

**NOTES OF THE DEARNE APPROACH CLE STEERING GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2014  
AT THE SALVATION ARMY HALL, STRAIGHT LANE GOLDTHORPE**

**Attendance:** Helen Jagger CEO Berneslai Homes, Wendy Lowder BMBC Adults and Communities(Chair), John Hayes, Goldthorpe Development Group, Nigel Middlehurst VAB, Derek Bramham, Big Local Janet Eller, Dearne Electronic Community Village, Joe Micheli, BMBC Adults and Communities, Cllrs Gardiner (Dearne North) and Noble (Dearne South), Pauline Phillips, Thurnscoe Park, Sarah Cartwright, Dearne Housing Regeneration, Annette Gollick, Big Local, Alistair Shaw, Big Local Elaine Slater Area Council Manager.

**Apologies:** Gary Stott, Community Shop, Jasmine Waiters – Public Health

1.0 **Welcome and introductions.** A round of introductions took place.

2.0 **Notes of the Meeting held on 1 September 2014/Matters Arising**

The notes were agreed as a true record. The following actions highlighted:

2.1 **ES** reported that representatives had been invited from Job Centre Plus and Primary Care and Janet Eller from DECV. Janet was in attendance.

4.4 **ES** reported that a Volunteers Celebration event has been organised by Cllr Noble and Tina Smith, Senior Locality Worker and will take place on 12 November at Dearne Playhouse.

3.0 **Feedback from Housing Options/Jobs, Enterprise and Training Sub-Groups**

3.1 **Housing Options Meeting held on 4 September 2014** – HJ said who had attended the meeting and referred to the update on current provision which had taken place. Also that Berneslai Homes experience is that there is still demand for housing in the Dearne area other than one or two streets in Goldthorpe.

It was agreed that one of the main issues is the behaviour of private landlords.

Reference was made to Goldthorpe Development Group who had shelved the idea of buying houses to refurbish at the present time in order to concentrate on the 'tidy street' project. In addition the 'Our Streets' project was discussed and further information about the multi-agency approach received.

DB informed the group of the recent Big Local representatives visit to Leigh and Wigan and that their projects include the purchase and refurbishment of houses as well as a variety of planting schemes. It was agreed that it is good practice to look at other areas with similar ideas. JH raised the issue of distribution of information Big Local ideas out to the wider community. The group were informed that information on progress for community run schemes in Leigh and Wigan Big Local area was put out in leaflet/newsletter format and mainly distributed to public places in and around the area but not to every home.

Discussion followed about the problems being experienced in the area with private landlords and possible solutions. Ideas put forward were the possibility of a 'selective licensing scheme' for landlords and/or improved responsible property management services as some of the existing ones are not working.

SC gave an update on the housing regeneration initiatives currently happening and planned for the area. Cllr Gardiner raised the issue of affordable housing highlighting the pressure on Housing Associations to build in the area. SC replied that there is a shortage of land for affordable housing but that they are still working to the principles of the 'Goldthorpe Masterplan' put together a few years ago but without the financial support of Housing Market Renewal and that where private developers move in there is the possibility of Section 106 funding being available towards social housing.

The group was informed that Thurnscoe Big Local has notionally allocated an amount in their plan for refurbishing housing linked to skills and training and that Highgate Bolton and Goldthorpe Big Local are presently considering something similar. NM offered assistance to both Dearne Big Locals in working up their ideas around housing refurbishment.

**Action: NM to facilitate session with both Big Local groups to explore options/ structures for the establishment of a community led enterprise linked to interest in Housing projects in both schemes.**

It was agreed that a mini-housing masterplan would be a good idea which plugged into both Big Locals.

**Action: HJ to lead development of 'mini Housing Masterplan for Goldthorpe**

**Action: Mini Housing Master Plan to include intentions from Big Local programme as appropriate**

Cllr Gardiner referred to the excellent progress which was now being made on some of the regeneration initiatives including the new school for Goldthorpe.

