

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



Distington Big Local Ltd Board Meeting
17th April 2018 at 3pm
Distington Community Centre

Present: Rhoda Robinson (Chair), Pete Duncan, Paul Tharagonnet, Ingrid Morris, Victoria Pooley (Minutes) Julia Powley, Karen Hodgson, Sue Hunter, Christine Pattinson

Apologies: Elaine Ismay, Annette Whitehead, Carl Cooper, Norma Pritt, Alison Boyd, Josephine Greggain,

Not Present: Hollie Dennis (PCSO), Clayton Sutton, Shelley Hewitson

90.18 Welcome

The chair welcomed everybody to the meeting.

91.18 Conflict of Interests

Karen Hodgson, Funding Request from Distington ARL

92.18 Minuets of February's meeting.

An error was highlighted in the previous Board minutes, in the paragraph – 89.18 - AOB; it states; 'bus stop' however it should read 'bus shelter'. VP/IM to amend this and post approved minutes on to DBL's website.

93.18 Land Development

The HLP team have produced a draft Community Consultation Analysis Report. The result of this shows no definite suggestions for what the residents would like on the land. A strong message that did come out of the consultation is that people would like 'something for the whole village'. A high proportion of people did like the idea of housing for older people and social facilities. As a result of this and the fact that Cumbria County Council and Copeland Borough Council state a need for extra care housing in the area, the Land Development group feels that housing for elderly people would be the best type of development for the site. Pete explained to the Board the meaning of Sheltered Housing, this is self contained housing where people live as independently as possible (possibly with a pull cord alarm system). Extra Care Housing is more like a *nursing home* where residents have their own rooms and bathrooms but other facilities are communal. The Board made a unanimous decision to go ahead with the plan for some sort of housing for elderly people on the site. It is unclear as of yet what type of housing this will be. HLP are now in the process of drawing up draft plans for what the site development may look like. There are currently some unresolved questions about land ownership surrounding the site. HLP have suggested Distington Big Local try and get some answers via our solicitors. The Board have agreed the cost of this spend which will be in the region of £300 + VAT.

94.18 Public Consultation Event

The next stage of the land development will be a public consultation. We are planning to hold a community event and public consultation together on the Old Legion Land. The Board agreed a date for this to take place on Saturday 9th June at 10am. We will use the Community Centre for refreshments and serving pie and peas. A large marquee will be set up on the legion land with various stalls inside such as land development plans, face painting, family games etc.... It will be a much smaller event than the last summer fun day, however some of the previous years bookings (which proved popular) will be rebooked again. The Board agreed a budget of £5,000 for this event. VP/IM to make flyers to post to residents surrounding the land. VP/IM to book items and make an events planner. **NB Since this meeting, the Land Development group & HLP feel we need more time to consider types of development for the site, therefore we are hoping to change this event to 15 September (subject to agreement by funders).**

95.18 Race Night

The latest Community Event held in March was a success. After the night starting off with not very many attendees, it ended up with a room full of Distington residents with the help of Christine from DCYP and local residents in the CASC. The total cost of the event was £370 and the income raised was £203, this was given to the Community Centre for their extension (as previously agreed).

96.18 Mixed Martial Arts

As discussed in previous Sub Group and Board meetings, the Board had agreed to help support a new class into the village. After months of no uptakes for this opportunity. Vic was approached by a local man who has recently completed a teaching course in Mixed Martial Arts. He has agreed to set up a new MMA class (days/times to be arranged) with Distington Big Local covering the cost of venue hire and charging attendees £2 per session. DBL will make up the difference it would normally cost to attend the session to the course provider. If the classes prove successful, they would then run independently after the 10 weeks. The Board all agreed to go ahead still fund this.

97.18 Cumbria Family Arts Network

Ingrid has recently had a meeting with this group who understand why DBL didn't take them up on their offer of plays/events in February. It is thought that residents may become more involved in workshops that include arts & crafts, dance & performance skills designed to build confidence and provide an opportunity to take part in something with friends or family members that they are currently unable to do in Distington. The Board agreed to pursue with this and to get in touch with local groups in the village to see if they would like some taster sessions. IM/VP to ask local groups if they would be happy for some taster sessions.

98.18 Maintenance Assistant

We had only one applicant for this post of Maintenance Assistant. This post is a part time, temporary contract for 16 weeks at 18 hours per week. The successful candidate is Mr Paul Hewer. Paul will begin working for Distington Big Local from May and to end August. The cost of this will be in the region of £2,600.

