

Durham Area Action Partnership Minutes of the Board Meeting

Thursday 26 January 2023

(Virtual Meeting - held via Microsoft Teams)

Board Members

Attendance: Cllr Liz Brown, Chris Tindale, Cllr Eric Mavin, Cllr Lucy Hovvels, Gary Tidbury, Alice Wilkes, Cllr Bill Kellett, Dave Clarke, Sam Humble, Victoria Ashfield, Joanne Thorns, Mick Henderson, Cllr Lesley Mavin, Cllr Richard Ormerod, Paul Howard, Hannah Shepherd, Lee Alexander

AAP Officer

Attendance: Craig Morgan – AAP Co-ordinator
Wendy Lavelle – Community Development Project Officer
Lyndsey Hunter – Community Development Project Officer
Marie Ainscough – AAP Support Officer
Sam Friend – Fun and Food Team

Apologies Board: Sarah Burns, Jen Straughan-Hawley, Rebecca Ashby

Forum Members: 4 forum members attended the meeting

1 [Welcome, Introductions and Apologies](#)

Cllr Liz Brown (Chair) welcomed everyone to the online Durham AAP Board Meeting. A round of introductions followed.

A warm welcome was offered to Mick Henderson who had replaced Ian Moore as the new Fire Representative on the board.

Following the resignation of Veronica Freitas there is a public representative vacancy on the board. Six expressions of interest and one application had been received to date.

Apologies for absence, [as above].

Everyone was reminded of the Teams meeting etiquette.

2 [Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 13 December 2022. Agreement and Matters Arising](#)

The Chair reviewed the previous minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy.

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3 AAP Funding Update

An update on the current funding position had been included in the papers.

£129,322 of Area Budget projects had been approved; and there is £68,263* left to allocate.

*This figure may change depending on whether the applications are approved by the Board at this meeting. There were £59,520 worth of proposals to consider.

Towns and Villages Funding

£99,912 of Towns and Villages Funding projects had been approved; there was no applications to consider at this meeting, and there is £110,088 left to allocate.

£10,000 from the Healthy Relationships Fund had been allocated to The Respect – A Healthy Relationship Program for Young People project and the applicant had received their offer letter.

4 Task and Finish Group Feedback and Project Approvals

Covid Recovery

[Sam Humble declared an interest in the following item of business]

Proposal – St Nicholas Churchyard Improvements

An application had been received for £5,000 towards a total project cost of £7,920.

The funding would be used to create a wildflower meadow within the churchyard and support volunteers to do a more general tidy up in anticipation of a much bigger project to fully restore the churchyard. The project is also being supported by Durham Wildlife Trust and City of Durham Parish Council. The project will create a quiet, green space that the whole community can use, and the scheme is supported by the local residents group. Whilst this is still classed as an 'open' graveyard ongoing responsibility will remain with the church.

The Board was happy to support this project and it was approved.

Proposal – DERIC Children and Young People's Project

An application had been received for £7,560 towards a total project cost of £10,584.

The DERIC Project offers support and activities for older people and children in Bearpark. The project would like to facilitate the running of sessions for children, young mums and young people.

The first session will be a parent and baby/toddler session. As well as providing stimulating musical activities for the children, younger mums will be encouraged to join in and get any support they may need. Sessions will be delivered by 'Mini-Melodies, with support from DERIC staff.

Youth work sessions for juniors and seniors will also be run by 'Learning and New Way' again with DERIC support. These weekly sessions will focus on young people's wellbeing.

Both elements of the work will compliment other work being done in the village through local churches.

[Chris Tindale left the meeting]

Board members had their reservations about this project. Queries were raised around the sustainability of the project, potential duplication of services being delivered, volunteer support and the lack of communication between groups in the area.

It was agreed that this application be deferred, and it was suggested that a meeting be arranged to bring people together to pin down what's needed and to discuss the queries raised by the Board.

Proposal – Framwellgate Moor Youth and Community Centre Solar Panels

An application had been received for £8,000 towards a total project cost of £14,218.80.

The centre is keen to ensure they can secure the long-term viability of the centre and develop energy efficiency measures and reduce their carbon footprint.

The centre is very well used by the local community and the installation of the panels and battery storage units will help them to reduce their costs, which are continuing to rise and ensure they can continue to deliver essential wellbeing work locally.

The Board was happy to support this project and it was approved.

Proposal – Durham Action on Single Housing Volunteer Development

An application had been received for £14,330.32 towards a total project cost of £17,211.58.

DASH are applying for a further year's funding to continue the employment of a volunteer co-ordinator to build on and expand Durham Impact Project to include a wider geographical area. A further year's funding would enable the co-ordinator to expand the range of contacts and organisations geographically and numerically, thus providing more opportunities for service users to volunteer and to recruit a regular cohort of outside volunteers. A wider range of opportunities would enhance skills, social interaction, self-confidence and improve the physical and mental wellbeing of both service users and outside volunteers.

The Board was happy to support this project and it was approved.

Proposal – Durham City Night Hub

An application had been received for £12,000 towards a total project cost of £235,000.

This multi-agency scheme aims to protect vulnerable people, especially women and girls in Durham City on a Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday evening (Wednesdays are term time only). An initial piloting of this work has shown that there is need with over 1000 instances of support being given to people in need. The hub is based at St Nicholas Church and operates between 8pm and 3am. The funding will help to secure the continuation of the project until September 2023. Incidents that have been dealt with since it was introduced in February 2022 range from assaults, domestic abuse, violence, mental health, and attempted suicides as well as guardianship support to lone females. The applicant is Durham County Council who are working with the police, church, university, Police and Crime Commissioner, Durham BID and City of Durham Parish Council. The project is also being supported financially by the Home Office.

