

**Partnership Meeting**

**Notes**

**17th October 2018,**

**St Ambrose’s Social Club,**

**7.00 pm to 9.00 pm**

1. **Present:** Bethany, Jayne, Brenda, Robert, Adrian, Sarah, Siri, Matthew, Helen

**Apologies:** Susie, Vander, Colby, Steve, Michael Conroy-Harris

2. **Notes** from September meeting read and approved.

3. **Conflicts of interest** on agenda items for this meeting – none

4. **Late Start** – The meeting was delayed by approximately half an hour due to parking issues and the location. After a last-minute change, we were able to go ahead- thank you to St. George’s for accommodating us.

4. **ContinU Plus – Domestic Abuse project** – Due to circumstances out of our control, Michael Conroy-Harris was unable to attend the meeting due to the unexpected late start, therefore couldn’t go ahead with the presentation. Brenda briefly touched upon the project, and everyone agreed how relevant it is and how much it needs awareness. We will look at rescheduling so that he can return in the November meeting.

5. **Ben Comm Update**. It was discussed that we cannot have our new worker start to help the Ben Comm until our new plan is put into place. We need to have enough external professionals onboard to manage the Ben Comm before we make any progression. The Partners agreed that they were happy for Matthew to start steering this and begin finding directors. Helen mentioned that she had already had a chat with Justin Bryant, a Community Housing associate that has worked closely with Big Local over a number of years. He has the potential to become a director. The Partnership agreed that he would be a perfect fit. We will continue to look for more directors with Matthew.

6. **Home Start Funding Request**. Home Start have put in a request for funding from December 2018-March 2019. The Partnership agreed that Home Start do fantastic work that is invaluable. Sarah said that ideally, she would like them to go above and beyond by turning their funding into a longer lasting legacy. Helen put forward the idea for all Partners to potentially take interest in specific grants/groups that we work with. It was agreed that this was a good idea, particularly for our bigger projects such as ContinU and Home Start. The Partners asked for Jayne and I to circulate more information about ContinU’s work (*see attached document*). Sarah has asked if we can look at dates for the Partners to visit Home Start clubs in the future. It was proposed by Sarah and seconded by Adrian for us to continue Home Start’s funding.

7. **Item from Grants Committee – Nancy Begum – Sewing project.** The Partnership agreed that they would love to give out funding to support the Bangladeshi community and discussed the positive change in so many of them attending the ‘Big Picnic’ at the end of August. Although, we agreed that there are lots of loopholes and that we would need to confirm that the people taking part are from our area. We also discussed looking at Nancy’s application from another angle and supporting her via a different method or way. We want to support an entrepreneurship, Adrian said we could consider supporting them through business skills training and tailoring training. Beth looked at the WEA and what courses they do, there are several sewing related courses at a reasonable price but not anywhere local. Helen said that to request a WEA course to come to your area, you must have 12 students minimum- this is something that is worth looking into and potentially funding for them. It was agreed that Beth and Jayne will look into this further and have another chat with Nancy in the office.

8. **Plan Review – Nov 17th – Initial thoughts on Key Priorities for 2019 – 2022**. Helen discussed the reviewing the Partnership too and how we are had started to get involved with different communities in the area- predominantly the Bangladeshi community over the summer- although we still have a long way to go. It was also discussed whether the three areas were well represented. We don’t have any partners from Greenhill currently, so that is something to look at for the future. This led to the conversation of needing more partnership members and needing to have more people that live in the area- Beth mentioned that we have a new potential partner coming into the office tomorrow. The Partners also looked briefly at our key priorities and how it may make sense to change improving the Horsefair to improving Sion Hill. This will be part of the agenda for the plan day on the 17th November.

9. **Leases: Sladen View and Office** There was a discussion around who would hold the leases for Big Local DY10’s office space and Sladen View. Potentially getting the Ben Comm together earlier than expected was put forward as an option, although the issue still arose in relation to finding suitable directors and a company secretary. Another option was to see if Vestia could continue to hold the lease for us in the meantime.

10. **Xmas events**: a) **Horsefair & Proud** It was agreed that we would donate £100 towards Horsefair and Proud’s Christmas event in December. Jayne/Beth to ask Dawn if we can give Big Local bags and pens to the Horsefair and Proud elves to give out as the children get their gifts.

b) **Santa in Sion Hill with PCSOs** It was agreed that last year was extremely successful and we were to have a repeat again this December. Beth is to get in touch with PCSOs and Dawn to confirm a date that both parties are available and contact stores about chocolate coin donations.

11. **Halloween** Partners were invited to join Beth and Jayne at Friends of Springfield Park’s annual Halloween event to help support and judge Big Locals fancy dress competition on 31 October

12. **A.O.B.**

a) Corina from ArtsEtc, a Kidderminster organisation, has contacted us to see if Big Local would like to get involved in a future project of theirs, working with adults and young people to reference the history of the local area and produce some public art. The Partners agreed that this would be an exciting, worthwhile project, but would like to know more. Beth will invite Corina into the office to discuss her idea further and advise her to put together a proposal to submit.

Our next Partnership meeting will be on the 21st November at 7pm.