

East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting
Wednesday 18 May 2022
Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn, DH6 5AT

Board Members

Attendance: Cllr Jan Blakey, Cllr Gary Hutchinson, Cllr David Brown, Cllr Chris Varty, Cllr Chris Lines, Cllr Maura McKeon, Angela Stobbart, Mel Carr, Kester Noble, Tony Cutmore, Stuart Dunn, George Storey

Officer Attendance: Jane Bellis – AAP Co-ordinator
Marie Ainscough – AAP Support Officer

Presenter: Mary Readman – Head of Transactional and Customer Services, DCC

Forum Members

Attendance: 4 forum members attended the meeting

Apologies from

Board Members: Insp Sarah Honeyman, Allan Blakemore, Christine Carter, Malcolm Gray

PART 1 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1 Election of Chair 2022/23

The AAP Co-ordinator welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting of the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership, the first face-to-face meeting since before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Prior to the Election of Chair, the AAP Co-ordinator thanked the outgoing Chair, Allan Blakemore for his commitment to the Board. Cllr Chris Varty and Angela Stobbart were also thanked for acting as Vice Chairs and standing in as Chair when needed.

Following the report that was emailed to Board Members on 10 May, outlining the process followed in electing the Chair and Vice Chairs of the AAP, as per the Terms of Reference, it was confirmed that consensus had been reached via email that –

- Angela Stobbart will be the Vice Chair for the partners section of the Board
- Allan Blakemore will be Vice Chair for the public section of the Board; and
- Cllr Chris Varty will be the Vice Chair for the Elected Members section of the Board

This year the Councillor section of the Board will hold the position of Chair. Board members were asked for consensus to the appointment of Cllr Chris Varty as Chair of the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership for 2022/23.

Board members agreed to the above appointments.

PART 2 – BOARD MEETING

2 Introductions and Apologies

Everyone was welcomed to the Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting of the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership. A round of introductions followed.

Apologies [see above].

The Chair highlighted that although the names of Board and Forum members are not included in the body of the minutes; advice given in relation to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), is that the board minutes are made public, therefore should anyone wish to remain anonymous they were to state this.

Board members were referred to the Declaration of Interest statement at the top of the agenda.

Anyone present who had a conflict of interest in any item on the agenda was asked to declare an interest at the start of the agenda item to ensure this was formally recorded in the meeting minutes.

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 March 2022 & Matters Arising

The Chair reviewed the previous minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy. There were no matters arising.

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4 Countywide Partner Issues:

4.1 Poverty Action Plan – Engagement Plan

Mary Readman, Head of Transactional and Customer Services delivered a presentation on the Poverty Action Strategy and Action Plan.

The Poverty Action Strategy and Plan for County Durham is reviewed regularly. The 2020 review broadened the scope to include the immediate impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. It aims to:

- improve the standard of living and daily lives of those residents in County Durham who are currently experiencing financial hardship,

- help alleviate long term issues that can lead households on low incomes to experience financial pressures and poverty.

As part of the consultation, Durham County Council are asking –

- Are these the right objectives?
- Where are the gaps/what more do we need to do?
- Are there any groups of people missing?

The [Strategy and action plan available online](#). To ‘Have Your Say’ please visit <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Poverty> or email: povertyaction@durham.gov.uk

The closing date for feedback and comments is 26 August 2022.

The meeting was open for discussion –

- What opportunities are there for the VCS to get involved?
- There are a lot of people who lived in private rented housing who are now homeless.
- There are no properties for blended families, and they are homeless.
- How do we reach those who are not online?
- The cost of public transport is an issue in this AAP area, the bus providers need to be feeding into this and we need to be feeding this into them also.
- Are there postcards available?
- How do we reach those people who are struggling financially?
- Can we look at making the digital process easier for people? Some people will find it difficult to see the leaflet due to the font size.

[Cllr Chris Lines and Tony Cutmore left the meeting]

- Some people can't afford the transport fare to get to Job Centre Plus, and it's difficult to get from Fishburn to Peterlee. Job searches can be done locally, they don't have to travel to Peterlee.
- We have seen a massive change in people who have not a penny to their name, and this is affecting their mental health. The children understand more about poverty than their parents and this is going to have a long-term effect which is going to last years. We need to get it right.
- Can we highlight the headings on the leaflet to break it down?

The Chair thanked Mary for her presentation; and she left the meeting.

[Cllr Jan Blakey, Cllr Gary Hutchinson and George Storey left the meeting]

5 Fun and Food – Summer Holiday Provision

Ten applications were received for Fun and Food – Summer provision; one was from Rose Cottage CIC and wasn't eligible because it was outside of the school holidays, and Trimdon Village Hall withdrew their application.

