

MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 15 March 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Held Virtually

AGENDA

- 1 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Minutes

- 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 18th January, 2021 (Dac.15.03.2021/2) *(Pages 3 - 10)*

Items for Discussion

- 3 Superfast South Yorkshire - Julie Tattershall (Dac.15.03.2021/3) *(Pages 11 - 22)*
- 4 Dearne Electronic Community Village (Dac.15.03.2021/4)
- 5 Twiggs Grounds Maintenance (Dac.15.03.2021/5)
- 6 Covid-19 Update - Cath Bedford and Craig Aubrey (Dac.15.03.2021/6) *(To Follow)*

Performance

- 7 Update on Commissions (Dac.15.03.2021/7) *(Pages 23 - 24)*
- 8 Dearne Area Council Financial Update (Dac.15.03.2021/8) *(Pages 25 - 28)*
- 9 Performance Report Q3 (Dac.15.03.2021/9) *(Pages 29 - 40)*

Ward Alliances

- 10 Notes from the Dearne Ward Alliances (Dac.15.03.2021/10) *(Pages 41 - 62)*
 - Dearne South Ward Alliance held on 1st February and 2nd March, 2021
 - Dearne North Ward Alliance held on 1st February and 2nd March, 2021
- 11 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.15.03.2021/11) *(Pages 63 - 68)*

To: Chair and Members of Dearne Area Council:-

Councillors Noble (Chair), Danforth, Gardiner, Gollick, C. Johnson and Phillips

Area Council Support Officers:

Paul Castle, Dearne Area Council Senior Management Link Officer
Claire Dawson, Dearne Area Council Manager
Rachel Payling, Head of Service, Stronger Communities
Peter Mirfin, Council Governance Officer
Cath Bedford, Public Health Principal - Communities

Please contact Peter Mirfin on email governance@barnsley.gov.uk

Thursday 4th March, 2021



MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 18 January 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present Councillors Noble (Chair), Danforth, Gardiner, Gollick, C. Johnson and Phillips

9 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.

10 Minutes from the Previous Meeting held on 16th November, 2020 (Dac.18.01.2021/2)

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of the Dearne Area Council.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Dearne Area Council meeting held on the 16th November, 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

11 Bfriend social connectivity service - Mike Niles (Dac.18.01.2021/3)

Mike Niles representing the Bfriend Social Connectivity Service attended the meeting and gave Members an update of work currently being undertaken within the area.

He explained the background to the Service which operated with the Dearne and other areas of South Yorkshire and which aimed to reduce social isolation. As a result of the Covid pandemic the Bfriend had been required to 'revamp' its services by transferring all its Bfriending/face to face activity online or telephone (for those who did not have access to the internet). Because of the exceptionally good volunteer base it had been possible to deliver to service users' essential items such as food and medicines and this had been particularly important at the start of the pandemic.

Weekly telephone calls were made with the two groups in the Dearne, one in Bolton upon Dearne and the other in Thurnscoe and Facebook live sessions were utilised to deliver various activities. Bundles/packs of activity related material were also delivered to try to ensure such residents still felt connected even though they were unable to access any of the online sessions.

Since March the Service had supported over 80 older neighbours in the Dearne and delivered between 180-200 packs to those who were self-isolating. It was pleasing to note, however, that as the Service had been running prior to the first lockdown this had enabled it to know where to target resources, to be connected, to be a trusted friend and to make the necessary connections for 'clients' to other services within the area.

This year there had been an independent qualitative evaluation of the project with both beneficiaries and volunteers. The main findings, amongst other things, indicated that the Service had used volunteers within the area who had never previously volunteered and the Service had contributed to improved well-being. The report findings were quite extensive, and a copy was available should members wish to have sight of it. The findings were extremely positive and outlined the importance of the Service to residents particularly during the difficult circumstances currently pertaining.

In conclusion he stated that whilst much of what the service undertook had changed as a result of the pandemic, it had, at the same time, highlighted the importance of the work undertaken in reducing social isolation particularly amongst the vulnerable community.

In response to questioning Mr Niles commented on the following:

- Since the lockdown started there had been an uptake in the number of referrals and there had been an approximate four-fold increase in demand. The people Bfriend was working with were facing increased anxiety and this too had increased the staff time required too try to connect people to statutory services or other community 'offers'
- Reference was also made to the way in which residents accessing the service had responded to the lack of face to face contact. Those who had access to a Bfriend prior to lockdown had probably coped better than those who had attended social group sessions as the latter group were facing isolation/restrictions in a way they had previously not experienced. Some of the relationships formed had been crucial and people were looking forward to the re-establishment of face to face sessions when this was possible
- Anyone over the age of 65 living on their own could access the service and referrals were still being accepted. The service was exceptionally lucky in that volunteers were still signing up to offer support. If Members of the Area Council knew of anyone who needed support, they were encouraged to refer them to the Service

RESOLVED that Mike Niles be thanked for his report, for attending the meeting and for answering Members questions.

12 COVID-19 Public Health update - Craig Aubrey and Cath Bedford/Lucy Butcher (Dac.18.01.2021/4)

Cath Bedford, Public Health Principal – Communities and Craig Aubrey, Neighbourhood Engagement Officer were welcomed to the meeting.

Members were reminded of the national lockdown which commenced on 5th January, 2021 and it was noted that the rate of infection was steadily but persistently rising with around 100 new cases per day across the borough but it was hoped that this would reduce as a result of the current lockdown. Rises were generally seen in the working age population, especially in those aged 50-59 and 20-39. The public health message of 'Hands, Face, Space' remained and Members were also reminded of the need to open windows for fresh air particularly during the winter months.

Members heard that situation report meetings were held twice a week to consider data, and it was noted that cases seemed distributed across the borough. Members were encouraged to feed in any intelligence which may result in understanding any patterns.

16 Covid Marshals had been employed and though they had no formal powers of enforcement, they worked closely with Police and Regulatory Service staff who did. Their recent observations included lack of face coverings being worn, poor social distancing, and a lack of signage in commercial premises. Also noted were recurrent gatherings of young people in outdoor public places.

Those present heard how six Neighbourhood Engagement Officers were now in post. One was assigned to each Area Council. Members also heard about the community insights work, with workshops being organised to understand behaviour in relation to Covid. A Workshop had also been organised for Elected Members on the 2nd February, 2021. Additional finance had been secured to support engagement with disabled and BAME communities.

Members noted the work to support vulnerable communities impacted by Covid, and to understand and support the management of any outbreaks.

Members heard about the Covid Support Service in place to support the national test and trace efforts, with welfare telephone calls being made and even house visits for those unable to be reached.

Details of the Community Testing Centre at the Metrodome were provided. Symptomatic testing was being provided at three sites throughout the borough. In addition, a mobile testing unit was available which this week would be at the Cinema car park in Penistone. A pilot had opened recently focusing on the routine testing of critical frontline workers.

It was acknowledged that routine testing would also be undertaken in secondary schools, but further detail on this was outstanding.

Vaccinations had commenced with sites at Priory Campus, Apollo Court and Goldthorpe Medical Centre. Members were asked to encourage residents to wait to be called for their vaccine rather than making enquiries.

Craig Aubrey, then provided details about the role of Neighbourhood Engagement Officers and the work they were currently undertaking. They supported compliance in businesses, and referred any issues for enforcement where necessary, working closely with Covid Marshals, Response Co-ordinator and Community Responders. The role also included raising awareness of financial support to businesses in the area. Work was also undertaken with the community to identify and tackle issues that arose in relation to non-compliance with the Covid guidance.

Members were asked to report any breaches of Covid guidance which would provide useful intelligence for all agencies supporting this effort.

In response to questions it was explained how the Neighbourhood Engagement Officers and Covid Marshalls worked alongside Community Safety Officers and the Police to share intelligence information and ensure a seamless approach particularly

in relation to investigations and actions in respect of breaches of Covid guidance. Cath Bedford also reported on joint visits that had been organised involving Covid Marshalls and the South Yorkshire Police.

It was recognised that Covid Marshalls did not have powers of enforcement and any fines had to be issued by the Police, but they also worked closely with Regulatory Service to try to ensure appropriate compliance. It was pleasing to note, however, that the majority of residents/businesses accepted the advice issued.

Further information on the rationale for the placement of the Mobile Testing Unit would be provided but it was thought that decisions about this were largely based on identified need/hot spots.

The Chair commented that an issue that she had raised with the Neighbourhood Engagement Officer had been dealt with quickly and efficiently and the problem had not occurred again and thanks were extended to the Team for that.

RESOLVED that Cath Bedford and Craig Aubrey be thanked for attending the meeting, presenting the report and answering Members questions.

13 Finance Update Report (Dac.18.01.2021/5)

Claire Dawson, Dearne Area Council Manager spoke to the report previously circulated.

An overview of the financial position was provided. The Area Council had an opening budget of £214,720.67, which, as previously reported, was supplemented by an additional £10,000 from the hardship fund. Members had approved the Education, Environment and Volunteer Service, Housing and Migration Officer, Employability Service and Social Connectivity Service, together with an allocation of £28,000 to the Dearne Development Fund.

It was noted that £173.67 remained unallocated, however, income from NESTA to support the Social Connectivity Service had been received leaving a total of £9,663.67 unallocated.

Following the allocation of £28,000 to the Dearne Development Fund, together with £10,000 from the hardship fund, and finance carried forward from 2019/20, £41,650.68 was available to distribute. Members noted that awards had been given to DIAL, CAB, Thurnscoe Community Plaza and Highgate Outdoor Improvement Scheme and that £11,427.68 remained in the fund.

In relation to the remaining funding in the Dearne Development Fund it was noted that funding bids had to include a Covid related element in order to be eligible. It was hoped that any remaining budget not spent could be carried over into the next financial year given the exceptional circumstances.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

14 Procurement Report - Environmental, Education and Volunteering service (Dac.18.01.2021/6)

Claire Dawson, Dearne Area Council Manager spoke to the report previously circulated which sought to delegate to the Executive Director Adults and Communities responsibility to make changes to the current activities/targets of the environmental, Education and volunteer Service currently delivered by Twigg's Grounds Maintenance.

Members were reminded that at the meeting held on the 16th November, 2020 the Area Council had agreed a third-year extension of the environmental, education and volunteer contract with an option to extend for a further year thereafter. It was noted, however, that the restrictions posed by the Covid pandemic had posed difficulties for Twigg's in working with volunteers, groups, businesses and schools.

On the 14th December, 2020, Members together with the Area Manager and representatives of the procurement team had met to discuss activities and targets set for Twigg's at the start of their contract, to review those targets in the light of the pandemic and to discuss a possible variation to the contract in view of the difficulties encountered. As a result of that meeting, alternative activities and targets had been suggested with others being put on hold for the next 12 months and details of the proposals were outlined within the report.

It was noted that in the past, Twigg's had adopted an approach of working with groups and organisations (in addition to proactive and reactive work) but due to the current pandemic situation it was suggested that there would have to be much more emphasis on the reactive and proactive elements of the contract whilst, at the same time, working with volunteers and groups that were able to do so, accepting that this kind of work would be restricted. It was proposed, therefore, that a schedule would be developed for the Service to work towards for the next 12 months

The next steps in the process would be to work through the activities and targets with the provider and with the procurement team in order to develop a work schedule and a variation to the original contract. Members of the Area Council together with the Area Team and partners would continue to work to build up a schedule of activity based around reactive work. It was anticipated that this schedule would be available in early February in time for the start of the new financial year. The Service would proactively target areas that were not already within the schedule and the Area Manager would hold discussions with Neighbourhood Services to ensure that there was no duplication of work/work areas.

