

DODWORTH WARD ALLIANCE

MEETING NOTES

Meeting Title:	Dodworth Ward Alliance Meeting
Date & Time:	Tuesday 26th January 2021 @ 6pm
Location:	Held Via Teams Meeting

Attendees	Apologies
Councillor Phillip Birkinshaw (Chair) Councillor Neil Wright Councillor Peter Fielding Charlotte Moulds – Community Development Officer (CM) Lisa Kenny – Dodworth Village Community Group and Dodworth Resident (LK) Notes Malcolm Howarth – Chair of Crime and Safety Partnership and Higham Resident (MH) Rachel Collier – Dodworth Resident (RC) Michelle Robertson – Dodworth Resident (MR) Ben Scrivens – Dodworth St Johns Church (BS) Laura Dixon – Neighbourhood Engagement Officer (LD)	Darren Dickinson – Higham Resident (DD) Janet Turton – Gilroyd Business Owner and Gilroyd Community Group (JT) Natalie Parkes – Dodworth Business Owner (NP)

1. Welcome and Introductions		Action/Decision	Action lead
	<p>Councillor Birkinshaw welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>LD introduced herself to the meeting as a newly appointed Neighbourhood Engagement Officer for the Central Area Wards.</p> <p>Ward Alliance Members introduced themselves to LD welcoming her to the meeting.</p>		
2. Apologies for Absence		Action/Decision	Action lead
	As detailed on page 1.		
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising		Action/Decision	Action lead
	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>LK reported that she had observed that the Christmas lights on the tree outside dodworth library had not been fully lit, noticing a section of the tree had been unlit. CM stated she would make a note of this and would organise for them to be tested.</p> <p>Councillor Birkinshaw stated if they were unable to be repaired we would therefore purchase a new set for next Christmas.</p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting held 15th December 2020 were agreed as a true record.</p>	CM	
4. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non Pecuniary Interest		Action/Decision	Action lead
	There were no pecuniary interests declared.		

5. Presentation from Laura Dixon - Community Engagement Officer	Action/Decision	Action lead
<p>LD introduced herself as the Neighbourhood Engagement Officer covering all the Central Area Council Wards. LD explained this was a new role within BMBC following the fall out of the Covid-19 pandemic. Due to the challenging times in the Area Teams, Barnsley Council has been working hard to protect our communities. Due to COVID-19 it was identified the need to recruit some Neighbourhood Engagement Officers as support in having conversations with local communities helping to ensure their safety was paramount and help them to understand this ever-changing landscape.</p> <p>LD reported she had already made contact with local businesses in our Ward having conversations and making them aware of what finance and business support packages is available putting them in touch with the relevant people/organisations. Also giving advice and assistance on Covid compliance matters; LD stated she met regularly on a fortnightly basis with Regulatory Services Teams to ensure there was a consistent approach on this issue. Councillor Fielding stated that it should be ensured support and help for the self employed is also made available.</p> <p>LD explained her position wasn't an enforcement role, although she does liaise and work with the Covid Marshalls as necessary on issues.</p> <p>LD stated there would be a time when we would be looking at covid recovery and development and not just the economic side, but mental health and wellbeing also. LD reported that work had started on this and Public Health had been contacted about mental health and how this links with any future recovery. A social isolation and loneliness funding pot was also being created and the application process was currently being reviewed in respect of this.</p> <p>LD also reported that the role of Project Manager Markets and Town Centre had been newly filled by Christopher Savage. Chris will be overseeing all matters and leading the team responsible for the operation and future shaping of all the markets in the Barnsley borough.</p>		

6. Healthy Holidays Update	Action/Decision	Action lead
<p><u>Christmas Feedback</u></p> <p>As reported at the last Ward Alliance meeting, CM stated that the Christmas Hamper project was rolled out over the Christmas holiday period to reach out and give help to struggling families. The hampers contained both tinned and boxes food items. Uptake in the Dodworth Ward was still low but had improved with a total of 14 families who were eligible signing up to receive a hamper.</p> <p><u>February Planning</u></p> <p>CM reported that the project will continue to be rolled out over the February half term break reverting back to the original scheme providing families with 2 meals per week. Again it will provide all the raw ingredients for 2 meals with accompanying recipe cards and full cooking instructions.</p> <p>The suggestion of a £5 fruit box and activity sheet including possibly an information sheet about how to eat healthy was being considered. Ward Alliance Members agreed the roll out of fruit boxes stating it was a good idea. However, there was a consensus by Ward Alliance Members that the aim was to give food and telling people how to eat healthy may not be appropriate at this time.</p> <p>It was agreed more work was needed to reach out to struggling families as it was felt there would be more who would be eligible, but for reasons unknown weren't coming forward. It was thought this could be families who weren't used to needing help previously, and may be embarrassed to ask.</p> <p>CM stated she would be promoting the scheme in local shops, notice boards, sending information into schools, using social media platforms, family centre teams and other social care networks.</p> <p>Councillor Birkinshaw suggested connecting and promoting through Churches in the Ward could be explored.</p>	<p>CM</p> <p>CM</p>	

