

Notes of the Weardale Area Action Partnership Board Meeting – 10th February 2022

Online Microsoft Teams



ATTENDEES

Board Members

Public Representatives: Joan Warriner (JW)
Kevin Roddam (KR)
Adrian Holden (AH)
Ian Hirst (IH)
Will Wearmouth (WW)
Richard Lawrie (RL)

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

Elected Members: Cllr Anita Savory (AS) – **CHAIR**
Cllr John Shuttleworth (JS)
Cllr Helen Barrass – Muggleswick Parish Council (HB)
Cllr Alison Humble – Stanhope Parish Council (AHu)
Cllr David Sugden – Wolsingham Parish Council (DS)

Officers

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

Presenters

Bill Lightburn (BL) – Durham County Council
Alison Clark (AC) - Durham County Council
Sarah Glynn (SG) - Durham County Council

APOLOGIES

Elected Representatives: Trish Chapman – Hunstanworth
Olive Wilson – Witton-le-Wear Parish Council

Partner Representatives: Dan Wootton – County Durham and Darlington Fire and
Rescue Service
Geoff Paul - Durham County Council (GP)

BOARD MEETING

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. She expressed her hope that we will soon be able to meet in person as restrictions continue to be lifted.

Introductions were made.

Apologies are recorded above.

2. Declaration of Interest

The Chair asked that Board members declare any interests as they arise on the agenda.

3. Agreement of Notes from Board Meeting held on 13th January 2022 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 matters arising.

4. Presentations:

Libraries Consultation - Alison Clark, Durham County Council.

AC gave a presentation to the Board. She explained that Durham County Council has 39 libraries, and a review of the library service has not taken place since 2012. She stated that during the Covid pandemic, it became clear how important libraries are. Not only were they key community meeting points and staff were key to staffing support hubs, but users were pleased to have libraries back when restrictions eased. This showed how crucial the library service is to a lot of people.

During the pandemic, digital services e.g., e-books and online storytelling were very popular. An assessment is now underway to ascertain what people like about libraries, how people use the library services and what they would like to see changed to ensure that the libraries meet current and future needs.

The review is in the first phase which gives everyone the opportunity to get involved. To have your say, visit www.durham.gov.uk/article/25827/Durham-Libraries-For-You-get-involved-

The Chair thanked AC for her presentation and invited questions from Board members.

AH queried whether the review will engage with communities who don't have a local library – especially those without the ability to engage online.

AC advised that there will be access to the survey in other DCC buildings and that the mobile library and book bus will also be utilised. Additionally, every library user will be written to individually to encourage them to have their say and can request that a form be posted to them. SG added that there are also helplines in place to assist people when filling in the forms.

WW queried the definition of an active user. SG clarified that this referred to someone who had actively borrowed within the last three years.

AH stated that he was a lapsed library user as it is not easy to get to the nearest library in Wolsingham and the mobile library is not always reliable or is under pressure to move onto the next location.

AC confirmed that the library in Wolsingham has strong numbers for a rural area with 13,000 books borrowed last year. SG asked Board members to let them know of places where surveys could be placed to give as many people as possible access to the consultation. AH suggested using local village halls.

The Chair commented that it is the role of every Board member as an ambassador for the area to spread this information as far and wide as possible.

The Chair thanked AC and SG for attending.

5. Weardale Action Partnership Update

Return to Office Update

AM advised that as restrictions continue to lift, it is the intention that the team will be back in the office next month.

AM also advised that the plan is for the AGM to be the first face-to-face meeting.

Board Notes

AM stated that she had received a request from some Board members to share the notes of the Board meeting. She advised that this was only possible once the notes have been confirmed. However, the team will provide an interim overview to allow the salient points to be shared without sharing the full draft notes before they have been confirmed.

Storm Malik

AM advised that she had been called in to support on the Sunday during the storm. She advised that it had been difficult to ascertain from official sources what was actually happening due to data complexities. She also informed the Board that there have been some requests from community buildings to look at ways to improve resilience. She asked Board members to talk with the WAP team if a building they knew about was considering a similar project. The WAP team are working with the Civil Contingency Unit to look at the needs of individual centres. AM shared with Board members that several different groups have been set up and work is taking place to see how all these initiatives can be tied together.

Fun and Food

AM explained that this has been a fluid amount of money granted in each school holiday and the amount received is relative to the number of children in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) in the area. The WAP Board added an additional £20,000 to the budget to supplement the programme and reach families that did not qualify for FSM but would benefit from participating. AM confirmed that both parents and children had been consulted when determining the activities which will take place. AM asked Board members to share the details of our February half-term activities.

Fun and Food – Easter

AM advised that applications open on Monday 14th February for delivery during the Easter holidays. She reminded Board members that applications are welcome from Village Halls.