Arising out of the discussion, reference was made to the work currently undertaken within the area by the Shaw Foundation in association with other organisations including the Thurnscoe Tenants Association. Particular reference was made to the difficulties that were encountered when litter was picked up on private land and for which the Council had no responsibility to remove/collect. The Area Council Manager stated that she would circulate a link which could be shared with the Tenants Association which gave details of land ownership within the area. It was important, however, to ensure that there was no duplication of effort and that work was co-ordinated across the area. The Area Council Manager stressed that she would be contacting Neighbourhood Services as a matter of urgency as it was important to ensure that service worked collaboratively in order to gain maximum benefit for the residents in the area. It was also suggested that the Area Council Link Officer may be able to assist in obtaining detailed information on service provision.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the report be received and that the proposed changes to the current service activities and targets be noted; and
- (ii) That following the outcome of further discussions and the development of a schedule of work, as now reported, the Executive Director Adults and Communities be authorised to implement the changes proposed by way of a variation to the contract with Twigg's Grounds Maintenance.

15 Notes from the Ward Alliances (Dac.18.01.2021/7)

Members received the notes of Dearne South Ward Alliance held on 19th November, 2020. The Ward Alliance had approved a grant of £1,000 to update the resilience container with more emergency equipment to ensure that any residents in Dearne South could access grit or flood materials in an emergency. Alan George, who was a keyholder and had access to the items 24/7 and who was also a key flood warden for Bolton on Dearne also gave a full treasurers report. It was also noted that the Defibrillator was now installed in Goldthorpe.

Winter Warmer packs had been issued to the District Nurse Team and would be given out to the most vulnerable elderly in the area in conjunction with the Public Health Team.

The meeting received the notes from the Dearne North Ward Alliance held on 3rd December, 2020 which had taken the form of an informal meeting. New Members of staff had been introduced and an update had been given by Amy Calvert from the Barnsley Food Network on her role and how she could help communities deliver projects around food storage and help Fareshare in future projects in 2021.

RESOLVED that the notes from the respective Ward Alliances be received.

16 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.18.01.2021/8)

Claire Dawson, Dearne Area Council Manager, provided an update in relation to the Ward Alliance Funds for Dearne North and Dearne South wards.

Members noted that Dearne North had a balance of £12,247.12 at the start of the financial year, which included an underspend of £247.12 from the 2019/20 budget, £10,000 Ward Alliance monies for 2020/21 and £2,000 Covid support funds. To date funds had been provided for 9 projects at a cost of £12,064.20 leaving a balance of £182.92.

Dearne South Ward Alliance had a balance for 2020/21 of £16,605.12, which included an underspend of £4,605.12 from the 2019/20 budget, £10,000 Ward Alliance monies and £2,000 Covid support funds. To date support had provided funds for 9 projects at a cost of £13,901.40 leaving a balance of £2,703.72.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

17 Community Safety in the Dearne - Fiona Tennyson (Dac.18.01.2021/9)

Fiona Tennyson, Community Safety Team Leader, was welcomed to the meeting to discuss issues in the area.

Reference was made to the difficulties caused by the Covid pandemic and of not being able to meet collectively as a team within the Police Station.

The Private Sector Housing and Cohesion Officer had undertaken around 150 proactive jobs this quarter largely concentrating on Waste and Fly Tipping and Contaminated Bins. He had also concentrated on the Victoria Street Area alongside the Environmental Task Force. The Housing Enforcement Officer, who also covered Hoyland and Wombwell, had undertaken 50+ jobs within the Dearne Area and, in addition, working alongside the Salvation Army had ensured that food packages were delivered. Both officers had been extremely busy undertaking environmental as well as supportive work.

The Victim and Witness Support Officer had been involved in 9 cases across the Dearne and the Community Safety Officer had reported on 23 fly tips and 9 abandoned vehicles spread evenly across Bolton, Goldthorpe and Thurnscoe.

Environmental work had also been undertaken in Elizabeth Street, Goldthorpe.

Issues in relation to Anti Social Behaviour had taken considerable resources. Work had been undertaken in association with the Police particularly within the Stotfold Drive area of Goldthorpe and the Low Grange Road area in Thurnscoe. In addition, a number of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts had been issued as well as 2 pre-injunction warning letters. Preparations were also being made for the issuing of injunctions if required.

RESOLVED that the feedback and report be noted.

Chair

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Superfast South Yorkshire & Accelerating Digital Barnsley



What is Superfast South Yorkshire?

- **SFSY Team** is a partnership of;
 - Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield councils.
 - BDUK (Building Digital UK, part of DCMS)
 - Openreach (the infrastructure part of BT, but legally separate)
 - SCR LEP (Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership)

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We've

- Boosted availability of superfast broadband to over **98%** (from **80%** in **2014**)
- Brought **119,916** new connections to SY, **71,245** are in use every day ~(**60%**)
- Provided support to SMEs across SCR relating to connectivity and getting the most out of connectivity
- Advised on digital connectivity and infrastructure to developers & planning depts

SFSY's current activity

- Contract with Openreach to deploy FTTP to **8,000** homes in SY
- Working with communities to use government voucher schemes
- Forming a rural broadband action group
- Inputting into the BMBC Digital Strategy & the SCR Digital Infrastructure Strategy
- Consultees on digital connectivity with LA planning depts
- Maximising the take up of SFSY deployment
- We can “claw back” the public subsidy and reinvest in the region
- Preparing for “Outside In” – BDUK’s next big programme,

Deployment in the Dearne Area Council



SFSY Deployment:

	Number of properties ready for service	
Dearne	SFSY Contract 1, Phase 1 & 2 FTTC – Superfast broadband, 24 to 30Mbps	SFSY Contract 2, Phase 3 FTTP – Ultrafast broadband, 100Mbps (Subject to survey & funding)
Dearne North	1156	18
Dearne South	1539	149
Total	2695	167

Openreach are planning the upgrade of the Goldthorpe Exchange
Virgin are planning the upgrade of their networks in the future

Accelerating Digital Barnsley:

- Increase gigabit-capable broadband from commercial infrastructure providers, facilitating deployment, stimulating demand e.g. CityFibre
- SFSY full fibre and Superfast programmes, support deployment, demand stimulation, Gigabit Voucher Scheme (rural areas)
- Ensure all new residential and commercial sites have gigabit-capable infrastructure



Accelerating Digital Barnsley:

Progressing IoT (Internet of Things):

- **Sensors installed on council assets to collect data to be used internally for strategic decision making, can also be provided externally for business use**
- **Working group established**
- **Pilot Scheme in development**
- **Links with:**
 - **IoT Tribe at DMC**
 - **Uni Of Sheffield 'SELA' students**
 - **Digital Tech Leaders Group**

Accelerating Digital Barnsley

5G Mobile Network Operators:

- Networks to share their 2-year plan of roll-out across South Yorkshire
- Decisions about roll-out are based on demand for services
- Planning will play a key role, the smooth and timely processing of applications supports roll-out
- Barnsley to consider adoption of Sheffield's 5G planning process which was developed with the Mobile Network Operators

Accelerating Digital Barnsley:

- Social value opportunities created through infrastructure deployment
- Create strategic linkages to ensure that digital connectivity and inclusion are acknowledged in all aspects of the council's activities:

- Increase access to digital connectivity & Adult skills
- Review of digital activity, connectivity and inclusion
- Creating connections between teams
- Opportunities for joint working
- Sharing of resources
- Avoiding duplication
- Creating efficiencies



Accelerating Digital Barnsley – Examples of Activity

Care Homes: Digital exclusion of residents unable to video-call during Covid-19 restrictions:

- Report on broadband connections: speeds/suppliers available/in scope for deployment or Voucher Scheme, offer of support
- Created links with Digital Champions, Adult Skills, device support, NHS Connectivity Scheme, Library Service

Digital Exclusion – Poverty Working Group – Bi-monthly:

- Lots of activity across BMBC around digital exclusion, opportunity to join up, add value, create efficiencies, share information and learning
- Audit carried out to identify activity across BMBC and partners

Accelerating Digital Barnsley:

Covid-19: Connectivity and Device Support:

Children's Remote Learning:

- 'DfE Connectivity Offers' from suppliers: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-technology-for-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>
- 'Laptops for Kids scheme': <https://www.ltfk.co.uk/>
- Covid-19 Support from Telecoms Providers: <http://www.superfastsouthyorkshire.co.uk/sfsy-news>

Low-cost broadband connections:

- BT Basic Broadband: <https://btplc.com/inclusion/ProductsAndServices/BTBasic/ApplyingforBTBasic/index.htm>
- Virgin Media Broadband: <https://www.ispreview.co.uk/index.php/2020/08/virgin-media-uk-launch-cheap-15mbps-broadband-for-universal-credit-users.html>
- Broadband stats and information: <https://www.thinkbroadband.com/information>
- Broadband speeds boost home values: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/broadband-speed-boost-sees-home-values-jump-by-3500?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=dd4c4b36-963d-4eb0-88ee-0d487d5b1939&utm_content=daily



www.superfastsouthyorkshire.co.uk

hello@superfastsouthyorkshire.co.uk

Julie Tattershall

Projects and Contract Manager

julietattershall2@barnsley.gov.uk

01226 772215, 07789 656964

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL 15th March 2021

**Report of the
Dearne Area Council Manager**

Commission update

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to receive an update regarding current commissions

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That member's note the latest position with regards Dearne Area Council commissioned services.

3.0 Commission update

- 3.1 The Housing and Migration officer is now 14 months into his two-year contract. He continues to work proactively across the Dearne, obviously bearing in mind COVID restrictions. Waste on premises, fly tipping and contaminated bins continue to be the main issues which the officer is dealing with.
- 3.2 The B: Friend service are eight months into their first year of the two-year contract. They have been extremely busy during COVID taking their activities and support online as well as offering one to one support over the phone. The service has seen an increase in referrals from professionals and although volunteers are applying to assist the service, they are generally low from the Dearne area.
- 3.3 The Dearne Electronic Community Village employability service second year will come to an end in March 2021. The service was given the contract on a 1+1+1 basis. The support worker has been working remotely since lockdown was announced and has seen a slight reduction in engagement. That's said the support worker has been ringing around all past participants to do a wellbeing check with all on his data base.
- 3.4 The environmental service delivered by Twiggs was commissioned on a 2+1+1 basis. At the end of March 2021 the service will have been operating for two years and in November the Dearne Area Council approved their first year's extension. As recommended at the Dearne Area Council a schedule has been compiled and discussed with the provider. This schedule can be added to and amended as the service moves forward. Twiggs will also be

proactively targeting other areas that are not already on the schedule. They have also seen an increase in individuals wanting support with equipment and advice around environmental issues.

Officer

Claire Dawson
Dearne Area Council Manager

Tel:

01226 775106

Date: 15th of March 2021

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL 15th March 2021

**Report of the
Dearne Area Council Manager**

Finance

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update members regarding the Dearne Area Councils financial position.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members note the current financial position and the impact on future budgets.

3.0 Area Council Financial update

3.1 2020/2021

During the 2020/21 financial year the Area Council had a starting budget of £214,720.67. They have agreed to fund the education, environment and volunteer service, housing and migration officer, employability contract, social connectivity service and agreed to earmark £38,000 to the Dearne Development Fund, which includes the additional £10,000 from the hardship fund. This brings the total amount already allocated out of the Dearne Area Council budget for 2020/21 to £214,557, leaving £163.67 unallocated from the original budget. With the addition of the Nesta income the total remaining balance is £9,663.67 to carry forward into the next financial year.

3.2 Committed spend 2021/22

Assuming the starting budget for the Area Council will be £200,000 and with the carryover of £9,663.67 from this financial year. The Dearne Area Council will have a starting budget of £209,663.67. The Area Council have committed £145,000 on four commissions in the next financial year leaving £64,663.67 to spend on Dearne area and Council priorities.

3.3 2020/21 Dearne Development Fund

The Area Council had £3,650.68 to carry forward to spend on Dearne area priorities through the Development Fund in the 2020/21 financial year. At the Dearne Area Council on the 27th of July 2020 the Dearne Area Council agreed to earmark £28,000 to the Dearne Development Fund and had an

addition income from the hardship fund of £10,000 making the Area Council contribution to the fund £41,650.68.

- 3.4 Four projects have been approved from this year's Development Fund. CAB, Thurnscoe community Plaza, Dial and Highgate outdoor improvement. The total committed spend for these services is £30,223 leaving £11,427.68 earmarked to spend on Dearne priorities.

