

Dearne Ward Alliance

VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES

Meeting Title:	Dearne South Ward Alliance
Date & Time:	2 nd March 2021 9.30am

Attendees	Apologies
Cllr Neil Danforth (Chair) – Elected Member Vicky Cuming – Alan George – Big Local Goldthorpe and Bolton-upon-Deerne Carole Hoyland – BODVAG Pat Hubery Cllr Charlotte Johnson – Elected Member Mick Moore – Allotment Group Cllr May Noble – Elected Member Marie Sinclair – Community Development Officer – Dearne Area Team Alison Sykes – Salvation Army Jenny Yates - Community Development Officer – Dearne Area Team	Craig Aubrey – Neighbourhood Engagement Officer – Dearne Area Team Donna Gregory – local resident

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Cllr Neil Danforth opened the meeting and welcomed everybody. No introductions were required.

2. **Apologies**

See above.

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

Mick Moore moved the minutes of the last meeting as a true record and Carole Hoyland seconded them.

Point 5 – Alan George confirmed he had met with Craig Taylor (Project Officer) regarding invoicing the Ward Alliance (WA) for the funding for the February Half Term Healthy Holidays project.

Point 6 – Neighbourhood Engagement Officer Report – Craig Aubrey will contact Principle Towns Officer to offer assistance to local shops and business as part of the Covid recovery plan, including the offer of Principle Town’s funding for a new shop front. The new shop fronts that have been installed are looking good. Cllr May Noble mentioned that new proprietors were taking over the fish and chip shop and they would like to be involved with the scheme.

Point 6 – BODVAG – Cllr Charlotte Johnson confirmed that the planters have now all been installed in St Andrew’s Square and some of the bins, except the one outside the Post Office, which hasn’t been done yet.

Point 7.1 – Alan George asked for an update on the Flood Resilience Plan and when this will be started - Marie Sinclair confirmed that this will start in April 2021 and will be led & supported by a Community Development Officer (CDO)

4. **Finances**

5.1 Balance as of 1st March 2021 – DSWA £2,003.72 (Marie circulated the funding allocation for all projects funded 2020/2021)

5.2 Applications for funding:

One funding application was submitted from Panda project, which would like to provide Easter craft activities for young people aged 11 – 25 with mental and physical health difficulties. The WA have funded this group in the past with this one been a virtual due to the COVID19 restrictions on groups meeting. The full cost of the project is £686 which was to be match funded by the young people providing volunteer time on litter picking around the area of the IKIC Centre.

Questions were asked about how many young people from the Dearne would be taking part. Marie Sinclair is to find this information out. **Action MS**

Concerns were raised about making sure that Covid regulations and social distancing was adhered to when the young people undertook the volunteering. It was agreed that the volunteering should be delayed until such a time as it can be carried out safely. Marie Sinclair said that she can put this in the comments box on the offer of funding form as NON match funding applications and inform the group of this action. **Action MS**

There was a unanimous decision to fund this project to the full amount of £686, on the provisos that enough Dearne young people will benefit and that volunteering is delayed until it safe to do.

5. **Projects Evaluation and Feedback**

5.1 **Healthy Holidays** – during February Half Term the Dearne Area Team once again handed out fruit and vegetable boxes to families in need in the area. Families could be referred or apply through the Team's Facebook page. They didn't need to be on Free School Meals or show any benefits to make sure those struggling due to the pandemic such as those furloughed were included. In addition to the fruit and veg, pancake mixes for Shrove Tuesday were given out, including pancake topping suggestions and a recipe card for stew. Inside activity bags for children were a Spring activity booklet, colouring book and pens, bug magnets and oral health information, including a free toothbrush and toothpaste. These packs were a big success and the children, and their families were overwhelmed by them. The Pancake went down particularly well.

The cost per child was £7.87

102 boxes of different sizes were given out to families – 42 in Thurnsoce, 29 in Bolton- upon-Deerne and 31 in Goldthorpe

330 activity bags were given out

268 children were supported

9 families had 5 or more children.

Marie Sinclair has also done further break downs of the ages of children and will send this information out as it has been Anonymised. **Action MS**

Some funding is left over and will be carried over to an Easter project.

It was noted that the Churches Together also gave out food parcels, including ingredients for pancakes and activity packs during half term and this also was a great success.

The chair commented on the brilliant effort made and thanked all those involved in the successful projects to ensure local children and families were feed and entertained during the holidays.

