

**Distington Big Local**  
**Distington Community Centre, Church Road, Distington CA14 5TE**



**Distington Big Local Ltd /Partnership Board Meeting**  
**9<sup>th</sup> August 2017, 11:30am**  
**Distington Community Centre**

**Present:** Rhoda Robinson (Chair), Norma Pritt, Pat Nelson, Josephine Greggain, Alison Boyd, Annette Whitehead, Paul Tharagonnet, Pete Duncan, Ingrid Morris, Victoria Pooley (Minutes)

**Apologies:** Julia Powley, Sue Hunter, Christine Pattinson, Karen Hodgson, Carl Cooper, Hollie Dennis (PCSO), Shelley Hewitson

**34.17 Welcome** The chair welcomed everybody and advised that Alan has now left the Big Local. Vic Pooley, the new Project Assistant, was welcomed to the Big Local team. Ingrid has been appointed Project Manager taking over Alan's role.

**35.17 Conflict of Interests** None

**36.17 Minutes of Previous Meeting** Were passed as a true record.

**37.17 Actions & Matters Arising**

We have an invitation from Distington in Bloom to their presentation evening on 15<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm

**38.17 Staffing** Chris Hewer began his temporary contract as Maintenance Assistant on 06/06/17 (due to end 25/08/17) and Vic began her post on 24/07/17. Ingrid's new post began on 07/08/17.

**39.17 Development workers report** Alan has now written his final report and wished everyone on the Big Local team success in the future.

**Village Maintenance Project:** Since the beginning of March the project has brought in £1,394 from work for local residents and organisations and £794.77 from the Parish Council. Making a total of £1,394 to date with more income for this period due to come in.

**Job club:** We currently have 2 very regular users.

**Good Grub Club:** Despite trying to engage younger families, the club has now been suspended due to the recent low turnouts.

**Land development:** The process has begun for applying for £15,000 towards the land feasibility and consultation plans proposed by Halsall Lloyd Partnership.

**Residents Advice sessions:** Still over 90% of appointments books.

**Befriending Scheme:** We had a review meeting with partner organisations in June. Following a period of several months without staff, Age Concern now have new staff in place for the Distington area & Ingrid is hopeful that momentum on this project will now pick up, and as ever we are still looking to recruit volunteers onto the scheme.

**Arts out West:** We have booked 'And Another Thing...' by Mervin Stutter for Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 7pm. Tickets prices will be £5 for adults and £3 for children for Distington residents, subsidised by DBL. Costs to non-residents are £10 & £5.

**Football Pitch:** Ingrid is trying to arrange a meeting with interested parties to agree how the pitch is maintained in the future, with a view to getting a written agreement in place. Our current agreement with CASC is that DBL retain overall responsibility for ensuring it is well maintained. Lawsons may have a 20ft container for us which we are looking into and we need liaise with Rugby field before installing a container Action IM / VP set up an agreement re use / maintenance of pitch and obtaining container.

**Bus Shelters** The new stop requested near the Prospect end of Main Street has been agreed. The council will be putting up a sign opposite the bus stop, which states that buses stop on both sides of the road. This work should be carried out soon. The Council have said we cannot install a shelter at the proposed site at Common End, Whitehaven bound, as they are unable to ascertain who owns the benched space in the wall. The Board suggested we look at alternative smaller shelters that may be acceptable in that area but away from the bench. We will need to let residents know that we are unable to put it where we first proposed but are looking into alternatives. We will produce a flyer, put out on social media, in newsletter etc.. and research into smaller bus shelters and contact CCC again & let residents know when the new request stop is in place. It would be good to put a sign up in the shelters stating that they were requested and paid for by DBL. Action IM/VP. The Community & Environment Group are looking into shelters that need the Perspex replacing.

**41.17 Land Development** We are in the process of applying for match funding to *Copeland Community Fund* to help pay for Halsall Lloyd's feasibility study and community engagement for the first part of the land development work. We have successfully completed Stage 1 and now need Board approval to continue to stage 2. If successful, we may get up to 75% of the costs from the Copeland Community Fund. IM / VP will email a copy of the Draft Land Project Plan to all board members, can you please then advise the workers if you are happy to proceed with Stage 2 of the funding application. The closing date for Stage 2 application is on 15<sup>th</sup> September. At today's meeting the Board agreed to paying 25% of the costs for Halsall Lloyd's work. Ingrid has also been in touch with Copeland re their *Community Led Housing Fund*. This fund is not yet up and running but should be sometime soon and advised they are planning a launch event for the fund this autumn. They are very interested in our project and hopefully this will be a source of match funding for us in the future.

**42.17 Treasurers Report** Ingrid advised that the report provided is for the year end to March 2017. We are still having ongoing problems with CVS due to many of their key staff leaving in the last few months, once these have been sorted out will be able to produce current reports for the Board - Action IM/JP. From our end, things are running smoothly on Sage and we are up to date with everything. Our current Year End with Companies House is June 2017, once this has been completed we will hopefully be able to change it to March for future years.

**43.17 AGM** The next AGM Friday 29 September 2017 at 6pm. We need to consider how to proceed with the Partnership Board and Company Board of Directors. **An Extraordinary Board Meeting** will be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 11am-12pm to discuss the AGM and the Vision and Decision Making Policy.

**44.17 Appointment of Company Secretary** The Board voted unanimously for Ingrid has been appointed this role. Action IM.

**45.17 Vision and Decision Making Policy** This policy will be amended to include the Local Trusts guidelines on Conflicts of interest and will be discussed by the Board at the meeting on 19 September 2017.

**46.17 Local Trust Guidelines:** Pete Duncan highlighted some of the Local Trust guidelines on how to run a Big Local Partnership. DBL will ensure that they are included in our policies.

## **AOB**

**Letters of Thanks** We have had letter of thanks from the Toddler Group & Distington Old Folks Reunion Group for funding they have received from the Transport Fund and Community Grant.

At the Summer Fun Day the Segway was provided by Go Ape at Whinlatter, instead of payment they asked for a donation to their nominated charity which is the Calvert Trust. We have received a letter of thanks from Calvert Trust for the £150 we donated.

**Big Local Learning Event** Paul Tharagonnet attended a shared Big Local learning event in Gateshead and reported that it was really interesting to see how other Big Locals were running things and was impressed with how far advanced DBL is in terms of development, compared to some of the others. We are one of the smallest and cover only one village which makes things easier. PD advised that as far as he is aware we are the only Big Local to become our own Ltd Company to date.

Paul proposed that we could look at boosting interest in DLB through Facebook and Google advertising. Action VP .Google offer \$10k worth of free advertising a month to charities, and maybe we should reconsider applying for charity status. Another Big Local has made a mural, highlighting Big Local, another idea could be a sculpture park in the village somewhere, working together with the residents, school and DCYP, which would enhance the village and make more people aware of DBL.

**Pavement Sweeper** We will look into the costs of getting a pavement sweeper to remove the weeds on Main Street, Hinnings Road, Church Road and Chapel Street. NP to get details and VP /IM to chase this up.

**Land Sale to Residents** The garden plots of land for sale behind the properties to nos. 9 & 10 are going ahead and should be completed by 28 February 2018.

**Date of Extraordinary Board Meeting: Tuesday 19 September 11am – 12 noon to discuss AGM**

**Date of Next Board Meeting: Tuesday 10 October 2017. 3pm in the Community Centre**

## **Future Sub Group dates**

Residents Well Being & Community Environment – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 3pm – joint meeting

Young People and Families – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 12pm at school to discuss funding request – **all Board Members invited**

Land Development Group – TBC