

**DEARNE APPROACH STEERING GROUP**

**Notes of the Meeting held at the Salvation Army Hall Goldthorpe:  
11 January 2016**

**Core Members Present:** Wendy Lowder (Chair), Claire Dawson, Aaron Poole, Alison Sykes, John Hays, Pauline Phillips, Janet Ellor, Cllr Annette Gollick, Gemma Cobby, Tom Smith, Helen Jaggard, Sarah Cartwright, , Derek Bramham, Alison Vint, Joe Micheli, and Elaine Mussett (Notes)

**Core Members Apologies:** Cllr Gardiner; Cllr Worton; Kate Roberts (Community Shop) Alister Shaw; Cllr Noble, Carl Hickman, Anthony Campbell, Mark Fisher, and April Fisher

**Supporting Officers/Service Providers Present:** Peter Antcliff, (BMBC Asset Management), Leanne Adams (Dearne Valley College), Angela Lomax, (BMBC Targeted Information, Advice and Guidance Service (TIAG))

<p><b>1.0 Welcome and Introductions:-</b> A round of introductions took place  <b>Apologies:</b> - As listed above</p>	<p>Action By</p>
<p><b>2.0 Notes of Meeting held 2 November 2015 were accepted as a true record</b>  <b>Matters Arising –</b>  <b>Page 1 – Item 3.2 Dearne Playhouse</b>          The meeting was informed that no meeting had been held between the Dearne Playhouse Board and Thurnscoe and Goldthorpe Big Local representatives to address the issues raised last time. GDG also expressed disappointment at the lack of promotional activity around the cinema. Issue to be picked up by Dearne Area Manager.</p> <p><b>Page 3 - Item 4.0 Access to GP’s and other health related issues</b>          Healthwatch are in the process of arranging a ‘Listening Workshop’ to bring together GP’s and local people to help explore the issues raised at the previous meeting and also for the GP’s to share some of the issues impacting on them – i.e. the cost of failed appointments.</p> <p><b>Page 3 - Item 5.2 Erecting signs to promote local businesses</b>          No response received to requests for further information on whether signs could be erected on Council land adjacent to rather than on the Highway. Issue to be referred to Wendy.</p> <p><b>Page 5 - Item 5.3 Community Licence Scheme</b>          A start date of 1 Feb 2016 has been given for the Dearne pilot scheme. Claire explained that the Goldthorpe and Bolton Big Local has been identified as the ‘approved’ organisation to manage the scheme. Clarification was given that the scheme will cover both Dearne North and South wards. Before the pilot commences the Area Manager will meet with representatives from both Big Locals to work through the practicalities.</p> <p><b>Page 9 - Item 7.0 Community Awards Event</b>          A date has been set for this event which will be held at the Dearne Playhouse on 13 June 2016 from 3pm to 8pm. Further details to be worked up.</p>	<p>C. Dawson</p> <p>W. Lowder</p> <p>C. Dawson M. Fisher D. Bramham</p> <p>All to note C. Dawson</p>
<p><b>3.0 Discussion Item –</b></p>	

### 3.1 Empty Shop Units on Goldthorpe High Street:

#### Peter Antcliff; Senior Surveyor – BMBC Asset Management:

Peter explained that he had been asked to look at empty shop units on the main road through Goldthorpe to identify who owned them and whether or not they were in the hands of an agent. He has then been asked to investigate the potential for them to be used for temporary 'meanwhile' purposes, and particularly if this could be for a community benefit.

#### Issues discussed:

- the 'costs' incurred by the owners/leaseholders in terms of security, insurances and the business rates that are applied, even when empty;
- the opportunity for reduced business rates to be applied, (80 to 100% reduction in the case of a charity),
- the lack of car parking signage – does this put some potential business off as they are not aware of all the spaces. The meeting noted that this has already been raised and that further dialogue on this issue is needed between Area Team, Aaron, (GDG) and Highways;
- the rental charges – are these realistic for the area?
- the need for lease arrangements to be entered into even for 'meanwhile' uses - which can be difficult for small community organisations etc. It was explained that in some areas local authorities have been able to make arrangements to 'hold' the lease on behalf of the community. Peter will investigate the potential for this and also see if there are any sources of funding that could be accessed to help take it forward.

#### Positives

- local residents informed the meeting that there does appear to have been some interest in the Cooperative building recently, Peter to check if this has now been let.
- The opening of the new school will hopefully increase footfall and draw in more traders.

