

Distington Big Local Ltd Board Meeting
4th December 2018
Distington Community Centre



Present: Rhoda Robinson (Chair), Alison Boyd, Annette Whitehead, Norma Pritt, Ingrid Morris, Victoria Askew (Minutes), Josephine Greggain, Paul Tharagonnet, Karen Hodgson, Elaine Ismay, Julia Powley, Alan Hunter, Sue Hunter, Margaret Hildrop

Apologies: None

Not Present: None

135.18 Welcome

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting. She introduced Margaret and Alan to the Board. Margaret has recently joined the Board (currently as a non-voting member) and Alan is going to attend a few meetings before he makes his decision.

136.18 Conflict of Interests

None

137.18 Minutes of October's meeting.

Were passed as a true record.

138.18 AGM 2018

Approximately 34 people attended our AGM. Christine Pattinson and Carl Cooper stood down from the Board. Margaret Hildrop was unanimously voted in. Following his visit to our AGM, Rhoda has received a positive email from Matt Leech (Chief Executive for Local Trust) regarding the work happening at Distington Big Local. He would like to feed some of what we are doing to National Clusters meetings next year.

139.18 Garden and Village Maintenance Work

It has been confirmed by Home Group that Ronnie can continue to use the land up from the Church to tip his grass cutting waste. Ronnie has advised that in the New Year he will be carrying out a service on the Kubota mower. An incident happened on the cycle path this week, involving a large amount of paint being deliberately poured over the path. Ronnie spent the majority of the afternoon clearing it all up. A thank you was posted to Distington Big Local's Face Book page from a local resident, thanking Vic and Ronnie for their help with this.

140.18 Christmas Light Switch On

The event will take place on Sunday 9th December, 4pm. The lights will be switched on at 4:15pm, followed by Christmas Carols then up to the DCYP for refreshments and a visit from Santa. Raffle tickets are currently on sale for residents to have the chance to switch the tree lights on. Monies raised from this raffle will go towards next years Christmas event. This year there will be 2 separate Christmas competitions, a window competition and an outside of house competition. Prizes are: 1st prize - £25, 2nd prize - £15 and 3rd prize - £10. Houses will be judged on Friday 14th December and judges are: Dr Booth (Distington Surgery), Julia Howgarth (Church of the Holy Spirit), Nichola Stephenson (Distington Community School), and Jean Skelly (Distington Club for Young People). There will be a road closure on Main Street from Anthony's Chippy to Chapel Street for 45 minutes during the light switch on. This will take place from 4pm – 4:45pm. Lawson's are lending us their barriers for the event. They have kindly

offered us about 20 barriers to keep. The Board agreed that they would be very useful and Julia said they can be stored in the Dove Centre.

141.18 Land Development

Homes England have advised that our bid (for revenue funding to go for full planning permission) has been endorsed at the North West bid clinic today which is encouraging news. It will now go to their Housing Programme Board in London for final approval on 17th December. Ingrid has submitted the final report to Copeland Community Fund and, all being well, we will receive our final payment of £2,610 (total £10,440) in due course. Applying to become a member of the Community Land Trust at a cost of £530 has been agreed by the Board, this may be something we do in the future. *Since this meeting, it has been confirmed that the National CLT Network is willing to pay for Andy Lloyds fourth session with us, saving us £279.* The Board has agreed that we can use the extra £105,000 funding that has been awarded (interest on the £1 million) as a contingency to cover additional costs we may incur as the land development progresses. Action: IM to speak to Local Trust on how we best access this. If we get planning permission we will be applying for capital funding. Next steps are to get legal advice on what type of company to set up and tax implications of transferring land to the new company. We are in the process of getting quotes for this. A decision needs to be made whether we are aiming for sheltered housing or an extra care scheme.

