

# Dearne Ward Alliance

## VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES

Meeting Title:	Dearne South Ward Alliance
Date & Time:	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2021 11am

Attendees	Apologies
Cllr Neil Danforth (Chair) – elected member Craig Aubrey – Neighbourhood Engagement Officer – Dearne Area Team Vicky Cumming – tried joining but had technical issues - Alan George – Big Local Goldthorpe and Bolton-upon-Dearne Carole Hoyland - BODVAG Cllr Charlotte Johnson – elected member Mick Moore – Allotment Group Marie Sinclair – Community Development Officer – Dearne Area Team Craig Taylor – Project Officer – Dearne Area Team Jenny Yates - Community Development Officer – Dearne Area Team	Donna Gregory – local resident Cllr May Noble – elected member Alison Sykes – Salvation Army

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

New officers with the Dearne Area Team introduced themselves:

Craig Taylor – joined a month ago as the Project Officer for Dearne and Penistone, so working part time in each area. It's a new role working on the finances, performance monitoring and specific projects. Craig has joined the team from Barnsley CVS where he was Communications Officer and has a background in media, PR, social media, press and marketing. He is currently getting to grips with the finance side of things.

Craig Aubrey – joined the team a few months ago as the Neighbourhood Engagement Officer and is supporting local business and the community with Covid-19 guidance and legislation. He is working closely with Public Health.

Jenny Yates – started just before Christmas as a part-time Community Development Officer, mainly working in Dearne South to support local groups and projects. Jenny has a background in Community Development work. She has been working at Northern College, but before that worked for Groundwork Dearne Valley including work in Thurnscoe around 20 years ago, so has a knowledge of the area.

### 2. **Apologies**

See above.

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

Alan George moved the minutes of the last meeting as a true record.

The change in signatory for the bank has been done and Alan George, Cllr May Noble and Pat Hubery are now signatories. The WA also now has a debit card.

#### 4. **Finances**

The WA has a balance of £2,703.72 remaining up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

Balance in working funds account:

£3,800 for a healthy holidays/school holidays provision  
£1,330 winter warmth/healthy older persons project  
£74.96 for the reactive fund  
£100 for sandbags  
Total = £5,304.96

##### 4.1 Applications for funding:

One application submitted from the Dearne Allotment Group for £700. Mick Moore declared an interest in this discussion.

The allotment site has suffered over the last few months, firstly with flooding and then not being able to have volunteers on site to help keep it maintained. The group therefore need to in effect start again to get it up and running. They have therefore requested £700 from the WA for seeds, compost etc. They anticipate the total cost being £1,700 and have also asked the Big Local for £1,000. In addition, they have had to find £5,050 from their own funds for the unforeseen cost of PPE to allow them to open to people with physical and mental difficulties. It was confirmed that they have all Covid restrictions in place and the site is now open for these people on Tuesday and Wednesdays between 9am – 3pm if anybody would like to go down. It was noted the good work done on the allotment site and the compassionate way they work with volunteers with physical and mental needs and the experience and qualifications that Mick Wellburn has been truly remarkable.

Everybody agreed and there was a unanimous decision to fund this project. £700.00 agreed in full.

#### 5. **Projects for 2021**

**Healthy Holidays** - the fruit and veg boxes will be running again during February Half Term. They will be funded by £1,000 from Keepmoat, £1,000 from the Dearne South Ward Alliance and £2,500 from Fare Share through the Barnsley Food Partnership. In addition to the fruit and veg we will be including free pancake mixes (250 have already been donated by Tesco), recipes cards for pancakes and a stew and activity packs for the children.

The packs are not just for those children on free school meals, but for any family who are struggling at the current time. It is advertised through the Dearne Team Facebook Page and people apply by private messaging the team. Children's centres, schools, family centres and the Snap Tin café are all told about the boxes as well.

At Christmas 240 families received packs and 544 children in the area were helped.

Craig Taylor is in touch with Alan George with regards to invoicing the WA for their funding.

Dearne Churches Together are also giving out packs containing flour, milk and eggs to make pancakes and home learning booklets for Spring and nature activities. 500 packs have been made up.

**Easter** – no plans have been put in place yet for Easter, though if they prove popular the fruit and veg boxes will run again. Marie Sinclair asked the WA to give us some ideas of what they would like to do to get people out and about. A Rudolf hunt in Wombwell woods was popular and it was suggested that something like find Easter bunnies along the TPT and around Phoenix Park would be good. People could perhaps take photos of something to send in to prove they've been.

#### 6. **Group Updates**

**BODVAG** – need funding for plant and planters, street furniture and bins. Cllr Charlotte Johnson is dealing with this and will copy relevant people into any correspondence. Hanging baskets were also mentioned and it was suggested that the group work with Mick Moore as he might be able to make these on the allotment. The Christmas trees were a success and have now been taken down by Twiggs.

