



## **Teesdale Area Action Partnership - Board Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Held: 17 November 2021 (via Microsoft Teams)**

### **Elected Members:**

Cllr George Richardson  
Cllr James Cosslett  
Cllr Ted Henderson  
Cllr Richard Bell  
Cllr Robert Potts  
Cllr Wendy Greenfield (Town & Parish Council's Representative)

### **Public Representatives:**

Elaine Laurie  
Linda Bird  
Rachel Tweddle  
Robin Brooks  
Tracey Williams

### **Partner Representatives:**

Allan Hobson  
Jeff Garfoot  
Insp Ed Turner  
Peter Locke  
Tim Viggars

Co-opted:  
Roger Peat

### **Officer Attendance:**

Adam White, TAP Coordinator  
Annalisa Ward, TAP Community Development Project Officer  
Emma Walton, TAP Support Officer

**Observers:** 4 x Forum Members

### **Apologies:**

Bob Danby  
Cllr James Rowlandson  
David Hand  
Christine Watters  
Kelly Blissett

## Teesdale Action Partnership Board Meeting

### 1. Welcome from Chair, Introductions and Apologies

**Cllr RB** welcomed everyone to the Board meeting of Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP).

**Cllr RB** reminded meeting observers they would be welcome to comment under items 6 and 7 on the agenda.

**EW** confirmed that apologies for absence had been received, as noted above.

**AW** highlighted that Joy Allen (Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner) was due to give a presentation at tonight's meeting, however, this has now been rescheduled to the January Board meeting.

### 2. Declaration of Interest and Meeting Protocol

**AW** made the Board aware of the declaration of interest procedure and informed all Board members that this is a standard item on the Agenda. **AW** informed the Board and Forum Members of 'house rules/etiquette' for the meeting. **AW** asked Board members to be aware that the TAP team weren't recording the meeting but couldn't guarantee that other attendees wouldn't be making their own recording.

**Rachel Tweddle** declared an interest in the TCR Hub Area Budget application.

**Cllr James Rowlandson** has a declaration of interest in the St Marys Roman Catholic Primary School project.

### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The draft minutes from the meeting held on 15 September 2021 have been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. **AW** reviewed the minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy.

#### **Matters Arising:**

- **AW** stated that actions 1,3,4, and 5 were requests for information from Graham Wood, Economic Regeneration Manager, Durham County Council. This information has been requested; however, no updates have been provided. **AW** informed the Board that he will seek a resolution to the outstanding Matter Arising and email the Board accordingly.
- Elected Members have also had potential speeding issues brought to their attention in the following villages: Hamsterley, Ramshaw Village, High Lands. **AW** highlighted that **AWard** has flagged the issue up with the local Police and DCC Highways. **RB** also raised the issue of speeding in the Barningham area.

**AW** confirmed there were no further outstanding actions. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed by the Board as a true and accurate record.

## 4. Area Budget

**AW** confirmed that a copy of the full Area Budget applications has been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. **AW** highlighted that Board members were given the opportunity to provide any comments to the TAP team in advance of tonight's meeting. No comments were received.

All applications have been considered by the Board Expression of Interest Group and relevant service providers and are recommended for Board approval.

**AW** gave a brief outline of each project:

### 4.1 Teesdale Sailing Club – Provision of Solar Energy at Teesdale Sailing Club

**Area Budget request: £13,098**

**Match Funding: £3,935**

**Total Project Cost: £17,033**

**RB** asked has planning permission been obtained. **AWard** stated that a pre-planning application has been made and are currently awaiting feedback.

No further comments were raised, and the Board **APPROVED** the application.

### 4.2 TCR Hub – TCR Hub Project

**Area Budget request: £27,317**

**Match Funding: £251,000**

**Total Project Cost: £278,317**

**Rachel Twedde** declared an interest in this project.

No comments were raised, and the Board **APPROVED** the application.

### 4.3 Middleton Silver Band – Youth Development Programme

**Area Budget request: £8,656**

**Match Funding: £1,014**

**Total Project Cost: £9,670**

**AW** stated that since the application has been circulated elected members have received a request for additional funding for musical instruments. **AW** suggested this funding request be added to the main Area Budget application. The Board **AGREED** that a revised application be submitted. Once received **AW** to circulate, via email, to the Board for consideration. **(ACTION 1:AW / Board members)**.

