

# Dearne Ward Alliance

## VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES

Meeting Title:	Dearne South Ward Alliance
Date & Time:	20 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 9.30am

Attendees	Apologies
Cllr Neil Danforth (Chair) – Elected Member Cllr Dorothy Coates – Elected Member Alan George – Big Local Goldthorpe and Bolton-upon-Dearne Carole Hoyland – BODVAG Pat Hubery – local resident Cllr May Noble – Elected Member Marie Sinclair – Community Development Officer – Dearne Area Team Alison Sykes – Salvation Army Teresa Williams – Project Management Officer, Principle Towns Jenny Yates - Community Development Officer – Dearne Area Team Sadie Youel – Community Development Officer – Dearne Area Team	Craig Aubrey – Neighbourhood Engagement Officer – Dearne Area Team Vicky Cuming – local resident Mick Moore – Allotment Group – had laptop issues

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Cllr Neil Danforth opened the meeting and welcomed everybody. Cllr Dorothy Coates was introduced as the newly elected member for Dearne South and Sadie Youel was welcomed back from secondment. Everybody introduced themselves, including Teresa Williams, who then went on to give her Principle Towns Update.

After the development of Barnsley Town Centre, it was realised that several outlying high streets were also in need of a re-vamp. 11 local centres were identified and Bolton-upon-Dearne was one of these, with St Andrew's Square being the centre. Here bollards have been re-painted, walls re-pointed and areas re-levelled. New planters, bins and benches and flag/Christmas tree holders have been put in. Finger post signage from Carr Head Lane is due to go in, but the residents confirmed that this hasn't happened yet.

A Shop Frontage scheme was also offered with BMBC paying 80% of the costs up to £4,000 and the shop paying the rest. This offered shops a significant reduction in the cost of a new shop frontage, including replacing signs, windows and shutters. So far information has been sent out to the Fish and Chip shop, the Pharmacy, the Post Office and the carpet shop, but nothing has come back yet. MN confirmed that the Fish and Chip shop is waiting for the sale of business but the new owner will be taking up the offer. The carpet shop is also up for sale.

TW confirmed that the scheme has been extended along the High Street in Goldthorpe as well.

TW left the meeting.

### **2. Apologies**

See above.

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

AG moved the minutes of the last meeting as a true record and PH seconded them.

It was confirmed that SY will be leading on the Flood Resilience Plan. AG will send her an inventory of items in the flood store container. It was felt that people don't know about the flood store so once the noticeboard is up in St Andrew's Square a notice can be put in it informing people about the store. **Action AG**

This led to a discussion about the noticeboard and who has the key for it. It is a specialist Allen key. The noticeboard comes with one key and MS will check with TW who currently has this key. MS suggested getting a couple of spares cut. The cost is around £20 per key. CH offered to oversee the noticeboard and putting posters up. She was happy for her contact details to be on the board so that people know who to contact should they wish to put a notice up. **Action MS**

MN said that at the Area Chairs' Meeting it had been discussed about getting information about the Ward Alliances up on local noticeboards because lots of residents didn't know about the WAs and many weren't on social media to find out. MN wasn't sure if the message had got down to Area Managers yet. It was agreed that this would be a good idea and that success stories could also be show cased. MS confirmed that her and SY had recently met with a prospective new WA member who hadn't heard of the WA before and didn't know what was happening in the area.

### **4. Finances**

#### **4.1 Current Accounts**

AG update the meeting on the finances. There is £4,774.96 in the account. £1,500 is earmarked for the library project which as been held up due to the Covid pandemic. £1,400 has been earmarked for the Health Holidays/eating project. £1,800 is earmarked for the Renaissance Centre. This leaves £74.96 in the bank account which isn't earmarked.

#### **The Renaissance Centre**

AG declared an interest in this as a Voluntary Executive member of the centre. WA funding had initially been given to the centre 2 years ago for an IT suite which the WA believed would be open to the public. However, it came to light that this was not the case and it was for staff only so the money was given back. The Renaissance Centre needs a new roof and a building survey is taking ages to be done. Staff from the centre say that the IT equipment and software need an upgrade in order for them to carry out their work effectively. The internet speed is currently enough for the number of computers they have even before they have the upgrade they require. The prison service after care did do some work to the IT equipment, but it wasn't enough. £1,800 is required to upgrade the equipment to keep the building up and running.