See Appendix 1 for financial breakdown

Appendices

- 4.0 Appendix 1: Financial update

Officer
Claire Dawson
Dearne Area Council Manager

Tel:
01226 775106

Date: 15th March 2021

Appendix One: Financial Update

Area Council Spend	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Base allocation	£200,000	£200,000	£200,000
Carry forward	+£16,886.17	+£4,720.67	+£9,663.67
Total allocation for year	£216,886.17	£214,720.67 (additional 10k from hardship fund)	£209,663.67
Community Newsletter	-£2,598.50		
Training for Employment	-£33,000	-£33,000	-33,000
Housing and Migration Officer	-£31,557	-£31,557	
Dearne Clean & Tidy	-£85,000	-£85,000	-£85,000
Dearne Development Fund	-£60,000	-£38,000	
Social connectivity		-£27,000	-£27,000
Total spend (actual)	£212,155.50	£214,557	£145,000
Total allocation from main budget remaining		£163.67	
Nesta income		£9,500	
Overall allocation remaining	+£4,720.67	+£9,663.67	£64,663.67

Dearne Development Fund

The projects below were paid for out of the 2019/20 allocation, however due to COVID some of the delivery will be extended into the 2020/21 financial year.

2019/20 Organisation	Duration of funds	Amount	Total allocation remaining
Public Health Grant and Dearne Development Fund Allocation 2019/20			£88,590.88
TADS	May 2019-April 2020	£14,944.73	£73,646.15
Dearne Playhouse	June 2019	£7,126	£66,520.15
Mission Muay Thai	June 2019-September 2019	£2,500	£64,020.15
B:Friend	June 2019-May 2020	£7,384	£56,636.15
Dearne Family Centres	June 2019-Sept 2020	£2,980.69	£53,655.46
CAB	Oct 2019-Oct 2020	£8,069	£45,586.46
DIAL	Dec 2019-Dec 2020	£10,151	£35,435.46
GDG	Dec 2019- Dec 2020	£5,000	£30,435.46
Fit Reds	Jan 2020-Sept 2020	£5,489.33	£24,946.13
Station House	Jan 2020-Jan 2021	£13,340	£11,606.13
TADS	July2020-March2021	£7,955.45	£3,650.68

Carry over from the last financial year		£3,650.68	
Approved at the Area Council on the 27 th of July 2020		£28,000	£31,650.68
Additional financial hardship grant		£10,000	£41,650.68
2020/21 Organisation	Duration of funds	Amount	Total allocation remaining
DIAL	December 2020-2021	£10,151	£31,499.68
CAB	October 2020-2021	£8,072	£23,427.68
Thurnscoe Community Plaza	Jan-March 2021	£10,000	£13,427.68
Highgate outdoor improvement	Jan -Feb 2021	£2,000	£11,427.68

October to
December
2020





Dearne Area Council Performance Report



Area Council Priorities



These providers listed below have been appointed to deliver a series of services that address the priorities and deliver the outcomes and social value objectives for the Dearne Area Council.

Provider	Service	Contract Value/length	Contract end date	Priority
Twiggs	Environmental, volunteering and education service	£85,000 per annum	Funded until end of March 2021 option to extend further 2 years	
b: friend	Social connectivity	£27,000 per annum	Funded until July 2022	
Dearne electronic community village	Employability	£33,000 per annum	Funded until end of March 2022	
BMBC	Private Sector Housing Enforcement	£31,557 per annum	Funded until end of January 2022	

Commissions

TWIGGS

Grounds Maintenance LTD



The service was maintained during the fluctuating restrictions and rules, flexing where needed to support and add value to core services. But despite this the local environment has been improved, volunteers supported and engaged, and community work continued. Emphasis has been placed on maintaining the enthusiasm of volunteers, new and existing. This is important to not only keep improving the environment, but the increased social interaction which can improve physical and mental health, helping to address public health priorities. Also keeping people motivated will reduce the amount of rebuilding needed after restrictions end.

Twiggs



42 events

50 community groups/businesses supported

26 volunteers worked with

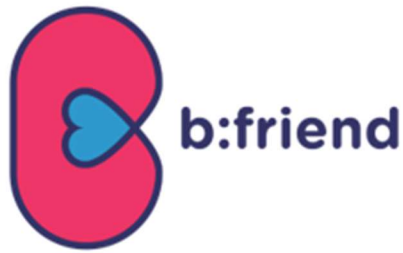
19 new volunteers

149 rubbish bags filled (61 with volunteer assistance)

Community in action



Highgate Dog Stadium- Pam contacted the service asking for help to improve the area. Working together 6 volunteers, including 2 sustained independent adult volunteers (from Thurnscoe Bridge Road Group) worked together to clear 16 large bags of litter and other items including cones and car parts. The Twigg's team supported the resident's action by cutting back the hedges making it safer for the public to use the footpath.



There has been an increase in referrals in the Dearne over recent months which has allowed the service to support more new people. The Social Clubs continue to operate remotely over phone and Facebook live, they were supplemented with a 'Session in a Bag' solution which was delivered to homes to facilitate group activity alongside peer support. Over Christmas, older neighbours who would be spending the holiday alone were identified and supplied bumper packs to them. Volunteer training also continued which increases social connections and has a positive impact in reducing loneliness and isolation for the residents of the Dearne Area.

b:



73 isolating older neighbours

468 hours of 1:1 befriender interaction by 36 volunteers

83 hours of staff visits/calls

11 new referrals

44 Bundles of Joy packs delivered to the most vulnerable

7 new volunteers



Quotes from beneficiaries

“I really like it – doesn’t matter whether I get any right or not” – Betty, older neighbour at Thurnscoe Club, talking about Jenny’s quiz

“She's more like family now” – Alicia, befriender who has been paired for over six-months

“We always manage to speak on a Sunday, no matter what. An hour makes such a difference in a lonely week” – Ellie, befriender

“I'm really looking forward to Christmas morning now” – Barbara, older neighbour in Bolton, after receiving her Christmas Day.



DECV has remained open in a reduced capacity supporting improving ICT, training and Employability sessions. The Digital Inclusion and the social aspect of the work has kept going during lockdown which includes phoning learners regularly, particularly those who live alone and don’t have a support network of close family or friends. DECV also kept in contact with some learners from past projects and having a chat with them at least once per week. Maths and English assessments are still available to those learners wishing to develop these skills and work towards qualifications.

DECV



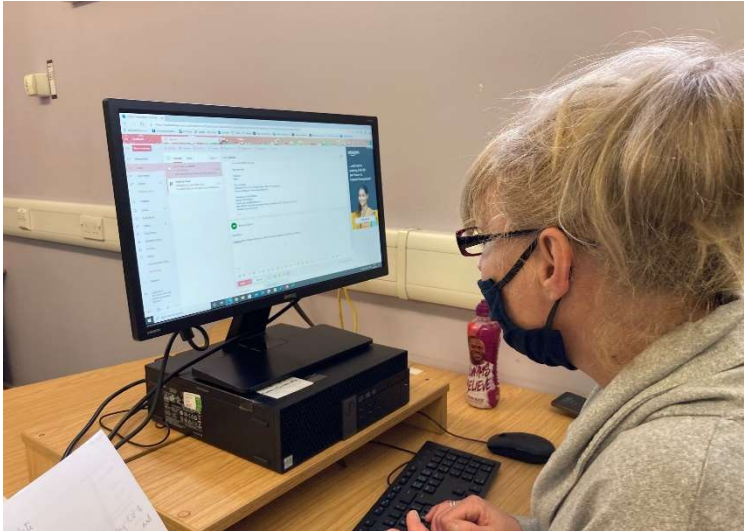
61 people learning

18 new learners

28 learner achieving qualifications

4 learners into employment

18 learners into further training



Janet left school without any qualifications and hadn't been in a learning environment for many years. She told me she was often punished at school and at home because the problems brought about by dyslexia were mistaken for her 'not trying' and being 'lazy'.

Janet showed a real desire to learn and a determination to overcome any obstacles, such as arthritis, which severely impacted the use of her right hand. She found using a mouse particularly difficult and could only use it a few minutes at a time.

Despite lockdown and sessions being conducted over the phone, Janet never missed a session throughout the summer of 2020, eventually passing her OCR course. She is currently working through extra work I have given her and working towards level 1 ICT.



Private Sector Housing Enforcement

Work with families and individuals continued, getting to know the community and individuals that previously have not had the benefit of any kind of support. Problems and issues were identified and effective risk assessment was used to decide on the most appropriate responses. A whole range of issues such as Anti-Social Behaviour, Environmental, Private Sector Housing, Fly tipping and Littering have been dealt with. If the Enforcement Officer is unable to deal with a situation directly this is sign posted to the relevant agencies that are best suited to deal with the issues.

Housing Enforcement



- 120 reports made
- 42 properties improved
- 33 people helped into positive changes
- 43 fly tipping reported
- 42 houses supported to responsibly recycle or dispose waste

The Enforcement Officer received a complaint about food waste and building items being stored on a shared footpath. On checking previous civica jobs it was clear that the person living at the address was struggling. After approaching the owner an agreement was made that the items on the footpath would be removed. Over the next seven days the Enforcement Officer made daily visits to the property to work with the owner and his family to ensure that the waste was removed. A week after all the waste items had been removed and taken to a container in Doncaster.

Waste on Premises

Before



After



Dearne Development Fund



The advice service has supported clients with a variety of different issues, but as in previous years, the most common are Benefits and Tax Credits, Debt, and Universal Credit. As well as improved financial outcomes, the support provided by the advice service also helps to improve health and wellbeing, reduces client stress, and improves resilience by increasing the client's ability to cope through self-help. All advice has been transferred to Adviceline and email services due to the ongoing situation.

Barnsley Citizens Advice

36 people supported

74 issues raised

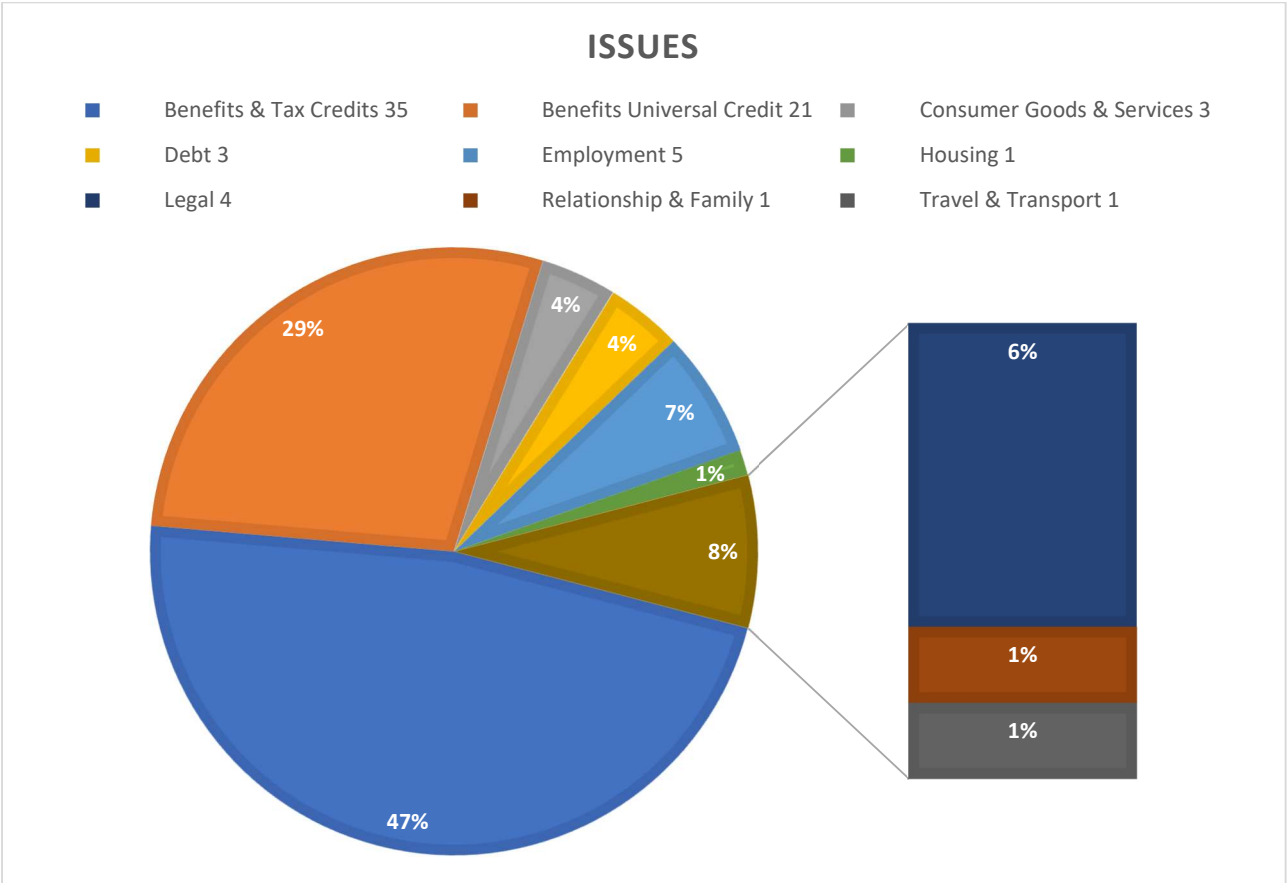
£37,580 of benefits claimed

£18,000 of debt managed



Case study

The client resides in a property that they jointly own with their former partner, they have two non-dependent children. The property is about to be sold and client will receive their share of the proceeds of sale. The client wanted to know what the impact on current benefits will be following the move. After talking it was clear that taking all the facts into account the client would be entitled to a benefit gain of £10,142 per annum. However, it was also advised client that if their capital was still above £16,000, they need to come back for further benefits advice.