**Big Local** – new members have now been recruited to the group and the first meeting was held virtually in January. There

are still a lot of internal problems that need sorting out. They have funded a Highgate School placement. They are hoping to rebrand and relaunch soon, including the reopening of the Snap Tin Café. It's hoped that this will give the Big Local a new lease of life. April Fisher has left and got a new job. A Job Description needs writing so they can advertise a replacement Community Worker. Anita Heatherglan is currently doing the admin and sending out the meeting requests. There is also a new representative from the Big Local with Gill Hutchinson taking over from Alister Shaw. Cllr Charlotte Johnson would like to join the group as a guest, and it is requested that Anita put her on the mailing list.

*Neighbourhood Engagement Officers* – Craig Aubrey updated that there had been lots of people visiting beauty spots like Cannon Hall and Worsborough Mill recently with families going for the exercise, but these places were getting too busy and Covid Marshals have had to be brought in and taken away from other place and jobs. The Council are recommending that if you can't walk to somewhere you shouldn't be visiting it, although you won't get into trouble for driving locally.

Regulation Services are going into supermarkets to support them in asking people to wear masks. This includes 100+ minimarkets and smaller shops as well as the larger supermarkets. They are trying to visit every 3 weeks.

There were concerns about the national social media campaign the Great Re-Opening which was encouraging shops to re-open in January. However, nothing was seen in Barnsley, hopefully they realised they would have received a heavy fine if they opened unlawfully.

BMBC are running Magpie a community insight programme which allows people to anonymously report any breaking of Covid regulations and these aren't reported. It includes telling them how lockdown is affecting you and why you have broken the rules. Its aim is to gain an insight into why people are breaking the regulations to help combat it and support people better.

The Covid mobile testing unit is currently in the Goldthorpe car park until at least Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Feb and possible the week after as well if it proves well used. People must make an appointment to attend. Other places are Summer Lane, the Dorothy Hyman stadium and the centre of Barnsley.

Lateral flow testing for asymptomatic people is taking place at the Metrodome. You need to book on and attend every few days. The results come out in 30mins. The aim is to find asymptomatic people so they can isolate and not spread the disease.

25,00 vaccines have been given out in Barnsley so far. All older people in care homes and most of Barnsley hospital staff have been done as well as front line staff such as social workers and health care workers. Testing in schools has also started. 30 – 50% of children are currently still in school across Barnsley.

*Salvation Army (please note nobody was available to attend the Dearne South WA, but Jackie Kenning updated the Dearne North WA in the afternoon, so it has also been included in these minutes for information.)*

Business continues for the Salvation Army, though they are now meeting clients at the door as they aren't allowed to enter the premises. They are seeing more professionals coming for help and asking for food parcels and are helping many families in crisis. They are also prepping for when they can re-open. With that in mind they are looking for outdoor containers for storage so that some staff can be outside and more spread out. They are also looking at ways to make the shop Covid safe.

The bridge is now open, but Jackie says that have reported to the Police that vehicles are coming down the wrong way and speeding.

They have been given the approval to get IT equipment to enable them to run the Victory Programme for local families remotely via Zoom. They have also set up a Facebook page for those on the Victory Programme cooking course.

They are not currently running their debt advice service as such but are getting a lot of enquiries and they are signposting people to Citizen Advice or Universal Credit.

They have some picnic tables that they would like to gift as they need stackable chairs and tables for storage space.

They have seen an influx of people asking if they are taking donations, probably because other charity shops like BHF are currently closed. However, they are worried that this might lead to fly tipping outside the shop. Sadly, they have also had

an incident where 4 bags worth of food donations were stolen from the steps as the donor was getting them out of the car waiting for Alison to arrive at the shop. Unfortunately, nobody is willing to give a statement. They now have stringent measures in place to stop this happening again.

**7. A.O.B.**

Marie highlighted that the annual action plan for area priorities and things to work towards in 2021/22 will be required from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 more on this in future meetings and when restrictions have been lifted to identify what the WA is able to cover or what online provisions will be required moving forward.

- 7.1 AG updates on the resilience container with the amount of grit, snow shovels and sandbags (1 tonne and smaller ones) which are stored in the container at the Renaissance Centre in Bolton-upon-Deane. Alan George has a list of whose taken what and will keep on top of this regular to make sure we know where the items have been taken and borrowed to groups/individuals etc. The residents of Mexborough Road are concerned about flooding, but they had been given sandbags by BMBC. Twiggs had some other bags. Marie Sinclair, Craig Aubrey and Claire Dawson had delivered letters to the house as well. A new flood plan is needed as the last one dates to 2017 so the flood warden information needs updating. Core Services are aware of the current plan as a list of flood wardens had to be given to senior managers.

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

The next meeting will be held virtually over Teams on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 9.30am