Board Members had had sight of the remaining 8 applications.

(1) **Breakfast Buddies from Trimdon Station Residents Association.** This is for:

- 3 hourly sessions, 3 days a week for 4 weeks; with a trip to Beamish Museum, including a healthy picnic during the final week.
- Healthy breakfast will be provided, and the children will also be offered baking sessions, where they'll make things like fruit kebabs and pizzas under supervision, which will provide a light lunch.
- Children will be provided with knowledge and awareness of healthy eating, and how to prepare and cook low-cost foods.
- Craft sessions will also take place including activities such as making jigsaws, badges and kites.
- The application amount is £957.50 for 25 beneficiaries, and they have match funding including volunteer time of £3,231.25.

The Board was happy to approve the project.

[Cllrs Jan Blakey and Gary Hutchinson declared an interest in the following application]

(2) **Bowburn Youth Project – Sport Sessions from DJ Evans Youth Club.** This is for:

- 2 hourly sessions for the target group of years 3, 4 and 5, 3 days a week over 4 weeks.
- Activities will include group activities, sports, arts and crafts and games/challenges.
- This will be followed by a healthy meal.
- The application amount is £2,503.08, for 30 beneficiaries.

The Board was happy to approve the project.

(3) **Summer Fun – Trimdon from Deaf Hill Regeneration Partnership.** This is for:

- 12 sessions over 6 weeks, consisting of a mixture of arts and crafts, and sports activities.
- Trips to Scarborough and Yorkshire Wildlife Park with packed lunch.
- The application amount is £7407.05 for 47 beneficiaries, and they have match funding of £1,300.

The Board was happy to approve the project.

(4) **Summer Family Fun Days from Trimdon Grange Community Association.** This is for:

- 3 educational trips for families, and a trip to Roseberry Topping to connect with the older young people who they lost touch with during COVID, with food included.
- Local walks, litter picks, den building and crafts in the local nature reserve will also take place.
- There'll also be a visit from The Dogs Trust to talk to the children about how to behave safely around dogs.
- The application amount is £3,184 for 90 beneficiaries, with £587.75 volunteer time match.

The Board was happy to approve the project.

(5) **Exploring the Outdoors with ATOMS from ATOMS CIC.** This is for:

- 2, 2 hourly sessions and a day trip to the beach.
- The first session includes a range of sports activities for all abilities; a member of the Team has a Disability Coaching Qualification.
- The second session includes team building games and activities including den building.
- The day trip will be to South Shields for a half- day session on the beach, and will include a beach treasure hunt and beach art.
- The other sessions will take place in Fishburn Youth and Community Centre.
- The application amount is for £2,035 for 70 beneficiaries from Fishburn, and potentially Sedgfield, with £40 match.

The Board was happy to approve the project.

(6) **Cookery and Exercise Sessions from Investing in Children.** This is for:

- Family sessions to prepare a healthy meal from scratch using fresh ingredients.
- Whilst the food cooks children will take part in a movement and exercise activity.
- Families will also be introduced to and shown how to prepare a dessert.
- The introduction to the day will be via story, and the introduction to the recipe will include a mini fun physical activity.
- Children will also be read to whilst they eat, and families will leave with step-by-step recipe cards.
- The application amount is for £1,254 for 50 beneficiaries within the Trimdons.

The Board was happy to approve the project.

(7) **Celebrating Summer in the Trimdons from Trimdon Community College Association.**

Unfortunately, the AAP were unable to fund this project as there was monitoring outstanding for 2 Covid Response projects which had been chased several times.

It was highlighted that this was also holding up an Area Budget application and would shortly be holding up a Neighbourhood Budget project which was now with the Funding Team for appraisal.

It was noted that there were 4 other projects covering the Trimdons so there would be provision.

[Stuart Dunn declared an interest in the following application]

(8) **Blooming Breakfast from Coxhoe Parish Council.** This is for:

- 1, 3 to 3 and a half hour session per week at Quarrington Hill Community Centre.
- The aim of the project is to ensure each child has access to healthy food throughout the holidays alongside enriching activities, and any parents struggling are made aware of services that may be able to offer further support.
- Parents will be encouraged to stay and have toast with a hot drink and socialise with others or join in with games with their children.
- To further support families, parents will be able to receive a small food hamper to support them on days the session doesn't run.
- The activities will be delivered by the Parish Council Youth Workers and will include gardening, arts and crafts, sports and playground games.
- Information will also be provided on services and activities around the villages, particularly services which may be useful for people facing financial challenges.
- The application amount is for £3,005.12 for 95 beneficiaries. [To note; this may change as the applicant's been asked for a breakdown of costs].