The task group had asked for clarity on the venue costs to help inform the Board in their decision-making process however the applicant had not provided this information.

Dave Clarke, the Police representative on the Board provided information in support of this project as he had been heavily involved with as had the parish council.

The Board was happy to support the project in principle pending information being received on the venue costs.

Proposal – Shadforth Village Hall Exterior Repairs

An application had been received for £12,630 towards a total project cost of £23,705.

The outside rendering of the building needs urgent repair as water is getting in and causing damp issues in the building. This makes the building less attractive to users and threatens the long-term sustainability of the building. Funding will be used to cover these essential repairs meaning the centre can remain open and continue to offer essential services for the local community.

A query was raised in relation to whether the applicant had plans to install insulation. Lyndsey agreed to look into this.

The Board was happy to support this project and it was approved.

5 Neighbourhood Budgets

The following neighbourhood budget projects were shared with the Board -

Name of Scheme: Kirkstone Drive Speed Bump
Councillor(s): Eric Mavin / Lesley Mavin
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £2,571.48

Name of Scheme: Running costs and Fire/Soundproof Doors
Councillor(s): Bill Kellett
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £6,000.00

Name of Scheme: Fram/Newton Hall Dog Run
Councillor(s): Amanda Hopgood / Mark Wilkes / Mamie Simmons
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £12,770.00

Name of Scheme: Belmont Recreation Grounds
Councillor(s): Eric Mavin / Lesley Mavin / Christine Fletcher
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £10,876.00

Name of Scheme: Witton Gilbert Improvements
Councillor(s): Bev Coult / Arnie Simpson
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £3,800.00

The Board was happy for the projects to go ahead.

6 Fun and Food Update

Craig provided information on the funding available for the Fun and Food Scheme for February Half Term 2023.

As funding was limited projects had been asked to submit applications with reduced costs to try and make the funding go further. Both costs are shown in the summaries below.

[Sam Humble left the meeting]

Wendy Lavelle and Sam Friend provided a brief overview on the six applications that had been received –

1. Go the distance
Amount applied for: £1600 / Revised cost: £1150
Match Funding: £350 / Revised Match £800
2. Witton Gilbert Community Centre
Amount applied for: £450 / Revised cost: £450
Match Funding: £0
3. Cheesy Waffles Project
Amount applied for: £1538 / Revised cost: £1000
Match Funding: £3020 / Revised Match: £3378
4. Pelaw View Community Group
Amount applied for: £1275 / Revised cost: £765
Match Funding: £0 / Revised Match: £0

It was highlighted that Pelaw View Community Group needed admin support to help them with their monitoring returns and paperwork in general. Following a kind offer of support from Victoria Ashfield, Craig suggested that a visit be arranged.

5. Durham Area Youth
Amount applied for: £1985 / Revised cost: N/A
Match Funding: £219/ Revised Match: N/A

It was suggested that the applicant be offered 3/5 of what they had requested which fell in line with the other applications.

6. Harbour Support
Amount applied for: £978 (5 days of activities) / Revised cost: £514 (3 days of activities)
Match Funding: £0/ Revised Match: N/A

Concerns were raised with those applicants who had not responded with a revised cost.

On reflection, the Board agreed that it was important that all applicants be awarded funding for February Half Term 2023. They preferred that the

days were not reduced and commit more money from the Fun and Food budget for this half term resulting in less funding being available for future half term holiday periods.

7 Forward Planning

Craig pointed out that it was that time of the year where the AAP Board needed to start thinking about looking forward to next year in terms of when we meet, whether we continue with online and face to face meetings and what Durham AAP should be focussing on re priorities.

He said he was keen to hear from local organisations on what the key issues are to them and what the solutions might be. He suggested holding thematic discussion groups to give people and organisations the chance to discuss this.

The issues will be discussed at the task group meeting(s) and taken to the Board so decisions on how we approach the 2023/24 funding be made.

8 Chair and Coordinators Update

There was no update from the Chair.

Coordinator's Update

The deadline for the submission of completed public representative vacancy application forms is Tuesday 31 January 2023. Craig will then liaise with the Chair and Vice Chairs re the interviews.

The role of Vice Chair for the Partner section on the Board is to fill following the retirement of Ian Moore. Craig hoped to have this in place before the next Board meeting.

Craig had been to an event in Newcastle with the local resilience forums about how communities respond to emergencies.

The AAP team had been busy with Area Budgets and Neighbourhood Budgets.

9 Partner Updates

Dave Clarke provided an update on local policing issues. There had been an increase in the theft of vehicles in particular Ford vehicles and the night hub had been going well and they were seeking to expand the provision to other areas.

Paul Howard from Durham BID reported that Durham Restaurant Week is taking place from 28 January - 4 February with 27 local businesses taking part and Fire and Ice on 24 and 25 February.

Hannah Shepherd provided an update on Durham University and was pleased to report four Student Community Wardens were now in post. Hannah to feedback on the resident's forum and task force in due course. Operations on the community response team had been quiet.

John Lowe from Durham City Trust advised that they had been preparing responses for the housing development applications at Sniperley Park.

10 Any other Business

Craig to email a proposal to Board members re the Fun and Food allocations for the Easter, Summer, and Christmas holidays. His suggestion to the Board would be to take a similar approach to the half terms ie ringfence an amount for each holiday period with some flexibility; the suggestion was allocating £10,000 to Easter, £30,000 to Summer and £5,000 to Christmas.

11 Date and time of next meeting

21st February 2023, 6.00 pm, Durham Town Hall

Subsequent Meetings

- 29th March 2023, 2:00pm, Online

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed.