

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



Online Microsoft Teams

ATTENDEES

Board Members

Public Representatives: Joan Warriner (JW)
Kevin Roddam (KR)
Adrian Holden (AH)
Richard Lawrie (RL)

Partner Representatives: Damian Pearson (DP) – Believe Housing
Dan Wootton (DW) – County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
Preet Singh (PS) – Durham Constabulary
Julian Haynes (JH) – Voluntary Sector Representative

Elected Members: Cllr Anita Savory (AS) – **CHAIR**
Cllr Helen Barrass (HB) – Muggleswick Parish Council
Cllr Alison Humble (AHu) – Stanhope Parish Council
Cllr David Sugden (DS) – Wolsingham Parish Council
Cllr Olive Wilson (OW) – Witton-le-Wear Parish Council

Officers

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

Presenters

Bill Lightburn (BL) – Durham County Council
Glenn Martin (GM) - Durham County Council

APOLOGIES

Elected Representatives: Trish Chapman – Hunstanworth

Partner Representatives: Geoff Paul - Durham County Council

BOARD MEETING

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. As everyone knows each other there was no need for formal introductions to be 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 10th February 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:

Economic Strategy – Glenn Martin, Durham County Council.

GM gave a presentation to the Board. His team had been in Stanhope during the day speaking to local businesses and visitors. A copy of the presentation is held on file in the WAP office.

He advised that the big Econ-versation is ongoing until April 2022 and as many residents of County Durham as possible were being invited to participate. He shared that there are three separate surveys designed for general residents, businesses and youth. www.durhamecon-versation.co.uk

AM asked what rural proofing is being considered. GM advised that rural issues are being addressed more than previously. He explained that this is an opportunity to plan future investment.

The Chair thanked GM for attending.

5. Weardale Action Partnership Update

Storm Arwen

AM advised that a link to a survey review of the response to Storm Arwen has been circulated and she encouraged all Board members to complete the survey and to share it with as many people as possible. The survey can be accessed here: www.Durham.gov.uk/consultation (available until 18th March).

AM advised that community groups have been asked to share feedback from their community meetings into the review. AM also advised that representatives from any community building which opened up in response to Storm Arwen have also been contacted directly by members of the WAP team for their input.

AM advised that NPG is carrying out their own review.

Resilience Planning

AM advised that there has been a lot of interest through the press and elsewhere regarding resilience planning in Weardale. She advised that work is being carried out with groups to see what they want to do and to look at what is possible. AM advised that discussions have taken place already with Eastgate Village Hall Association to tailor resilience planning to the needs of Eastgate Village.

AM shared that Durham Community Action have been approached to deliver some training to community groups to explain the possibilities and limitations that could be encountered during the process.

AM advised that she had also received an enquiry from an individual in Witton-le-Wear. She explained that the Civil Contingencies Unit work alongside Emergency Response Services in an effort to ensure that information is shared appropriately and efficiently. WAP are working with these services to offer assistance. AM mentioned BEEP which is a service offered to energy test a building to see how energy can be used efficiently or in other ways. This information can give more options for community groups to consider.

AM advised that although a funding scheme could be developed using WAP funds, this would need to be looked at in a strategic manner to benefit all communities in Weardale. She reiterated that WAP are here to help community groups achieve their goals and not to take over. She welcomed suggestions from Board members as to any community groups who may be considering their own resilience planning.

Return to Office Update

AM advised that the WAP team is now back in the office for at least 3 days a week under the new hybrid working model. The office is open, but AM encouraged Board members to ring before visiting to ensure the team are in the office that day.

February Half Term Activities

AM talked about the activities that had taken place during the February half-term holidays. She reminded Board members that the funding from these activities came from both DCC's Fun and Food money as well as our Area Budget.

Fun and Food Activities included:

ATOMS – delivered in the Upper Dale, a session of Board Games and activities
Harehope Quarry – Fossil Fun (4x ½ day sessions)
Witton-le-Wear Youth Group – Craft and sport activities (2x sessions)

Area Budget activities included:

Hamsterley Forest – Superworm and Gruffalo Trails, Wellness Trail and Pedal and Play (throughout the half term week)
Weardale Adventure Centre – Outdoor activity sessions (5x day sessions)
Low Barns – Forest School (2x day sessions)

AM explained that the weather had affected the sessions at the Adventure Centre as well as restricting the offer at Hamsterley Forest at the beginning of the half-term week.

AAP Priority Survey

AM reminded Board members of the AAP Priority Survey which can be accessed at <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/26713/Area-Action-Partnerships-AAPs-Community-Priorities-2022-23> closing date is 11th March.

Proposed Review of Community Engagement

AM advised board members that Durham County Council is proposing to conduct an independent review of its community engagement processes. Board members have received an email regarding this, and AM encouraged Board members to familiarise themselves with its content.

Fun and Food – Easter Applications

AM explained that one application had been received for funding to deliver sessions during the Easter holidays. The application has been made by Deaf Hill Ward Regeneration Partnership who run Witton-le-Wear Youth Club. There will be 4 sessions including trips to a trampolining centre and a circus skills workshop.

AS commented how it is so good to get these kinds of activities in such a rural area.

AM advised that there will be other holiday activity sessions funded through our Area Budget.

6. WAP Budgets Update

Towns and Villages Funding - £210,000

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

ANPR Cameras – AS Declared an Interest

BL advised that an offer of grant was made on 8th March 2022. This funding comes from Cllr Anita Savory's Towns and Villages allocation within her Neighbourhood Budget (£10,000).

