

**Distington Big Local Ltd /Partnership Board Meeting**  
**13 February 2019, 1pm**  
**Distington Community Centre**

**Present:** Rhoda Robinson (Chair), Julia Powley, Norma Pritt, Josephine Greggain, Alison Boyd, Annette Whitehead, Karen Hodgson, Sue Hunter, Paul Tharagonnet, Margaret Hildrop, Alan Hunter, Pete Duncan, Ingrid Morris (Minutes), Lindsay Bodman, Ronnie Hewer

**Apologies:** Vic Askew, Elaine Ismay, Shelley Hewitson

**149.19 Welcome** The chair welcomed everybody.

**150.19 Conflict of Interests** Alan Hunter, Board nomination

**151.19 Minutes of Previous Meeting** Were passed as a true record

**152.19 Land Development** The meeting started with a presentation from housing consultant Damian Southworth. He talked us through the financial side of our proposal, alternative costings, tenures, delivery options and practical next steps to ensure that our project is viable.

We are in the process of getting the access road to land (from Church Rd) either transferred to us or passed to Cumbria County Council Highways for adoption through a Section 38 Agreement. We are also hoping for the freehold of the access road to be transferred to us which will enable us to get a Section 106 agreement in place with United Utilities to access the main drains on Church Road.

Dodd & Co are working on getting charitable status for DBL Ltd and looking at the tax implications of transferring the land to a new company.

Our final grant payment from Copeland Community Fund of £2,610 to help pay for the Feasibility Study and Community Consultation will hopefully be received soon.

Home England are still carrying out their 'due diligence' checks. Once the grant has been confirmed we can apply to Local Trust for the £50K to cover our match funding and provide a contingency for additional land development costs as they arise.

It has been announced that December 2019 will be the closing date for Homes England Community Housing applications. However, Pete Duncan advised that they have other grant funding that we will be able to apply for, so this should not impact our project. It has an implication for revenue bids, and we have already submitted ours. There has been a call out from the Community Land Trust for groups to lobby their MP to call for the closing date to be delayed as it will impact on community groups trying to build housing. SH has agreed to write to Trudi Harrison and Sue Hayman about this issue.

**153.19 IT Support** Advice from Local Trust is that it would be best practice to use a company to provide our IT support. We obtained quotes from several companies and it was decided to go with System IT. They came in as the cheapest, as they give reductions to not for profit organisations, and came highly recommended by Ewanrigg Local Trust. Many thanks go to PT for all the IT support he has given us over the years. *Action: IM to set up IT agreement.*

**153.19 Changing Role of Local Trust Representative** PD advised that the role of the Local Trust Representatives is changing nationally. Whereas reps once employed by the social enterprise company Renaisi, they are now employed directly by Local Trust. The changes mean that from April reps have more time to support us and we have more flexibility in the type of support we can bring in. Pete will still be our rep and critical friend, and although he can't take on an advisory role on our housing scheme due to a conflict of interest, it is fortuitous that he has a specialism in this area and can offer support as part of his reps role.

**154.19 Treasure's Report** JP advised that our financial year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March. Approximate figures for this year to date are: Big Local grant drawn down £177,000. Other grants and income including village maintenance £9,896. Amount spent £95,500.

**155.19 Sub Groups** As the *Residents Wellbeing Group* and the *Community & Environment Group* have been having joint meetings for about 1 ½ years it was decided to merge the two under the title of *The Residents Wellbeing & Community Group*. Margaret Hildrop will be joining this sub group. *The Young People's & Families Group* has grown to having over 15 members, 4 of whom are young people under the age of 18. The *Land Development Group* has been very busy and will continue to be for the foreseeable future.

**156.19 Garden & Village Maintenance** The Parish Council have renewed their grass cutting contract with us starting in spring. RH advised that the grass needs cutting more frequently in order to keep on top of it and keep the village looking good. RR will ask at the next Parish Council meeting if they are happy to pay for more cuts. *Action : IM to look at contract & forward details to RR.* It was also agreed that RH will continue to cut the Loop Road( including the edges which cause the mower to be at an angle) on the village side, but not on the other side as this is as this is sometimes cut by the borough council.

**157.19 Fareshare** This project continues to deliver food for those in need in the village. With the help of CAB the group had applied for surplus food from Aldi on Christmas Eve, but were unsuccessful. I attended a review meeting for the Fareshare operation in West Cumbria. There have been some problems at their end regarding food request orders and invoicing, following the meeting, these will now hopefully be resolved. Recycling Lives Ltd, who operates the scheme advised that one of their aims is to help people into employment and their staff come from a background of being long term unemployed, ex offenders, or homeless. We also have a meeting scheduled with CAB and the Food Fairies to discuss how the project might expand to include a toy library and uniform recycling service.

**158.19 Walking Project** VA has asked residents through our social media sites if anybody would be interested in joining a walking group. We have had some good positive response to this and the surgery is keen to promote the project. We are hoping to get this up and running using local footpaths in spring and a local volunteer has come forward to lead the walks. We are aiming to end the walks with tea and biscuits at the Chapel. The Board agreed to spend for room hire and refreshments.

**159.19 Suicide Alertness Session** We have been approached by Cumbria County Council asking if we will host a suicide alertness session in Dinstington which the Board has agreed to. *Action IM to liaise with DCYP & other groups regarding which date would best suit the village.*

**160.19 Shoes for Gambia** We have now received the box, which is situated in the main hall at the Community Centre, for people to donate unwanted children's shoes. Donations should include £1 per shoe to pay for transport costs. One resident donated 15 shoes but could not afford to pay the full transport costs. The Board agreed to pay the extra when needed.

**161.19 Christmas Light Switch On** This was our second year running the event, which was well attended though numbers were slightly down from last year. It cost approximately £500 to put on which included the front of house and window competition, 2 lantern making workshops and small gift for young children and the tree. It was noted that as the previous year, the event should take place later in the day to ensure it is properly dark and that it would be better to sing Christmas songs rather than carols as more people will know these and therefore be able to join in. A better sound system would also improve the singing. Thanks go to all from the Young People & Families group and other volunteers for making this event happen.

**162.19 Gants** At the last panel meeting on 22 January 2019 the following grants were awarded.  
*Community Chest* : Evergreens £200 / Kids & Co £250 / Distington Old Folks Reunion £500.  
*Transport Grant* : Evergreen £75 / Distington Old Folks Reunion £500. It should be noted that the amount awarded to Distington Old Folks Reunion is reflective of the large number of people that they put events on for.

**163.19 Arts Out West** The next show we have booked is 'Perils at Sea' on Saturday 23 March 2019.

**164.19 Board Nomination** Alan Hunter advised that he would like to join the Board to offer advice and support on the work we are doing. His nomination was accepted, and as is standard practice, he will join as a non voting member initially.

**165.19 Staffing** We are please to announce that following interviews, we have appointed Lindsay Bodman to cover VA's maternity leave.

IM will be on leave from 20-28 February and 26-29 March 2019.

RH will be on leave from 17 April to 2 May 2019. [REDACTED]

**165.20 AOB** IM & RR received an email from Alan thanking us for the chocolates and well wishes we sent in December. [REDACTED]

We have received a thank you note from Kidz & Co for the grant monies they have received.

**Big Local Connects 2019 will take place in Nottingham on 13 & 14 September 2019, there are up to 3 spaces for each Big Local area – Can DBL members please have a think about who might attend.**

**Date of next Board Meeting: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019, 3 – 5 pm at the Community Centre**

Land Development Group Meeting – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 1pm, Community Centre

Residents Wellbeing & Community Group – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 11am, Community Centre

Young People & Families Group - tbc