**Distington Big Local Steering Group Meeting:**

The Drop-in Centre 01.10.13

Present: Rhoda Robinson, Christine Pattinson, Gary Hewer, Alison Boyd, Norma Pritt, Mike Pritt, Lorraine Irving, John Bowman, Jackie Bowman, Josephine Greggin, Tanya Daniel, Roy Shepherd, Kathleen Sharp, Reg Gallagher, Pat Goodwin, Lorraine Thornley, Margaret Telford, Pete Duncan & Dave Smith

Apologies: Mary Smart, Susan Hayman & Julia Powley.

The meeting commenced with Rhoda thanking everyone for their attendance.

**19.13: Minutes of the meeting held on 3/9/13:**

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

**20.13: Matters arising from the previous meeting (03.9.13):**

All the actions from the previous meeting had been undertaken and are covered below.

**21.13: The Big Local Drop-in Centre:**

Rhoda explained that the Drop-in Centre was being well supported though some days were busier than others. Further decorating is to be undertaken by students from Lakes College though there may be a need to hire a plasterer for some of the works.

A number of people have asked if it would be possible to extend the opening hours so that the Drop-in Centre can be used by those who are at work of school during the week. It is hoped to be able to open on a Saturday morning shortly, initially once a month. It was agreed that an ‘A’ board placed outside the centre would be a good method of letting people know the Centre was open.

The guttering on the centre was damaged recently resulting in additional damage to the downpipe of the property next door. The cost of the repair work to the landlord is £785.00p and it was agreed that £300.00p from the Big Local Start Up Fund should be given towards this cost.

Rhoda explained that the majority of people using the Centre had raised their concerns regarding the Centre for the Homeless which is being proposed for the Distington area. It is not clear as yet what site in the area is being proposed for the hostel. There have been two public meetings in the village at which Rachel Holliday of Cumbria Action for Social Support, the person behind the idea, spoke. It was clear from votes taken at the meetings that the vast majority of local residents were not in favour of this proposal. It was agreed that, as Big Local money can only be spent on what local people want to see it spent on and there are few if any local people who support the hostel for the homeless, no Big Local funds should be allocated to this project should it proceed. It was further agreed that the Drop-in Centre could be used as a base for any Action group that may be set up to lead the opposition to the proposal.

**ACTION: Peter to find out if some the Big Local Start Up funding could be used to support an Action Group.**

**22.13: Update from the Youth Consultation:**

Christine reported that a further session had been delivered since the last Steering Group meeting, there would be one more session shortly and that the work was still on target to be completed by the end of October. Nick will report back to the next Steering Group meeting.

Gary reported that Nick had also undertaken work with young people at the Rugby League Club. The Club has also recently been awarded funding from Sport England to upgrade the facilities and are in the Grand Final of a Youtube related competition which will see further funds being awarded.

The DCYP are in the finals of the Golden Apple Awards organised by Cumbrian Newspapers.

Both Gary and Christine raised some concerns about future funding for the DCYP and said that some of their funders had questioned the need for additional funding now that the Big Local Fund was in place. Though these initial queries had been dealt with and most of the DCYP funding package was in place, the concern was that this might be an issue in the coming years.

Christine went on to raise her concerns about the handling of the Big Local Logo competition, explaining that the process outlined in her original proposal had not been followed as it should have been. It was again agreed that, due to time constraints and the opening of the Drop-in Centre, this competition had not been handled as well as it could have been and that the Steering Group will try and avoid any similar problems in the future. Tanya also raised her concerns that there had been no official invitation made to the Library Service for the opening and that support for the existing services and facilities in the village should be promoted via the Big Local project.

**ACTION: DS to ensure that local facilities are promoted in the next edition of the newsletter together with information about the UnLtd Awards.**

**ACTION: Christine and Gary to see if any of the older teenagers from the DCYP might want to access the UnLtd Start up awards.**

**23.13: Update from the Community Consultation:**

Dave explained that he had been spending a lot of time recently on door to door work in the village with the aim of completing this element of the consultation by the end of October. At the November meeting he will provide the Steering group with a report on potential projects suggested by the ‘Solutions’ phase of the consultation.

A ‘Village Walk’ is to be arranged during which additional issues will be identified. Members of the Steering Group are asked to attend if possible.

A newsletter is to be issued during October, the main aim of which is to promote the next round of ‘Big Chat’ sessions. It was agreed that the newsletter should be four pages long and promote local facilities and services. The additional printing costs are to be met from the remaining Start-up funding.

A ‘Partners Workshop’, to which potential partner organisations will be invited, is also to be arranged.

**ACTION: Village Walk to take place on Wednesday October 16th meeting up at 12.00 in the Drop-in Centre.**

**ACTION: DS to pull together a newsletter, get it printed and delivered by the end of October.**

**ACTION: DS to book venues for ‘Big Chat’ sessions: November 7th 3.00pm to 5.00pm Community Centre and 7.00pm to 9.00pm at DRL Club**

**ACTION: DS to invite potential partner organisation to meeting in Drop-in Centre on December 3rd at 2.00pm**

**24.13: The Distington Big Local Profile & Vision:**

Dave handed round a draft Big Local profile and vision structure and talked members through it. He explained that he had seen many different types of document from the various Big Local projects elsewhere in the country and there was no set format. With this in mind he asked members if they felt that the structure he was proposing was acceptable. After some discussion during which some changes and additions were suggested, it was agreed that the basic structure was acceptable.

**ACTION: DS to produce a draft version of the Big Local Profile & Vision prior to the December Steering Group meeting at which it will be the main agenda item.**

**25.13: Website update:**

Some information for the website has already been sent to Rob and Pete is to work up additional content.

**ACTION: Pete to liaise with John and Rob on the website content.**

**26.13: Getting Started Funding:**

It was agreed that the following items were all to be considered when pulling together the final claim for the Start Up funding:

* Rent & Rates: Drop-in Centre
* Heating & Lighting: Drop-in Centre
* Insurance: Drop-in Centre
* Guttering: Drop-in Centre (£300 see above)
* Vacuum Cleaner: Drop-in Centre
* Photocopier: Drop-in Centre
* Newsletter: printing costs

**Action: Steering Group members who are available and Pete to meet up on Monday 7th October at 12.00 to complete paperwork.**

**18.13: Date of next meeting:**

**Tuesday 5th November at 5.30pm in The Big Local Drop-in Centre (Fosters Shop)**

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