DIAL reduced the financial exclusion of residents and work towards lowering anxiety. During the last quarter, they concentrated on telephone appointments for form completion and advice along with Public Health Advice and guidance. DIAL also introduced safe and well checks to support vulnerable residents who were either shielding or self-isolating.

DIAL

Barnsley

214 enquires made

300 people reported reduced anxiety as a result of using the service

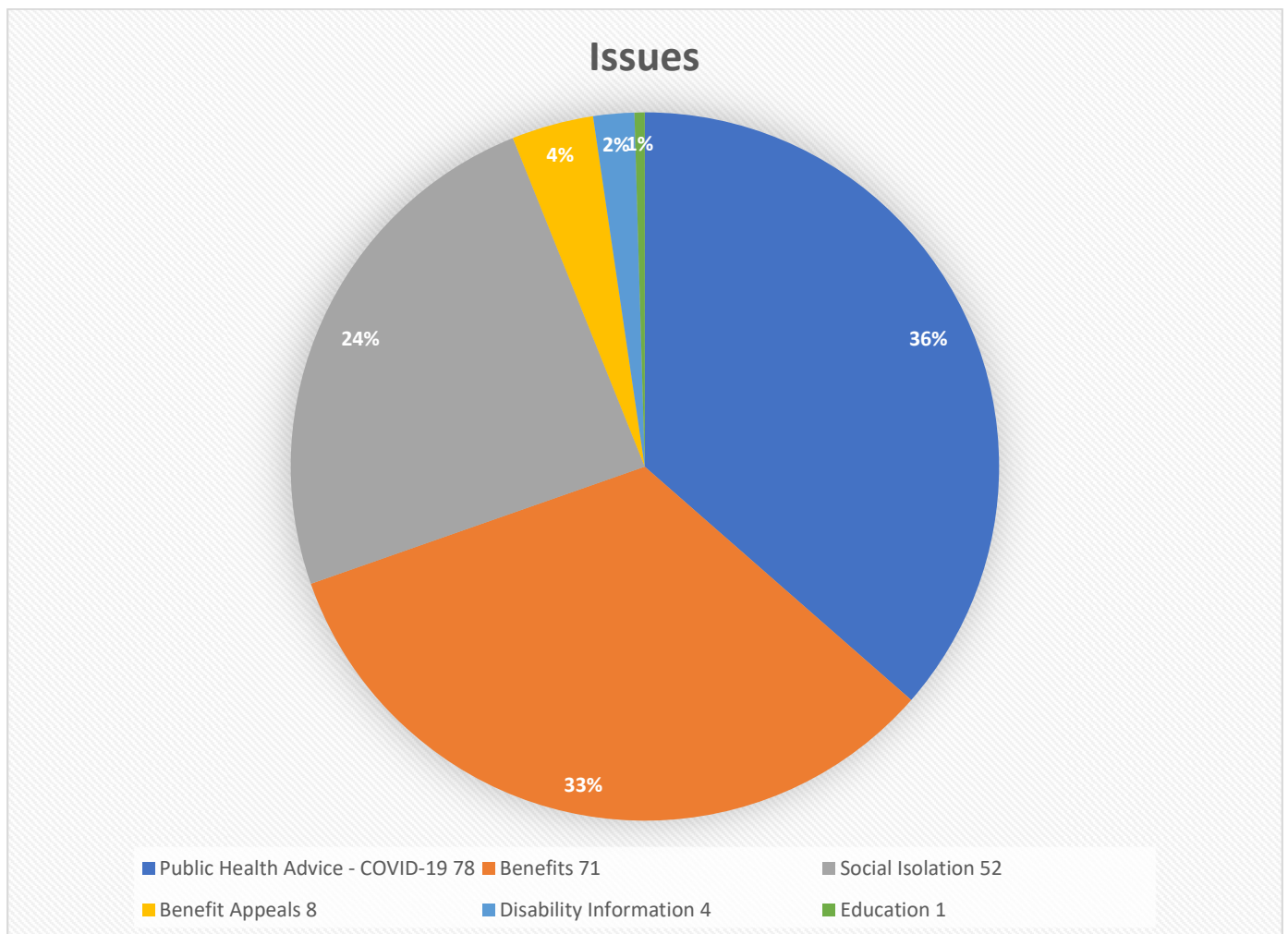
£199,770.36 benefits claims supported





Case study

Mr B, a 50-year-old man whose wife had recently passed away was finding life very difficult to cope and his existing mental health issues have worsened considerably. He felt he was unable to work due to his mental health issues and did not know what benefits he could claim as he was previously added to his wife's claim for Universal Credit. DIAL advised that he would still be able to keep the Universal Credit claim, but it would be at a reduced rate. DIAL also advised Mr B to make an appointment with his GP as they could determine if he was unfit to work and make medical notes for Mr B's case. Mr B's GP agreed that he was not fit to work and gave him a fit note for 3 months.





There has been a big impact on actives as the project concentrates on young people taking part in sport and fitness programmes. This is to improve self-esteem and confidence and help young people gaining accreditation. However, people have still been supported by the service.

TADS

29 drop ins

25 people reporting improved emotional wellbeing

2 volunteers joining the project

Three white icons are arranged horizontally on a blue background. From left to right: a stylized ear, a group of four human figures, and a brain with neural connections.

Two parents gave positive feedback. One said on the support day their child is in such a better mood and they feel like they have their child back. Another said their child is coming on leaps and bounds. One commented "there should be more Carols (support worker) in the world!"

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Dearne Area Council Meeting

**Report of Dearne Area
Council Manager**

Dearne Area Ward Alliance Notes

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report appraises the Dearne Area Council of the progress made by each Ward in relation Ward Alliance action plans and meeting the ward priorities.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Dearne Area Council receives an update on the progress of the Dearne Ward Alliance for information purposes. Members are reminded of requirement for Ward Alliance minutes to be received by the Area Council.

3.0 Introduction

- 3.1 This report is set within the context of decisions made on the way the Council is structured to conduct business at Area, Ward and Neighbourhood levels (Cab.21.11.2012/6), Devolved Budget arrangements (Cab16.1.2013/10.3), Officer Support (Cab.13.2.2013/9) and Communities and Area Governance Documentation (Cab.8.5.2013/7.1). This report is submitted on that basis.

4.0 Ward Alliance

- 4.1 The Dearne South Ward Alliance took place virtually on the 1st February 2021, one application for the Dearne Allotment Group for £700.00 was submitted and all agreed to allocate funds. Highlights from the meeting included COVID19 updates from the Dearne neighbourhood engagement officer who spoke about rapid testing and other statistics from the Barnsley area. Updates were also given from both community development officers with regards to past projects, for example the Christmas vegetable packs and February half term fruit & vegetable boxes, which included pancakes mix and recipe cards. The team also received support from Barnsley Food Network to distribute activity packs to each child under 11 years with oral health packs being donated to families of children under 3 years. The feedback from the families and local business was excellent and really appreciated. Updates were also provided on the resilience container and feedback from the recent floods was also a topic of discussion. The ward alliance discussed that this could be worked on with regards to developing a future action flood plan with help from the area team for new wardens in an emergency.

The second meeting during this period was held on the 2nd March 2021. The alliance discussed feedback from previous February half term healthy holiday project and the 5 ways to wellbeing project which was delivered through social media. Also discussed was COVID recovery for groups, businesses and the community.

- 4.2** The Dearne North Ward Alliance took place virtually on the 1st February 2021. No applications were submitted. Highlights from the meeting included COVID19 updates from the Dearne neighbourhood engagement officer who spoke about rapid testing and the statistics from Barnsley. Updates were also given from both community development officers with regards past projects, which included Christmas vegetable packs and February half term fruit & vegetable boxes with pancakes mix and recipe cards included. The team also worked alongside Barnsley Food Network to distribute activity packs to each child under 11 years with oral health packs being donated to families of children under 3 years. The feedback from the families and local business was excellent and really appreciated. Also discussed the forthcoming area priorities and action plan from April 2021 in which has been deferred until lockdown is lifted and the WA members can meet up for a workshop.

The second meeting on the 2nd March 2021 discussed feedback from previous February half term healthy holiday project and the 5 ways to wellbeing which was delivered through social media. Also discussed was business support on the high streets ensuring our local economy is supported throughout the summer will be on the agenda once restrictions have lifted. Hanging baskets were discussed regarding improvement to the shopping area to increase footfall when businesses re-open. Further project plans will be looked at in Mays meeting.

- 4.3** The reporting into the Dearne Area Council for information, of the Ward Alliance, is in line with the approved Council protocols. Notes are for information only.

Appendix One: Dearne South ward Alliance meeting notes
Appendix Two: Dearne North ward Alliance meeting notes

Officer Contact:
Claire Dawson

Tel. No:
01226 775106

Date:
15th March 2021

Dearne Ward Alliance

VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES

Meeting Title:	Dearne South Ward Alliance
Date & Time:	1 st February 2021 11am

Attendees	Apologies
Cllr Neil Danforth (Chair) – elected member Craig Aubrey – Neighbourhood Engagement Officer – Dearne Area Team Vicky Cumming – tried joining but had technical issues - Alan George – Big Local Goldthorpe and Bolton-upon-Dearne Carole Hoyland - BODVAG Cllr Charlotte Johnson – elected member Mick Moore – Allotment Group Marie Sinclair – Community Development Officer – Dearne Area Team Craig Taylor – Project Officer – Dearne Area Team Jenny Yates - Community Development Officer – Dearne Area Team	Donna Gregory – local resident Cllr May Noble – elected member Alison Sykes – Salvation Army

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

New officers with the Dearne Area Team introduced themselves:

Craig Taylor – joined a month ago as the Project Officer for Dearne and Penistone, so working part time in each area. It's a new role working on the finances, performance monitoring and specific projects. Craig has joined the team from Barnsley CVS where he was Communications Officer and has a background in media, PR, social media, press and marketing. He is currently getting to grips with the finance side of things.

Craig Aubrey – joined the team a few months ago as the Neighbourhood Engagement Officer and is supporting local business and the community with Covid-19 guidance and legislation. He is working closely with Public Health.

Jenny Yates – started just before Christmas as a part-time Community Development Officer, mainly working in Dearne South to support local groups and projects. Jenny has a background in Community Development work. She has been working at Northern College, but before that worked for Groundwork Dearne Valley including work in Thurnscoe around 20 years ago, so has a knowledge of the area.