The Board was happy to approve the project.

Tony Cutmore from the Cornforth Partnership asked if information on their services could be provided to the families attending and on the community transport scheme for the providers. Tony was asked to email the AAP team with this information which would be passed onto the applicants.

A further meeting of the Towns and Villages Fund Task Group is being arranged. An application is expected for Cassop Play Park matched with Section 106; a number of other projects are in the pipeline.

The AAP team continue to work with colleagues in other departments to ensure projects, or elements of projects currently in the pipeline aren't already being picked up, or that there's other pots of funding available.

Board members will be updated on progress in due course.

6 Funding and Priorities – 2022/ 2023

Board members had received a report providing information on the current position of the various funding streams managed by the AAP, and an outline of the financial resources available to the AAP in 2022/23.

Included within the report were the main findings from the AAP Priorities Survey 2022, which enabled Board members to decide which priorities should be the focus of our work.

The Board agreed that the project call out process continue; and the task group meetings would be held online via Teams.

Board members agreed to the continuation of Community Recovery as the priority for this financial year, and further agreed to include the following themes, along with the cost of living/ poverty measures, given the impact rising costs are having on our communities -

- Local environment/ climate change.
- Community safety, including policing issues and road safety.
- Transport; traffic and roads, including transport and connectivity and highways issues.

The Board made the following comments –

- In relation to Item 7 of the report – Young People’s Healthy Relationships Funding, a comment was made that there was only one secondary school with the East Durham Rural Corridor AAP area and it was suggested that we work with the youth workers, now there is provision.

Jane advised that she was waiting for the criteria on the fund but would bear these comments in mind.

- We may need to look at the short-term measures and be realistic what we as an AAP can do.
- We must plan what we are going to do in October when fuel prices will be rising again. Some families don’t have microwaves, tin openers, slow cookers.
- Angela Stobbart from Believe Housing was asked if there were any home improvement projects that would benefit households due to the rising energy costs.
- It was suggested that DCC colleagues be invited along to a Board meeting to deliver a presentation on climate change and how this could fit with projects. Some properties don’t have insulation and double glazing and there will be programmes out there that will help to address the crisis. It would be useful to know. Jane agreed to contact the appropriate team.

- We need to be supporting community venues. Could we explore options for solar panels for example this would save them money and would be sustainable.

7 Co-ordinators Report including Quarterly Performance Management

There is a vacancy for a public representative on the Board. Anybody who was interested was asked to email eastdurhamruralaap@durham.gov.uk, and an application pack would be sent out to them.

Peter Maddison, Fire representative on the Board had left the Fire and Rescue Service. Marie is currently liaising with colleagues to find a replacement.

Quarterly Monitoring

With regards to quarterly monitoring of Area Budget projects funded through the AAP, there were no groups available to showcase their project for this meeting; project leads will continue to be invited to come along to give an update on their project.

8 Local Neighbourhood Issues (LNI)

8.1 Locality Policing Issues

Neighbourhood Insp Sarah Honeyman was unable to attend the meeting but did provide the following update on local policing issues.

There have been some thefts of motorbikes and garage burglaries where motorbikes have been stolen in the Trimdon area – this has been an issue across other parts of the county too, but at the moment the Police believe the Trimdon crimes to be linked to two nominals from Peterlee's area who are wanted, and they are actively making arrest attempts.

There has also been a slight increase in ASB in Hardwick Park in Sedgefield. The police team have made enquiries with the local school, and have identified some youths who frequent the park on a Friday evening when the problem is at its worse. They have been spoken to with parents and there has been no reports in the last couple of weeks. The ASB has been mainly alcohol and litter, although some vandalism of lovely old monuments has occurred. From a police perspective the youths frequenting the park is preferable to the centre of the town but clearly the behaviour of some is once again spoiling things for the majority.

Update from Gary Smith, Peterlee Inspector

Pro-active work continues around the tackling of ASB in Wingate and into Trimdon, and the targeting of young people committing damages to busses, where there have been previous issues. Many partner tactics have been set up to tackle these issues with further pro-active work coming soon.

Marie agreed to contact the Police representative on Durhams Board for an update on North settlements within the AAP area.

9 Neighbourhood Budget Projects

The following Neighbourhood Budget project was shared with the Board -

Name of Scheme: Kelloe Bowling Green Improvements

Councillor(s): McKeon

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £2,664.00

The Board was happy to approve the project.

10 Date and time of next board meeting

Tuesday 19 July 2022 – 5.00 pm, Coxhoe Village Hall

Subsequent Meetings

- Wednesday 28 September 2022
- Tuesday 22 November 2022
- Wednesday 25 January 2023
- Wednesday 22 March 2023

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed.