

**Distington**



**BigLocal**

**Annual Report  
&  
General Meeting  
of  
Distington Big Local Partnership**

**Friday 29th September 2017**

**6pm, Distington Community Centre**

# Distington Big Local 2016 - 2017

# Distington

## Board Members

Rhoda Robinson (Chair)  
Norman Pritt (Vice Chair)  
Rev Julia Powley (Treasurer)  
Alison Boyd  
Carl Cooper  
Josephine Greggain  
Sue Hunter  
Karen Hodgson  
Pat Nelson  
Christine Pattinson  
Paul Tharagonnet  
Annette Whitehead

## Sub Groups

### Young People & Families

Julia Powley (Church)  
Angela Jones (School)  
Christine Pattinson  
Luke Ramsden  
Andrea Martin

### Community & Environment

Carl Cooper  
Alison Boyd  
Annette Whitehead  
Josephine Greggain  
Norma Pritt  
Jane Leonard (Impact Housing)  
Heather Lowe (Church)  
Hollie Dennis (PCSO)

### Residents Wellbeing

Rhoda Robinson  
Pat Nelson  
Kathleen Sharp  
Sue Hunter  
Dr Helen Horton (Surgery)  
Heather Lowe (Church)

### Land Development

Sue Hunter  
Karen Hodgson  
Julia Powley (Church)  
Alison Boyd  
Rhoda Robinson  
Norman Pritt

## Staff

Ronnie Hewer - Village Maintenance  
Vic Pooley - Project Assistant  
Ingrid Morris - Project Manager

Local Trust Advisor - Pete Duncan

# Big Local



# Welcome

Distington Big Local has now been delivering projects in the village for two full years. Our first plan was agreed in November 2014, enabling us to draw down funds and start to make things happen. This Annual Report highlights some of the work we have carried out in the last year.

Big Local is a community led project and could not exist without the input from local residents and others with an interest in Distington. We are always ready to hear any ideas that people have for future development, and always welcome more involvement from local people.

HOW DOES THE FUNDING WORK? Distington Big Local submits plans to Local Trust (who manage the lottery funding) to show what we would like to spend some of the money on. Once they have agreed that the proposed spend is appropriate, the funds are released to us. Plans can cover a period of 6 months or longer period of time i.e. 2 years. This process continues until the £1,000,000 is spent or 10 years has elapsed since the first plan was agreed, whichever happens first.

## AGM 2017 Agenda

1. Welcome—Rhoda Robinson
2. Minutes of previous AGM
3. Community Group Presentations
3. Presentation of Annual Report, Ingrid Morris, Project Manager
4. Presentation on behalf of by Pete Duncan, Local Trust Adviser
5. Treasurers Report and Accounts
6. Election of Partnership Board Members

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Refreshments

**Before you go please provide us with your comments and feedback (on sheets around the room). We do need this information in order to help us access the Lottery funds for future plans.**

**Local Trust** | **Big Local**





## Chairs' Report

Hello everyone and welcome,

I will keep this short as we have a lot to get through tonight.

I would like to start by thanking my fellow board members and sub-group members for all their hard work and dedication. It isn't easy and can be very time consuming. So thank you!

I would also like to thank Ingrid, who has become our new project manager, and is doing a great job. As you will be aware we lost Alan from the team this year. He had to move with Heather because of her work with the church. We were all sad to lose him, as he worked hard for us, but Ingrid has stepped seamlessly into post and we are eternally grateful.

I would like to introduce our new project assistant Vic Pooley. She has joined the team and has settled in amazingly. We are very lucky to have her as she brings many skills to the team, and has lots of great ideas.

I want to thank Ronnie Hewer, our maintenance person, for all his hard work, also Chris Hewer who had a temporary contract with us over the busy summer period. They have both worked extremely hard, thank you.

Could I also thank Pete Duncan our Big Local advisor for his help, guidance and support. He can't be here tonight but Pete has sent a report which Ingrid will deliver shortly.

A lot has happened this year. Besides all the changes I think we have achieved quite a lot. The purchase of the Legion land has been a big part of it. We have also become our own company, which allows us to do just that – purchase things. Julia Powley our treasurer will be speaking shortly and will explain where we are with that. You will have the opportunity to ask her any questions.

We still need people to get involved to help with this project. Also to suggest ways to go forward. We have lost some board members along the way, we have been going for nearly five years now, therefore the work load is quite high for the remaining board members.

We have always wanted to get more young people involved as this is their future, and hopefully their legacy.