**Action AS to distribute information relating to the Big Local Study visit including the information leaflet from Leigh and Wigan.**

### 3.2 Jobs, Enterprise and Training Sub-Group

JM gave feedback. It was noted that this group was very well attended with representatives from Job Centre Plus, Company Shop and Coalfields Regeneration Trust, as well as local representatives.

In a similar format to the housing options group the jobs, enterprise and training group had updated on what each group/organisation were Planning/delivering in the Dearne area.

General consensus that there was a wide and complex set of support services and initiatives in place to support people back to work in the Dearne, however the connectivity between these and communications efforts to reach the public

could be improved. There was particular interest in further thought being given to how a Community Mentors/Champions scheme could be developed across various training providers and building on the good practice delivered through the Community Shop programme. This reflected that the impact of local mentors had been very successful. One of the Dearne Approach researchers had completed this course and is now a mentor for others.

A discussion took place regarding the potential to expand the Company Shop training and mentoring model within the wider community, reflecting limited capacity in the Community Shop. **Action ES to talk to G Stott to explore possibilities for expanding the model.**

It was recognised that bringing together a training and employment network in the Dearne to improve communication and sharing of good practice across providers would be valuable. A discussion took place on who would be best placed to lead this group. **WL agreed to speak to David Shepherd in the BMBC Place Directorate to discuss establishing a training and employment network for the Dearne. ACTION: WL**

Other initiatives covered were the excellent work taking place at Dearne Electronic Village on improving peoples ICT knowledge, Maths and English and development of CVs and wider careers advice being provided through Coalfields Regeneration Trust. Also the additional skills for work training which is being funded from the Dearne Area Council commissioning budget.

Cllr Noble talked about plans for further training for people seeking jobs in ALDI which could possibly be delivered at Dearne Renaissance Centre in Dearne South.

Cllr Gardiner said how amazed he was that the unemployment figures are still high with so many initiatives. Some discussion followed about people, who are in employment wanting to move to a better, more well paid job and that support should be given for that.

HJ highlighted the issue of digital exclusion in the area and referred to the 'large screens' available in some of Berneslai Homes sheltered housing schemes. The idea was raised as to whether these screens could be borrowed and moved around to other locations to make them more accessible. WL suggested asking Alison Vint about the provision available in the Dearne. **Action HJ to investigate digital inclusion matters and discuss further with Alison Vint.**

#### 4.0 **Reporting Arrangements Dearne CLE Steering Group/Area Council and Connectivity issues**

- 4.1 ES tabled a paper reflecting the current reporting arrangements for the Dearne Approach and connection with other programmes. Following discussion it was agreed that the current arrangements for the Dearne Approach CLE project Steering Group were working well and in practice the Steering Group was acting as a forum for neighbourhood management.

It was agreed that the notes of group should be shared with the Area Council to ensure connection with the Area Governance arrangements. Secretariat support for the Steering Group would continue to be provided by the Area Team through ES.

In terms of inviting other partners to become more actively involved in the Steering Group, it was agreed that reps from Job Centre Plus, Health and Education should be approached. Dearne Valley College were also suggested as Group members. JM pointed out that BMBC Public Health were already members of the group.

**Action ES to contact identified partners to joining the Steering Group and share minutes with the Dearne Area Council.**

The development of the community led enterprise would continue to be explored in the context of the Steering Group business and building on the themes of the two working groups and proposals from the Big Local programmes. NM would seek to facilitate a session with both groups to explore structures.

## 6.0 **Future Meetings**

- 6.1 It was agreed that the group will continue with bi-monthly meetings for the present time and that Mondays at 4pm is a good day and time for most people. Also that the Salvation Army is a good central venue for the meetings. **Action ES to book the venue and send out a list of future meeting dates with the notes of this meeting.**

### **AOB**

WL suggested that the two Big Local groups might want to consider how the newsletter proposal might be progressed building on the example from the study visit.