#### Next Steps :

It was agreed that Peter would do some further investigations to bring a business proposal to the next meeting which will make a clear recommendation on whether there is any potential for Goldthorpe to take this idea further or not.

D Bramham informed the meeting that he had checked and that there are no issues with empty shops in the Thurnscoe area.

### 3.2 Jobs Education Skills and Training Theme

#### Tom Smith; Theme Lead & Annette Gollick Community Link

Tom tabled the quarterly performance monitoring pro-forma which set out the current 'holding' position for the theme. He then gave an overview on the activity that has been initiated in order to take this theme forward. Including: gathering data; identifying the key themes; preparations to hold a workshop and consultation event.

Tom identified 6 key strands that will need to be teased out at the workshop:

C. Dawson  
A Poole

Peter  
Antcliff

Peter  
Antcliff

Peter  
Antcliff

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establishing a better local dataset – picking up on specific age ranges where more co-ordinated/targeted support may be needed; for example:       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The transition from ‘school’ for pre and post 16 year olds;</li> <li>b) For the 16 to 24 age range the current focus is on the 16-18 year old NEET’s and indications are that there are issues for the 18-24’s; and</li> <li>c) With respect to working age adults, ( aged 24+) it is those aged 40+ who have either been long term economically inactive or have recently been made redundant that are emerging as an area of concern.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. The need to overcoming the impact of culture, ambition, aspirations, and family support on attitudes. Tom noted the link between this and life-style choices – which in turn can lead to long term health issues;</li> <li>3. The need to develop skills, education, qualification levels to address:       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) No skills/low skills</li> <li>b) Low functional skills – Maths English, ICT (digital skills) and</li> <li>c) Low employability skills, confidence, communication skills, punctuality etc.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. The establishment of clear pathways and support around routes into work, acknowledging that the ‘step’ from not working into employment is massive for some people; looking at work shadowing; work trials etc. and - taking into consideration any benefit implications.</li> <li>5. The need to pick on and address the wider support issues; for example people on out of work health related benefits that may need additional support to get/hold down a job.</li> <li>6. The need to support in work progression; encouraging people to move on from basic entry level employment to higher level jobs. This will involve working with employers to help people move on and also business to create more and better job opportunities.</li> </ol> <p>Tom also raised the need address reluctance of some individuals to ‘travel to learn – travel to earn’ and identified that local transport does appear to be a problem. Claire advised the meeting that VAB have recently produced the annual review for the Area Council on the Employability Skills contract which identifies that the cost of transport - financial and time is a significant issues. Report to be shared with Tom.</p> <p>Leanne from DVC explained that the college is very keen to be involved in the Dearne and that they have a team of employment coaches and can offer in work support. She explained that the courses funded from the Adults Skills Budget can only be used to deliver accredited courses and that they are waiting for news on a European Social Fund bid that can be used to provide additional support outside of the accredited courses.</p> <p>Gemma explained that a planning meeting was going to be held on 12 January at 10.30am for the Business Start up workshop, (provisional date 10 March 2016), if anyone was interested in getting involved.</p>	<p><b>C. Dawson</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>
---	---