### 4.4 Bright Woods Forest School CIC – Woodland Wellbeing

**Area Budget request: £9,944**

**Match Funding: £1,350**

## **Total Project Cost: £11,294**

**GR** asked why the funding requested is only for a 7-month period. **AWard** confirmed that alternative funding is in place to provide a full year's provision.

No comments were raised, and the Board **APPROVED** the application.

**AW** to forward the AB applications to the Funding Team for technical appraisal. **(ACTION 2: AW)**

## **5. Neighbourhood Budget**

**AWard** confirmed that a summary sheet for both NB proposals has been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. **AWard** gave a brief outline of each proposal.

### ➤ **Barnard Castle Town Council (Woodleigh Defib)**

**AWard** confirmed that the request for NB is £1,200 (£300 each from Councillors Rowlandson, Richardson, Bell, Henderson).

**TV** asked will signage to the Defib unit be erected.

**AWard** to feedback the comments from the Board meeting to the applicant via the appraisal process. **(ACTION 3: AWard)**

No further comments were raised and the proposal was **APPROVED.**

### ➤ **Whorlton and Westwick Parish Council (Whorlton Phone Box)**

**AWard** confirmed that the request for NB is £2,200 (£1,100 each from Councillors Rowlandson and Richardson).

No comments were raised and the proposal was **APPROVED.**

### ➤ **St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School (Community Garden)**

**AWard** confirmed that the request for NB is £2,200 (£1,100 each from Councillors Rowlandson and Richardson).

**Award reiterated the Declaration of interest from Cllr JR**

No comments were raised and the proposal was **APPROVED.**

**AWard** to forward the NB applications to the DCC Funding Team for technical appraisal. **(ACTION 4: AWard)**

## **6. Local Neighbourhood Issues**

**Insp Ed Turner** gave an update on the main issues for the TAP area:

- Demand on the local police has returned to pre COVID levels.

- There has been an increase in rural crime mainly due to a spate of quad bike thefts. The support from the rural watch scheme is providing invaluable to target and tackle this issue.
- The ANPR camera van has been purchased and we are awaiting delivery. This project has been supported by both Area and Neighbourhood Budgets and includes funding from Weardale AAP. The camera will support with the speeding issues raised in tonight's meeting. A community speed watch took place in Romaldkirk where 97% of the vehicles were compliant. **ET** stated that there is often a perception of speeding rather than vehicles using excessive speed.
- Work is taking place with Barnard Town Council, DCC Safer Communities and the GRT group to sign post travellers to the sites available and to ensure there are no illegal encampments. A review of the existing sites will take place to ensure they are fit for purpose.
- The police continue to tackle and target drug issues in the Town. Proactive work is also taking place in the local schools.
- Operation Cobra is working well in deterring thieves and recovering property. Operation Cobra uses special technology called Dot Peen to engrave equipment, so it is permanently marked and easily identifiable if stolen.
- **RB** raised the issue of poaching. **ET** stated that when accessing land permission from landowners is required. In addition, individuals are required to be registered to carry firearms. Calls are made to the police and checks are made to ensure that procedures are being followed. The rural watch scheme provides vital intelligence in supporting these incidents.

**AW** confirmed there has been a neighbourhood issue raised by a forum member in advance of the meeting. The forum member raised concerns with regards to the impact of climate change and suggested TAP should receive regular environmental updates from relevant partner organisations. **AW** highlighted several environmental projects that have been supported by TAP and suggested that environmental issues remain a continuous focus for TAP moving forward. In addition, **AW** suggested obtaining information from the County Durham Partnership event that will be taking place on the 26<sup>th</sup> November.

**AW** also reminded Board members that an update was provided at a previous meeting on DCC Climate Emergency. A community website has now been launched. **AW** to circulate the community link with the Board Papers (**ACTION 5:AW**)

**Cllr WG** stated that charging points differ from each manufacture and suggested a universal charger that would then be accessible to all electric car owners. Issues with the recent installation of charging units in Barnard Castle was also discussed. **AW** to feedback the comments raised by the Board to Tracy Millmore, Electric Vehicle Project Officer at DCC and invite Tracy to a future Board meeting to provide an update on the project (**ACTION 6:AW**).

