



Distington Big Local Ltd Board Meeting
26th July 2018 at 3pm
Distington Community Centre

Present: Rhoda Robinson (Chair), Pete Duncan, Alison Boyd, Annette Whitehead, Norma Pritt, Ingrid Morris, Victoria Pooley (Minutes), Sue Hunter, Josephine Greggain,

Apologies: Elaine Ismay, Karen Hodgson, Carl Cooper, Paul Tharagonnet, Julia Powley, Christine Pattinson

Not Present: Hollie Dennis, Shelley Hewitson

107.18 Welcome

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting.

108.18 Conflict of Interests

Annette and Norma – Community Centre Extension

109.18 Minutes of April's meeting.

Were passed as a true record.

110.18 Garden and Village Maintenance Work

It was decided unanimously that Ronnie charges customers per man hour. Therefore if there are two men working on one garden, the cost will be per man hour not the overall time spent there. Action: VP to amend current timesheet. After discussion with our maintenance man Ronnie, he explained that he usually does charge for both his and his assistant's time already. The hope is that this project could continue independently when Distington Big Local's funded has come to an end.

111.18 Public Consultation Event

The event will take place on Saturday 15th September, 10am – 2pm. A 6x9 metre marquee will be placed near to the entrance of the site, where the Halsall Lloyd team will be situated. They will produce a story board for the marquee which will explain what Big Local is, what we do, the results of the public consultation and what a housing development might look like. A model of this will be displayed in the marquee. Information about other community organisations will also be displayed on the boards; these being Distington CASC, the Community Centre, the Methodist Chapel the Football and Rugby Clubs, DCYP and Distington Community School. There will be a climbing wall, tea cups and saucer ride, ice cream van, face painting (by DCYP) and a live singer at the event. Other organisations supported by Distington Big Local will also have stalls; these are Age UK, Citizens Advice and the Credit Union. Residents will be given a short feedback survey to fill out at the event. Once this is completed they will be given a ticket in return for complementary pie, peas and gravy and sausage rolls for the children, in the Community Centre.

The site for the event needs a clear up; it was agreed that Ronnie and Paul will ensure this happens before the event. Ronnie has already sprayed weed killer on the site in preparation for this clean up. The large boulders blocking the entrance to the site will need to be moved (as near to the event as

possible) Action: VP to arrange this to take place with a local resident who has the appropriate machinery for this to happen.

A board member suggested that we invite the local press to the event and other local organisations, including local councillors etc... Action VP to invite all to event.

Pete suggested DBL having a briefing session to prepare for any questions that may be asked at the event. Action: IM/VP to arrange a date for this to happen ASAP. The Board agreed that we should show the public how many hours the volunteers have put in to make DBL a success and what projects we have already supported previously and alongside the Old Legion Land development. Action: IM/VP to make a display board containing all this information.

112.18 Land Development

The outcome of the public consultation event will then determine what we do next. Providing the residents are in favour, the next step would be to apply for outline planning consent (December/January time) and deciding what legal structure we should set up to manage a housing scheme. Also how we could do it, either by ourselves or with a housing association. We would need to look at applying for funding to support the next phase of the development. Pete Duncan has provided us with a series of workshop headings on organisational support, however he can not deliver them himself as Local Trust is not keen to see Big Local Advisors take on additional work paid for by their areas that might compromise their role as a 'critical friend'. It could create a conflict of interest and has done in some areas previously. Pete explained that he can still be involved in delivering some of the briefing sessions however he can not be paid for it. He suggested that DBL bring in Andy Lloyd to deliver the sessions. Andy is also a National CLT Advisor and has worked with almost all the community-led housing schemes in Cumbria. He is highly experienced on the technical, business planning and funding aspects of the Community Land Trusts and has worked closely with local communities, housing associations and developers. Andy has done a similar process of development (start to finish) in Keswick. The cost is approximately £3,500 to cover the briefing sessions. The Board all agreed to this cost and to go with Andy delivering the sessions. The sessions are due to take place between September-December 2018. Costs for the initial briefing sessions and anything up to planning permission could be obtained from the Community Land Trust or the Community Housing Association Fund, which is administered by Homes England. Or alternatively we could pay for this ourselves using Distington Big Local's money. A meeting needs to be set up with Homes England North West before we decide on this. PD/IM to arrange this. Pete advised that we look into expanding the Land Development Sub Group. We will use the Community Event as an opportunity for this. Distington Big Local needs to find out if we can use just Bill and his team for outline planning or would we need to put it out to tender. Action IM to find this out and report back.

113.18 Foodbank and FareShare

These sessions have begun running every Tuesday 2:30pm – 3:30pm in the Library. This will continue throughout the summer holidays (as a six week trial) with the hope that it can continue with less hands on support from Citizen's Advice, Credit Union and Distington Big Local in the future. The sessions have been very popular, providing food for 79 people on the first session, 39 of them being children. The first session was very busy and proved to take up a fair bit of IM/VP's time, therefore Citizen's Advice have agreed to bring in one of their administrators to each session to help with the paper work, this will free up IM & VP's time to be available in the office. The feedback from residents so far has been really positive, with lots of thanks for making this happen.

114.18 Community Centre Extension

In our last budget/plan we provisionally included £50k to be spent over the next 2 year on the Community Centre extension. The Community Centre has been granted full planning permission. Distington Big Local is now waiting for a formal funding application from the Community Centre.

115.18 Cumbria Family Arts Network

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the workshops haven't taken place yet. The Board agreed to revisit this project later this year. Action: IM/VP to get in touch and find out what seasonal workshops are available (possibly around the Festive period)

116.18 ARL Request for Funding

A funding agreement has been drawn up with Distington ARL for £1,000 to help pay for the drainage work on the pitch. This work has not yet been carried out.

117.18 Treasures Report

Due to the fact that our Treasurer was unable to attend this meeting, no report was available, however all finance information is available upon request. IM will circulate the report as soon as it is available.

118.18 Big Local Event, London – Feedback

Sue gave a presentation of the event. The feedback on the event was positive, it was good for networking and there was some interesting information in some of the sessions. The only negative; there was not a lot of time for discussions in the workshops, but overall an enjoyable event for the three Board members that attended.

119.18 AOB

Mixed Marshal Arts – Vic has been informed by the man who will be taking the class; he needs his brown belt qualification first for insurance purposes. He will be in touch with Vic once this is all in place.

Fiji Fund Request – A request came to DBL to fund a local resident who has been chosen to coach for BARLA in Fiji this November. After advice from our Local Advisor and Big Local the outcome was that we will not be funding the resident as; Big Local's don't normally fund individuals. These are rules set out by Local Trust who oversee this national project. DBL recognises that this is a fantastic achievement for a local resident and would still like to help out in some way. The Board agreed to support the resident at our Community Event in September. Whether this is through donations, tombola or a raffle is yet to be decided. Details of how will be discussed at a future Sub Group meeting. Action: VP to write a letter to the resident on the Boards decision and why.

120.18 Date for our next AGM

The date for the next AGM is Friday 26th October, 6pm in the Community Centre.

Dates of the next Board Meeting

Board Meeting – Tuesday 2nd October, 3pm in the Community Centre

Sub Group Meeting Dates

Land Development Group – Wednesday 22nd August 2018 at 2pm in the Community Centre

Community & Environment/Residents Wellbeing Groups – Friday 31st August 2018 at 9:30am in the Community Centre.

Young People & Families Group - TBC

