



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

Distington Big Local Ltd /Partnership Board Meeting Held on 18 August 2020 at 11.30 am, via Zoom

APOLOGIES

Josephine Greggain and Joy Jones

PRESENT

Rhoda Robinson - Chair (RR), Norma Pritt (NP), Annette Whitehead (AW), Julia Powley (JP), Pete Duncan (PD), Paula Speight (PS), Alison Boyd (AB), Jean Skelly (JS), Elaine Ismay (EI), Ingrid Morris (IM), Vic Askew (VA) and Lindsay Bodman (Notes) (LB)

307.20 Welcome RR welcomed everyone to the meeting

308.20 Conflicts of Interest NP and Community Centre

309.20 Minutes of Previous Board Meeting

The minutes of the Board meeting held on 16 June 2020 were accepted as a true record.

310.20 Date and Time of Next Board Meeting & AGM Monday 19th October at 6pm via Zoom

IM raised that the AGM is due. PD to investigate how other Big Locals are handling AGM's during Covid.

311.20 Treasurers Report (JP)

JP explained that the report is complex due to the land development. We need to consider about what happens about the land moving forwards (as this will affect finances). IM advised that a Land Development meeting was taking place on 19 August to discuss ways forward.

312.20 FareShare

Discussion was held about the space for storage of food in the Community Centre. NP told the meeting that a computer course will start up again on 15 September. The Library will need to be cleared of food by that time. JS will raise the issue with the FareShare team today. AB suggested it be a good idea to include photos into the 'typical FareShare week' which will explain the work they do. It was noted that this was the last week that NorthLakes Foodbank would provide the school food bags. **ACTION: JS to raise storage in Library with FareShare Team NB Since this meeting the Community Centre has re-opened and the Craft Club started up again on 1 September, Fareshare could no longer use the main hall (use of the library was also an issue due to Covid 19) and have since moved to the Old Chapel.**

313.20 Friends Not Foe No further items were raised.

314.20 Village Maintenance

Ronnie needs a new strimmer and hedge cutter. He will research costing and IM will let the Board know the price. JS asked why Ronnie didn't have his usual summer assistant. IM reminded the Board that Ronnie was working alone this summer as his previous assistants now had other jobs and training another assistant would take a long time. For this reason Ronnie had felt it best to work alone this summer. JS told the meeting that a resident had said they were willing to pay

more if there were two members of staff on garden maintenance. SH used to use Capricorn garden services who charged £15 an hour.

Dixons Haulage, Lillyhall have approached Ronnie to see if he can cut their grass. Ronnie costed it at £40 per cut. It will need cut every 3weeks. IM asked if the Board agreed to this. NP questioned if the charge of £40 included travelling expenses as Dixons Haulage is a business.

The Board decided that if Ronnie has time to take on this new job (due to there being no cut required for the football club) then Ronnie can go ahead.
JS left the meeting at 12 noon.

315.20 Converting to a charitable Community Benefit Society

SH asked if some the legal cost of converting to a CBS can be covered by the Copeland grant. IM advised that she has spoken to our contact at Copeland who agreed to some of this spend being covered by their grant as there will be an under spend in legal costs in the area of drainage easement.

316.20 Land Development

SH stated that we are at a point with H21 where we need to get tougher. H21 want the footprint reduced but have not provided any specifics. We are in our rights to ask for a plan so we can be informed as to exactly what they are asking for. This kind of change would require a new planning application, which surely H21 should pay for (in any case DBL do not have the funds to cover this).

Discussions were had about contacting other RP's. SH explained that it is not easy as a prospectus on the project/ design needs to be produced. Bill is happy to pull this together but we don't know if this would incur a cost. Engaging with other RP's will take time. PD summed up that there were 2 elements at play. Has the H21 scheme been taken as far as it can go? If so, you need to look for another RP. H21 do seem to think you want an extra care scheme – which is incorrect. (On the H21 website they specify that 'retirement housing needs an ideal of 40-70 properties per scheme'. SH had also read that H21 say 'We undertake development in many ways....' - so they are used to taking on schemes of different designs.

