



STANLEY AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP (AAP)

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

Held on Wednesday 9th March 2022 at 4.00pm via 'Teams'

Councillor

Cllr Christine Bell
Cllr Joan Nicholson
Cllr Carole Hampson
Cllr Angela Hanson
Cllr Gordon Binney
Cllr Carl Marshall

Partner Organisations

Suzanne Jobson (Karbon Homes) Chair
Helen Richardson (Stanley Town Council) Co-optee
N Insp Dave Stewart (Durham Constabulary)
Sgt Terry Archbold (Durham Constabulary)
Michael Pearson (Fire Service)

Public Representatives

John Ullathorne
Helen McCaughey
Nerise Oldfield-Thompson

Officer Attendance

Daniel O'Brien (AAP Coordinator)
Andrea Boyd (AAP Community Development Project Officer)
Lesley Lines (AAP Support Officer)
Alison Clark, (Head of Culture, Sport, & Tourism, Durham County Council)

Apologies

Martyn Stenton (Durham County Council), Max Wright (Business Representative), Joanne Clennell (County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group), Cllr Jeanette Stephenson (Stanley Town Council), Linda Tyman (Public Representative), and Vicky Walton (Public Representative).

Public Attendance:

Three members of the Forum/Public attended the meeting.

1. Introductions and Apologies:

Suzanne Jobson, Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies are noted above.

2. Declaration of Interest:

Board Members were asked to declare any personal or pecuniary interest in relation to the agenda as per the AAP Terms of Reference:

- John Ullathorne declared an interest in – 1409 Squadron Air Cadets

Daniel advised this project could be agreed in principle by Board members in attendance and followed up with an approval email. He asked that all members reply to the email even if they were in attendance.

3. Agreement of the minutes – 9th February 2022 and Matters Arising:

Suzanne asked for agreement of the previous Board Minutes. The minutes were agreed as a true record. Matters Arising – there were no matters arising.

4. Libraries For You Consultation Presentation:

Alison Clark, Head of Culture, Sport, & Tourism, Durham County Council gave a presentation. She highlighted that the consultation was to gather views on what you as residents need from County Durham libraries. Whether you use your local library, access digital library services or currently do not use our libraries, we want to hear from you on how library services should be delivered in the future.

Alison highlighted that Durham County Council have:

- 39 buildings throughout County Durham - 12 are in town centres and 27 are in smaller communities
- a mobile library that delivers books to the rural west of the county in over 80 communities
- a book bus that enables people in care homes to choose their own books
- the Books on Wheels service that provides materials to people who are unable to access library buildings

The last review of our library service was held in 2012 and, following the public consultation, five areas of need were identified:

- reading for pleasure
- raising confidence, skills and aspirations through access to informal and formal learning facilities, for study, research, self-improvement and knowledge
- the development of individual literacy
- local community and public service information
- a place to meet and participate in community life

Our libraries are a vital community asset and they play a key role in our communities.

In recent years, we have experienced massive digital and technological advances and our services have had to revitalise to reflect this.

As a result of things such as Covid-19, we have learnt that we need to continually keep up to date and make sure our library services are fit for purpose and continue to provide the best experience and also attract new users.

The consultation:

At this stage, we want to gather your views and opinions, to help us understand:

- what makes you value the library services you use
- why you do not use County Durham libraries
- what you would look for in library services in the future

This will help us to:

- identify new priorities and needs for County Durham library services for all County Durham residents
- understand the role you wish the library within the community
- look at how the library and its services could support community needs and aspirations
- ensure we continue to provide a comprehensive, engaging, responsive and efficient service
- identify and recommend the use of new technologies in the library service

Have your say:

- complete the online [Get involved with your libraries survey](#)
- [contact us](#) by email or phone if you need help with the survey, would 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](#)

Questions / observations

Cllr Carl Marshall highlighted libraries weren't just there to lend out books. Lots of people use the IT Suites as well as using the facilities for workshops and events.

He further advised that the library buildings were the biggest cost to a service and asked if there were any plans to close any of the buildings?