AAP Priority Survey

AM reminded Board members that the WAP priorities were merged into one this year as 'Covid Recovery'. AM encouraged Board members to share the survey as far and wide as possible so that residents of Weardale can have their views known. AM also encouraged Board members to complete the survey themselves. This information will be used alongside other feedback received to help us when we set the priorities. The survey can be accessed at <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/26713/Area-Action-Partnerships-AAPs-Community-Priorities-2022-23> closing date is 11th March.

6. WAP Budgets Update

Small Grants Fund (2018/19 – Area Budget)

FB talked the Board through a report that had been compiled to show the current status of the Small Grants Fund that had received £20,000 of Area Budget funding in 2018/19. Projects which had received funding had suffered delays in delivery due to the pandemic and so some projects are still ongoing.

FB advised that there is currently £11,812.42 remaining in the fund and that new applications are now being received. An Appraisal Panel has been set up for Thursday 17th February at 1:00pm to discuss the applications received. All Board members are welcome to attend the Appraisal Panel and all Board members will be contacted via email for their thoughts on the applications.

The Chair shared how the Small Grants Fund helps some groups to continue. For some, this funding is a lifeline. She encouraged Board members to spread the word about the Small Grants Fund.

Towns and Villages Funding - £210,000

BL gave an update on the various projects which are being considered for Towns and Villages funding.

ANPR Cameras – AS Declared an Interest

BL advised

Cllr Anita Savory will be using her Towns and Villages allocation (£10,000) within her Neighbourhood Budget for this project.

AM confirmed that as Coordinator she supports this project.

The Board APPROVED the application.

Weardale Museum

BL reported that the Museum is looking to create a new visitor centre to the rear of the building – in the car park. Various match funding applications have been submitted. If these are successful, the Museum will be able to approach us for Towns and Villages funding.

All Saints Trail Pilgrimage Centre – HB declared an interest

BL reminded the Board that this project involves a range of internal and external works to open up the church for additional use by the community. It is linked to a wider pilot scheme to create sustainable futures for rural churches under the banner 'Rural Churches for Everyone'. The project is currently exploring additional sources of external match funding.

Stanhope Open Air Swimming Pool – JH declared an interest

BL advised that progress has been made and an Expression of Interest is anticipated. The key issue has been the lease and some progress has been made with this. Until a better understanding of the pool condition is made it isn't possible to move on. Free support from Swim England to conduct a technical appraisal will take place which will then inform the requirements of the project and allow an exploration of external funding opportunities.

Witton-le-Wear Community Centre

Costings have been gathered and BL advised that an Expression of Interest is anticipated as he is aware that this is currently being written.

Killhope Museum – On hold

Killhope is currently closed for the winter. This application will be progressed once it reopens in the spring.

Weardale Way Walkers Shelter (2 Views from a Thicket) – On hold

BL reminded the Board that unfortunately the bid for match funding had been unsuccessful. He advised that this project remains 'on the radar' in case that situation should change.

Ashcroft Play Area – New

The refurbishment of the MUGA at Ashcroft. Working with Stanhope Parish Council. A meeting has been convened for 11th February to determine their aspirations. Once these are known the most appropriate funding stream can be identified.

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team – New

AM advised that she had been approached with a request for approximately £10,000. She has copied in BL to the emails so far until the funding stream is determined. She suggested that this could be looked at in a bit more detail at the upcoming Appraisal Panel and that the applicant will be invited to attend.

Covid Recovery Funding - £100,000

AM advised that there have been no changes to the funding allocated since the last meeting although projects have continued to progress. Any relevant updates were shared with the Board.

Weardale Sports Apprentices, £61,179 – Project Underway

AM advised that this opportunity has now been out to advert. Unfortunately, so far, there has been a low response. A decision has therefore been made to readvertise in May to coincide with young people leaving school/college.

Covid Recovery Funding Budget fully allocated with an overspend of £608
Area Budget Funding - £100,000

AM talked the board through some slides depicting the spend within the Area Budget. She advised that there have been no changes to the funding already allocated since the last meeting although projects have continued to progress. She also submitted two applications for Board approval.

Music in the Durham Dales - £4,085.80 - Requires Board Approval

AM referred Board members to the Application summary distributed prior to the Board meeting. She also confirmed that the project was adapted following previous Board comments.

AM confirmed that as Coordinator she supports this project.

The Board APPROVED the application.

Empowering People - £5,384 - Requires Board Approval

AM referred Board members to the Application summary distributed prior to the Board meeting.

AM confirmed that as Coordinator she supports this project.

The Board APPROVED the application.

Welfare Reform Funding - £10,000/ Youth Fund - £9,902/ Older Peoples Social Isolation Fund - £25,000

AM advised that there have been no changes to the funding allocated since the last meeting although projects have continued to progress.

Budget fully allocated.

AS shared with the Board an example of the work that Linda (Rural Advice Worker) carries out within Weardale and the difference that it makes to the lives of residents.

For a complete list of projects funded in 2021/22 please see Appendix 1.

AM reminded Board members that new ideas for projects are always welcome. She also confirmed that any remaining Area Budget can be rolled over into 2022-23.