<p>Cllr Gollick advised the meeting that work readiness is currently being investigated by local members on the Council Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>The meeting raised the issue of the very poor quality of the Job Centre Plus CV's; Janet explained that 30% of Rory's time was supporting people to develop a 'quality' CV who had the Jobcentre Plus CV.</p> <p>A planning meeting to develop the JEST Workshop has been scheduled for the 18 January 2016 with a core group of local providers; and As it is quite a confusing picture at the moment local service providers have been asked to provide some very basic information on: the services they offer, who their target beneficiaries are, what the expected outcomes are, how they are funded and what issues/challenges they are facing. This information will help to inform the discussion on the current provision offer at the workshop, which will in turn help identify the action plan for the theme.</p>	
<p><b>4.0 Community Plan – Theme Updates</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Housing Theme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Theme Lead – Sarah Cartwright, BMBC Housing and Energy Services</li> <li>▶ Community Link – Mark Fisher, Chair of the G &amp; B Big Local Information as circulated on the Q3 monitoring summary sheet.</li> </ul> <p>Further Updates provided to the meeting: Sarah explained that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the Housing Association new build bungalows Saltersbrook are now occupied;</li> <li>b) the demolition of Beever Street 1 to 37 is likely to need progressing through a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and a report on this is to be presented for the Council's cabinet approval in February;</li> <li>c) a consultation event will be held 13 Jan 2016 at the Salvation Army Hall – 2 sessions 1-2 and 5-6pm on the redevelopment of Beever Street including looking at the feasibility of improving surrounding area within the limitations of the current financial constraints;</li> <li>d) the Goldthorpe empty homes clusters grant is to be re-launched once the changes have received the approval of the Council with the key proposed changes being: for the area covered by the scheme to be extended to include the whole of Goldthorpe rather than just specific properties; the grant to be increased; and landlord contribution to be set at 10%;</li> <li>e) the energy efficiency scheme is being re-launched now that flyer has been redesigned. The focus will be on Bolton on Dearne and Thurnscoe as there are a larger number of properties in these areas identified as being 'off-gas', and Keepmoat will be visiting properties to promote the scheme.</li> <li>f) John Hays explained that the proposal to refurbish the boundary walls on Frederick Street had been held up by 1 occupier who has only recently consented to be part of the scheme. In order to progress this John asked for some professional support in terms of determining the schedule of works required and working out an estimate of the costs. Helen Jagger</li> </ol>	<p>H. Jagger</p>

<p>offered to provide this technical support through officers in Berneslai Homes.</p> <p>John Hays:          Raised concerns about the planning proposal for a scrap yard to be located just off Beever Street on the grounds of noise nuisance and it being inappropriate in an area we were trying to regenerate.          Sarah explained that objections needed to be made to the planning department as although the housing service had already made its concerns known it is important that everyone who has an objection takes the opportunity to make this known to the service responsible for making the decision.</p> <p>On behalf of G &amp; B Big Local Elaine informed the meeting that their bid to the Nationwide Empty Home scheme had been unsuccessful. They had received feedback to say that as a new organisation the Dearne Community Housing project wasn't able to demonstrate a successful track record.</p> <p><b>4.2 Environment Theme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Theme Lead – Anthony Campbell, Group Manager Waste Neighbourhoods, BMBC Environment and Transport</li> <li>▶ Community Link – April Fisher, Chair of the Dearne Approach SG</li> </ul> <p>Information as circulated on the Q3 monitoring summary sheet.</p> <p>A request made for the dates on the monitoring sheet to be refreshed as some are out of date.</p> <p>Further updates provided to the meeting:          Claire informed the meeting that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the contract with Twiggs is working well, although the level of referrals for services is low, the next Environmental Steering group is on the 26 Jan 2016; 10.00 if anyone has issues that they want to refer in; and</li> <li>b) the Area Team will be discussing plans for the Dearne's 'Love your Park' week with Chris Smith in Park services</li> </ol> <p><b>4.3 Health and Well-being, Quality of Life Theme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Theme Lead – Carl Hickman, BMBC Health and Well-Being Manager</li> <li>▶ Community Link – Alison Sykes, Salvation Army Officer</li> </ul> <p>The meeting was advised that the Council's Public Health Board has decided that all the area councils need to have a dedicated public health link person and in the Dearne this will be Carl Hickman.</p> <p>Verbal updates given to the meeting:          A 'Health Workshop' will be held in the Dearne 4 February 12.30 that will bring together the key player's in providing services and interventions for health to: facilitate the sharing of information; help map existing service provision; and to identify the gaps in current service provision.          This workshop will also be supported by officers from the Council's Research and Intelligence team who will be able to provide up to date information.          Tom explained that the Public Health lead for the Council's employment and</p>	<p>All</p> <p>A. Campbell E. Mussett</p> <p>All</p> <p>C. Dawson</p>
--	--