99.18 Football Pitch

G and A M Lawson Ltd have quoted £75 per day for the hire of their sit on roller. The Board agreed to this spend. VP/IM to ring Lawson's and book the roller when required by Ronnie. The lock on the football container is currently out of use. Ronnie will need to repair this once he is back from leave. VP/IM to ensure Grass Road Sharks has the correct key for the container lock.

100.18 Free Food Distribution

Sellafield contacted Distington Big local again before Easter, as they had a large amount of surplus food left over from an event. One of our sub Group members collected the food from the company and brought it to Distington Community Centre where it was distributed out to the village residents. A lot of the food was used by the toddler group and taken home by the parents on that same day food was also given to other groups including elderly residents in the village. The residents of Distington were very appreciative of this. To date we have no more news on the possibility of offering the FareShare scheme in Distington.

101.18 Treasures Report

Our Spend Report to Big Local is due on 20th April 2018. We are still waiting for CVS to sort out some issues with regards to invoices for salaries paid. Things are improving at their end due to a new member of staff. We are doing ok on spend.

102.18 Request for Funding Support

We have had a request for funding support from Distington ARL for £1,600 to drain the corner of the rugby pitch which has turned into a swamp. The work entails 'putting in pipe work to redirect the water to a stream and applying 40 tonnes of drainage stone.' Distington ARL currently have one quote from Lawson's for the work (cost £1,600) and are currently waiting for a second quote from another firm who they have approached. The Board had a show of hand and all agreed to fund £1000 to Distington ARL subject to a second quote. (As there was no quorum for this due to conflict of interest, and some Board members being unable to attend, the remaining Board members were consulted after the meeting and agreed to the spend).

103.18 Future Funding of CAB

The current funding for this project has come to an end. CAB submitted a report for the period October 2017 to March 2018. It highlighted that there is a rise in hungry children across West Cumbria. In previous years meal vouchers for the summer holidays have been available for all children eligible for free school meals. In many areas, including Distington, there was little uptake of this scheme. A recent report in the media states that a Head teacher from a School (unnamed) in West Cumbria is worried that children from their school (and other schools) aren't receiving sufficient meals during weekends and especially during non-term times. It states: "Children are filling their pockets with food to take home because they are not sure if they're going to get another meal that day; in some establishments that would be called stealing. We call it survival." Catrina, from CAB, is very keen to get this voucher scheme promoted in time for this years summer holidays, to ensure more uptake. The Board agreed that this is a very worthwhile scheme to promote that would greatly benefit some of our residents. We will also work with other local organisations to promote the vouchers. The Board unanimously agreed to continue to fund the service of CAB, to provide outreach support for Distington for another year at a cost £10,152.

104.18 Local Trust National Event

Local Trust is holding a national 2 day event in London on 29th/30 June 2018. They have asked if Distington Big Local is happy to give a presentation on local environmental improvements that have been carried out in our village. Distington Big Local will pair up with another Big Local funded area from the West Midlands and engage in a session looking at how the two different areas approach community maintenance. There is space for 3 people from each area to attend the event, it was agreed that Karen Hodgson, Christine Pattinson, and Sue Hunter will attend the event. Costs will be covered by Local Trust.

105.18 Community Centre & Distington Big Local Sign

The new sign has been put up at the entrance to the Community Centre. The cost for this was £395.28.

106.18 AOB

Village Notice Board – A Board member mentioned that the notice board outside the Methodist Chapel is hard to access to read the notices and maybe not in the best place it could be. It was agreed to consider other places for it to go that might be more accessible. VP to look into alternative places and report this for agreement.

GDPR Update – Pete read out the new requirements for this to the Board. VP/IM to amend current policy to ensure it is inline with all new regulations as of 25th May 2018.

Arts Out West – Ingrid is meeting with the group this Saturday 21st April to discuss possible new bookings.

Grants Panel Meeting – The next meeting takes places on 24th April 2018, the closing date for applications is 17th April 2018.

Board Member: Clayton Sutton, who joined the Board at the AGM last September, has been unable to attend any meeting to date. His input would be very welcome but he is struggling to find the time to attend. He is thinking about his availability and whether he is able to become a member of Young People & Families group.

Dates of Next Meeting

Board Meeting – Tuesday 22nd May, 3pm in the Community Centre

Sub Group Meeting Dates

Community & Environment and Residents Wellbeing Groups meeting - Friday 18th May 2018 at 9:30am in the Community Centre.