

# Dearne Ward Alliance

## VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES

Meeting Title:	Dearne North Ward Alliance
Date & Time:	1 <sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 2.00pm