The Board **agreed** that Environmental issues should be a focus for the AAP and that we will be mindful of this when considering project proposals. Coupled with this, the Board will also welcome future presentations from partners that update on relevant work.

## 7. Partner Update

An update was provided from the following:

➤ **County Durham Fire and Rescue Service**

- There have been low levels of calls and no major issues to report.
- Business is as usual with Safe and Wellbeing visits and Business Fire Safety visits now taking place.
- The bonfire night period was quiet.

➤ **Wellbeing for Life**

At the beginning of the pandemic Wellbeing for Life staff were redeployed into various roles across the county. This included providing support in hospitals, vaccinations clinics, or were assigned as COVID responders. However, the Wellbeing for Life service recommenced in April 2021. A recruitment process has taken place and is still ongoing. Holly Haney has been appointed and will be providing wellbeing support in the TAP area.

- **LB** stated that the Older People's service group will restart shortly. This will be coordinated by Madeline Walton, Teesdale Day Clubs.

➤ **Towns and Villages Revitalisation**

Peter Henderson, Community Development Project Officer Towns and Villages Team - Durham County Council introduced himself to the Board and gave a brief overview of his role and the funding available.

## **8. Coordinators Update**

### **8.1 Area Budget Spend Profile**

The Board were provided with the Area Budget Spend Profile for 2021/22. The report includes the status of each project. A copy of the spend profile was circulated, in advance of the meeting, with the meeting papers.

**AW** gave an overview of the projects supported and the funding allocated.

### **8.2 Neighbourhood Budget Process**

**AW** informed Board members of a change to the NB process and stated that Board members will now receive NB applications, electronically, once they have been written, instead of tabling them at Board meetings. **AW** highlighted that all AAPs will be working towards this process. **AW** stressed that Board members will still be asked to provide any observations and positive feedback. If an application does have a declaration of interest the process will remain the same, with the Board being asked to approve applications. A timescale of 5 working days will be given to respond.

**AW** stated that, as part of future meeting papers, a summary of each NB application will be provided along with the funding balance for each elected member.

### **8.3 Priority Voting**

**AW** notified the Board that the AAP priority voting will be going live shortly. The survey will take place online and be live for approximately 6 weeks.

The survey will ask the community to endorse the overarching Covid Recovery theme for a further two years and will provide the opportunity to add any additional priorities that may not have been covered. The survey will also provide an opportunity to highlight any local Neighbourhood issues. Any neighborhood issues raised will provide information to support the town and villages funding.

**AW** highlighted that work will be taking place countywide to engage with key partners and locally with key organisation, for example, schools, and community groups.

Board members were encouraged, once live, to promote the priority survey through their networks

**AW** stated paper copies will be available upon request.

The Board will be provided with a report of the countywide results alongside the local results.

### **8.4 TAP Press Articles**

**AW** confirmed that the quarter 2 updates (July – Sept 2021) will be circulated shortly to the Board, for information. The report provides an update on the progress for all 'live' projects.

**AW** stressed; if any Board members would like to submit individual comments for circulation that they are more than welcome to do so.

### **8.5 TAP Office**

The Board were provided with an update on the press coverage TAP has received in Teesdale Mercury over the September – November 2021 period.

WG commented positively on the press articles report.

### **8.6 Return to Offices**

**AW** reported that in accordance with corporate guidance and policy, AAP teams have now returned to their locality bases. In line with this guidance, the team will implement a hybrid form of office/homeworking. Visitors to the office will be on an appointment only basis.

Board meetings will remain on Teams; however, options are being explored for the recommencement of in person hybrid meetings.

**Cllr WG** suggested that due to the timing and locations of the Board meetings that winter meetings should remain on teams with the summer meetings taking place face to face.

## **9. Date/Time/Venue for Next Meeting**

**Cllr RB** thanked Board members for attending the meeting.

The next TAP Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 January 2022, 6pm on Microsoft Teams.