2. **Apologies**

See above.

3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

Alan George moved the minutes of the last meeting as a true record.

The change in signatory for the bank has been done and Alan George, Cllr May Noble and Pat Hubery are now signatories. The WA also now has a debit card.

4. **Finances**

The WA has a balance of £2,703.72 remaining up until 31st March 2021.

Balance in working funds account:

£3,800 for a healthy holidays/school holidays provision
£1,330 winter warmth/healthy older persons project
£74.96 for the reactive fund
£100 for sandbags
Total = £5,304.96

4.1 Applications for funding:

One application submitted from the Dearne Allotment Group for £700. Mick Moore declared an interest in this discussion.

The allotment site has suffered over the last few months, firstly with flooding and then not being able to have volunteers on site to help keep it maintained. The group therefore need to in effect start again to get it up and running. They have therefore requested £700 from the WA for seeds, compost etc. They anticipate the total cost being £1,700 and have also asked the Big Local for £1,000. In addition, they have had to find £5,050 from their own funds for the unforeseen cost of PPE to allow them to open to people with physical and mental difficulties. It was confirmed that they have all Covid restrictions in place and the site is now open for these people on Tuesday and Wednesdays between 9am – 3pm if anybody would like to go down. It was noted the good work done on the allotment site and the compassionate way they work with volunteers with physical and mental needs and the experience and qualifications that Mick Wellburn has been truly remarkable.

Everybody agreed and there was a unanimous decision to fund this project. £700.00 agreed in full.

5. **Projects for 2021**

Healthy Holidays - the fruit and veg boxes will be running again during February Half Term. They will be funded by £1,000 from Keepmoat, £1,000 from the Dearne South Ward Alliance and £2,500 from Fare Share through the Barnsley Food Partnership. In addition to the fruit and veg we will be including free pancake mixes (250 have already been donated by Tesco), recipes cards for pancakes and a stew and activity packs for the children.

The packs are not just for those children on free school meals, but for any family who are struggling at the current time. It is advertised through the Dearne Team Facebook Page and people apply by private messaging the team. Children's centres, schools, family centres and the Snap Tin café are all told about the boxes as well.

At Christmas 240 families received packs and 544 children in the area were helped.

Craig Taylor is in touch with Alan George with regards to invoicing the WA for their funding.

Dearne Churches Together are also giving out packs containing flour, milk and eggs to make pancakes and home learning booklets for Spring and nature activities. 500 packs have been made up.

Easter – no plans have been put in place yet for Easter, though if they prove popular the fruit and veg boxes will run again. Marie Sinclair asked the WA to give us some ideas of what they would like to do to get people out and about. A Rudolf hunt in Wombwell woods was popular and it was suggested that something like find Easter bunnies along the TPT and around Phoenix Park would be good. People could perhaps take photos of something to send in to prove they've been.

6. **Group Updates**

BODVAG – need funding for plant and planters, street furniture and bins. Cllr Charlotte Johnson is dealing with this and will copy relevant people into any correspondence. Hanging baskets were also mentioned and it was suggested that the group work with Mick Moore as he might be able to make these on the allotment. The Christmas trees were a success and have now been taken down by Twiggs.

Big Local – new members have now been recruited to the group and the first meeting was held virtually in January. There

are still a lot of internal problems that need sorting out. They have funded a Highgate School placement. They are hoping to rebrand and relaunch soon, including the reopening of the Snap Tin Café. It's hoped that this will give the Big Local a new lease of life. April Fisher has left and got a new job. A Job Description needs writing so they can advertise a replacement Community Worker. Anita Heatherglan is currently doing the admin and sending out the meeting requests. There is also a new representative from the Big Local with Gill Hutchinson taking over from Alister Shaw. Cllr Charlotte Johnson would like to join the group as a guest, and it is requested that Anita put her on the mailing list.

Neighbourhood Engagement Officers – Craig Aubrey updated that there had been lots of people visiting beauty spots like Cannon Hall and Worsborough Mill recently with families going for the exercise, but these places were getting too busy and Covid Marshals have had to be brought in and taken away from other place and jobs. The Council are recommending that if you can't walk to somewhere you shouldn't be visiting it, although you won't get into trouble for driving locally.

Regulation Services are going into supermarkets to support them in asking people to wear masks. This includes 100+ minimarkets and smaller shops as well as the larger supermarkets. They are trying to visit every 3 weeks.

There were concerns about the national social media campaign the Great Re-Opening which was encouraging shops to re-open in January. However, nothing was seen in Barnsley, hopefully they realised they would have received a heavy fine if they opened unlawfully.

BMBC are running Magpie a community insight programme which allows people to anonymously report any breaking of Covid regulations and these aren't reported. It includes telling them how lockdown is affecting you and why you have broken the rules. Its aim is to gain an insight into why people are breaking the regulations to help combat it and support people better.

The Covid mobile testing unit is currently in the Goldthorpe car park until at least Mon 7th Feb and possible the week after as well if it proves well used. People must make an appointment to attend. Other places are Summer Lane, the Dorothy Hyman stadium and the centre of Barnsley.

Lateral flow testing for asymptomatic people is taking place at the Metrodome. You need to book on and attend every few days. The results come out in 30mins. The aim is to find asymptomatic people so they can isolate and not spread the disease.

25,00 vaccines have been given out in Barnsley so far. All older people in care homes and most of Barnsley hospital staff have been done as well as front line staff such as social workers and health care workers. Testing in schools has also started. 30 – 50% of children are currently still in school across Barnsley.

Salvation Army (please note nobody was available to attend the Dearne South WA, but Jackie Kenning updated the Dearne North WA in the afternoon, so it has also been included in these minutes for information.)

Business continues for the Salvation Army, though they are now meeting clients at the door as they aren't allowed to enter the premises. They are seeing more professionals coming for help and asking for food parcels and are helping many families in crisis. They are also prepping for when they can re-open. With that in mind they are looking for outdoor containers for storage so that some staff can be outside and more spread out. They are also looking at ways to make the shop Covid safe.

The bridge is now open, but Jackie says that have reported to the Police that vehicles are coming down the wrong way and speeding.

They have been given the approval to get IT equipment to enable them to run the Victory Programme for local families remotely via Zoom. They have also set up a Facebook page for those on the Victory Programme cooking course.

They are not currently running their debt advice service as such but are getting a lot of enquiries and they are signposting people to Citizen Advice or Universal Credit.

They have some picnic tables that they would like to gift as they need stackable chairs and tables for storage space.

They have seen an influx of people asking if they are taking donations, probably because other charity shops like BHF are currently closed. However, they are worried that this might lead to fly tipping outside the shop. Sadly, they have also had

an incident where 4 bags worth of food donations were stolen from the steps as the donor was getting them out of the car waiting for Alison to arrive at the shop. Unfortunately, nobody is willing to give a statement. They now have stringent measures in place to stop this happening again.

7. A.O.B.

Marie highlighted that the annual action plan for area priorities and things to work towards in 2021/22 will be required from 1st April 2021 more on this in future meetings and when restrictions have been lifted to identify what the WA is able to cover or what online provisions will be required moving forward.

- 7.1 AG updates on the resilience container with the amount of grit, snow shovels and sandbags (1 tonne and smaller ones) which are stored in the container at the Renaissance Centre in Bolton-upon-Deane. Alan George has a list of whose taken what and will keep on top of this regular to make sure we know where the items have been taken and borrowed to groups/individuals etc. The residents of Mexborough Road are concerned about flooding, but they had been given sandbags by BMBC. Twiggs had some other bags. Marie Sinclair, Craig Aubrey and Claire Dawson had delivered letters to the house as well. A new flood plan is needed as the last one dates to 2017 so the flood warden information needs updating. Core Services are aware of the current plan as a list of flood wardens had to be given to senior managers.

8. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held virtually over Teams on Tuesday 2nd March at 9.30am

Dearne Ward Alliance

VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES

Meeting Title:	Dearne South Ward Alliance
Date & Time:	2 nd March 2021 9.30am

Attendees	Apologies
Cllr Neil Danforth (Chair) – Elected Member Vicky Cuming – Alan George – Big Local Goldthorpe and Bolton-upon-Deerne Carole Hoyland – BODVAG Pat Hubery Cllr Charlotte Johnson – Elected Member Mick Moore – Allotment Group Cllr May Noble – Elected Member Marie Sinclair – Community Development Officer – Dearne Area Team Alison Sykes – Salvation Army Jenny Yates - Community Development Officer – Dearne Area Team	Craig Aubrey – Neighbourhood Engagement Officer – Dearne Area Team Donna Gregory – local resident

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Cllr Neil Danforth opened the meeting and welcomed everybody. No introductions were required.

2. **Apologies**

See above.

3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

Mick Moore moved the minutes of the last meeting as a true record and Carole Hoyland seconded them.

Point 5 – Alan George confirmed he had met with Craig Taylor (Project Officer) regarding invoicing the Ward Alliance (WA) for the funding for the February Half Term Healthy Holidays project.

Point 6 – Neighbourhood Engagement Officer Report – Craig Aubrey will contact Principle Towns Officer to offer assistance to local shops and business as part of the Covid recovery plan, including the offer of Principle Town’s funding for a new shop front. The new shop fronts that have been installed are looking good. Cllr May Noble mentioned that new proprietors were taking over the fish and chip shop and they would like to be involved with the scheme.

Point 6 – BODVAG – Cllr Charlotte Johnson confirmed that the planters have now all been installed in St Andrew’s Square and some of the bins, except the one outside the Post Office, which hasn’t been done yet.

Point 7.1 – Alan George asked for an update on the Flood Resilience Plan and when this will be started - Marie Sinclair confirmed that this will start in April 2021 and will be led & supported by a Community Development Officer (CDO)

4. **Finances**

5.1 Balance as of 1st March 2021 – DSWA £2,003.72 (Marie circulated the funding allocation for all projects funded 2020/2021)

5.2 Applications for funding:

One funding application was submitted from Panda project, which would like to provide Easter craft activities for young people aged 11 – 25 with mental and physical health difficulties. The WA have funded this group in the past with this one been a virtual due to the COVID19 restrictions on groups meeting. The full cost of the project is £686 which was to be match funded by the young people providing volunteer time on litter picking around the area of the IKIC Centre.

Questions were asked about how many young people from the Dearne would be taking part. Marie Sinclair is to find this information out. **Action MS**

Concerns were raised about making sure that Covid regulations and social distancing was adhered to when the young people undertook the volunteering. It was agreed that the volunteering should be delayed until such a time as it can be carried out safely. Marie Sinclair said that she can put this in the comments box on the offer of funding form as NON match funding applications and inform the group of this action. **Action MS**

There was a unanimous decision to fund this project to the full amount of £686, on the provisos that enough Dearne young people will benefit and that volunteering is delayed until it safe to do.

5. **Projects Evaluation and Feedback**

5.1 **Healthy Holidays** – during February Half Term the Dearne Area Team once again handed out fruit and vegetable boxes to families in need in the area. Families could be referred or apply through the Team's Facebook page. They didn't need to be on Free School Meals or show any benefits to make sure those struggling due to the pandemic such as those furloughed were included. In addition to the fruit and veg, pancake mixes for Shrove Tuesday were given out, including pancake topping suggestions and a recipe card for stew. Inside activity bags for children were a Spring activity booklet, colouring book and pens, bug magnets and oral health information, including a free toothbrush and toothpaste. These packs were a big success and the children, and their families were overwhelmed by them. The Pancake went down particularly well.

The cost per child was £7.87

102 boxes of different sizes were given out to families – 42 in Thurnsoce, 29 in Bolton- upon-Deerne and 31 in Goldthorpe

330 activity bags were given out

268 children were supported

9 families had 5 or more children.

Marie Sinclair has also done further break downs of the ages of children and will send this information out as it has been Anonymised. **Action MS**

Some funding is left over and will be carried over to an Easter project.

It was noted that the Churches Together also gave out food parcels, including ingredients for pancakes and activity packs during half term and this also was a great success.