<p>skills service has already completed some work on mapping the support services and Joanne Dearnley from the DWP has information on the top 5 health conditions from work done with the Job Centre plus that he can share with Claire to feed into this workshop.</p> <p>Wendy explained that Social Prescribing is to be rolled out into GP practices across the borough following on from the successful VAB pilot.</p>	<p>T. Smith</p>
<p><b>5.0 Updates, Positive News, Partnership Support Requests</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Big Local Thurnscoe – Derek Bramham (BLT Chair)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Winter Wonderland in Thurnscoe Park</b> - this was a great success with over 1,000 attendees. In particular the community engagement with the photo competition, which was won by Robert Ogden aged 5, was noted. Especially in view of the low costs associated with this.</li> <li>• <b>Dates of future meetings -</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Partnership meet on 14 Jan 2016 at 5pm</li> <li>- A Greenspace sub group will meet on 18 Jan 2016 at 3pm – this will include Twiggs, VAB and Paul from the Forestry Commission and they are hoping it will draw in a lot of interest from the community</li> <li>- Their AGM will be held on 18 February at 6.30pm</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Newsletter</b> – copies of the Autumn edition were circulated at the meeting, the closing date for submissions to the next edition is the 12 February and it is due to be distributed early in March. It was clarified that a copy is sent to every household.</li> <li>• <b>Spring Event</b> – This will be the ‘Thurnscoe Show’ focusing on local produce and healthy lifestyles.</li> <li>• <b>Small Grants</b> – Bids are being sought for the next round (£250.00)</li> <li>• <b>Future Focus</b> – This will be on the more structural issues identified in their Plan for example Housing and Transport.</li> </ul> <p><b>5.2 Goldthorpe and Bolton Big Local –</b></p> <p>In the absence of Mark and April Elaine updated based on the notes circulated from the last meeting and e-mail updates provided by April.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meetings</b> – Will take place the first Tuesday of each month, (except January) at 17.30pm at the Dearne ALC.</li> <li>• <b>Dan Jary</b> and his students from Sheffield University attended the last meeting. They are keen to talk to the community to get ideas that they can work on, they helped with the decoration of the Christmas trees, and they said that they would be organising an event in the New Year.</li> <li>• <b>Bank Local</b> – A leaflet has been developed and distributed explaining that most High Street banks do offer services through the local post office and it lists what these are. It also provides a map of all the ATM services in Goldthorpe, Thurnscoe and Bolton.</li> <li>• <b>Credit Union</b> – has now purchased premises on Goldthorpe High Street which will be large enough for them to sell white and brown goods.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Skills and Training Centre</b> – They are now looking at setting up a CIO for this initiative and are working with Ann Moffat at VAB on this. Premises have been secured in Bolton on Dearne, at the Renaissance Centre for the DIY aspect of the project to be run from.</li> <li>• <b>Archaeology Project</b> – The potential of the Bolton on Dearne Gun Battery as a local archaeology project is being explored jointly with the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership.</li> <li>• <b>Training Event</b> – 3 representatives are to attend the Northern College to access the training on project management and tendering.</li> <li>• <b>Phoenix Park Underpass</b> – Are looking to paint a mural on it and to improve approach to it, and as concerns were raised in the BL meeting about accesses from Thurnscoe it was been suggested that the Thurnscoe Big Local should be invited to be involved. Derek advised the meeting that this had not been raised with him.</li> <li>• <b>CCTV Cameras</b> – The purchase of the camera’s has fallen through and recent discussions a problem has been identified with respect to getting a commitment from the police that they will provide the required supervision for the downloading of the images. April has been advised to write to Paul Brannan to get an assurance on this before a further order for CCTV is placed.</li> </ul>	<p>M. Fisher</p> <p>A Fisher</p>
<p><b>5.3 Goldthorpe Development Group – John Hays/ Aaron Poole</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>December Events</b> – 7 successful events were held including the older person’s party and the Goldthorpe Market, with over 3.500 people being engaged. Aaron in particular was thanked for his efforts in creating Santa’s grotto (hearth) and overall the fantastic atmosphere and community spirit was acknowledged.</li> <li>• <b>Christmas events for next year</b> are already being planned and it has been suggested that the Christmas market includes stalls on the main road – it was noted that the shops that opened also benefitted from increased trade during the event.</li> <li>• <b>Monthly OAP Tea Dances</b> – They have received a grant to cover the costs.</li> <li>• <b>VE Day Party</b> – is to be held again this year</li> <li>• <b>Coach trips</b> – for children and OAPs will be provided</li> <li>• <b>Events being planned include:</b> Halloween, Christmas ‘Bounce into Summer’ plus health related events for older people.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>The meeting congratulated the Goldthorpe Development Group on winning the Proud of Barnsley Award for Community Group of the Year.</b></p>	
<p><b>5.4 Landlords and Agents Network – Elaine Mussett</b></p>	
<p>Notes from previous meeting as circulated</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CRISIS event</b> - Alison informed the meeting that this had been very positive and she said that Chris Shaw, (a landlord) had been particularly good in engaging with people. A couple of individuals who were in crisis turned up to the event for help.</li> </ul>	

### 5.5 DEVC – Janet Ellor

- **Rory** is being kept very busy with 27 people being supported through the employability skills and 7 through the Young at Heart initiative.

