

The Distington

Big Local

Newsletter

August 2013



THE BIG LOCAL DROP-IN CENTRE OPENS TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3rd at 3.00pm



The old Fosters Shop, Main Street.

On Tuesday September 3rd at 3.00pm the old Fosters Shop will open again as the Distington Big Local Drop-in Centre. **Everyone** is welcome to attend the opening.

The idea behind the Centre is that it will be a place for local people to pop in to and get a cup of tea and a biscuit, chat to others and read the local papers. The Centre will be manned by volunteers so if you'd like to help then please get in touch (see below).

There will also be an opportunity for you to have your say as to how the Big Local money should be spent. We have already undertaken the first phase of the community consultation, see overleaf, but the Centre will play a vital part in getting the views of people like you on an ongoing basis so please engage with the consultation.

The Centre will be opened by Margaret Steele and Andy Hemmings from 'UnLtd' will speak about obtaining funding for new businesses both for community enterprises and private sector start-ups.

Distington Big Local Contacts:

Steering Group: Christine Pattinson 01946 832882 cjones001@btconnect.com
Big Local Support Officer: Pete Duncan 07740 591680 peteduncan@socialregeneration.co.uk
Community Consultation: Dave Smith 07742 224775 davidsmith@tinyworld.co.uk

Distington Big Local: Timeline.

Lots of people are asking, "So when is this actually going to happen?". Well the table below gives you a good idea as to when things are due to happen. .

Date	Activity
Throughout 2013	Regular Steering Group meetings
April to November	Community Consultation undertaken (inc. Public meetings, newsletters etc)
September	Opening of Community Cafe - Drop-in centre (Fosters Shop)
July to October	Young Peoples consultation and related activities undertaken
November/December	Delivery of Village Profile & Vision and full results of community consultation
January/February 14	Development of Big Local Partnership: recruitment of members, development of constitution etc
February/March 14	Recruitment of Local Trusted Organisation to be Responsible Financial Partner
February 14 onwards	Ensure local community is regularly updated (quarterly newsletters?) local meetings, community cafe etc.
March/April 14	Development of Big Local Plan, based on Community Consultation and, in turn, village profile & vision.
May 14	Big Local Plan agreed by community and partnership
May 14	Big Local Plan agreed by Big Local Trust
June 14 onwards	Big Local actions: Projects identified via Big Local Plan, feasibility studies undertaken if required, match funding identified and secured. Projects delivered.
September onwards	Hold regular community reviews of progress made

Community Consultation

We have now reached the end of the first phase of the Community Consultation, with the second phase due to commence in September. In the first phase we have been asking people what they liked about Distington and what their concerns were.

The things that people were happy about included good neighbours, family in the village, quiet and peaceful, strong community, things to do for young people, good bus service, good doctors and a safe place to live. The vast majority of people spoken to were very happy living in Distington and would not want to live anywhere else.

Concerns included lack of a place to meet up with friends and neighbours since the Legion closed, lack of volunteers who would be prepared to organise village events, more activities and facilities for young people, including the further development of the Club for Young People, the lack of 1 and 2 bedroom houses in the village, low police presence in the village, the scruffy appearance of the village, lack of local employment opportunities, especially for young people, lack of parking in certain parts of the village, need for additional and better bus shelters and better community use of the facilities at the school.

In phase 1 we have talked to over 330 people and we aim to talk to similar numbers during the second and third phases. We will be holding public meetings, talking to people on the door step and in the new Drop-in Centre. We also want to engage with people through the new website: www.distingtonbiglocal.org on which there will be a page for you to suggest solutions to the issues raised in phase 1. If you want to talk to me or would like a copy of the issues raised to date then please contact me on:

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Email: davidsmith@tinyworld.co.uk

Dave Smith