The chair commented on the brilliant effort made and thanked all those involved in the successful projects to ensure local children and families were feed and entertained during the holidays.

5.2 **5 Ways to Wellbeing Social Media Campaign** – it was recognised that people are struggling with their mental health and wellbeing at the current time and so the Dearne Area Team decided to do a social media campaign during February that gave people tips, ideas and advice on how to look after and improve their own mental wellbeing and that of families, friends and others in the community. The Team focussed on the 5 Ways to wellbeing – Stay Connected; Keep Active; Give to Others; Keep Learning and Take Notice putting out a couple of messages, including links, each day on Facebook with ideas for one of the themes. The project ran over 3 weeks with week one focussing on older people, week 2 parents and week 3 (half term) children and young people. Where possible the posts looked at local initiatives and projects such the DECV, Be:friend, Yarn Bombing for the Dearne Community Arts Festival, BMBC family learning courses, Barnsley Museums, Good Food Barnsley's Febu..welly and Kixx Barnsley. The project was well received, and Marie Sinclair will send out some evaluation of the project in terms of numbers of people reached. **Action MS**

6. Covid Update from Neighbourhood Engagement Officer

Craig Aubrey had sent a written report to the meeting which was circulated afterwards. Jenny Yates summarised: The Prime Minister has now set out a road map for coming out for lockdown though this is subject to change if circumstances and medical evidence suggests it should. The first date is the schools returning on Monday 8th March.

Infection rates in Barnsley are dropping but are still slightly above the national average which is causing some concern and the ways in which public health messages about staying safe are being put out is being looked at to see if it can make a difference.

The Lateral Flow Testing is a success and is identifying non-symptomatic cases and helping to reduce the spread.

As reported last time areas of interest and parks such as Locke Park and Cannon Hall are getting quite busy with people going for the exercise and in some cases travelling to get there. This means the Covid Marshalls are patrolling such areas, particularly at the weekends. There is now a Security Guard at Worsbrough Mill.

Work has been undertaken with the Regulatory Services to visit local supermarkets, minimarkets and corner shops to check everybody is complying with regulations. Overall the Dearne area is good, though one shop has been reported. Work is now underway with licenced premises and other business to support their opening hopefully from the 12th April.

Libraries and community groups can also potentially open on 12th April, however the full rules are not out yet so will need looking at when they are.

Craig has some masks which he is giving out to groups that require them.

The sites for testing are on the report, but the mobile site in Goldthorpe is there until Sunday 7th March and is open 9am – 3pm every day. Lateral flow testing for front line workers is still at the Metrodome. Lateral flow testing will also be done in primary and secondary schools and will take place either at the school or at home whichever is best for each school.

The roll out of the vaccination process continues with the priority groups of 65 plus and those with underlying health conditions.

7. Group Updates

7.1 Salvation Army – Alison Sykes reported that 70 food parcels including pancake ingredients were given out from the Salvation Army, Thurnscoe Church and Bolton Methodist Church during February half term. 500 home learning magazines have also been distributed.

The Churches Together are also running a 'Whispers of Love' project for Easter. Local people are currently making hearts from various medium which will be distributed throughout the community, particularly to those in care homes. 600 harts have been made so far. Easter Goody Bags are also being given out, but people need to book in to collect these on 31st March and some venues are already booked up.

The Salvation Army is currently open Monday to Friday and are serving out food parcels at the door for people who have booked in.

Alison reported that they are seeing an increased number of overseas people coming to the centre to ask for help. They are currently working with some Romanian young men asking for help in getting home. This has been reported to various authorities for help. They have also helped a homeless Iranian get temporary accommodation. They also report that there have been racial abuse incidents, including against a family who has just moved to the area whose windows have been smashed. This has been reported to the PCSOs.

They are currently one of the first Salvation Armies to be running the Victory Programme and are doing this virtually. They are currently doing cooking sessions online with three families but have funding to expand including providing devices and internet connection and help with fuel bills so that families can take part.

They are going to be starting a debt advice service.

Finally, Alison raised concerns that herself and Jackie were yet to receive their Covid vaccine despite being key workers. If one of them came down with Covid the centre would have to shut because one person cannot open on their own. It was suggested asking about being on a list to get spare vaccines as the end of the sessions, but they have tried this with no luck yet. It was suggested that they try e-mailing Julie Burrows at Public Health.

- 7.2 **Big Local** – Alan George reported that they have received funding applications and have agreed to fund: the Highgate Allotment for seeds etc to get the allotment back up running as it has taken a hit from flooding and a lack of volunteers to maintain it due to Covid; and Stacey Turner who is wanting business start up funds for a new business loaning out lit up numbers and words for parties and events taking place under Covid regulations.

A Survey Monkey has been sent out to residents asking for opinions and what projects they would like to see.

- 7.3 **BODVAG** – Carole Hoyland reported that not much was happening now because the group couldn't get together for social distancing and Covid reasons.

- 7.4 **Goldthorpe Development Group** – Cllr May Noble reported that they are looking at how they could collect Easter Eggs from local supermarkets and distribute these. She will keep this group updated.

8. **A.O.B.**

- 8.1 Planting the new planters in St Andrews Square was asked about and whether any funding could be found for the plants. This will be investigated. Carole said she would water the planters and it was thought some of the local shop proprietors would help as well. Alan George stated that Goldthorpe Development group used to be a water butt and whether this could be borrowed, May Noble commented it took 3 people to pull it from its storage area to St Andrew's Square when full of water and was not suitable to use. Mick Moore mentioned that the Allotment Society was getting £1,500 of bedding plants and could help if they got in touch with Michael the site manager at Dearne Highgate allotment – he stated they may charge a small fee as the group are trying to keep sustainability for future years.

- 8.2 Marie Sinclair has been giving some thought to a Covid recovery plan and not just for people but local business as well and she thought that some hanging baskets for the main shopping areas might encourage people to shop local rather than carry on with internet shopping. She has done some initial research into this. The Allotment Society don't currently have the capacity to make and maintain any hanging baskets, so Marie has investigated what other areas do. A company called First Impressions provide and maintain lots of hanging baskets throughout BMBC, including the town centre. The cost is £55 per basket to put up, water and replace up to 3 times if necessary. The baskets would be up from the second week in June to the third week in October. They would require 4 weeks' notice. However, she has met with Paul Hamby from First Impressions who has said that the current brackets in Goldthorpe would not be strong enough to support an 85kg basket because they are fixed into brickwork. Therefore, new brackets on lampposts and columns would be required at a cost of £45 per bracket giving a total cost of £100 per basket. Initial discussions with Big Local suggest that this would fit in well with their Community Spirit funding and they may be willing to fund 50% of the cost, subject to agreement by the whole group. They are currently 9 brackets in St Andrew's Square Bolton and Marie has spoken to Chad Wall from Highways to look at which lampposts etc are suitable for hanging baskets on Goldthorpe as they mustn't cover up road signs etc. The costs are estimated to be about £500.00. Hopefully, in future years local business would sponsor a hanging basket however it is too much to ask at this current time when they have been hit hard. It was pointed out that Goldthorpe High Street down to Asda was Dearne North area so would be something for them to fund. This will be raised with them in their WA meeting this afternoon. Concerns were also raised about the backlash from business who wouldn't get a basket and where do you start and stop. People have differing opinions on where the main shopping areas and areas of the most footfall are. Concerns about security were also raised but as the baskets will be 3m 9ft high and weigh 85kg they will be hard to steal, and First Impressions will replace up to 5 times. It was agreed that Marie would meet with Chad Wall to discuss lampposts and this information back to the group for them to consider it further. **Action MS**

- 8.3 Marie Sinclair asked about whether the WA would like to do any Easter Project. Some sort of trail with wooden or laminated eggs to find was suggested, possibly along the TPT. Concerns were raised about ensuring that people are socially distancing, and it was agreed that this would not be a one-off event, but something that families could do at a time of their choosing. Jenny Yates suggested putting photos on Facebook and people have to take the same photo maybe as selfie to show they've been there. That way it wouldn't matter if eggs had been taken away. She also said that the Dearne North WA had suggested pictures in shop windows for children to find with letters that spelt out a word or phrase. However, it would be unfair to do this until after 12th April when all premises could open again, but it would be a

way of encouraging local people back to the high street and to shop local. Further thought is to be given to this as well.

Action JY

- 8.4** Vicky Cuming asked whether the Salvation Army were currently running the School Uniform project. In the past she had collected donations from people, and some have been asking as they have items to donate. The Salvation Army are currently very low on storage space because anything that comes in must be quarantined and they do currently have some school uniform. Alison asked that if possible, people hold onto for now until they can take more things. However, if that was not possible, they could put it in the clothes bank outside the Salvation Army.

9. *Date and time of next meeting*

The next meeting will be held virtually over Teams on Tuesday 18th May at 9.30am (Future dates were discussed but needed to be set from April 2021).

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Dearne Ward Alliance

VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES

Meeting Title:	Dearne North Ward Alliance
Date & Time:	1 st February 2021 2.00pm

Attendees	Apologies
Cllr Alan Gardiner (Chair) – Elected Member Craig Aubrey – Neighbourhood Engagement Officer – Dearne Area Team Derek Bramham – Big Local Thurnscoe Wendy Cain - resident Cllr Annette Gollick – Elected Member Jackie Kenning – Salvation Army Cllr Pauline Phillips – Elected Member and Thurnscoe Flower Park volunteer Peter Shields – Dearne Memorial Group Marie Sinclair – Community Development Officer – Dearne Area Team Craig Taylor – Project Officer – Dearne Area Team Charlotte Williams – Station House Community Association Jenny Yates - Community Development Officer – Dearne Area Team	David Jane – local resident

1. Welcome and Introductions

New officers with the Dearne Area Team introduced themselves:

Craig Taylor – joined a month ago as the Project Officer for Dearne and Penistone, so working part time in each area. It's a new role working on the finances, performance monitoring and specific projects. Craig has joined the team from Barnsley CVS where he was Communications Officer and has a background in media, PR, social media, press and marketing. He is currently getting to grips with the finance side of things.

Craig Aubrey – joined the team a few months ago as the Neighbourhood Engagement Officer and is supporting local business and the community with Covid-19 guidance and legislation. He is working closely with Public Health.

Jenny Yates – started just before Christmas as a part-time Community Development Officer, mainly working in Dearne South to support local groups and projects. Jenny has a background in Community Development work. She has been working at Northern College, but before that worked for Groundwork Dearne Valley including work in Thurnscoe around 20 years ago, so has a knowledge of the area.

2. Apologies

See above.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. *Finances*

The WA has a balance of £182.92 remaining up until 31st March 2021.

Balance in working fund account

£1,500 for Thurnscoe Library (committed spend for school holidays/afterschool activities)

£1,967 for the Healthy Holidays (committed spend CF).

Applications for funding:

No funding applications have been submitted.

Charlotte Williams and Cllr Pauline Phillips are currently the signatories for the account with Yorkshire Bank. It was agreed that a third and ideally a fourth person should also be signatories in case people are unavailable. Jackie Kenning agreed to be a signatory and suggested Alison Sykes. The account is not currently online, and the branch is in Wombwell, but there was some discussion as to whether this branch is now permanently closed. It was also noted that there is a £5 admin charge for the account, but the group haven't used the bank's services to get use out of the £5. It was agreed an online account with a debit card would be better. The Dearne South WA have recently got a debit card with their new Yorkshire Bank account. Marie to ask Charlotte Williams to see about online banking and debit card same as Dearne South – MS to contact Alan George treasurer for more details and report back next meeting.

5. *Projects for 2021*

Healthy Holidays - the fruit and veg boxes will be running again during February Half Term. They will be funded by £1,000 from Keepmoat, £1,000 from the Dearne South Ward Alliance and £2,156 from Fare Share through the Barnsley Food Partnership. In addition to the fruit and veg we will be including free pancake mixes (100 have already been donated by Tesco at Wath via Suzanne Nettleton), recipes cards for pancakes and a stew and activity packs for the children.

