

**Darfield Ward Alliance**  
**Notes of meeting held Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021**  
**Houghton Main Sports Ground 4:30pm**

**Present:** Brian Moore, Mike Fenna, Colin Ward, Cllr Kevin Osborne, Matthew Smith, John Davies, Tanya Dickinson and Laura Dixon

### **1. Welcomes and Introductions**

Cllr Osborne welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Laura Dixon, who is the new Community Development Officer for the Darfield Ward (taking over Tanya).

### **2. Apologies**

Cllr Pauline Markham  
Cllr Trevor Smith

### **3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising**

The notes from the September meeting were approved.

Matters Arising:

- i) The Basketball funding was amended to the full £500, which was discussed and agreed outside of the meeting and an update has been made to reflect this change within the minutes.
- ii) The Christmas trees for lampposts was extremely well received and the work is now in process for the 30 Christmas trees to be put up.

### **4. Ward Alliance Fund 2021/2022**

There is currently a balance of £12,776 in the Darfield Ward Alliance fund. In addition to this we still have £3000 which is ringfenced for Health Holiday activities.

#### **Funding applications for consideration:**

- **Billingley Village Community Association, £850** – This application is for a proposed ‘Winter Warmer and Healthy, Safe Living’ event at the end of January 2022. The application includes the purchasing of slippers, as part of ongoing slips, trips and falls work across the Borough, stew packs for attendees and replacement of kitchen appliances at Billingley Village Hall where this would be held and soup and refreshments would be served. The Alliance agreed to support this application.
- **Ratification of the Happy Café/Time to Talk application, £450** – The Alliance ratified by email its approval for the application received from a local family to host a weekly 2 hour ‘cuppa and chat’ session bi-weekly, on Fridays, which will provide low level mental help to local residents. Sessions will be held at Darfield Museum and start on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

## **5. Review of 2020/2021**

- **Annual Report**

The Alliance reviewed the previous Annual Report for 2020/2021 and noted the help that the Darfield Ward had offered over the past year which the Alliance agreed had been brilliant especially given covid restrictions.

- **Action Plan October 2020 to March 2021**

It was noted that the only action on the list that had not been addressed was the family budgeting support and the supportive training programme, all other programmes of work had been completed. The money ringfenced for the Summer Gala had gone back into the pot due to covid restrictions and this not being held. Cllr Osbourne congratulated members for all the work that has taken place. Going forward it was agreed the Alliance needs to look at strengthening the promotion of events via social media and other channels.

It was agreed that going forward the Alliance would look at tackling financial issues, isolation, unemployment and training issues such as 'Brain Train'. As part of the first step, Laura agreed to contact the Citizens Advice Bureau to look at setting back up physical sessions

## **6. What the Community is saying – Results of Community Listening Update**

Laura confirmed that the Community Listening event closed at the end of September 2021, the results of which are being analysed. Although we don't have specific Darfield Ward data as yet, there are some key themes emerging from initial analysis which is as follows;

- People are friendly, there's good access to local amenities such as the library etc.
- Road maintenance and antisocial behaviour needs tackling as well as people being actively fined for dog fouling and littering.
- To add to people's quality of life they would like to see more woodland walks, better selection of shops and more volunteers to help keep the neighbourhood clean and tidy.

Laura confirmed as a result of the early analysis BMBC had commissioned Neighbourhood Wardens to work across the Borough to help deter low level criminality, environmental offences and anti-social behaviour. Laura to email Cllrs with details on working arrangements and work remit of the new Neighbourhood Wardens.

## **7. Are our priorities still fit for purpose?**

The Alliance looked at the deprivation data for the Darfield Ward which has shown as the most deprived 20-30% area within the Country. Statistics were reviewed for crime, health, education, income, employment, living and housing. It was noted that the current Ward priorities address these issues and were still fit for purpose with the caveat that training and tackling isolation should be addressed first.

## **8. DWA Project Plan 2021/22**

The Alliance agreed to explore the following projects over the next 12-month period;

- Increasing membership of the Ward Alliance
- Health Holidays work
- Tackling social isolation
- Providing training opportunities with recognised qualifications
- Hanging baskets Scheme; The Alliance further agreed to pursue the hanging basket scheme for Summer 2022. The Alliance has previously funded 20 brackets to date however it was

agreed that to make this scheme self sufficient money wise, 30 baskets would be offered on a first come first served basis next time, at full price and any excess funds would be put back into Ward Alliance Funding to spend on something else.

- Summer Gala 2022; to include education organisations such as RSPB, local employers, small local businesses providing bespoke items and for them to be able to showcase their work.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

i) Healthy Holidays Winter Scheme 2021; The Alliance emphasised supporting the focus of family support and pushing the various services / publicity campaigns which can help families who have recently had a reduction in income etc.

With regard to the winter campaign, Laura to contact schools with regard to numbers for preparing activity packs for children. Cllr Osborne to review nurseries within the Ward to see if they should be included in this work.

ii)The Alliance thanked Tanya for all her hard work over the last few years and wished her all the best in her new area of work.

#### **10. Date and time of next meeting**

The Alliance agreed that they should continue to meet bi-monthly every third Thursday of each month.

The next meeting will be held on 20 January 2022 at 4pm – venue TBC