

East Durham AAP Board Meeting
6pm on Wednesday 9th March 2022 at The Glebe Centre, Murton

PRESENT:

Partner Organisations

Graham Easterlow (GE) (Chair)
Chris Williams (CW)
Insp Gary Smith (GS)
Sgt Scott Jameson (SJ) – (standing in for Insp J Eales)
Ian Porter (IP)
Rachel Payne (RP)
Joanne Angus (JA)

Public Representatives

David Blackwell (DB)
Jim Shand (JS)
Andy Cammiss (AC)
Gill Rodgers (GR)

Elected Members

Cllr Louise Fenwick (LF) – (standing in for Cllr A Surtees)
Cllr Julie Griffiths (JG)
Cllr Chris Hood (CH)
Cllr Isabella Roberts

Officer Attendance:

John Murphy (JM) – AAP Coordinator
Laura Towers (LT) – AAP Support Officer
Jane Jack (JJ) – Community Development/Project Officer
PJ Harding (PJH) – Towns & Villages Community Development/Project Officer

Presenters:

Alison Clark, Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism, DCC

Public Attendance:

3 members of the public were in attendance

Apologies:

Cllr Angela Surtees, Cllr Leanne Kennedy, Cllr Stacey Deinali, Cllr Jake Miller, Cllr Terry Duffy, Insp Joanne Eales, Susan Robinson, Jim Murray, Rona Hardy, Danny Dickinson, Edna Connor, Bill Smithson, Amanda Moon

1. Introductions & Apologies

JM ran through housekeeping and health and safety.

GE welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made.

Apologies were noted, as above.

2. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous Board Meeting on 9th February 2022 were accepted by the Board as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

JM noted that it had been confirmed that Cllrs would not be attending CASBRAC meetings due to a GDPR issue.

3. Neighbourhood Issues

None noted.

4. Police & Fire Reports

GE handed over to Inspector Gary Smith and Sergeant Scott Jameson to provide their police reports and to Chris Williams to provide a fire report.

Insp Gary Sith - Peterlee

Operation Omega is in response to an increase in burglaries. Following the arrests which were noted in the previous update, there has been a decrease in the number of burglaries. There were 14 arrests last month and 27 searches.

A prolific burglar is now in jail. He was arrested for a number of burglaries.

Another individual is out on electronic tag for dwelling and motor vehicle burglaries.

If offenders are released, the police are trying to get electronic tags on.

There was an increase in occupied properties being broken into in Horden, including a spate of 3-4 at one time. One person has been arrested and is on electronic curfew. Other people are on bail for that. Looking to CBOs.

Another individual was found with weapons and arrested. They are under investigation for driving offences also.

Going for a CBO in relation to a young male linked to organised crime.

Keep an eye out on social media for PACT meeting information.

Bikes and quads continue to be seized. There has been a decrease in anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the Peterlee area.

DB asked whether Operation Omega was different from normal operations.

GS advised that a number of different tactics were used in relation to hotspots and resourcing certain areas proactively, so that the police were in the right location at the right time.

Sgt Scott Jameson – Seaham & Easington

In terms of the engagement side, work has been undertaken around vehicles, including speed watches. Areas have been proactively identified for speeding vehicles. Results of a speed watch in Murton surveyed 1,000 vehicles of which 36 were speeding. The engagement and education route is currently being used prior to any enforcement.

There has been an increase in ASB around Dalton Park. Banning notices have been issued which seems to be having an effect quite quickly.

AC asked whether there is any particular reason behind the burglaries.

GS noted there is a range of reasons, including to fund habits or for enjoyment. Problem-solving is looked at from a neighbourhood point of view.

LF asked whether the ASB predominantly involved youths?

GS advised that the main areas affected were Peterlee South, East and West, Wingate, Shotton and Horden. There has been an increase from 1% to 5% in the town centre. Three individuals are mainly involved. The idea is to put them on a CBO to give more conditions. A CBO can only be done on conviction. There are issues on the top of Asda with vehicles going up there. ASB around the bus station has reduced. There has been an increase in Wingate.

GE asked re the process for CBOs.

GS noted that this is a reactive tactic and comes on the back of a conviction. There are currently six CBOs waiting to go. It is around educating people, so that CBOs are used. They usually last for around two years, but they can be permanent.

BB noted that it would be good to know the number of serious crimes in the year to date.

SJ confirmed that statistics are updated to date and could be provided.

JG noted that the speed survey for Murton has been recorded. BB agreed the speed survey is very interesting and the more information from the community, the better to look at problem areas.

Chris Williams, CDD Fire and Rescue Service

CW updated that we are now approaching the second busiest time of the year for the Fire Service – Easter. It is very busy traditionally after the clocks change. The aim is to try to reduce the number of deliberate fires this year. This includes focusing on the hotspot areas, removing rubbish and fly-tipping and having a proactive focus.

GE thanked all for their reports.

5. Libraries Consultation Presentation – Alison Clark, Head of Culture, Sport & Tourism, DCC

AC delivered a presentation providing an overview of Library Services, as per the attached presentation.

During Covid, there has been an appetite for a strong digital offer going forward, including online activities and a growing social media presence. Some services, such as Books on Wheels, have been successfully adapted to doorstep book drops whereby larger number of customers can be served with existing resources. More older people have used Pick and Collect than families. The suspension of overdue fees and request charges has been welcomed.

Post-Covid, it is important to support communities to stay connected whilst also supporting vulnerable and isolated people through online events and groups. It is important to help individuals achieve through confidence and improved literacy.