2020/21 Area Budget

Weardale Way – AONB - £10,000 - Requires Board Approval

AM referred Board members to the Application summary distributed prior to the Board meeting.

AM confirmed that as Coordinator she supports this project.

The Board APPROVED the application.

7. Neighbourhood Budget 2021-22 Overview

For a complete list of projects funded from Neighbourhood Budget in 2021/22 please see Appendix 2.

Cllr Savory Neighbourhood Budget

- Flower Festival - WRECASS – **Cllr AS – Declaration of Interest – requires Board approval**

TE referred Board members to the Application summary distributed prior to the Board meeting.

AM confirmed that as Coordinator she supports this project.

The Board APPROVED the application.

TE explained that Cllr Savory's Towns and Villages element of her Neighbourhood Budget has now been fully allocated following the Board's approval of the ANPR Cameras application.

Cllr Shuttleworth Neighbourhood Budget – Small Grants Element

- Jubilee Celebration - Barrington Bites
- Wool – A Close Knit Community

TE advised that two new applications to Cllr Shuttleworth's Small Grants element of his Neighbourhood budget had been processed as above.

8. Countywide Partner Issues

DP was invited to share more information regarding Believe Housing's capital grant which closes on 18th February. It is a Large Community Revenue Grant between £5,000 - £10,000. The grant is open to all not-for-profit groups that operate where Believe Housing has properties.

Full details are on their web site <https://www.believehousing.co.uk/in-your-neighbourhood/believe-housing-community-grants/large-community-grant-5000-10000/>

8. Dates and Times of Future Meetings

The next Board meeting will take place on **Thursday 10th March, 6:00pm** and will take place online via Microsoft Teams.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions.

She offered her thanks to Angelina, Tracy and Fiona for pulling the meeting together as an awful lot of work goes into it. She offered her sincere thanks to the team and Board for their contributions and thanked everyone for attending.

The Chair closed the meeting.

Appendix 1

Covid Recovery Funding - £100,000

Monitoring Complete

- Opportunities for Enrichment – Weardale Adventure Centre – £23,110
Note: (£1,530 underspend returned)

Projects Underway

- Weardale Sports Apprentices - £61,179
- Low Barns Volunteers - £10,800

Projects Approved by WAP Board and currently with Appraisal Team

- Durham Dales Hockey – Walking Hockey and Walking Netball - £7,049

Budget fully allocated with an overspend of £608

Area Budget Funding - £100,000

Monitoring Complete

- Eastgate Christmas Lights - £21,474

Projects Underway

- Weardale Accessible Support Service – Citizen's Advice - £9,635
- (Jointly funded with Welfare Reform budget + £10,000 = £19,635 Total)
- Witton-le-Wear Youth Club - £3,598
- (Jointly Funded with Youth Fund budget +£9,902 = £13,500 Total)
- A Close Knit Community - £5,963
- Fire Cadets and Tri-Responder Training - £8,150

Projects Approved by WAP Board and currently with Appraisal Team

- Weardale WordFest - £7,000
- 'HUB'ble Bubble Hopefully No Trouble - £5,300

Projects requiring Board Approval (Granted 10/2/2022)

- Music in the Durham Dales - £4,086
- Empowering People - £5,384

Area Budget Allocated £70,590

Area Budget Remaining £29,410

Welfare Reform - £10,000

Project Underway

Weardale Accessible Support Service – Citizen's Advice - £10,000
(Jointly funded with Area Budget + £9,635 = £19,635 Total Project)

Budget fully allocated

Youth Fund - £9,902

Project Underway

Witton-le-Wear Youth Club - **£9,902**

(Jointly funded with Area Budget + £3,598 = £13,500 Total Project)

Budget fully allocated

Older People's Social Isolation Fund - £25,000

Project Underway

Community Wellness Coordinator – Weardale Community Partnership - **£25,000**

Budget fully allocated

Appendix 2.

Neighbourhood Budget

Neighbourhood Budget (NB) Allocation per councillor - £19,400

- **Capital £14,000; Revenue £5,400**
 - of which £3,000 can be used on NB small grants in 2021/22
- **Town & Villages -£10,000**

Cllr Anita Savory

Neighbourhood Budget

- Running Costs and Referee provision - Wolsingham Football Club
- Benches in Wolsingham – Durham County Council
- Rights of Way Improvements - Wolsingham Wayfarers
- Flower Festival – WRECASS **(DOI - Board Approved 10/02/2022)**

Small Grants Fund

- Transport to RHS Flower Show – Weardale Flower and Garden Club
- Senior Citizens Christmas Meal - Wolsingham School

Towns and Villages

- ANPR Cameras – Durham Police **(DOI - Board Approved 10/02/2022)**

Cllr John Shuttleworth

Neighbourhood Budget

- Wolsingham Football Academy

Small Grants Fund

- Jubilee Celebration - Barrington Bites
- Wool – A Close Knit Community