

Darfield Ward Alliance
Minutes of meeting held Thursday 18th March 2021, Microsoft Teams

Present: John Davies, Cllr Caroline Saunders, Cllr Pauline Markham, Cllr Trevor Smith and Mike Fenna.

In attendance: Tanya Dickinson, Community Development Officer. Kay Tinker, Neighbourhood Engagement Officer. Matthew Smith (for discussion around WAF application, Enhancing the Local High Street only).

Apologies: Colin Ward

Apologies with matters discussed by phone: Apologies recorded for Brian Moore and Margaret Barlow who are unable to access Microsoft Teams. Members have been consulted via the telephone prior to the meeting to allow them to have an input and to meet quoracy for decision making.

1. Welcomes and Introductions

Cllr Markham welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Kay Tinkler.

Members of the Ward Alliance were informed at this point that sadly Barbara Tindle has chosen to resign from her role as Secretary and member of the Ward Alliance. Barbara has carried out her role as Secretary to a very high standard and will be sorely missed. A letter of thanks to be arranged.

Action: Tanya.

2. Kay Tinker, Neighbourhood Engagement Officer

Kay is part of the South Area Team and her role is to reinforce Covid messages within the community. Kay can offer advice and guidance to businesses, residents, community groups and organisations to ensure that they are all Covid safe and operating within current regulations. Key pieces of work Kay is currently help to support are:

- Risk Assessment Information packs for community groups and centres
- Offering guidance and support to local businesses and groups to help them re-open once restrictions allow
- Helping to build local intelligence which can be fed back to the Council's Covid Marshalls allowing them to target resources where Covid regulations are being breached.
- Reinforcing Public Health's key messages around 'Hands, Face and Space' and Covid testing.

If anyone has any Covid related enquiries, Kay can be contacted on 07385417424 or KayTinkler@barnsley.gov.uk

3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The previous minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising:

- **Principal Towns** – Confirmation is still awaited over the installation of CCTV cameras in the area. Once this has been received, the Principal Towns team will prepare some publicity to share the outcome of the public consultation carried out towards the end of last year. Steps

are being taken to hand the responsibility of upkeep of Darfield Ring back to Highways. Updates will be provided as and when progress has been made.

3. Ward Alliance Funding

The current balance of Ward Alliance funding stands at £7,046

Funding Applications:

- **Hungry Caterpillars - £1080.** Due to Covid the group is asking for funding to help restart their Parent and Toddler group once restrictions allow. Discussion took place around charges made by the group to families and their ability to become self-sustaining moving forward. It was agreed to support this application in full. The Alliance asked that any future applications clarify how much families are charged.
- **DWA Enhancing the local high street - £2,830.** This project will invite sponsorship for hanging baskets to be placed where there are clusters of businesses with public footfall. Ward Alliance funding is requested to cover the cost of the brackets and sponsorship plaques only. This is a start-up project with a view that sponsorship covers the full costs associated with the hanging baskets moving forward. It was agreed to support this application in full.

The following decisions were ratified:

- **Friends of Thornhill House - £500.** It was agreed to fund this application by email / telephone ahead of this meeting. Agreement was reached to support the application in full.
- **DWA Community Defibrillator - £2,000 (maximum amount).** A decision was made at the January meeting to allow a maximum of £2000 towards installation costs of a community defib. The funding application has since been circulated to the Ward Alliance to receive formal approval. Unfortunately, the defib can no longer be accommodated at Darfield Library and so work is taking place to secure an alternative suitable location.

4. Ward Alliance Projects

Healthy Holidays – No provision was offered as part of this programme for the February half term however, for Easter, 34 Family Support Packs have gone out via local schools to families who are known to be struggling financially. These packs included a range of activities for the children, information on help available as well as a shopping voucher for food essentials.

A discussion took place around moving the focus of this work onto family budgeting and providing advice and resources to help families financially plan. There was also discussion around perhaps ring fencing some Ward Alliance funding to allow community groups to apply for funds to deliver activities under the banner of healthy holidays to support local families moving forward but also to help promote their group and increase their membership contributing towards the sustainability of the group.

Cllr Saunders raised the point that we need to know what is happening with regards to free school meals during the summer holidays before moving the focus of this work. It may be that we need to stick to our original remit.

This discussion to be picked up again once we know the offer for the summer holidays and as part of the Alliance's future planning discussions.

Covid-19 Community Group Packs – Tanya alongside Kay Tinkler has started to distribute these support packs to local groups. The packs have been well received so far and have allowed for Kay and her role to be introduced. The remainder of the packs will be distributed over the coming weeks. Packs include a supply of hand sanitiser, face masks, posters, floor stickers as well as a booklet containing information about the support available to groups moving forward. These will be followed up by the risk assessment information packs Kay is in the process of developing to support the groups to restart their activities in a Covid safe way.

5. Any other business

Tanya updated the Alliance that a new service provider has been commissioned to deliver the South Area Clean, Green and Tidy Service. Following a tendering process, Twiggs Ground Maintenance has secured the contract from the 1st April. Twiggs are to be invited to the May meeting to introduce themselves. The Alliance asked for their thanks to be passed on to the existing Tidy Team who have provided invaluable support to the work of the Alliance and Darfield. **Action: Tanya.**

Cllr Smith pointed out that there has been a large surge in people coming forward to carry out litter picks which is great. This is resulting in lots of filled bags being left on street corners / by waste bins. The collection of these is something which we need to keep on top of.

Membership renewal letters are due out in the next month or so. These will invite Ward Alliance members to recommit to their role as a member for the next 12 months.

WA Future Planning – Normally this time of year would be when the Alliance considers potential projects however due to the current situation it was suggested that this be done slightly later (hopefully in May) when restrictions have eased allowing the Alliance to come together in person.

Cllr Saunders wanted to pass on her thanks to the community representatives for their time and commitment to the work of the Ward Alliance. Caroline will be stepping down as Councillor in May and so this is her last Alliance meeting.

6. Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 20th May, 4pm via Microsoft Teams / Telephone