The packs are not just for those children on free school meals, but for any family who are struggling at the current time. It is advertised through the Dearne Team Facebook Page and people apply by private messaging the team. Children's centres, schools, family centres and the Snap Tin café are all told about the boxes as well.

At Christmas 240 families received packs and 544 children in the area were helped.

Dearne Churches Together are also giving out packs containing flour, milk and eggs to make pancakes and home learning booklets for Spring and nature activities. 500 packs have been made up.

Easter – no plans have been put in place yet for Easter, though if they prove popular the fruit and veg boxes will run again. Marie Sinclair asked the WA to give us some ideas of what they would like to do to encourage people to get out and about. Little local treasure hunts to spot hidden animals was suggested. Charlotte Williams may have some useful resources and Jenny Yates is to contact her for more details. Wendy Cain suggested hunting for painted pebbles though a Facebook group that run this type of activity are currently discouraging this idea because of picking up things other people have touched and the Covid risk involved. Derek Bramham suggested asking shops to put things in their windows that the children can spot e.g. letters that spell out something with an Easter theme.

6. *Group Updates*

Dearne Memorial Group – Peter Shields reported that it had been a busy few months with requests including somebody from London trying to locate her mother's remains. He also reported that unfortunately, the Facebook account had been hacked but Peter has sorted this now, group having plenty of enquiries and ticking over nicely.

Thurnscoe Flower Park – the group currently have funds in the bank ready to put on events again once it's allowed. The Wednesday group that meet to maintain the flower park will be meeting up again soon in a socially distanced way. However, it is too wet this week. The snowdrops are starting to come out in the park.

Big Local Thurnscoe – the Christmas tree and lights were a big success thanks to Mr and Mrs Andrews of Clay Lane for donating the tree and Twiggs for installing it. The fly past of a plane pulling a Happy Christmas banner eventually took place just before Christmas Eve and the comments from the community have been fantastic.

A new initiative is being launched this week called “Let it Shine” and the Big Local are giving away packs full of household cleaning items along with tea, coffee and a packet of biscuits to families who are currently struggling financially. A referral is needed to ensure the packs are going to those most in need. It has been possible due to the aid of Station House and the Dearne Area Team and funding from Keepmoat. Big Local are having a photoshoot with John Heeley MP on Friday to launch the project. The packs will be distributed by Evolution.

The Plaza - several meetings have been held with council officers and elected members and Cllr Gardiner has been instrumental in getting things moving – on behalf of BLT they wanted to say thank you to Cllr Gardiner for his support and help on this. A standard Head of Terms for the lease of the land has now been drawn up and sent out to elected members and then cabinet for approval. The designers have drawn up the final plans which are going to the council to be passed.

Derek wanted to highlight that BLT have small business grants available. They have 10 -12 small grants for local people who wish to set up their own micro business or move their business online. It can be used to buy equipment or start up stock for example. It is hoped that it will help businesses come out of the Covid recession and be a boost to local Thurnscoe entrepreneurs.

Station House – Charlotte Williams reported that they are fully open to all early year’s children and the after-school club is open to the children of key workers only. They are currently working with Highgate, Gooseacre and the Hill schools. They are seeing ongoing anxieties with the children, such as not being able to go outside as often, see grandparents etc. Children’s mental health is a real issue, and something needs doing about this as soon as possible. They report that the holiday hampers are making a huge difference even to those parents who would not normally seek help such as those that have been furloughed.

Update from our Neighbourhood Engagement Officer – Craig Aubrey updated that there had been lots of people visiting beauty spots like Cannon Hall and Worsborough Mill recently with families going for the exercise, but these places were getting too busy and Covid Marshals have had to be brought in and taken away from other place and jobs. The Council are recommending that if you can’t walk to somewhere you shouldn’t be visiting it, although you won’t get into trouble for driving locally.

Regulation Services are going into supermarkets to support them in asking people to wear masks. This includes 100+ minimarkets and smaller shops as well as the larger supermarkets. They are trying to visit every 3 weeks.

There were concerns about the national social media campaign the Great Re-Opening which was encouraging shops to re-open in January. However, nothing was seen in Barnsley, hopefully they realised they would have received a heavy fine if they opened unlawfully.

BMBC are running Magpie a community insight programme which allows people to anonymously report any breaking of Covid regulations and these aren’t reported. It includes telling them how lockdown is affecting you and why you have broken the rules. Its aim is to gain an insight into why people are breaking the regulations to help combat it and support people better.

The Covid mobile testing unit is currently in the Goldthorpe car park until at least Mon 7th Feb and possible the week after as well if it proves well used. People must make an appointment to attend. Other places are Summer Lane, the Dorothy Hyman stadium and the centre of Barnsley.

Lateral flow testing for asymptomatic people is taking place at the Metrodome. You need to book on and attend every few days. The results come out in 30mins. The aim is to find asymptomatic people so they can isolate and not spread the disease.

25,00 vaccines have been given out in Barnsley so far. All older people in care homes and most of Barnsley hospital staff have been done as well as front line staff such as social workers and health care workers. Testing in schools has also started. 30 – 50% of children are currently still in school across Barnsley.

Q & A - Jackie Kenning asked that if BMBC key workers were getting the vaccine what about people like herself and Alison Sykes who are critical workers. If one them were to get Covid the food bank would have to shut as one person cannot run it on their own. Craig is to find out more details about which key workers can get the vaccine and report back to Jackie.

It was reported that a shop on Houghton Road next to the café by Chapel Street was open on Saturday and today, supposedly for click and collect, but it looked like they had their wares on the pavement outside. Craig will investigate.

Salvation Army – Jackie Kenning reported that business continues for the Salvation Army, though they are now meeting clients at the door as they aren't allowed to enter the premises. They are seeing more professionals coming for help and asking for food parcels and are helping many families in crisis. They are also prepping for when they can re-open. With that in mind they are looking for outdoor containers for storage so that some staff can be outside and more spread out. They are also looking at ways to make the shop Covid safe.

The bridge is now open, but Jackie says that have reported to the Police that vehicles are coming down the wrong way and speeding.

They have been given the approval to get IT equipment to enable them to run the Victory Programme for local families remotely via Zoom. They have also set up a Facebook page for those on the Victory Programme cooking course.

They are not currently running their debt advice service as such but are getting a lot of enquiries and they are signposting people to Citizen Advice or Universal Credit.

They have some picnic tables that they would like to gift as they need stackable chairs and tables for storage space.

They have seen an influx of people asking if they are taking donations, probably because other charity shops like BHF are currently closed. However, they are worried that this might lead to fly tipping outside the shop. Sadly, they have also had an incident where 4 bags worth of food donations were stolen from the steps as the donor was getting them out of the car waiting for Alison to arrive at the shop. Unfortunately, nobody is willing to give a statement. They now have stringent measures in place to stop this happening again.

7. **AOB** None

8. ***Date and time of next meeting***

The next meeting will be held virtually over Teams on Tuesday 2nd March at 2.00pm

Dearne Ward Alliance

VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES

Meeting Title:	Dearne North Ward Alliance
Date & Time:	2 nd March 2021 2.00pm

Attendees	Apologies
Cllr Alan Gardiner (Chair) – Elected Member Craig Aubrey – Neighbourhood Engagement Officer – Dearne Area Team Derek Bramham – Big Local Thurnscoe Tina Brook – Thurnscoe Park Wendy Cain - resident Cllr Pauline Phillips – Elected Member and Thurnscoe Flower Park volunteer Peter Shields – Dearne Memorial Group Marie Sinclair – Community Development Officer – Dearne Area Team Charlotte Williams – Station House Community Association Jenny Yates - Community Development Officer – Dearne Area Team	Cllr Annette Gollick – Elected Member David Jane – local resident Jackie Kenning – Salvation Army

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Cllr Alan Gardiner opened the meeting and welcomed everybody. No introductions were required.

2. **Apologies**

See above.

3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. **Finances**

4.1 The WA has a balance of £182.92 remaining up until 31st March 2021, which can be carried over into next year.

DNWA working funds –

£1,500 is committed to the library for when it can open again, which is hopefully from 12th April onwards.

£1,967 of reserve funding Green space - cleaning up Dearne North

4.2 No funding applications have been submitted.

4.3 Charlotte Williams gave a brief update on the bank account in which is currently with Yorkshire bank with a possibility to change it to an online account, but you can still pay in at the bank or Post Office. There is still a £6 charge. This is because the group have had the account for a while now. The account is only free for 16 months. If the group were to change to a different bank, they could get a free account. However, changing can be a hassle so it was agreed to stay with Yorkshire Bank and to change it to an online account. Wendy Cain also agreed to be a signatory and Jackie Kenning had agreed at the last meeting, but she would be contacted double check this. Charlotte Williams will sort this out. **Action CW**

5. **Projects Evaluation and Feedback**

- 5.2 **Healthy Holidays** – during February Half Term the Dearne Area Team once again handed out fruit and vegetable boxes to families in need in the area. Families could be referred or apply through the Team’s Facebook page. They didn’t need to be on Free School Meals or show any benefits to make sure those struggling due to the pandemic such as those furloughed were included. In addition to the fruit and veg, pancake mixes for Shrove Tuesday were given out, including pancake topping suggestions and a recipe card for stew. Inside activity bags for children were a Spring activity booklet, colouring book and pens, bug magnets and oral health information, including a free toothbrush and toothpaste. These packs were a big success and the children, and their families were overwhelmed by them. The Pancake went down particularly well.

The cost per child was £7.87

102 boxes of different sizes were given out to families – 42 in Thurnsoce, 29 in Bolton- upon-Deerne and 31 in Goldthorpe
330 activity bags were given out

268 children were supported

9 families had 5 or more children.

Maire Sinclair has also done further break downs of the ages of children and will send this information out as it has been Anonymised. **Action MS**

Some funding is left over and will be carried over to an Easter project.

It was noted that the Churches Together also gave out food parcels, including ingredients for pancakes and activity packs during half term and this also was a great success.

The chair commented on the brilliant effort made and thanked all those involved in the successful projects to ensure local children and families were feed and entertained during the holidays.

It was noted that for Easter anybody on free school meals (FSM) can apply for a food box through Good Food Barnsley in partnership with BMBC. It is up to the WA if they wish to target those just above the FSM threshold that might be struggling e.g. those parents who have been furloughed. Marie Sinclair said that by us providing the Healthy Holiday Scheme for the last few holidays it has highlighted the need and been taken on by core services, so the project has served its purpose and done its job.

- 5.3 **5 Ways to Wellbeing Social Media Campaign** – it was recognised that people are struggling with their mental health and wellbeing at the current time and so the Dearne Area Team decided to do a social media campaign during February that gave people tips, ideas and advice on how to look after and improve their own mental wellbeing and that of families, friends and others in the community. The Team focussed on the 5 Ways to wellbeing – Stay Connected; Keep Active; Give to Others; Keep Learning and Take Notice putting out a couple of messages, including links, each day on Facebook with ideas for one of the themes. The project ran over 3 weeks with week one focussing on older people, week 2 parents and week 3 (half term) children and young people. Where possible the posts looked at local initiatives and projects such the DECV, Be:friend, Yarn Bombing for the Dearne Community Arts Festival, BMBC family learning courses, Barnsley Museums, Good Food Barnsley’s Febu.welly and Kixx Barnsley. The project was well received and Marie Sinclair will send out some evaluation of the project in terms of numbers of people reached. **Action MS**

6. **Covid Update from Neighbourhood Engagement Officer**

Craig Aubrey had sent a written report to the meeting which was circulated afterwards. Jenny Yates summarised: The Prime Minister has now set out a road map for coming out for lockdown though this is subject to change if circumstances and medical evidence suggests it should. The first date is the schools returning on Monday 8th March.

Infection rates in Barnsley are dropping, but are still slightly above the national average which is causing some concern and the ways in which public health messages about staying safe are being put out is being looked at to see if it can make a difference. There aren’t many work related infections so it is likely to be families and friends meeting up spreading the virus.

The Lateral Flow Testing is a success and is identifying non-symptomatic cases and helping to reduce the spread.