5.2 **5 Ways to Wellbeing Social Media Campaign** – it was recognised that people are struggling with their mental health and wellbeing at the current time and so the Dearne Area Team decided to do a social media campaign during February that gave people tips, ideas and advice on how to look after and improve their own mental wellbeing and that of families, friends and others in the community. The Team focussed on the 5 Ways to wellbeing – Stay Connected; Keep Active; Give to Others; Keep Learning and Take Notice putting out a couple of messages, including links, each day on Facebook with ideas for one of the themes. The project ran over 3 weeks with week one focussing on older people, week 2 parents and week 3 (half term) children and young people. Where possible the posts looked at local initiatives and projects such the DECV, Be:friend, Yarn Bombing for the Dearne Community Arts Festival, BMBC family learning courses, Barnsley Museums, Good Food Barnsley's Febu..welly and Kixx Barnsley. The project was well received, and Marie Sinclair will send out some evaluation of the project in terms of numbers of people reached. **Action MS**

6. Covid Update from Neighbourhood Engagement Officer

Craig Aubrey had sent a written report to the meeting which was circulated afterwards. Jenny Yates summarised: The Prime Minister has now set out a road map for coming out for lockdown though this is subject to change if circumstances and medical evidence suggests it should. The first date is the schools returning on Monday 8th March.

Infection rates in Barnsley are dropping but are still slightly above the national average which is causing some concern and the ways in which public health messages about staying safe are being put out is being looked at to see if it can make a difference.

The Lateral Flow Testing is a success and is identifying non-symptomatic cases and helping to reduce the spread.

As reported last time areas of interest and parks such as Locke Park and Cannon Hall are getting quite busy with people going for the exercise and in some cases travelling to get there. This means the Covid Marshalls are patrolling such areas, particularly at the weekends. There is now a Security Guard at Worsbrough Mill.

Work has been undertaken with the Regulatory Services to visit local supermarkets, minimarkets and corner shops to check everybody is complying with regulations. Overall the Dearne area is good, though one shop has been reported. Work is now underway with licenced premises and other business to support their opening hopefully from the 12th April.

Libraries and community groups can also potentially open on 12th April, however the full rules are not out yet so will need looking at when they are.

Craig has some masks which he is giving out to groups that require them.

The sites for testing are on the report, but the mobile site in Goldthorpe is there until Sunday 7th March and is open 9am – 3pm every day. Lateral flow testing for front line workers is still at the Metrodome. Lateral flow testing will also be done in primary and secondary schools and will take place either at the school or at home whichever is best for each school.

The roll out of the vaccination process continues with the priority groups of 65 plus and those with underlying health conditions.

7. Group Updates

7.1 Salvation Army – Alison Sykes reported that 70 food parcels including pancake ingredients were given out from the Salvation Army, Thurnscoe Church and Bolton Methodist Church during February half term. 500 home learning magazines have also been distributed.

The Churches Together are also running a 'Whispers of Love' project for Easter. Local people are currently making hearts from various medium which will be distributed throughout the community, particularly to those in care homes. 600 harts have been made so far. Easter Goody Bags are also being given out, but people need to book in to collect these on 31st March and some venues are already booked up.

The Salvation Army is currently open Monday to Friday and are serving out food parcels at the door for people who have booked in.

Alison reported that they are seeing an increased number of overseas people coming to the centre to ask for help. They are currently working with some Romanian young men asking for help in getting home. This has been reported to various authorities for help. They have also helped a homeless Iranian get temporary accommodation. They also report that there have been racial abuse incidents, including against a family who has just moved to the area whose windows have been smashed. This has been reported to the PCSOs.

They are currently one of the first Salvation Armies to be running the Victory Programme and are doing this virtually. They are currently doing cooking sessions online with three families but have funding to expand including providing devices and internet connection and help with fuel bills so that families can take part.

They are going to be starting a debt advice service.

Finally, Alison raised concerns that herself and Jackie were yet to receive their Covid vaccine despite being key workers. If one of them came down with Covid the centre would have to shut because one person cannot open on their own. It was suggested asking about being on a list to get spare vaccines as the end of the sessions, but they have tried this with no luck yet. It was suggested that they try e-mailing Julie Burrows at Public Health.

- 7.2 **Big Local** – Alan George reported that they have received funding applications and have agreed to fund: the Highgate Allotment for seeds etc to get the allotment back up running as it has taken a hit from flooding and a lack of volunteers to maintain it due to Covid; and Stacey Turner who is wanting business start up funds for a new business loaning out lit up numbers and words for parties and events taking place under Covid regulations.