142.18 FareShare and FoodBank

The Credit Union and Citizens Advice Copeland have been working with DCYP, delivering a new programme to young children in Distington and have received funding for this project from the *#I Will* fund. The funding will cover costs of badges and T-shirts for the young volunteers who call themselves 'The Distington Champions'. The DCYP held a logo competition for the children to enter. The winning logo has now been chosen and will be printed on to their T-shirts. Volunteers who are working on this project with the children from the DCYP are the same volunteers who run the FareShare sessions each week. The *#I Will* fund will also cover costs of new bags for FareShare food collections and badges for the FareShare volunteers, they have named their project '*The Food Fairies*'. A logo has also been designed for the *Food Fairies* and will be printed on to their bags and badges. With help from CAB the group applied to collect surplus food from Aldi on Christmas Eve to give to our FareShare members, however we have just learned that the application was unsuccessful. The last FareShare session before the Christmas holidays will be on Tuesday 18th December and a FoodBank holiday food collection session for children entitled to free school meals will be held at Distington Library on Thursday 20th December. The *Food Fairies* along with Catrina and Vic will help to distribute this food to those eligible. Copies of an article in the Whitehaven News, mentioning food distribution in Distington were given out at the board meeting. Since this meeting, CAB has advised that as school has not been engaging with Foodbank, CAB have had agreement from Foodbank to assess, confirm eligibility & issue vouchers for Distington residents.

143.18 Shoes for Gambia

This is a Charity set up by former residents of Distington. The Charity (amongst others things) delivers shoes to children in Gambia in order for them to access school. Distington Big Local is now collecting shoes in the Community Centre. £1 needs to be donated along with the shoes to cover shipping costs. A box will be delivered to the Community Centre for the shoes to be collected in. When the box is full, the charity will collect it from us.

144.18 Arts Out West

The *Aaaarrrrgh Dinosaurs* performance was poorly attended. We took £33 in ticket sales and paid £150 plus £10.60 refreshments. From *Judy to Bette* had a better turn out. We took £88 and paid £8 on food plus £10 on refreshments and £40 on room hire, the show cost £185. The next show we have booked with Arts Out West is *Peril at Sea* on 23rd March 2019. The Board advised not to book anymore performances until we see if the turn out for the next show is any better.

At a recent Young People & Families Sub Group meeting the children suggested that they would enjoy sessions with local DJs and a musician who is well known in the village (Adam Amor). Vic will look into this next year and gets quotes for sessions.

145.18 Job Club

Our regular attendee has recently got a job. The service continues every Wednesday 10am-12pm in the library, but we have had no new attendees to date. We had a visit from Ground Work last week, who are keen to engage with hard to reach/unemployed residents in Distington. They offer a range of programmes residents can enrol on, with out the pressure of finding a job. They will get back in touch with us in the New Year to look at new ways they can work with us to engage residents of Distington.

146.18 Staffing Vic's Maternity Leave

Vic will go on Maternity leave at the beginning of April 2019 and will return in February 2020. The Board agreed to advertise the Project Assistant role for a temporary contract of 1 year, beginning in March 2019 and ending in March 2020. Action: IM to advertise this role.

147.18 Treasure's Report (JP)

Julia talked through the latest figures.

148.18 AOB

- We had a request for a donation to go towards Christmas presents for children from the FareShare group. These came from DCYP. As the Aldi application was unsuccessful, there is some money available that had been put aside for travel costs, it was agreed that this will be used as a donation for the presents.
- Alan asked for a 'job outline' of sub groups. The board suggested looking at the sub groups in the New Year, to consider any changes we might make going forward with our project delivery.
- Thank you cards were received from Carl Cooper and Gary Hewer.
- It was agreed to send Alan Lowe some chocolates and a card via M&S.
- Elaine stated her interest in becoming a Company Director.
- We will have a visit from Local Trusts' in house journalist in January. They are keen to learn more about our projects, especially the land development. Can any board members interested in meeting the journalist, please let Ingrid / Vic know.

Date of Next Board Meeting

Wednesday 13th February 2019 in the Community Centre.

Sub Group Meeting Dates

Land Development Group – Tuesday 22nd January 2019, 1pm-3pm in Mabel Knowles room.

Community & Environment/Residents Wellbeing Groups – To be arranged.

Young People & Families Group – To be arranged.

Next Grant Panel Meeting 22nd January 2018 (closing date 15th January 2019)