### 5.6 Salvation Army – Alison Sykes Officer

- **Family Parcels for Christmas** - 78 parcels were delivered, and people had been in touch to say thank you. It is hoped to maintain contact with these families so that support can be provided over the next 12 months to help them improve their situation.
- **Energy Bill Advice** – A help and advice session is to be held Monday 25 January 10am with Diane Bland from the NEA.
- **Stay Put** – have been working with the Salvation Army and have agreed to waive the £10.00 charge for any referrals Alison makes.
- **Job Club** – this is going very well
- **Foodbank** – this was very busy before Christmas but has now eased off, although the demand is expected to increase in response to a notable increase in sanctions.

### 5.7 Berneslai Homes – Helen Jagger

- **Decent Homes** - £4M has been invested in the Dearne
- **Landlord Accreditation Scheme** – it is likely that the management of this scheme will be transferred to the Berneslai Homes Private Sector Property Management service – although the full details have yet to be worked through.
- **Berneslai Homes** have been running digital inclusion sessions at the Community Shop.
- **Tenant Satisfaction Survey** – the issues coming out from Council tenants in the Dearne are around: rubbish; litter; car parking; pets / animals; and young people, (anti-social behaviour and litter). This survey has also identified that people in the Dearne are less satisfied with the area as a place to live, and their perception of how well neighbours got on was lower than in other areas. It was noted that this information would be blended with the information coming out of the Council's survey.

### 5.8 Coalfield Regeneration Trust (CRT) – Gemma Cobby

- **Micro-grants** - these have now been awarded
- **Dearne Stay-Fit** – has been supported through the process to become set up as an independently constituted group.
- **Goldthorpe Business Forum** - is being supported - the initiatives that are being explored are 'Shop Local' and 'Small Business' Saturdays.

### 5.9 Area Council – Claire Dawson

- **Bulky Rubbish Collection Service** – due to the high level of demand for this service it had been extended again.
- **Private Sector Housing & Environmental Investigations & Enforcement officers** – have been extended for another year.
- **Dearne Development Fund** - the second round is now open and the closing date is the 28 January 2016

<p><b>6 Dearne Approach Future Co-Ordination / Facilitation</b></p> <p>Joe explained that the additional support to the Dearne Approach and the theme groups provided by Elaine would come to an end when her post terminates in March 2016.</p> <p>The meeting acknowledge that having this intensive support for the group and the various sub-groups had been very much appreciated and therefore the group was asked to consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the intensive support still required for the Dearne Approach?</li> <li>• If the partners would want to see this level of support continue - how might it be achieved?</li> </ul> <p>The group acknowledged the difficult financial circumstances and the constraints that everyone is facing and no alternatives were identified. The group was asked to consider think about this and to bring any suggestions to the next meeting</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><b>7 Any Other Business:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Safety Partnership Strategy</b> – Wendy informed the meeting that a conference is to be held on Friday 15 January 2016, at 9.30am at the Priory Campus to look back at what has already been achieved by the partnership, what is coming out of the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment information; what is needed to support community cohesion and Barnsley Community Watch; while other issues that will be considered will be looking at what the right approach for neighbourhood policing is going forward. Everyone was invited to attend.</li> <li>• <b>The Dearne</b> - concerns were raised that Thurnscoe sometimes appears to be excluded from ‘the Dearne’ an example given was all the positive publicity and praise going out about events held at the Goldthorpe Library, while really positive activities and events at the Thurnscoe Library don’t get mentioned. This can be picked up with Library services.</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that maintaining a balance is important and to pick up on this issue a meeting will be convened by Claire with the Thurnscoe Big local chair and support worker and the Thurnscoe Library staff.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>C. Dawson</p> <p>C. Dawson D. Bramham A. Vint J. Ellor</p>
<p><b>8 Date of Next Meeting</b> – 14 March 2016 4pm Salvation Army Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Item - Environment Theme</li> </ul>	
<p><b>9 Date of Future Meeting – To be held at 4pm in the Salvation Army Hall</b></p> <p>9 May 2016</p>	