Alison agreed with what Cllr Marshall had said and advised that there were no plans to close any of the libraries within the area, but that we want them to work better.

The deadline for comment on the first phase is 5.00pm on Friday 1 April 2022.

The Chair thanked Alison for the presentation.

5. Neighbourhood Issues and Locality Policing Issues:

Insp Dave Stewart gave a brief update on the ongoing Police work in the Stanley area.

He advised that dates were in diaries with schools for them to take part in 'Speedwatch'.

Insp. Archbold reiterated that all ASB must be reported to the Police.

6. AAP Coordinator Update:

AAP Priority Survey 2022 – Daniel advised the number of replies received to date was low. He encouraged all Board Members to fill out the survey before the deadline of Friday 11th March 2022 and share it far and wide via their networks.

Suzanne asked that some paper copies be sent to the Skills Hub.

Future AAP Board Meetings – Daniel asked Board Members if there was a desire to get back to face to face meetings. Carl highlighted that Hybrid equipment was available at County Hall.

After a discussion it was agreed that Hybrid meetings were favored.

The Chair advised we should give Hybrid a go and then reassess numbers after future meetings.

Daniel asked for opinion on appropriate meeting times. After a discussion Daniel advised he would email all Board Members to carry out a poll. **Action: Daniel.**

AAP Board Member Recruitment - Daniel advised that three members of the Public Representatives would be standing down at the May AGM. He highlighted their commitment and thanked them for continuing/extending their term through the Pandemic. He advised they could stand again should they wish too. Anyone who knew someone wanting to apply get in touch with the office. Closing date for applications 18th March 2022. The Chair also thanked the Public Members.

Area Budget Applications for Approval:

Stanley Community Fund: £20,000

Daniel highlighted some of the excellent projects that had received funding from the Stanley Community Fund to date and spoke on the Stanley Community Fund Area Budget application that would be administered in 2022/23. **Board Members approved the project.**

1409 Squadron Air Cadets – STEM Project: £18,251

Daniel advised key outcomes and milestones had been added to the project including Accreditation. 180 cadets would benefit from the project. 50% contribution was required by Derwent Valley AAP who would be looking at the project in the coming weeks.

Following the declaration of interest in the above project the Board were not quorate. Board Members present approved the 1409 Squadron Air Cadets – STEM Project Area Budget application in principle. Daniel to follow up with an approval email to all Board members.
Action Daniel

7. Initiating Positive Action Feedback:

Helen advised that the gathering of Board Members for the above meeting had agreed that any consultation being brought to the Board, should give provide a small report highlighting the consultation process to the Board two weeks in advance of the Board Meeting.

Helen asked if three working groups could be formed, working on the priorities chosen by the local community? And if they could each have a budget to support projects arising from the issues highlighted in survey?

Daniel advised that the AAP Priority Survey for 2022 that was currently live is key to the above priority group formation, that would see the AAP returning to how it worked prior to the pandemic. Following the closure of the AAP Priority Survey, the Board would need to analyse the results, choose their top priorities to work on, and then subsequently form the appropriate AAP Priority Working Groups. Carl advised he agreed with this way forward and the return to AAP Priority Groups.

8. Partner Work Update / Stanley specific items of interest:

Stanley Town Council

- Helen Richardson, Town Clerk, advised she would bring a report to the next meeting. She highlighted that the Easter Pantomime was The Wizard of Oz. Cinderella would be running over Christmas.

Clinical Commissioning Group

- Joanne was experiencing IT difficulties and was unable to attend the meeting but advised via email that she had an update to share on the Integrated Care Board (ICB) proposed Operating Model and a survey link for stakeholders to feed back before the 18h March 2022. Daniel to circulate to Board Members once received from Joanne.

Karbon Homes

- Suzanne highlighted that The Skills Hub was extremely busy, working in partnership with DurhamWorks and Job Centre Plus. DurhamWorks have recruited a kick start placement who will meet and greet customers.
- Job Fair was a success with 20 clients going for interview from that. Another Job Fair will be running at the end of March.
- Digital Skills for Job Seekers course is running.
- Community Renewal Fund – 68 placements
- A role for up to 30 hours is available for Silver Talk. Interviews taking place soon.