Consultation is taking place to ensure our libraries meet future needs of our communities by co-production. Links below:

- complete the online [Get involved with your libraries survey](#)

- [contact us](#) by email or phone if you need help with the survey, like an Easy Read version of the consultation or want to give us more feedback
- pick up a paper copy of the survey from your [local library](#)

The deadline for comments is 5.00pm on Friday 1 April 2022.

CH noted that the mobile library is not available if a town or village is within a certain distance of a static library, however, there are not always direct transport links to get to the static library. The mobile library reaches out and can be a lifeline, especially in unconnected communities. It does not reach all areas it could do.

AC advised that part of this work looks at this as well as ways around the County to exchange books without needing a library. The reason for the mobile library only visiting areas further away from a static library is a lack of resources.

GE highlighted that transport links is something that is currently being looked at.

GR agreed and noted that joined-up thinking is needed on this as people and families can't always afford to travel to libraries, therefore, it is important to meet their needs.

JM asked re digital lending and people's ability to download books. Is there commercial pressure to go down the digital route?

AC advised that this was never a big part of the service, but numbers have increased during Covid, including for audio books and magazines. Libraries with digital have to buy the digital licence the same as with physical books which is why it can be free.

GR highlighted that there is a big push in primary schools. Could children be auto-enrolled onto devices?

AC would take this idea away, but GDPR compliance would need to be confirmed.

BB noted that Murton Library is currently open 2.5 days a week. Would there be any scope to move this to Woods Terrace Resource Centre? This would improve parking and would be likely to increase footfall.

AC will feed this back. People feel very strongly about libraries. Efficiencies are being looked at.

GE thanked AC for the presentation.

ACTION: LT to share consultation links to Forum in e-bulletin.

6. Priority Working Group Updates & Green Grants Proposal

JM updated that the last MSFOOC meeting had taken place on 2nd March. There was a presentation from Colin Robson on the Artful Age project. They are looking to come back for further funding. Hina Joshi also provided an update on the East Durham Business Service project.

The Green Grants application was circulated to the Board.

Amount requested:

Capital grant 21/22 and 22/23 - £48,000

Towns & Villages AAP funding – £26,000

Total = £74,0000

The AAP is applying the funding to provide small-scale capital grants to enable a number of local community buildings reduce their carbon footprint and make themselves more sustainable. This is to be done by the AAP team in conjunction with the BEEP team from DCC. Potential applicants must first submit to have an audit and then apply for funding based on the findings. There is likely be two rounds under which to apply. Grants will be between £5k - £12k. Applications for the same items may be merged to source suppliers to offer several services.

CH noted that it was a fantastic project, but there is a limit on the number of community buildings who can receive funding. It is important to benchmark the financial and carbon footprint improvements.

GE highlighted that discussions had taken place at the Towns & Villages meeting that with rising energy costs, the financial element may look like it had failed. GR added that it could be measured in terms of consumption and it is important to capitalise on the best savings from the audit report.

JM added that if improvements lead to cost savings, then they could be encouraged to make further investment.

BB asked whether small-scale improvements, such as these, would be counted in DCC's overall reduction. GE understands this will be the case.

GE added that there may be buildings and facilities who can match fund and it is important to ensure that those without resources receive the greater element. Some are more in need and we need to find the right balance. CH noted that the age of the building should also be taken into account.

JM confirmed that where buildings have money to spend, they will be asked to contribute and Cllrs' NB contributions could also count as match funding.

JS asked whether BEEP would just turn up to carry out the audit. JM advised that expressions of interest would be made and then this would be arranged.

DB noted that the finer detail of the project needed to be fleshed out. JM advised that the mechanics are straightforward, but any issues will be picked up.

GE asked the Board whether they were in agreement on creating a Green Grants fund. The BEEP process will come after this.

ACTION: The Board agreed that the application should progress.

7. NBs for notification or endorsement of a declared interest

JM highlighted the following NB projects for notification. There are no conflicts of interest.

Project Name: Seaton Path

Councillors: Batey & McKenna

Project Cost: £4,000

NB Amount: £2,000

Description: Seaton-with-Slingley Parish Council are applying for funding for path work on the village green

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: Church Hall Floor

Councillors: Boyes & Surtees

Project Cost: £5,000

NB Amount: £1,800

Description: The Church of the Ascension in Easington Colliery is applying for funding to replace the floor in the Church Hall.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: New Seating

Councillors: Batey & McKenna

Project Cost: £2,846

NB Amount: £2,846

Description: DCC Outdoor Facilities are applying for funding to install a children's bench into the play area at East Shore Village, Seaham.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: Sustainability & Growth Plan

Councillors: Hawley

Project Cost: £10,812

NB Amount: £10,000

Description: Peterlee Cricket Club is seeking to create a new social space for the Club and its members by erecting a commercial grade events marquee on a hard standing base covered by artificial turf. The intention is to also create a new/additional source of income for the cricket club by siting a tuck shop/bar in a converted shipping container within the marquee. The intention is that this will allow the club to become more self-sufficient and therefore being more of an asset to the Passfield ward and Peterlee as a whole.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: Magdalene Court Defibrillator

Councillors: Kennedy & Shaw

Project Cost: £1,398

NB Amount: £1,398

Description: The Home Group are applying for funding to install a publicly accessible defibrillator on Magdalene Court, Seaham.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: The Pay Note Café Opening

Councillors: Boyes & Surtees

Project Cost: £600

NB Amount: £600

Description: The Easington Colliery Band are applying for small grant funding to prepare for the opening of the Pay Note Café in Easington Colliery.

No conflict of interest.

8. Any Other Business

None raised.

Some equipment is currently being trialled for hybrid meetings.

6pm on Wednesday 12th May 2022, 6pm at The Lisa Dixon Centre, Haswell