Thank you for attending.

*Rhoda Robinson Chair of Partnership Board*

## Treasurers' Report

### What has changed this year?

When we first began Big Local, we were just a group of people who agreed to be on the partnership board, accountable to the members of the Big Local area for how we spent the money.

We did not actually have a bank account or own anything. Cumbria CVS (Council for Voluntary Services) acted as our bankers.

Because we were not a legal entity, we could not own anything or have our own bank account. That caused us a few issues, but we could live with it. Until the Legion land was available to buy. At that point, we needed to be able to own things, to be a body which was recognised in law.

And so Distington Big Local Limited came into being. We are now a company limited by guarantee, which means that, as long as we are not fraudulent, no director is liable for more than £10 if something goes badly wrong. This is actually much safer than the old partnership board.

Anyone who was on the board in June 2016, when we became a company, was invited to become a director of the company.

Since then, we have bought the Legion land and have taken over our own bank account. But we have still run with a partnership board as well as the board of directors. We are now at the stage where we want to stop having the partnership and have just the board of directors. Anyone on the board can become a director as long as he or she meets the requirements of a director (for example, not bankrupt). In addition, board meetings are open to anyone to attend, but only directors can vote.

The amount we have had from Big Local since September 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 is £133,344.  
Where has it gone? In rough terms:

Village maintenance	£21,700
Programme support	£42,700
Youth support (DCYP)	£20,500
Community Chest	£4,800
Advice project	£10,000
Community events	£3,700
Land feasibility	£1,700
Bus shelters	£7,100
Football pitch	£6,200
Job/Digi/Food clubs	£3,000
CCTV	£5,000

The Legion land cost £83,370, with that money being drawn down separately from the ongoing funding.

We still have plenty of money, and it will go further if we can get match funding for larger projects by raising funds from elsewhere as well as from Big Local.

*Rev. Julia Powley (Partnership Board Treasurer)*

## Project Managers' Report

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2016-2017 our second full year since our first plans were agreed and much has happened.

Following Alan's announced departure I was appointed Project Manager and started in this role in August. I would like to give a warm welcome to Vic Pooley who has been in post as Project Assistant, to cover my old role, since July. Many of you will know Vic and I believe she will be real asset to Distington Big Local.

Now that we have formed Distington Big Local Ltd, and been approved by Local Trust to become our own LTO (Locally Trusted Organisation) we are able to administer our own finances which makes paying bills and grants much quicker and easier. Previously this was done through Cumbria CVS.

We continue to work on ongoing projects and develop new ones. The development of the former British Legion land is our largest project to date and we are hoping to secure match funding to enable us to carry out the first phase of work which will be a Feasibility Study and Community Consultation. This will provide us with a good understanding of how the land could be developed and what Distington residents would like to see it used for. We strongly feel that we need to thoroughly investigate potential uses for the land and consult widely with the community to ensure we achieve the best outcome for the land, and that any development is to a high standard. This will naturally take some time.

Our Handyman Ronnie Hewer continues to do a great job for the village. The demand for his gardening services for residents continues to grow and due to the expansion of this work, DBL took on a temporary assistant for him, Chris Hewer, during the busy summer months.

You can follow us on Facebook and Twitter, get information from our website at [www.distingtonbiglocal.org](http://www.distingtonbiglocal.org) and read about what we are up to in our newsletter which we produce a few times a year. Also keep a look out for any posters in and around the village of projects and events that we are running.

*Ingrid Morris*





## Community and Environment Group



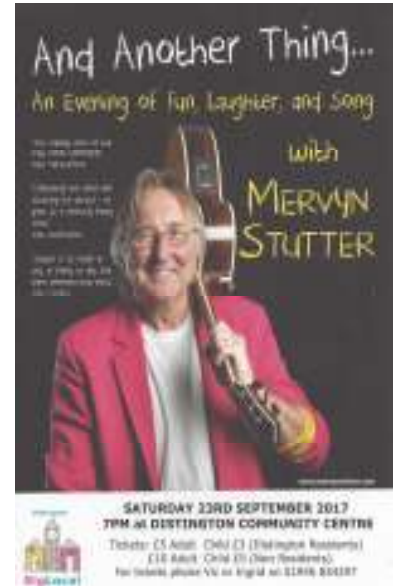
5 New CCTV cameras installed this year.



Bus Shelters installed and upgraded.



## Community Events



Theatre shows.



## Land Development Group



The land we have purchased for the village.

