

Distington Big Local Ltd Board Meeting
2nd October 2018
Distington Community Centre



Present: Rhoda Robinson (Chair), Pete Duncan, Alison Boyd, Annette Whitehead, Norma Pritt, Ingrid Morris, Victoria Pooley (Minutes), Josephine Greggain, Paul Tharagonnet, Karen Hodgson, Elaine Ismay, Ronnie Hewer.

Apologies: Carl Cooper, Julia Powley, Christine Pattinson, Sue Hunter

Not Present: Hollie Dennis, Shelley Hewitson

121.18 Welcome

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting.

122.18 Conflict of Interests

Karen Hodgson – Football Pitch.

123.18 Minutes of July's meeting.

Were passed as a true record.

124.18 Garden and Village Maintenance Work

DBL have been approached by CASC to put a fence up at the bottom of the football pitch, leading on to the cycle path. This would be to stop dog walkers using the area and a 'Private Land and No Dogs' signs put in place. Ronnie said; he thinks if we block the access to the cycle path, residents will still access the land and stay on the land rather than using it as a short cut as they do now. Karen asked if CASC could have Ronnie to carry out the work as a maintenance job. Ronnie said; he doesn't think that blocking the access would go down well with local residents and suggested putting a fence along the whole of the football path, creating a boundary between the pitch and other land; this way residents could still use the land and not cross over onto the football pitch. Karen said she would take this suggestion to the CASC and come back to Distington Big Local with their response.

Ronnie told the Board that the two Perspex panels on the bus shelter on Main Street (by the steps, Workington bound) has been kicked out. Ingrid spoke to a staff member from Cumbria County Council, who said that they would find out if it's the Parish council or the Borough Council who own the shelter and ask them to repair it.

The two health walk signs on Barfs Road have disappeared. Ronnie will make new signs and put them higher up, in the hope that people can't vandalise them again.

Ingrid has spoken to various people at Home Housing regarding the fly tipping allegation, DBL is waiting to hear if we are able to use the land in the future.

125.18 Land Plan Event

The event was a success and seen around 150 people attending it. 54 of those completed feedback forms. 43 said they were in favour of the scheme and 11 said that they were not. This equates to 79.62% supporting the main idea of the plan. HLP will produce a consultation report for us. The event proved popular with local MP Trudy Harrison, an article on her visit and comments appeared in the local press. Distington surgery has also shown an interest in the plan. Dr Rebecca Qualtrough got in touch after reading the article, saying the surgery are very keen to offer support and advise at planning stage, regarding any health needs and medical support that future residents may have. It was suggested that we could invite Bill to our AGM to present the work done to date on the land and to give feedback from the

Land Plan event. Bill has advised he will be coming to the AGM. Matt Leech, Chief Executive of Local Trust, has spoken to Pete Duncan and is very interested in our land project. Pete will invite him to come and meet us for an informal chat in the future. The cost of the event was approximately £2,450 and the raffle in support for Mr Gary Hewer's Fiji trip this November raised a total of £92.

126.18 Land Development

Next Steps: Andy Lloyd will deliver a series of work shops (starting next week) to the Land Development group and anyone else who wishes to attend. We have received Phase 1 Planning funding from the National CLT (Community Land Trust) Network which will cover most of Andy's costs for the above. Ingrid thanked Sue for applying for this funding. Ingrid, Sue and Pete recently had a meeting with Homes England, who advised to apply for Revenue funding for full planning application. They may be able to fund up to 90% of the costs for us. Ingrid spoke to Bill who advised that full planning could cost in the region of 200,000. He also suggested that we go for a pre planning application as the next step. Bill has spoken to Copeland, who says that they do not charge for this and Bill advised that he is also happy to do his part of the work at no cost. The Board agreed to go ahead with the other 10% cost for the full planning application, if we are successful in receiving this funding. Bill suggested to Ingrid that it would be a good idea for the Land group to visit different types of schemes already in place, to get an idea of what might work well in Distington. Pete suggested getting in touch with Birchwood Big Local in Lincoln, where they are also working on a housing development for elderly people. Action: IM / SH to get in touch with them to arrange an exchange meeting.