Concerns were raised about how the building is utilised and if IT isn't upgraded this could result in losing user groups and new groups not coming forward. This will result in the building being empty again. A funding bid to Community Lottery Funding has been submitted to try and get more users groups into the centre. It was agreed that if the centre had better internet speed this would encourage more groups to use it, such as youth groups using internet games etc. CH said that the building is nice and big, but needs a tidy and publicising more. DC helps with a youth club in Great Houghton and suggested that a youth club might be good for the centre, but it needs someone to be in charge and work with the young people. She said she could help with advice and arrange a visit to the youth club she helps run if required. The area CDOs can also work with Malcolm to get some summer activities running at the centre. A youth club would require two workers, preferably a male and female. AG agreed to open and close the building. Spaces would need to be limited at the moment due to Covid and it was agreed that the young people should be charged a small amount for attending to cover some of the cost of opening up and insurance. The young people are more likely to attend if they have had to pay a small amount than if it's free.

It was agreed that the building needs the survey doing first and the building made waterproof and safe before any further decisions can be made. However, if this was satisfactory, all were then in favour of the Renaissance Centre getting the funding to upgrade the computers subject to the committee working with the WA members to run youth sessions/a club from the centre utilising the upgraded IT. MS will ask VC and MM if they are also in agreement as they had put their apologies in for this meeting. **Action MS**

## 4.2 Applications for funding

Three Applications have been received.

### ***Dearne Sports Bowling Club***

MN declared an interest in this. Dearne Sports Bowling Club and requested £2,000 towards a spiker for the bowling green. The full cost of the machine is £6,500 and the club are putting in £2,500 of their own funds and asking Big Local for £2,000. This is a specialist piece of equipment that aerates the soil and helps to keep the green flat and in good condition and the club can't move forward without one. The club's previous machine had been stolen in December. It had been chained up outside, but this was only a temporary measure whilst some work was carried out. However, it meant that they have not been able to claim on their insurance. Going forward Ian Chapel from the club will ensure that the machine is always kept locked away indoors at Prospect Road when not in use. A discussion was held around the cost of a company coming to do the job, but this is quite expensive (DC said it was around £1,500 a time at the cricket club at Houghton, but this is a larger area) and it was agreed that the club's own machine would be more economical in the long run. A discussion was also had about Ian using the machine in other areas as this would then be Dearne South money being used to benefit other areas. When BMBC stopped maintaining the bowling greens due to funding cuts Ian had a contract to maintain some of them. However, he no longer offers this service to other areas and will just be using this machine for the Dearne green. MS said that she is also helping Ian to put a funding bid in for additional security such as an alarm and a phone and internet for the building to help keep the machine even more secure and enable better use of the building. DC said she would investigate the types of insurance for the machine as well. **Action DC**

All were in favour and this funding application was passed, though Ian Chapel will be invited to the next meeting to explain more about how the machine works. **Action MS to invite IC.**

### ***Hanging Baskets***

The Dearne Area Team have submitted an application for £300 for hanging baskets in the area. They are also asking for £300 from the Dearne North WA as this covers some of Goldthorpe. This was discussed at the last meeting as a way of cheering up St Andrew's Square and Goldthorpe High Street to encourage people back into the towns and to shop local to help local businesses recover for the Covid-19 pandemic. Some brackets have already gone up and MS showed the design for the signs to say who has sponsored the baskets e.g. Snap Tin Community Hub (the rebranding of the Goldthorpe and Bolton-upon-Deerne Big Local). It is hoped that local businesses will sponsor a basket outside their business in future years.

All were in favour and this application was passed.

### ***Bulky Rubbish Collection***

The Dearne Area Team have submitted an application for £2,000 for the collection of bulky rubbish items outside people's properties. The scheme for BMBC to collect bulky items use to be free for everybody, but now it's only the most vulnerable and is done on a referral system. Elected members and the Housing Enforcement Officer can make referrals. The Housing Officer is very good at evaluating residents, building up relationships with them and getting rubbish removed if they qualify. However, there are lots of low-income households who don't qualify for a free collection, but can't afford to pay for the items to be collected so many items are gathering outside people's homes. This scheme will help and £2k is being asked for as last year £1k was given to the scheme and it was all used in 6 months. It's the less affluent streets that use the scheme, but it was agreed to collect postcode data this time to see which areas are using it the most.

All were in favour and this application was passed.

MS said that she had already spoken to VC and MM about these applications and they too were in favour of passing all three of them.