ACTION: PD will forward Bill's list of RP's to SH and IM. **ACTION: PD to help set up senior H21 and DBL meeting**

An in-depth discussion on the above will be held at the Land Development Group on 19 August. The group will meet without H21.

Update of above mentioned meeting: DBL decided not to make changes to the planning application at this stage (adding 2 extra apartments in to reduce the communal spaces as requested H21, which was then followed by a request from them to reduce the overall footprint of the design) and put negotiations with H21 on hold for now while we wait for a decision from planners and decide how we progress getting an RP on board to build and manage the scheme.

ACTION: PD to continue getting advice on how best to proceed with H21 and also look at other potential RP's

PS left the meeting at 12.10 pm.

317.20 Land Development – Planning

Discussion was held about the recent planning application. There were challenges to the application and most of these centred around the proposed apartment overlooking Distington Community School. Changes to the design have included a 50 cm height reduction and a re-design of the windows over-looking the school.

The planners have requested an Arboreal Survey which will cost £417 . The extra drainage survey they requested has been carried out. The need for a sub station has been identified and added to the design by HLP.

318.20 Positive Postcards

Joy Jones has kindly offered to help write these with LB. The Bennett Brothers mentioned in a recent Whitehaven News article that they had received our thank you postcard from the village. The Board agreed that another batch of positive postcards could be sent out in month's time.

ACTION: LB to set reminder to write again in a month

319.20 Covid-19 Memories (Competition for Children)

No entries were received from older children. Entries were from Primary school age and younger. JP kindly offered to judge the competition. Entries consisted of pictures and photos. It was worthwhile for those who entered. However, the competition was perhaps not as reflective as we envisaged. **ACTION: VA to arrange distribution of prize money.**

320.20 Covid -19 Memories (Adults)

There will be no closing date for this. LB in talks with Whitehaven Archives to see if we could submit the memories to them for historic purposes. NP mentioned that there are two unused time capsules stored in the Community Centre. Perhaps we could use one for DBL and one for Covid-19. Nicola Stephenson in the village has collated a lot of memories.

321.20 DCYP

Further to the Young People and Families Group meeting (held on 12 August), DCYP are hoping to help with some weeding in the village, supplying its helpers with pizza.

322.30 Covid-19

IM and VA updated the meeting that the Perspex screen for the DBL/Community Centre office will cost £328. Discussion was held as to who should pay for the screen. The office needs to be as safe working environment. Perhaps we need to keep the office door closed to control entry and wear masks when social distancing is not possible **ACTION: VA to speak to Alex about the screen**

Carl Cooper has indicated he is not keen on the Men's DIY Group restarting in the Community Centre. A risk assessment would need to be done if the group restarts. The Community Centre have sent a risk assessment out to all their hirers. JP suggested that sachets of sugar/conference style packets of biscuits would be sensible. The Church is using something similar. **ACTION: LB to contact another member of the group to see what he thinks**

IM mentioned that the Job Club, which was run on a weekly drop in basis in the Library prior to Covid-19 could be run by appointment only. There has never been much uptake for it.

323.20 Play Park

The land off Hinnings Road is being gifted to Distington Parish Council via an asset transfer. Subsidence issues have been investigated by Home Group on houses surrounding the site. Is the site suitable for a play park? Do we know if any surveys have been carried out on the land? IM has advised Active Cumbria that we are hoping to build a play park in the village and would need match funding to, this might be something they can help us with. The asset transfer might not stipulate a play park is built on the land, if a play park isn't possible on that site, could it be used for parking for the surgery?

ACTION: LB to check with Copeland Council and let Board know

324.20 Active Cumbria Funding

Active Cumbria have extended their Covid 19 funding to March 2021. Following our recent Residents Wellbeing & Community group meeting, we are working at getting a grant to pay for an exercise class for over the over 60's. An hour-long class on a Monday or Thursday morning would work well, it was decided to ask Tina to deliver it, which she can. The funding will hopefully pay for hire of the hall and Tina's time. We are hoping to start this in early September.

325.20 Cumbria Exchange They may be able to help with Trustees / Members for the board.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.