

Alston Moor Project 31.8.22

Report by Michael Hanley

Present: Chair: Elaine Bidmead (NIHR researcher/adviser), Peter Van Der Graaf (public health adviser), Lissie Sharp, Michael Hanley, Louise Hughes (adviser/researcher Newcastle University), Charlotte Hardacre, Chris Bury (CCC, works with young participation), Amy Frith (Community Development Officer, CCC), Laura Goad (director of Cumbria Education Centre). Alix Martin.

1. Outreach: Laura Goad (LG) discussed meeting with Alston Moor Parish Council (AMPC). A lot is happening in the area. She thought we could connect with some of these groups: Alston Community Workshop, Men in Sheds etc. We need to support what is happening. She attended the August meeting of the AMPC. She thought there was a real interest in this from AMPC. We are working at making an application for a grant to the UKRI via an expression of interest and setting up community research networks. We will be putting together a figure bid to be put forward about April next year. The bid will look at how the community can be supported and the bid will go to the National Lottery Funding. The funding will be as big as what we want to do.

Charlotte Hardacre (CH): The original bid was for £53k. Elaine Bidmead (EB): We had a promise of secured match funding from the local authority.

Lissie Sharp (LS): Everyone wants the same thing, if there is a gap in the service. EB: On Gala Day we asked people to fill out a survey form. We had only five responses. They are quite similar. The people of Alston are most concerned about cuts in statutory services (Health Care, Education etc). We will have little effect on this.

LG: We need to set realistic goals.

AM: A lot of the time people get it wrong as to who is responsible for the loss of various services. We need to know where to put leverage.

Peter Van Der Graaf (PG): Do we want to focus on a particular topic? Loneliness was one of the things that came out of the survey.

EB: In the past this sort of thing was done in a more urban setting.

CH: The project should make links across the whole community to gain lottery funding.

Amy Frith (AF): We will have a person working with young people.

AM: We are desperate for community volunteers. The younger generation are not coming forward and the older generation volunteers are retiring or dying. They need to know that there is something in it for them.

AF: There is a project out west and they had the same problem. I could contact them to see what they did.

CH: I will show you a fund from the National Lottery. LG: As a funder the Lottery are really good and flexible.

CH: It's good to look at what you can spend your money (grant) on. It's a lot more flexible than some other sources. We were thinking we should have the bid in by January.

Chris Bury (CB): Discussed a project on decarbonisation of transport and the involvement of a professor of Sociology from Lancaster University. Cumbria received a grant of £6 million for sustainability a few years ago. CYA (?) are looking to do work in Alston.

Michael Hanley (MH): Asked what does this mean, does it mean setting up an electric bus service or an electric car share scheme?

CB: It means chunking it down into practical solutions.

PG: If we had decided what to focus on we need to start putting together the application bid. We will need letters of support. I would be very happy to help with this.

MH: I am glad we have started and we will have a bid put forward by January 2023 and may get

funding by April.

LS: I am glad we are doing this. It was disappointing we weren't successful with the first bid. I am pleased we have Alix and Michael on board.

EB: We need to meet more local people. LS: Best places are: Fairhill Monthly Market, Nenthead Big Breakfast.

Next meeting: mid September.