

**Partnership Meeting**

**Notes**

**18th September 2019,**

**St Ambrose’s Social Club,**

**7.00 pm to 9.00 pm**

1. **Present:** Matthew, Sarah, Adrian, Brenda, Helen, Beth and Jayne

**Apologies:** Robert, Siri, Vander, Jo and Colby

1. **Notes** **from September meeting:**  Read and Approved. Proposed by Matthew and seconded by Brenda.
2. **Conflicts of Interest** – The Quarry item later was a possible conflict for Sarah and Matthew, however they both stated they were not part of the ‘Stop the Quarry’ Group itself but simply took part in the protests.
3. **LTO- St George’s finance update** Robert’s spend report was circulated on his behalf. He asked to be alerted to any issues with the report as he was about to submit the figures to Local Trust to facilitate the release of the next tranche of money. None were noticed.
4. **Sion Hill Update – Beth** The firstmeeting of people from Sion Hill interested in forming a community group took place on August 30th in the Portacabin in Springfield Park. Six people attended plus Sarah and Vander. Sarah noted that these six were people who didn’t engage easily so this was a success. Ideas were exchanged about what sort of projects might impact the area. A second meeting is planned for October. A Facebook page has been set up – Sion Hill Community Group. Stephen Curry, our photographer, had taken a series of photographs of ‘The Hill’ for banners to be used at the Measuring Change workshop, 28th September.

1. **Summer Activities – Jayne.** The Summer Activities had been a success overall but no real growth this year. The biggest improvement was in adults accompanying children at the picnics – up 15%. The Big Picnic is really valuable for the organisations who attend but again visitor numbers were not as good as last year. The amount of work and extra hours needed to deliver the summer programme outweighed the benefits and a conversation is needed about what we should do in future years. Brenda suggested that we reduce by one week possibly and asked what does the Big Picnic really achieve? This is to be carried over to the November meeting.
2. **Partnership Review – Helen** Its time to complete the forms again.
3. **Grants Update – Beth** circulated an overview of the grants disbursed this year. It was decided that this should be updated after each Grants meeting. It was also suggested that we look back at the grants feedback and do something with the data received. Beth to ask the Young Foundation if they can support us with this when helping to measure change.
4. **The Quarry –** A Grant application had been received from the Stop the Quarry group for £30,000 to £50,000. It was deemed to be ‘out of area’ and did not fit with our planned objectives and the size of the grant was way beyond our budget. However, there should be a conversation regarding the Quarry at this Partnership meeting. Sarah outlined that it was a large quarry planned in the Wolverley area and there is a very strong and politically motivated group trying to stop the development. Helen has had experience of these types of planning applications and that protests rarely succeeded. A discussion took place and it was emphasized that as individuals Partners may wish to join in protest but that the Partnership should not take part.
5. **Away Day November** The date was set for Saturday 23rd November at the Bellman’s Cross as in pervious years. Helen to facilitate**.** The November Partnership meeting will be moved to the first hour of the Away Day.
6. **Feedback from Big Local Connects 2019-** Brenda, Beth, Jayne and Vander had recently attended this event in Nottingham. All had enjoyed the many and varied workshops and activities. Vander fed back that she wanted to recommend a special Cook Book that had been developed for use by people on very limited budgets and using food banks. It explained how to build a store cupboard of staples that could then be used to create economical and nutritious meals.

It was agreed to buy these books to be used at the Franche Community Church food bank that recently received a grant from us. Vander to be consulted on the numbers to order.

1. **Youth Exploitation Activity –** Beth conducted an activity around this topic – what the challenges were and possible solutions. We explored local ideas that were helping address the issue. Helen recommended ‘Radical Help’ by Hilary Cottam. Brenda shared the meeting she had had with Laura from Severn Valley Railway discussing Youth involvement in their project at Falling Sands, with the possibility of involving Corina Harrison local artist.

**A.O.B.**

Matthew shared that he had visited many of the local community groups and even some in Stourbridge. He suggested that one way to get them all together would be to run a Quiz.

**Dates to remember**: Measuring Change workshop - 28th September

16th October Partnership meeting – candidate interviews from 6.00 p.m.

23rd November – Away Day from 10.00 am