It was discussed that setting up a separate organisation for the Housing Project would be the best option. This way it would ensure that DBL Board isn't swamped by the project, though it would obviously still be involved. The Board agreed to this taking place.

127.18 FareShare and Foodbank

The pilot scheme that took place over the summer holidays was a huge success. Citizen's Advice has succeeded in securing £3,540 of funding to develop youth volunteering in Distington through the project, working closely with DCYP. The sub groups in previous meetings were very keen to continue this project now that the pilot scheme has come to an end. The costs for DBL to fund the project for the next 12 months are as follows: £8 per week for travel costs to collect the food which equates to an actual cost of £416 for a 12 month period. 'In kind' costs to cover staff time for supporting the project by managing the volunteer rota, ordering the food, paying invoices, collecting and processing the money, writing reports and so on might cost in the region of £2,340, but could be a lot less, these are not extra costs. Citizens Advice is happy to support the project during office closure and busy periods, where possible. The Board agreed to fund the future costs of this project for the next 12 months, with a view to the volunteers building on their skills and confidence and being able to continue to run the project independently by setting up their own community group with support from DBL. They would then also be able to apply for DBL's Transport and Community Chest Grants for the continued running of the project.

128.18 Arts Out West

The following performances will be at Distington Community Centre:

'Aaaaargh Dinosaurs', Monday 22nd October 2018 at 2pm. 'From Jude to Bette', Friday 23rd November 2018 at 7pm. Tickets are £5 – adults and £3 – under 18's for Distington Residents, or £10 – adult and £5 under 18's for non residents. The Community and Environment sub group agreed to provide refreshments for both of these events. This will be popcorn and juice for 'Aaaaargh Dinosaurs' and tea, coffee and biscuits for 'From Jude to Bette'. DBL will cover the cost of the refreshments. The Arts Out West menu launch was held at Distington Community Centre on Saturday 29th September. Ingrid thanked the sub group for helping out at the event. The 2019 menu is now available for performance selection. The members who attended the event suggested two performances for next year, these being: 'Peril at Sea' and 'The Chef Show'. Action: VP to complete spring menu 2019 and send off to Arts Out West.

129.18 Christmas Event

The Young People and Families and Community & Environment/Residents Well Being sub groups are all keen to see the Christmas event happen again this year. The best date agreed for this to take place is Sunday 9th December. The Board agreed to this date. Ingrid has spoken to someone (who) about lantern making workshops. This would happen before the event and be open to all residents to attend. The lanterns could then be used at the event. The cost of the workshops is yet unknown. Last year the overall cost of the Christmas event was £425. The Board agreed to a budget of £1,500 for this years' event, although it may well be a lot less.

130.18 Job Club

We have one regular attendee and have successfully helped one person gain employment this year.

131.18 Befriending Scheme

We recently had a meeting with Age UK and progress on this project is still slow. There are people being visited and telephoned by the Befrienders, however we are aware there are still lonely residents in the village. Working together and with the surgery, Church, Chapel Project, Fareshare project and other local events and schemes we may well find new volunteers coming forward and ways to develop our Befriending project in the future. The potential land development would also help to combat the issue of loneliness in the coming years.

132.18 ARL Request for Funding

To date this has not yet been carried out.

133.18 Treasure's Report (JP)

Ingrid provided hard copies of the current figures for the Board.

134.18 AOB

Raspberry Pi Club Paul advised that they are working with a local farmer to help him set up a control panel on his silage machine. He has also delivered a 3 day Raspberry Pi workshop in Whitehaven library and is happy to help school to deliver a Raspberry Pi project to the pupils as well as helping to maintain their laptops with updates etc. Thanks also to Paul for all the IT support he gives us in the office, having recently updated and maintained our office computers and laptops

Forms to be completed for Local Trust were handed out by PD.

Date of Next Board Meeting

Tuesday 4th December 2018 at 3pm in Distington Community Centre.

Distington Big Local's AGM

Friday 2nd November, 6pm in Distington Community Centre

Sub Group Meeting Dates

Land Development Group – Monday 8th October 1pm, in Distington Community Centre

Community & Environment/Residents Wellbeing Groups – Friday 30th November, 9:30am in Distington Community Centre.

Young People & Families Group – Wednesday 17th October, 6:30pm at Distington Club for Young People