A Survey Monkey has been sent out to residents asking for opinions and what projects they would like to see.

- 7.3 **BODVAG** – Carole Hoyland reported that not much was happening now because the group couldn't get together for social distancing and Covid reasons.
- 7.4 **Goldthorpe Development Group** – Cllr May Noble reported that they are looking at how they could collect Easter Eggs from local supermarkets and distribute these. She will keep this group updated.

8. A.O.B.

- 8.1 Planting the new planters in St Andrews Square was asked about and whether any funding could be found for the plants. This will be investigated. Carole said she would water the planters and it was thought some of the local shop proprietors would help as well. Alan George stated that Goldthorpe Development group used to be a water butt and whether this could be borrowed, May Noble commented it took 3 people to pull it from its storage area to St Andrew's Square when full of water and was not suitable to use. Mick Moore mentioned that the Allotment Society was getting £1,500 of bedding plants and could help if they got in touch with Michael the site manager at Dearne Highgate allotment – he stated they may charge a small fee as the group are trying to keep sustainability for future years.
- 8.2 Marie Sinclair has been giving some thought to a Covid recovery plan and not just for people but local business as well and she thought that some hanging baskets for the main shopping areas might encourage people to shop local rather than carry on with internet shopping. She has done some initial research into this. The Allotment Society don't currently have the capacity to make and maintain any hanging baskets, so Marie has investigated what other areas do. A company called First Impressions provide and maintain lots of hanging baskets throughout BMBC, including the town centre. The cost is £55 per basket to put up, water and replace up to 3 times if necessary. The baskets would be up from the second week in June to the third week in October. They would require 4 weeks' notice. However, she has met with Paul Hamby from First Impressions who has said that the current brackets in Goldthorpe would not be strong enough to support an 85kg basket because they are fixed into brickwork. Therefore, new brackets on lampposts and columns would be required at a cost of £45 per bracket giving a total cost of £100 per basket. Initial discussions with Big Local suggest that this would fit in well with their Community Spirit funding and they may be willing to fund 50% of the cost, subject to agreement by the whole group. They are currently 9 brackets in St Andrew's Square Bolton and Marie has spoken to Chad Wall from Highways to look at which lampposts etc are suitable for hanging baskets on Goldthorpe as they mustn't cover up road signs etc. The costs are estimated to be about £500.00. Hopefully, in future years local business would sponsor a hanging basket however it is too much to ask at this current time when they have been hit hard. It was pointed out that Goldthorpe High Street down to Asda was Dearne North area so would be something for them to fund. This will be raised with them in their WA meeting this afternoon. Concerns were also raised about the backlash from business who wouldn't get a basket and where do you start and stop. People have differing opinions on where the main shopping areas and areas of the most footfall are. Concerns about security were also raised but as the baskets will be 3m 9ft high and weigh 85kg they will be hard to steal, and First Impressions will replace up to 5 times. It was agreed that Marie would meet with Chad Wall to discuss lampposts and this information back to the group for them to consider it further. **Action MS**
- 8.3 Marie Sinclair asked about whether the WA would like to do any Easter Project. Some sort of trail with wooden or laminated eggs to find was suggested, possibly along the TPT. Concerns were raised about ensuring that people are socially distancing, and it was agreed that this would not be a one-off event, but something that families could do at a time of their choosing. Jenny Yates suggested putting photos on Facebook and people have to take the same photo maybe as selfie to show they've been there. That way it wouldn't matter if eggs had been taken away. She also said that the Dearne North WA had suggested pictures in shop windows for children to find with letters that spelt out a word or phrase. However, it would be unfair to do this until after 12th April when all premises could open again, but it would be a

way of encouraging local people back to the high street and to shop local. Further thought is to be given to this as well.

Action JY

8.4 Vicky Cuming asked whether the Salvation Army were currently running the School Uniform project. In the past she had collected donations from people, and some have been asking as they have items to donate. The Salvation Army are currently very low on storage space because anything that comes in must be quarantined and they do currently have some school uniform. Alison asked that if possible, people hold onto for now until they can take more things. However, if that was not possible, they could put it in the clothes bank outside the Salvation Army.

9. *Date and time of next meeting*

The next meeting will be held virtually over Teams on Tuesday 18th May at 9.30am (Future dates were discussed but needed to be set from April 2021).