore be very supportive of this project because it is clearly needed. Marlene stated that in relation to the St Patrick's course, this had already started – during week one, two people had attended and during week two, four people attended so numbers had been disappointing and is an area of concern. It was highlighted that the new proposal put forward by Medomsley Community Action Group would potentially have better outcomes as it was linked to Derwentside College as the deliverer.

Cllr Temple stated that he particularly liked project proposals that stemmed from communities themselves and his first choice of project would be the I.T. Skills for Over 50s which would support three communities and provide transport.

Cllr Temple also highlighted that Derwentside Mind is great local organisation and the need for mental health care locally is there, he also liked the Great Woodland Get Together project due to this targeting different areas within the Derwent Valley.

Cllr Shield stated that there had been a good level of interest already in the I.T project and as participants may all have different levels of ability, the project needs to be managed to accommodate this. It was likely that the project would be oversubscribed rather than under.

Cllr Shield queried the Silver Talk project in terms of whether the service users and volunteers would be from the area, this was confirmed. It was queried whether the lack of funding support from Chester Le Street and District AAP not taking part would enable the project to go ahead as planned. Paul Moralee from Karbon Homes who was in attendance at the meeting, stated that the amount of funding being requested in light of one AAP not participating, remains unchanged – there will be no shortfall, that particular AAP will just not be included as part of the service delivery.

Cllr Stelling queried how people would access Silver Talk, Paul highlighted that the project is open to anyone, but delivery will be specifically targeted at those communities within each contributing AAP area.

Gary stated that it would be necessary for the Board to take a vote regarding the five projects so a final decision could be made. The result of the vote was as follows:

- Fast Track Drop-in Service delivered by Derwentside Mind. Funding request £8,776 = 11 votes and full allocation *AGREED*
- Silver Talk delivered by Karbon Homes. Funding request £5,409 = 10 votes and full allocation *AGREED*
- Great Woodland Get Together delivered by Durham Wildlife Trust. Funding request £8,181 = 10 votes and full allocation *AGREED*
- Positive Changes delivered by Durham Constabulary. Funding request £9,700 = 9 votes and funding allocated to utilise remaining OPSIF budget of £5,967 *AGREED*
- IT Skills for Over 50s delivered by Medomsley Community Action Group in partnership with Hamsterley Mill Residents Association and Burnopfield Community Association. Funding request £5,000 = 8 votes, no funds remaining to progress this project during 2019/20. The Board would however encourage an application for this project in the 2020/21 financial year.

Total funding request from the 2019/20 OPSIF is £37,066.

Corinne advised that in relation to both the AB and OPSIF project proposals supported by the Board, these applications would be subject to a full appraisal process by the Funding Team prior to an Offer of Grant being issued.

## **5. DVP Funding Subgroup 2020/21**

It was noted that the Board had requested the creation of a separate DVP Funding Subgroup for the 2020/21 financial year, to discuss the way forward for next year's budget. Corinne provided a brief overview of the current budgets held by the DVP as follows:

- Area Budget - £100k
- Older Persons Social Isolation Fund - £25k
- Welfare Reform - £10k
- Youth Fund - £9,902
- Holiday Activities with Healthy Food Fund - £10k (£3k Easter and £7k Summer)
- Other emerging funding allocations we are not currently aware of

Corinne stressed that the budget figures detailed on the slides were based on current budget levels, but these were subject to change given that the budget allocation would not be officially made to AAPs until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

It was noted that each budget has its own set criteria, but the Board can choose the allocation process for each budget i.e. open project call out, Task Group recommendation, Participatory Budgeting process (public vote), in house projects i.e. events and newsletter. Corinne stated that in relation to the budgets, there is not a one size fits all approach and we must learn from our previous experiences as to how best to allocate the funds.

Corinne outlined the role of the new Funding Subgroup which would include: reviewing the new budget allocation for 2020/21, being familiar with the criteria/guidance for each budget, making recommendations to the Board on the budget allocation process and producing a proposed timetable of budget allocations to ensure financial commitment by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

Corinne invited volunteers from the Board to join the Subgroup, across all three categories of membership. In total, eight Board members put themselves forward as follows: Public reps: Mike and Jeanette (in advance of the meeting). Elected reps: Cllr Shield, Cllr Jewell, Cllr Temple and Cllr Stelling. Partner reps: Craig and Gary.

Corinne thanked the Board for their support and stated that she would seek meeting availability from all volunteers for the first meeting to be held ahead of the next Board meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

## **6. Consett Cycle Festival and Party in the Park 2020**

In relation to events in Derwent Valley in 2020, Corinne stated that there were two events for the consideration of the Board for this year, the first being the return of the Consett Cycle Festival which had been successfully held previously in June 2019, the DVP being a sponsor of the event, alongside local Elected Members.