Job Centre Plus

- Daniel advised the Board that Claire Hunter, Stanley Job Centre Plus Manager had retired

9. Neighbourhood Budget Summaries:

PACT House – Think Positive@PACT House

The project will support the Think Positive project delivered from the old Derwentside Mind building where they will revamp the kitchen area, create a well-being hub / talking therapies space, install internal network and Wi-Fi/internet access throughout the building. By making these upgrades it will support well-being / social groups, users of the building, and professionals delivering services from the space.

Project Cost: £4,159.00

Councillor Lyn Boyd Contribution: £4,000.00

Tanfield Railway Trust Ltd – Tanfield Railway Heritage Improvements.

The project will see improvements around the site in preparation for The Causey Demonstration Wagonway Project, where we will be building wooden rails and construct two Waggon for demonstration purposes. They will also be upgrading roadways, entrance signage as well as interpretation materials for around the facilities.

Project Cost: £20,083.00
Councillor Joyce Charlton Contribution: £10,000.00
Councillor Lyn Boyd Contribution: £9,000.00
Councillor Olga Milburn Contribution: £1,083.00

Annfield Plain Community Centre – Doors & Window Improvements

The project will see the installation of new doors and windows to help secure the building, as well as helping to keep the heat in and reduce heating costs. It will also provide better ventilation in warmer months. The current windows are single glazed plastic, not glass.

Project Cost: £14,257.00
Councillor Joan Nicholson Contribution: £10,000.00

Stanley Deaf Club – Stanley Deaf Club Support

The project will see the Club supported to pay for room hire, as during the pandemic they were unable to meet and raise funds within their activities. They chose the Civic Hall as the venue because it is local and easy to get to with accessible facilities necessary for all its users.

Project Cost: £2,100.00
Councillor Joan Nicholson Contribution: £218.75
Councillor Christine Bell Contribution: £218.75
Councillor Carole Hampson Contribution: £218.75
Councillor Sam McMahon Contribution: £218.75
Councillor Carl Marshall Contribution: £218.75
Councillor Angela Hanson Contribution: £218.75
Councillor Joyce Charlton Contribution: £218.75
Councillor Gordon Binney Contribution: £218.75

Annfield Plain Cricket Club – Refurbishment Plans.

The project will support the Club to have Refurbishment Plans drawn up for the current facilities within the Club, so that they can look to make improvements for the future of the Club, its players, and the local community.

Project Cost: £3,000.00
Councillor Joan Nicholson Contribution: £1,250.00
Councillor Christine Bell Contribution: £1,250.00

Small Grants:

Applicant: Tanfield Lea Community Primary School

Project Brief: Give all pupils a bookmark as a lasting reminder to commemorate the celebration of Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee.

Total Cost: £320.00
Councillor Joyce Charlton Contribution: £320.00

10. Pre-Notified Any Other Business:

Review of Community Engagement

Helen advised that she had read the Review of Community Engagement Report that was circulated via email by Daniel on behalf of Gordon Elliott, that would be going to Cabinet next week for approval. She highlighted concerns about the rationale behind it.

Nerise asked how much money this review of community engagement would cost?

Cllr Carl Marshall stated that this may be an opportunity to join up with other AAP Boards to better inform the review/consultation.

Daniel advised that the cost of the Review would be determined once it had gone through the appropriate Procurement process at the County Council and the External Consultants had been appointed. Daniel also advised that the Review would look at community engagement right across the County Council and would have a key focus on AAPs due to the nature of our work and role in the local community. It is hoped that the Review will outline a number of recommendations that if adopted could potentially improve the way AAPs operate and support local community groups and organisations. Board Members involvement in the Review is extremely important and you will be fully engaged throughout the process.

11. Next Meeting: TBC

For further details about these minutes please contact Stanley AAP office,

Tel: 03000 265323 or Email: Stanleyaap@durham.gov.uk