	<p>MR stated through her previous roles working with food banks, they had used head teachers to identify struggling families. CM confirmed DD had contacted Dodworth St John's School and hopefully they will be able to identify any eligible families.</p> <p>Councillor Fielding asked MR to email any other suggestions/ideas on how to deal with this issue to make the scheme as successful as possible targeting those most in need. MR to email any relevant information.</p>	MR	
7. Small Sparks Fund Update		Action/Decision	Action lead
	<p><u><i>Small Sparks Funding Scheme</i></u></p> <p>At the last meeting Ward Alliance Members agreed the funding application presented for the sum of £1,000 to set up the funding pot in respect of the above initiative.</p> <p>CM circulated to Ward Alliance Members a copy of the application form which will be used in respect of the scheme. The application form is less onerous to that of the standard ward alliance funding application form and has been tailored to reflect the scale of the projects looking to be implemented. Accompanying the application form is a Guide/Application Procedure document created to assist with application process.</p> <p>CM also circulated a work in progress poster which is will be used to advertise the scheme. Once the poster has been finalised it will be used to promote the initiative on social media, notice boards, and community hubs etc.</p>		
8. Covid-19 Resilience Fund Update		Action/Decision	Action lead
	<p>CM reported that the Covid-19 Resilience Funding Scheme was still available and applications could still be submitted. Completed forms should be sent to LP in the first instance for co-ordination.</p>		

	<p>As part of the Henry Boot Construction contract with Barnsley Council, a funding pot was created called the Better Barnsley Bond Scheme. The purpose of it to support initiatives wider than just construction jobs and apprenticeships within their sector; but supporting training, employment and local community initiatives in the Barnsley area including Area Councils and the Love Where You Live community initiatives.</p> <p>CM reported that the Better Barnsley Bond Scheme was now coming to an end with the funding pot due to close.</p> <p>CM stated that monies left in this pot would hopefully be transferred across to top up the Covid Resilience Fund. Criteria for the Covid Resilience Funding was also changing slightly to larger amounts of money per application to fund more borough/area wide focussed projects.</p> <p>CM reported projects specific to the Ward, such applications should continue to be sent to the Ward Alliance.</p>		
9. Ward Alliance Promotion and Newsletter		<u>Action/Decision</u>	<u>Action lead</u>
	<p>Ward Alliance Members discussed ideas how best to promote the Ward Alliance and the work it does. CM suggested that a Ward Alliance newsletter and/or poster could be produced. The poster would be used in community notice boards and community hubs whilst the newsletter would be distributed to all residential households in the ward. Initial quotes were £300 to deliver a newsletter to approximately 5,000 homes.</p> <p>CM also mentioned the better use of social media platforms particularly Facebook and ensuring the Ward Alliance Facebook page is better utilised. CM asked members who might be interested in being administrators and/or to help/input into future posts on the page to contact her directly.</p> <p>Further consideration on how to promote the Ward Alliance and how it can engage more with residents and businesses will continue to be looked at.</p>		

10. WAF Budget		Action/Decision	Action lead
	<p>CM detailed the latest Dodworth Ward Alliance budget situation as follows:-</p> <p>Current Balance: £9,281.54</p> <p>Engagement Pot: £627.61</p> <p>Environment Pot: £561.26</p> <p>Incredible Edible: £695.00</p> <p>Small Sparks Fund: £1,000</p>		
10.1 Funding Applications Received			
	There were no funding applications received.		
10.2 Ward Alliance Applications in the Pipeline			
	<p><u>Community Angels Application</u></p> <p>CM reported that an application from the above group was looking to be submitted. The community angel's initiative is to help struggling families.</p> <p><u>Ward Alliance Storage Application</u></p> <p>In respect of siting a storage container, identification of a suitable location was still being investigated.</p> <p>Parks department had been approached about siting one on parks lands; they had responded stating that if a suitable location was to be identified then a Service Level Agreement would have to be put in place and that planning permission may also be required.</p> <p>Councillor Fielding stated that the planning department had been contacted about this issue and they had confirmed planning permission wouldn't be required.</p> <p>Ward Alliance Members agreed that a site central in location to the ward would be preferred; a vacant garage site plot would be the ideal solution if one could be identified.</p>		

	<p>In terms of costs, the purchase and siting of a container would be in the region of £2,000.</p> <p>Work will continue to identify a suitable location before an application can be submitted.</p>		
11. Upcoming Events			
	<p>There are currently no upcoming events to report.</p> <p>Councillor Wright suggested whether we should start to think about what events or ideas for projects/initiatives could be implemented next financial year.</p> <p>With Covid-19 restrictions this will limit what type of projects can be implemented, however, with a budget of £19,000 from April including carry over, we should be mindful how this can be used effectively in line with the restrictions. Ward Alliance Members agreed we did not want to be in a position March 2022 where we have not used the budget and in a situation where we could therefore lose the funding.</p> <p>LK suggested the idea of hanging baskets in key locations of the ward could be considered this year if Ward Alliance Members felt appropriate. LK stated it was a project which could be implemented more easily in line with any covid restrictions. CM stated she would make some initial enquiries with other wards who previously had hangings baskets to ascertain what companies they had used and the processes and practicalities involved in implementing the project.</p> <p>All Members will give thought to what other projects the Ward Alliance could implement.</p>	<p>CM</p> <p>ALL</p>	
12. Any Other Business			
	The meeting closed.		
13. Date and Time of Next Meeting			
	Tuesday 9 th March 2021 at 6.00 pm		