Muggleswick Church – HB declared an interest

BL advised that background work is ongoing to obtain accurate costings/discussions on match funding.

Stanhope Open Air Swimming Pool – JH declared an interest

BL advised that a site visit from Swim England (technical appraisal) is confirmed for 6th April.

Ashcroft MUGA / Play Area Refurbishment – RL, AHu declared an interest

BL advised that a site visit took place by Surfacing Standards Ltd (outdoor pitch design specialists) on 3rd March 2022. Options and ballpark costs are being prepared. Similar information is to be provided by DCC Clean and Green Team for the adjacent play area.

Weardale Museum

BL reported that one of the Museum's match funding applications has been unsuccessful – results of other applications are awaited.

Witton-le-Wear Community Centre

No further update.

Killhope Museum – On hold

Harehope Quarry – On hold

BL explained that the total sum of the above Expressions of Interest totals over £800K which means that obtaining match funding for these projects is essential.

Board members were invited to ask questions.

AHu asked how much the Museum is looking for. BL advised that it is in the region of £180K to construct a small visitor centre to the rear of the building in the car park. AHu queried this as there are already problems with limited parking for the museum. BL advised that parking provision would be looked at as part of the application process.

AH echoed AHu's concerns regarding parking and BL reiterated that it would be looked at as part of the feasibility study and will be considered before an application is brought before the WAP Board for consideration.

AM advised that there are discussions underway in an attempt to obtain additional land to increase the parking capacity.

OW asked what Witton-le-Wear Community Centre are applying for funding for. BL advised that there are plans for a range of facility-based improvements both internally and externally, but no details are known as yet.

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.

Low Barns Volunteers – Project Underway

Adverts are out for this project.

Area Budget 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.

Fire Cadets – Project Underway

AM explained that this project had been delayed during the appraisal process due to a different project by the same organisation experiencing delays with monitoring. AM advised that this has now been sorted and the project is underway.

Empowering People – On hold

Awaiting confirmation from applicant to progress further.

Teesdale and Weardale Mountain Search and Rescue Team – Board Approval Required - £11,418

AM explained that the TWSMRT team's help was invaluable during Storm Arwen as they were able to translate the information from NPG into directions and addresses which enabled people to be reached. AM had a conversation with the team and asked them if they were currently looking for funding for any project.

A copy of the application has been sent to Board Members via email prior to the Board meeting for information. AM explained that the receivers are necessary as phone lines were lost during the storms. The emergency services have a different

communication system and boosters are needed for this. Part of the application is for security equipment to protect their vehicles and other equipment.

AM confirmed that as Coordinator she supports this project.

The Board APPROVED the application.

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

Area Budget Rollover Projects

AM explained that Covid had disrupted some previously ring-fenced projects. She confirmed that this money has not been lost

Area Budget 2020-21

Weardale Way – Durham County Council - £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.

Area Budget 2019-20

Frosterley Green Lighting - £7,630 – For Information

Originally part of a larger project of £14,000 initially ring-fenced for infrastructure work on the main Christmas Tree on the Village Green and upgrading the mains supply infrastructure to the Village Green as well as intergenerational workshops. The infrastructure is now in place and £7,630 of the funding remains unspent. Discussions are taking place with the group with regard to the needs of the project and how to take the remaining elements of the project forward.

Area Budget 2020-21

Volunteers Expenses - £5,000 – For Information

This project is no longer under consideration.

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

Since the last meeting a grant from the Small Grants Fund element of Cllr Savory's Neighbourhood Budget has been made to Blind Life 'Keeping Fit and Active'. The group have expressed their gratitude for the funding.

Cllr Shuttleworth Neighbourhood Budget

An application to Cllr Shuttleworth's Neighbourhood Budget to support the Frosterley Newsletter has been circulated to Board members prior to the meeting for information only. AM explained that this is a worthwhile project which will never be self-sustaining despite the best efforts of the group.

8. Countywide Partner Issues

None raised.

9. Dates and Times of Future Meetings

The AGM of the Weardale Action Partnership will take place on **Thursday 28th April, 6:00pm** in Eastgate Village Hall. This will be followed by a regular Board meeting.

The Chair made a statement about the upcoming AAP Review.

“There are 14 Area Action Partnership’s in County Durham and each one is different. I am privileged to have been a part of this AAP since the beginning and I am proud of the work it undertakes. Without the AAP we wouldn’t have had the funding we have had in Weardale or received the match funding it has brought in.

The AAP is also about support and advice, often signposting to other groups. The work undertaken to make the groups sustainable is immense. The concept of bringing together organisations such as police, fire, housing etc with the expertise of the AAPs works.

I am fiercely proud of Weardale AAP. It is right that questions are asked of us and that everything is transparent in our work.

Hopefully people will continue to get the help and support they need, and I feel sure that they wouldn’t get this without the AAP. All sectors of the Weardale community have benefitted from the large number of projects we have supported.

Thank you to the WAP team for all their hard work and support. And thank you to Board members – your input is valued and worthwhile.”

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and 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
- 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
- Music in the Durham Dales - £4,086
- Empowering People - £5,384

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

- Teesdale and Weardale Mountain Search and Rescue Team – £11,418

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
- Keeping Fit and Active – Blind Life

Towns and Villages

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

Cllr John Shuttleworth

Neighbourhood Budget

- Wolsingham Football Academy
- Frosterley Newsletter – Frosterley Village Hall

Small Grants Fund

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