

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



Distington Big Local Ltd Board Meeting
20th February 2018 at 3pm
Distington Community Centre

Present: Rhoda Robinson (Chair), Norma Pritt, Pete Duncan, Paul Tharagonnet, Ingrid Morris, Victoria Pooley (Minutes) Julia Powley, Karen Hodgson, Sue Hunter, Christine Pattinson, Alison Boyd, Josephine Greggain,

Apologies: Elaine Ismay, Shelley Hewitson, Annette Whitehead, Carl Cooper

Not Present: Hollie Dennis (PCSO), Clayton Sutton

78.18 Welcome

The chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and introduced Bill and Estelle from Halsal Lloyd Partnerships.

79.18 Conflict of Interests

Karen Hodgson re the Football Pitch

80.17 Minuets of Decembers' meeting.

Were passed as a true record.

81.17 Land Development

The Halsal Lloyd team have been carrying out door to door consultations with residents whose houses surround the land. Although the team needs to take back all data collected and analyse it, they advised that no suggested option for development was in a higher percentage than any other. The findings show (so far) that a lot of people are for a housing development on the site and the few who aren't, are strongly against it. A housing scheme like Scholar Green on Main Street was suggested by the majority of residents. A common theme seems to be a lot of lonely older people in the village, especially men. The consultations revealed that they feel they have nowhere to go and socialise in their village. There is lots of confusion about land ownership around some areas of the site. The team need to look in to this further. The main drainage systems would be behind Chapel Street and Main Street; however land ownership may create problems accessing them, therefore we need absolute clarity on who owns what.

There is other possible space for land development in the village (on land not owned by DBL) with planning permission already been applied for. Bill will look into this, as the impact of other housing developments in the area may have a direct affect to the Old Legion Land, resulting in housing development not being the best option for our land. The consultations with residents also revealed a rumour that has spread around the village that DBL purchased the land at a cheaper price, by making a deal with the seller to provide houses for ex-service men to live in on the site. This rumour is not true.

HLP are back in Distington on 19th March and have arranged to meet the school council as the school is very keen to become involved in the development of the site. HLP & PD suggested that we consider a large consultation /community event on the land to drum up interest and

encourage residents to attend, this could also help promote other DBL projects and other events & services happening in our area. We will try to set a date for this on 19th March. We will need to get rough costings and spend agreed, by sub group if under £300, or the Board

82.17 Football Pitch Maintenance

Lawson's have now installed the container, soil was cleared away to make room for it but there is now a large ditch at the front making it impossible to get the mower into it. Ronnie has spoken to Lawson's about putting hardcore down. Vic is still waiting to hear back from Lawson's if Ronnie can use their roller for the football pitch. VP to chase this up. It has been brought to DBL's attention that some people in the village feel the pitch is not up to standard. At the time of reinstatement, work on the pitch was monitored and carried out as agreed and it needs time to bed in. It was always intended to be a community pitch (as opposed to a professional one). An agreement between us and Grassroad Sharks is in place regarding grass cutting and maintenance of the pitch, groups and those using the pitch need to take some ownership of it in order to help maintain this fantastic community facility. VP to arrange a meeting with all concerned about the football pitch to resolve any issues.

83.18 Young People and Families Group

The last meeting was very successful, seeing 4 new young members join the sub group, all under 16 years of age, as well as some other residents. The sub group meetings are now being held in the evening so that more young people can attend. Angela Quirk (Head) has advised that she will struggle to attend meetings in the evening, however Julia, who is a School Governor, is also on this subgroup. The potential of setting up a new weekly 'teenage girls night' seems popular with the children in the village. It is hoped that the Methodist Chapel can be revamped and would be an ideal venue for this. The land at Hinnings Road is of keen interest to DBL with a view to it being used for a play park for that end of the village. VP/IM to continue to push for any information regarding this with Copeland Borough Council.

84.18 Health Walk sign

The health Walk sign has now been repaired by our handyman Ronnie. The order for the new sign costing £86 plus VAT was cancelled.

85.18 Community Event

The next community event is a Race Night. This is being held on Friday 16th March at 6:30pm in Distington CASC. We have 72 'horses' needing to be sold. Members of the Board offered to help sell these during the next few weeks and agreed the cost of tickets for the event - £2. VP to give out race cards ASAP and advertise the event. The Rotary Club are running this event at a cost of £250. There is no cost for hire of the room.

86.18 CCTV/Dog Fouling

We have again had reports of dog fouling which we have passed on to Distington Parish Council, they have taken ownership of the CCTV in the village, which may help to catch the culprits. It was agreed that if residents call DBL to report any dog fouling; Ingrid and Vic are to inform them of the local enforcement officer's number and encourage them to ring themselves to report the issue, providing an approximate time and date. Posters discouraging dog fouling were made by the children from DCYP and been put up around the village, these have had a good reaction from all residents. VP to make and display posters informing residents of the enforcement officer's number and on social media.

87.18 Treasure's Report

The year end has now been successfully been changed back to 31st March. We are making headway with the issues we have been having with CVS.

88.18 Next Plan / Budget

We had an assessment visit earlier in the month from Local Trust to discuss the plan/budget we submitted to draw down our next lot of funding. This went well and we expect to hear in the next few days if it has been accepted.

89.18 AOB

Printer The office has purchased a new printer, due to the old one breaking.

Thank you letters from grants awarded received by Distington Club for Young People, Distington Mother's Union. Distington Community School made a public thank you on their Facebook page and children from the school personally thanked Sub Group members at the latest Young People and Families meeting.

Bus Shelters Sue Hunter has had a request from a Distington resident for a bus shelter, Whitehaven bound at Common End. It was explained that this has already been looked into in great details but deemed not possible by Highways. This issue has also been taken to the Parish Council.

Staffing Due to our grass cutting contract with the Parish council and generally increased work in spring, our Maintenance Man will only be able to take 2 weeks consecutive leave between the beginning of April and the beginning of October.

Board Members In December Frank & Tina Hewer have advised that they are unable to become Board Members due to lack of time.

Dates of Next Meeting

Board Meeting – Tuesday 17th April 2018, 3pm in the Community Centre

Sub Group Meeting Dates

Community & Environment and Residents Wellbeing Groups meeting on Friday 23rd February 2018 at 9:30am in the Community Centre.

Land Development Group meeting – Monday 19th March 2018 at 2pm in the Community Centre.

Young People & Families Group meeting Wednesday 18th April at 6:30pm in DCYP.