## 5. Group Updates and Future Projects

- 5.1 ***Goldthorpe Development Group*** – MN said there was nothing to update from this group as there was still no activity due to Covid.
- 5.2 ***Salvation Army*** – AS reported that they are still taking bookings for food parcels on Mondays and Fridays and getting supplies from Fare Share. They are also providing pastoral and 1-2-1 support on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Their Victory Programme sessions on Wednesdays are being run virtually with families being given tablets so they can access the sessions which are teaching them how to cook. They are going well. They are also running a debt advice centre. AS reported a very sad case of racism towards a family new to the area. The Police and local MP are involved, but the school

haven't handled the situation well advising for it not to be reported. AS said they have a lot of PPE so if anybody needs anything for opening up under Covid regulations to see her.

AS informed the meeting about a couple of events they are involved with through Dearne Churches Together. The first one is on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at the Embankment where there will be tree planting and other fun activities. The second is at Phoenix Park on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July. The Dearne Area Team and other local groups and organisations are all involved in planning and putting on activities for both events, which should be fun for everybody.

5.3 **BOGDAV** – CH had nothing to report as they group aren't meeting until the end of June due to Covid.

5.4 **Big Local** -AG reported that the Big Local Goldthorpe and Bolton-upon-Deerne will be rebranding under the new name of the Snap Tin Community Hub and will be run out of the Snap Tin café. There will be a launch event and re-opening of the café on Mon 21<sup>st</sup> June. AG also reported that they are funding Twiggs to run some AQA awards up to Level 3 to help local people get into employment and to bring the best out of them.

5.5 **Future Projects** – SY updated that the WA have been awarded £2,000 from Barnsley Better Bonds to run some activities over the summer. These will focus on helping people with their mental and physical health and well-being as we begin the Covid recovery phase. The aim is to get people back out and about and socialising again for their well-being. She is currently speaking with Ian Chapel at the Bowling Club about putting on free bowling sessions at Prospect Road, but is looking at a range of different events. It was suggested trying disability bowling. DC will speak to the youth workers from Great Houghton to see if they have capacity to volunteer to run any sessions in Dearne South.

The Dearne Area Team are publicising and helping at a variety events for Volunteer Week (1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June) and the Great British Spring Clean (28<sup>th</sup> May – 13<sup>th</sup> June). If anybody else is running events the Team can provide support and advertise these on social media.

A Transition Day for all Year 6 pupils moving up to Astrea Dearne Academy is being held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July from 9.30am – 2.30pm at the Embankment in Goldthorpe. There will be 8 classes of 25 – 30 pupils so each class will move around 8 stations doing activities for around 25mins. Although teaching staff will be present and the school are providing some older peer mentors, we need plenty of volunteers to assist at each station. DC and AG both volunteered all day and DC hopes to be able to get her youth workers involved. CH will also hopefully be available if she doesn't go away and PH volunteered for the morning. DC asked about the insurance for the youth workers to run an activity. JY thought they would be covered under BMBC insurance, but will check. **Action JY**

The Tiny Forest at the Brickyard Ponds is taking well and we have 3 local residents who have volunteered to be Keepers, plus others who regularly use the site keeping an eye on the area. The school have also visited the area. Earthwatch are planning a Monitoring Day on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June when they will be teaching people how to carry out the monitoring of the site. There will be sessions for the Keepers, the school and the general public. More details to follow once the school has got back to us with their preferred time slot.

The event on Phoenix Park on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July had already been mentioned earlier in the meeting. Again, volunteers to help will be gratefully received.

5.6 **Covid Update** – Craig Aubrey was unable to attend the meeting so JY gave the update he gave to the Dearne North WA meeting. As licensed premises are now opening up the Team are looking at these to make sure they comply with the Covid regulations. It has mainly been outside venues, but are now stating to look at inside venues as these are opening up as well as Betting Shops and indoor venues such as trampoline parks. There have been no serious breaches of the regulations in the Dearne area. The Dearne is one of the areas on Barnsley where the uptake of the vaccine isn't as high. They are looking into why this is, but it is hard to find the people who haven't yet taken up the offer. Those under 50 are now able to get their vaccine. The mobile testing unit is still at the Queen's Street Car Park. It will be there until at least 23<sup>rd</sup> May, but is assessed weekly and may well be there longer as it is being well used. It is for those people showing symptoms or who have had a positive lateral flow test. Lateral flow tests can now be picked up from most pharmacies, such as Weldricks as well as the Health Centre and they can be picked up ordered online for home delivery. 30 people are now allowed to meet in outdoor spaces.

**6. A.O.B.**

There was no other business.

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

The next meeting will be held virtually over Teams on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 9.30am.