

# Dearne Ward Alliance

## VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES

Meeting Title:	Dearne North Ward Alliance
Date & Time:	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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-Deane 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 hearts have been made so far. Easter Goody Bags are also being given out, but people need to book in to collect these on 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

**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