

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



**Distington Big Local Ltd Board Meeting**  
**Monday 6 April 2020, at 1 pm, via Zoom**  
**Distington Community Centre**

**Present:** Rhoda Robinson RR(Chair), Norma Pritt NP, Vic Askew VA Josephine Greggain JG, Alison Boyd AB, Hunter SH, Paula Speight PS, Julia Powley JP, Pete Duncan PD, Ingrid Morris IM (Minutes)

**Apologies:** Elaine Ismay EI, Annette Whitehead AW, Karen Hodgson KH, Jean Skelly JS, Lindsay Bodman LB

**266.20 Welcome** Everybody welcomed to the first Zoom meeting (some board members unable to attend due to IT challenges)

**267.20 Conflict of Interests** None

**268.20 Minutes of Last Meeting** N/A

**269.20 Date & time of next Board Meeting** Tuesday 28 April 2020 at 12 noon (via Zoom)

**270.20 Distington Fareshare Group Support during Covid 19** The Board agreed to award the Fareshare group £500 from the Community Chest grant to support their work delivering supplies to those in need. The grant can be used for travel expenses, PPE, food supplies and whatever else is needed. The group are also named *Action Against Hunger, Distington*, to enable them to widen their reach at this difficult time, they have increased the bags they give out from around 30 to 50. They are accessing free food from places like Morrison & through Cumbria County Council Covid 19 support team. They had ceased Fareshare collection for a while due to concerns about Covid 19 but have now started up again, with the group delivering food directly to the homes of those in need. Plastic bags are currently being used for this. It was suggested that the £1 donations for the Fareshare food can continue by using a tin or tub that people can put the money into. It can then be left for several days to ensure any contamination there may have been is no longer present. IM to liaise with Credit Union on how best to get this money to them. Tina in the village has raised approximately £270 for this group which is fantastic. VA to ensure the group have access to this cash which is in our safe. IM can now report that, since the meeting, the grant has been paid into the groups Credit Union account.

**271.20 Distington ARL Friends not Foe** The Board agreed to also fund this group £500 from the Community Chest to ensure that the volunteers are not out of pocket and can buy the supplies that they need. This voluntary group (made up of Distington 'rugby lads') set themselves up in response to Covid 19 and with help from DBL, got the list of elderly residents living on their own, compiled by the Good Neighbourhood Scheme (set up by J Bowman). This list of people they support continues to grow with input from Distington Surgery and other agencies. The group collects and delivers basic essential foods and prescriptions for those in need and generally checks that they are doing OK. IM can now report that the grant money has been paid directly into ARL's bank account.

It is really heartening to see our community come together as they have at a time like this, and just reinforces the fact that Distington is a strong community with volunteers willing to do what they can, rallying around to help. Fantastic job, well done everybody!

It was agreed that Vic should help coordinate these groups, which she already has been doing.

**272.20 Other support ideas in response to the current crisis.** LB suggested we could send postcards of encouragement to elderly people not on social media. The board agreed to this on a monthly basis and for them being posted out by Royal Mail. It will be difficult to get a list of names for this but we will all try. Once we have an idea of how many may be on the list IM to circulate to the board with postage costs for approval.

There was also a discussion about us setting up a kids writing / rapping competition with prizes given by DBL, as suggested by RR. We will consider a title / theme for this, how the competition will be run, start and end date, prize money, publication on social media, consent, age category and so on. VA, LB & IM to set up

**273.20 Newsletter** We will get this completed and sent out after Easter. Due to the current situation, distribution will be mainly electronic but we will also try and ensure that those residents who do not use computer or social media get a printed copy. See link for advise on leaflet distribution <https://covidmutualaid.org/resources/#tab-con-9> . Can we please all think about which residents should received a hard copy of the newsletter and let VA know so that she can compile a list.

**274.20 AOB** PD suggested contacting Home Group to see what they are doing to support their residents at this time, so we can ensure those needing help will get it. IM to follow up.

It was agreed to set up a Board members Whatsapp group so we can easily and quickly stay in touch during this difficult time. If you are happy to, please provide IM with your mobile number if you have not done so in the past. IM to set up.

NB: Due to Covid 19, group activities run by DBL have stopped for the time being.

### **Meeting Dates**

Residents Wellbeing & Community Group Tuesday 2 June 2020 at 11am  
Young People & Families Group, Wednesday 3 June at 6.30 pm  
Land Development Group, tbc

**Date of next Board Meeting: Tuesday 28 April, 12 Noon, via Zoom**