The second event for the Board to consider was 'Party in the Park', a DVP hosted event which had previously been delivered successfully three times since 2016 with an average attendance of 3,000+ residents. It was noted that the Board had agreed back in 2018 to alternate their events annually between 'Christmas in Consett' and 'Party in the Park', 2020 would therefore be the turn of the park event.

In relation to the Consett Cycle Festival, John O'Connor (Forum and Chair of Project Genesis Trust) stated that the initial festival in 2019 was part of a two-year programme of activities to commemorate the closure of the steel works and to create a new narrative for the town moving forward. In relation to the outcomes of the Cycle Festival, John highlighted that the footage of the cycle race had been viewed on You Tube 10 million times, the area had received a £1.25 million economic boost that weekend, the local 92 bed and breakfast establishments were all fully booked, two pubs ran out of beer and between 8,000 and 10,000 people attended the event which was very well received.

It was noted that the idea for the Cycle Festival had stemmed from the work of the DVP's employment task group, linked to its work around the Consett Destination Plan to attract visitors to the area. A number of limited budgets were therefore combined to create one largescale event encompassing both the Cycle Festival and Party in the Park. It was highlighted that feedback from British Cycling had been excellent, stating that this was their best and most well received first event. From a Safety Advisory Group perspective,

involvement with partners had been good throughout the process and universally there were no issues.

Mike commented that the only complaints were from people who did not know the event was taking place.

Cllr Shield stated that £50k had been provided for the Cycle Festival in 2019 from the budgets of the local Councillors and yet, the VELO North event was provided with over a quarter of a million pounds in support. Cllr Shield suggested that DCC be approached to contribute towards the event rather than the Councillor's budgets being utilised which can be limited due to community commitments, Mike concurred with this suggestion.

Cllr Watson stated that he would support the return of the Cycle Festival and the idea of commemorating the deaths of the men who died in the tragedy on the steel works site could be incorporated into this.

Cllr Jewell commented that all the largescale events take place in Consett, however, he could justify supporting the Cycle Festival as it attracted people from a range of places and so would therefore be happy to contribute again financially. Both Cllr Temple and Cllr Shield concurred with these comments.

Gary proceeded to outline the difference between Party in the Park as a solely Derwent Valley Partnership hosted event for networking, partnership working and promotional purposes, compared to the Cycle Festival event of which the DVP would be a part sponsor and would be one of many organisations/partners attending on the day.

Marlene stated that her preference would be one event combining both the Cycle Festival and Party in the Park elements. Mike stated that the AAP and others had been working hard to commemorate the closure of the steel works whilst celebrating what the area can offer in the future, such as the Cycle Festival and the new Heritage Trail, alongside a calendar of other events linked to the Consett Destination Plan.

Corinne provided an outline of the options for the Board to consider as follows based on the above discussions:

1. Contribute funds to both the Cycle Festival (May) and Party in the Park (July)
2. Contribute funds to the Cycle Festival as an alternative to Party in the Park
3. Contribute funds solely to Party in the Park
4. Contribute funds to the Cycle Festival and host a small winter event (park as venue) as alternative to Party in the Park

It was noted that at this stage, each event would cost roughly £10k to support.

Further to the Board discussion, option 2 was *AGREED* by the Board and a funding application for the Consett Cycle Festival 2020, amounting to circa £10,000, would be submitted in due course for the consideration of the Board.

Further to the above discussion, Ann English (Forum) queried why VE Day was not being marked by the Board similar to the WW1 Centenary celebrations, Gary stated that the Board had not yet discussed this, and no specific budget had been allocated. It was suggested however that local communities may wish to approach their Councillors with local VE Day

ideas which could potentially be supported via Neighbourhood Budget contributions (either Small Grant or Main Grant).

**7. Derwent Valley News – Environmental/Green edition Summer 2020**

Corinne stated that the Environment Task Group had requested an ‘Environmental/Green’ edition of Derwent Valley News for Summer 2020, to affirm their commitment to contributing towards the climate change agenda.

The proposal is to use all four pages of the newsletter to feature articles relating to the environment and how residents can help make Derwent Valley a greener place to live. Information for inclusion in the newsletter could include:

- Money and fuel saving hints and tips which would also reduce our carbon footprint
- Food waste information
- Recycling, single plastics and reuse ideas and general information
- Electric vehicle charge points and car club information
- Local environmental activities taking place in our communities
- Other appropriate information we receive with a ‘green’ theme.

Further to a very brief discussion, the Board *AGREED* for the Summer 2020 edition of Derwent Valley News to have a ‘green’ theme.

**8. Meeting Close and Date of Next Meeting**

Gary thanked everyone for their attendance and reminded everyone that the next Board meeting will be on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 6pm in the Salvation Army Hall, Consett.

Signed as a correct record: .....

Date: .....