As reported last time areas of interest and parks such as Locke Park and Cannon Hall are getting quite busy with people going for the exercise and in some cases travelling to get there. This means the Covid Marshalls are patrolling such areas, particularly at the weekends. There is now a Security Guard at Worsbrough Mill.

Work has been undertaken with the Regulatory Services to visit local supermarkets, minimarkets and corner shops to check everybody is complying with regulations. Overall the Dearne area is good, though one shop has been reported. Work is now underway with licenced premises and other business to support their opening hopefully from the 12th April.

Libraries and community groups can also potentially open on 12th April, however the full rules are not out yet so will need looking at when they are.

Craig has some masks which he is giving out to groups that require them.

The sites for testing are on the report, but the mobile site in Goldthorpe is there until Sunday 7th March and is open 9am – 3pm every day. Lateral flow testing for front line workers is still at the Metrodome. Lateral flow testing will also be done in primary and secondary schools and will take place either at the school or at home whichever is best for each school.

The roll out of the vaccination process continues with the priority groups of 65 plus and those with underlying health conditions.

The shop that was reported at the last meeting was visited and as it is selling pet food and DIY items it is allowed to be open.

Concerns about a mobile barber were raised. Craig confirmed that this was being investigated.

7. Group Updates

7.1 Thurnscoe Memorial Group – Peter Shields gave a brief update on the memorials and work carried out by the group.

7.2 Big Local Thurnscoe – Derek Braham reported that letters have gone out to every house in Thurnscoe with an update. The Enterprise Fund to help small local businesses start up is proving popular and two more applications will be considered at the next meeting.

The Plaza project is moving along. The Heads of Terms have been signed but permissions are required from Sport England to get the leasehold on the land. BLT have got their solicitors involved with this. A meeting has been held with Keepmoat a funder and the designers Free Style.

The Let It Shine project has proved very popular and Conrad has delivered 40 baskets.

A holiday hamper project was run in partnership with Station House and the Hill Primary School.

7.3 Thurnscoe Flower Park – Cllr Pauline Philips reported that a few people have been weeding, litter picking and doing general maintenance. However, there are not many volunteers because they can't have too many as they need to keep 2m apart and there are currently no toilet facilities to use.

They are looking at getting funding to replace the slide which was damaged and also getting more roses for the rose bed as children and young people are walking across it.

7.4 Station House – Charlotte Williams reported that the playgroup has remained open throughout and the after-school club for key worker children, but they had to get additional funding to keep this running. The after-school club will be opening to all children from 8th March, but several parents aren't sure if they will need to send their children as they have reduced hours or aren't sure they have a job to go back to. There is a lot of movement of the employment status of local people which is a worrying sign.

They are aiming to provide good quality play to help children recover mentally from the pandemic. They are also going to undertake some training in psychology first aid. It was originally for children in war zones but has been adapted for Covid and is free training of anybody is interested, though a certificate if you want one is £30.

38 families benefitted from the Holiday Hampers. These were not given to families on benefits but those struggling because of loss in wages due to the impact of Covid. They recipients were very pleased and commented on how they felt cared about which they haven't felt for a while.

7.5 Salvation Army – nobody was available to attending the meeting, but Alison Sykes had given this report at the Dearne South WA in the morning.

70 food parcels including pancake ingredients were given out from the Salvation Army, Thurnscoe Church and Bolton Methodist Church during February half term. 500 home learning magazines have also been distributed.

The Churches Together are also running a 'Whispers of Love' project for Easter. Local people are currently making hearts from various medium which will be distributed throughout the community, particularly to those in care homes. 600 harts have been made so far. Easter Goody Bags are also being given out, but people need to book in to collect these on 31st March and some venues are already booked up.

The Salvation Army is currently open Monday to Friday and are serving out food parcels at the door for people who have booked in.

Alison reported that they are seeing and increased number of overseas people coming to the centre to ask for help. They are currently working with some Romanian young men asking for help in getting home. This has been reported to various authorities for help. They have also helped a homeless Iranian get temporary accommodation. They also report that there have been racial abuse incidents, including against a family who has just moved to the area whose windows have been smashed. This has been reported to the PCSOs.

They are currently one of the first Salvation Armies to be running the Victory Programme and are doing this virtually. They are currently doing cooking sessions online with three families but have funding to expand including providing devices and internet connection and help with fuel bills so that families can take part.

They are going to be starting a debt advice service.

8. AOB

8.1 Marie Sinclair has been giving some thought to a Covid recovery plan and not just for people but local business as well and she thought that some hanging baskets for the main shopping areas might encourage people to shop local rather than carry on with internet shopping. Thurnscoe has already committed spend for this, so she is only looking at Goldthorpe of which the main street down to Asda is in the Dearne North area. She has done some initial research into this. A company called First Impressions provide and maintain lots of hanging baskets throughout BMBC, including the town centre. The cost is £55 per basket to put up, water and replace up to 5 times if necessary. The baskets would be up from the second week in June to the third week in October. They would require 4 weeks' notice. However, she has been out and with somebody from First Impressions who has said that the current brackets in Goldthorpe would not be strong enough to support an 85kg basket because they are fixed into brickwork. Therefore, new brackets on lampposts and columns would be required at a cost of £45 per bracket giving a total cost of £100 per basket. Initial discussions with Big Local suggest that this would fit in well with their Community Spirit funding and they may be willing to fund 50% of the cost, subject to agreement by the whole group. Marie is due to meet with Chad Wall from Highways to look at which lampposts etc are suitable for hanging baskets on Goldthorpe as they mustn't cover up road signs etc. Hopefully, in future years local business would sponsor a hanging basket however it is too much to ask at this current time when they have been hit hard. Dearne South WA had raised concerns about the backlash from businesses not getting a basket and Marie asked if this had been the case in Thurnscoe previously. It was reported that it had been, but when it was explained it was just the main shopping street and the reasons people seemed happy, so if there is a clear plan as to which areas would get hanging baskets it should be alright. It was mentioned that there are also 3 tier and moon shaped planters in Thurnscoe which are planted up by volunteers but watered by a company. It was suggested that hanging baskets would compliment the Goldthorpe Towns Fund initiative. Derek Braham commented that Big Local only has about 3 years left to run and then it will go to Thurnscoe Regeneration under the CIO, so they will be looking for funding for the hanging baskets and Christmas lights which the Big Local have done. It would be good to find a way to keep these sustainable.

8.2 Charlotte Williams mentioned how nice it is to see so many purple bags full of litter that has been collected and is waiting for Twiggs to collect. She said it's good to acknowledge the good stuff that is happening. Pauline Phillips also said how nice it was to see such clean tidy areas when driving through the village.

It was agreed that thanks from the WA should be passed onto the Shaw Foundation and other groups who are busy collecting the litter. It was asked if funding could be found for more litter pickers. Maire Sinclair is to ask Claire Dawson if the Area teams' equipment can be updated to loan out. Cllr Gardiner stated he will mention in the Area Council meeting about a thankyou to the whole community and the groups taking part in the clean ups – Big recognitions is required and thankyou to all involved!

9. *Date and time of next meeting*

The next meeting will be held virtually over Teams on Tuesday 18th May at 2.00pm

The following meeting dates have been pencilled in subject to change if required:

Tuesday 18th May 2pm

Tuesday 15th June 2pm

Tuesday 3rd August 2pm

Tuesday 21st September 2pm

Tuesday 16th November 2pm

Christmas special Tuesday 14th December 2pm

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**BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEARNE AREA COUNCIL**

**Report of the
Dearne Area Council Manager**

Update on Ward Alliance Fund Spend

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report seeks to inform Members about spend to date from Ward Alliance Funds within the Dearne Area.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the Dearne Area Council receives the Ward Alliance Fund Report and notes any spend to date for the Wards of Dearne North and Dearne South.

3.0 Introduction

3.1 This report is set within the context of decisions made with regards to Ward Alliance Fund arrangements (Cab16.1.2013/10.3).

3.2 In considering projects for the use of the Ward Alliance Funds, Members are satisfied that the projects identified meet a recognised need for the Ward, are in the wider public interest, and represent value for money.

4.0 Spend to date

4.1 The Dearne North Ward Alliance starting balance for the 2020/21 financial year was £12,247.12 this includes the underspend of £247.12 from the 2019/20 budget, £10,000 Ward Alliance monies and £2,000 COVID support funds. To date they have provided funds to nine projects at a cost of £12,064.20 leaving a balance of £182.92

4.2 The Dearne South Ward Alliance starting balance for the 2020/21 financial year was £16,605.12 this includes the underspend of £4,605.12 from the 2019/20 budget, £10,000 Ward Alliance monies and £2,000 COVID support funds. To date they have provided funds to 12 projects at a cost of £15,287.40 leaving a balance of £1,317.72

5.0 Appendix

Appendix One: Breakdown of Ward Alliance Spend

Officer:
Claire Dawson
Dearne Area Council Manager

Tel:
07741168798

Date: 15th March 2021

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2020/21 WARD FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

For 2020/21 each Ward will have an allocation of £10,000 Ward Alliance Fund.

The carry-forward and overspend of the 2019/20 Ward Alliance Fund were combined and added to the 2020/21 Allocation and to be managed as a single budget.

Dearne North Ward Alliance budget

For the 2020/21 financial year the Ward Alliance has the following available budget.

£10,000 base allocation + CF £247.12 from 2019/20 + £2000.00 covid funds

£12,247.12 total available funding

<u>App no.</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Project end date</u>	<u>Allocation</u>	<u>Allocation remaining</u>
001	WA Healthy Holidays 6 weeks matched with Big Locals/Public Health	September 2020	£2000.00	£10247.12
002	Station House Community Association – COVID19 specific	March 2021	£270.00	£9977.12
003	Defib at Goldthorpe Library	Dec 2020	£750.00*	£9227.12
004	Big Local Thurnscoe – plaza community garden set up	March 2021	£5000.00	£4227.12
005	Station House Community Association – banners	March 2021	£244.20	£3982.92
006	Dearne North Christmas Tree – high street regeneration in Goldthorpe	Jan 2021	£700.00	£3282.92
007	Highgate Primary School – outdoor activity area	April 2021	£750.00	£2532.92
008	Bulky Rubbish scheme	Sept 2021	£1000.00	£1532.92
003	Extension of monies for DEFIB installation	Dec 2020	£600.00*awaiting actual amount from FM	£932.92
014	Winter warmth project	Dec 2020	£750.00	£182.92

Total spend = £12,064.20

Match funded = £5700.00

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Dearne South Ward Alliance budget

For the 2020/21 financial year the Ward Alliance has the following available budget.

£10,000 base allocation + CF £4,605.12 from 2019/20 + £2000 Covid funds

£16,605.12 total available funding

<u>App no.</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Project end date</u>	<u>Allocation</u>	<u>Allocation remaining</u>
001	WA Healthy Holidays 6 weeks matched with Big Locals/Public Health	September 2020	£2000.00	£14605.12
012	Dearne Community Active Group	May 2020	£1520.40	£13084.72
009	BODY Carnegie Self Defence Classes (2019-2020 previous years payment missed)	March 2021	£1049.00	£12035.72
003	Defib at Goldthorpe Library	Dec 2020	£750.00*	£11285.72
010	Urban Impact self-defence Group	March 2021	£1600.00	£9685.72
011	Dearne South Christmas Tree – high street regeneration in Goldthorpe/Bolton on Dearne	Jan 2021	£1132.00	£8553.72
007	Highgate Primary School – outdoor activity area	April 2021	£2500.00	£6053.72
008	Bulky Rubbish scheme	Sept 2021	£1000.00	£5053.72
003	Extension of monies for DEFIB installation	Dec 2020	£600.00*awaiting actual amount from FM	£4453.72
013	Resilience upgrade in container	Dec 2020	£1000.00	£3453.72
014	Winter Warmth Project	Dec 2020	£750.00	£2703.72
015	Dearne Allotment Group	Feb 2021	£700.00	£2003.72
016	PANDA	April 2021	£686.00	£1317.72

Total spend= £15,287.40

Match funded = £4,481.00

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