## Young People & Families Group



We re-instated the Football Pitch



We bought a defibrillator for the village which is located on the outside of the Community Centre



Big Local continues to provide financial support that goes towards the running costs of DCYP



Working with the surgery and Age UK, volunteers needed.



## Residents Wellbeing Group



### Good Grub Club



Free (For Distington Residents)

For Adults & Children (10 years & older)  
**Free Creche also provided**

Learn how to cook good, cheap, wholesome food for the family

Every 2nd Tuesday of the month  
3:30—5pm  
Distington Community Centre

**Free ingredients provided**

To book a place call  
Ingrid or Alan on 01946 834297



Due to lack of uptake, the Good Grub club is no longer running.

A big thank you goes to all our volunteers without whom many of these projects would not be possible!

### DISTINGTON JOB CLUB

**KEEP CALM AND GO TO JOB CLUB**

Distington Community Centre, Library  
Wednesdays 10am - 12pm

"Friendly drop in support" Help with job searches  
"CV writing" "Form filling" "Letter writing" "Online applications" "Interview techniques" IT skills  
"Guidance & support" "Help with Unemployment Allowance"

For more information contact Vio or Ingrid on 01946 834297



We are also funding advice session for Distington residents. These are held in the Community Centre, Wednesdays 12-3pm. To book an appointment call 01946 693321



We run a job club every Wednesday in the Library 10am to 12pm.



## Computer Clubs



Donated computer for residents use during library opening hours.



### Digital Club



**Fridays 10am — 12pm**  
Distington Community Centre

Get the best out of your smart phone, tablet or laptop. Learn how to:

- \*transfer your contacts\* use the internet
- \* set up an email account \* shop online
- \* set up Facebook \* use Twitter \* create posters \*Skype\* use desk top publishing
- \*set up databases \* create spread sheets

Bring your own:  
Smart phones / tablets / laptops or come and use our laptops. Get help with specific things that you have trouble with.

For more info contact Vic or Ingrid on 01946 834297 or pop into our office in the Community Centre.




### Raspberry Pi Club

**Wednesdays 8 - 9:30pm**  
Distington Community Centre  
**Starting 22th March 2017**

Distington Big Local is funding the Raspberry Pi equipment and group members will help decide on what to build. As skills develop, it could be a robot or a 3D printer....

Bring along a laptop or tablet to access the internet if you have one.

Cost per session £1 (includes)

For more info contact Abu or Ingrid on 01946 834297






## Community Chest and Transport Grants

### Distington Big Local has Supported:

- Solway Good Neighbourhood Scheme
- Spectrum Art Group
- Workers Educational Association
- Kidz & Co
- Distington in Bloom
- Grass Road Sharks
- Distington AOP Reunion Club
- Distington Parish Council
- Credit Union
- Church of the Holy Spirit Baby & Toddler Group
- Distington Amateur Rugby League
- Distington Family & Local History Society
- DCYP
- Distington Lunch Club
- Distington Community Centre



## Village Maintenance

The village maintenance project began in May 2015. Ronnie works hard to keep the village looking tidy, cutting the grass, trimming hedges, painting street furniture and generally looking after things. Unfortunately he also picks up a lot of rubbish which means he has less time for other jobs. Please take pride in our village and put litter in bins or take it home with you!



Before and after photos of benches newly painted in the village

Local residents and organisations can book Ronnie to carry out work at very good rate. This includes gardening and handyman services. This provides an income which goes towards covering costs and is much lower than the going commercial rate.



Beck Green Bridge Repair



Litter left in Hinnings Road bus shelter!

**Distington Big Local Handyman Services**

Do you need help with small jobs around the house?

Our village maintenance / handyman Ronnie is available to carry out minor repairs and jobs where a qualified tradesman is not needed.

Charges to cover costs are:

- £4 per quarter hour
- £8 per half hour
- £15 per hour

No Job is too small!

To book Ronnie contact Vic or Ingrid on 01946 834297



Distington Community Centre  
Church Road  
Distington  
Cumbria  
CA14 5TE

Our office is open most weekdays.

Please call in anytime or ring  
beforehand to ensure one of us is in.

**General Enquiries** 01946 834297 (vic.biglocal@gmail.com)

**Project Manager** Ingrid Morris (Ingrid.biglocal@gmail.com)

**Project Assistant** Vic Pooley (vic.biglocal@gmail.com)

Visit our website on [www.distingtonbiglocal.org](http://www.distingtonbiglocal.org)

Follow us on

