**Distington Big Local Steering Group Meeting:**

The Drop-in Centre 03.9.13

Present: Rhoda Robinson, Mary Smart , Marie Martin, Alison Boyd, Lorraine Irving, John Bowman, Jackie Bowman, Andy Hemming, Pat Goodwin, Julia Powley, Pete Duncan & Dave Smith

Apologies: Christine Pattinson, Gary Hewer, Denis Armstrong, Susan Hayman, Tanya Daniel, Nick Greenall & Josephine Greggin.

The meeting commenced with Rhoda thanking everyone for their help in the opening of the Big Local Drop-in Centre. There was general agreement that the opening had gone well, with over 60 people in attendance, and those present thanked Rhoda for all her work on ensuring a successful event.

**11.13: Matters arising from the previous meeting (14.8.13):**

All the actions associated with the opening of the Drop-in Centre had been undertaken.

Other actions are covered under agenda items below:

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

It was agreed that, initially, the Drop-in Centre will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 10.00 to 12.00 each morning. It was estimated that a volunteer list of ten people would be required. Six people have put their names forward to date.

There was some discussion about what residents calling in at the Drop-in Centre will expect and it was agreed that a mobile phone should be made available for people to use to ring in complaints or queries from the centre. It was agreed that volunteers at the centre should be pointing people and their queries in the right direction rather than taking on the issues themselves.

**ACTION: Alison to act as contact for volunteers and develop a staffing rota.**

**ACTION: Julia to provide a mobile phone and charger. Rhoda to purchase a sim card.**

**ACTION: Dave to provide a list of useful phone numbers.**

**13.13: Update from the Youth Consultation:**

Nick reported that there had now been quite a number of young people consulted on how the Big Local monies should be spent, raising a number of issues, concerns and solutions. The consultation continues with the next session taking place on September 11th and the subsequent report being delivered by the end of October.

There was some discussion about the Big Local Logo competition. It was agreed that, due to time constraints, it 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.

**14.13: Update from the Community Consultation:**

Dave explained that he was, more or less, back to full fitness after operations on his ruptured Achilles tendon and meniscal tear in his knee.

The first phase of the community consultation has been completed with nearly 350 people consulted. Issues raised, together with issues relating to financial management, land development and personal health that haven’t come up on the door step, have been placed on the boards in the Drop-in Centre for people to suggest solutions to. These will be added to the many solutions suggested in the first phase. Dave will be visiting local groups and organisation in the Big Local area to get their views/solutions, as well as undertaking further door to door work.

It was agreed that there will be some solutions that people will not necessarily suggest but will, none the less, be viable and that these should be suggested/explained during the consultation process to see what residents think of them.

It is hoped to conclude the consultations towards the end of October with the delivery of the Big Local Community Profile/Vision in November.

**Dave to continue consultation work and research solutions that have been delivered in other Big Local areas.**

**15.13: Website update:**

Pete passed round a suggested contents list for the website with individuals identified as those who should provide the text and pictures for various sections. Those present were happy with the suggestions though there were some doubts expressed regarding the setting up of Facebook and Twitter accounts as these would require daily updates and responses. It was agreed not to join Facebook and Twitter at the present time.

**ACTION: Pete, Dave, Christine, Andy and John to provide text and photos and suggested. All should be emailed to:** **me@merville.co.uk**

**16.13: Liaison with external agencies:**

There was agreement that there had been a good turn-out of people from external agencies at the opening of the Drop-in Centre. These included the police, Cumbria County Council, Copeland Borough Council, Cumbria Rural Housing Trust, Home Housing, Impact Housing, Lakes College and the local press.

Pete suggested re-contacting Age UK as they were not in attendance. Lorraine informed the meeting that there was funding available through the college if there were specific training requirements. Pat suggested that there may well be lessons that residents in Distington could learn from the work undertaken by residents of the Salterbeck estate in Workington.

It was agreed that Lorraine Thornley from Home Housing should receive a specific invitation to the next Steering group meeting.

**ACTION: Dave to invite Lorraine to the next Steering Group meeting.**

**17.13: Social Investment:**

Andy from UnLtd explained that the organisation he worked for provided awards for social entrepreneurs, i.e. people who have business ideas that will have social benefits for local communities. There are three levels of award with funding available from £500 to £15,000. The money comes from the interest accrued from £100m of National Lottery monies. There is a direct link between Big Local and UnLtd and this means that people living in Big Local areas have easier access to UnLtd awards that those living outwith Big Local areas.

Rhoda thanked Andy for attending both the opening of the Drop-in Centre and the Steering Group meeting.

**ACTION: Getting Started Funding to be an agenda item at the October meeting.**

**18.13: Date of next meeting:**

**Date: Tuesday 1st October**

**Time: 12.00 – 1.30pm**

**Venue: The Big Local Drop-in Centre (Fosters Shop)**

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