

**Partnership Meeting**

**Notes**

**15th December 2021,**

**Via Zoom due to current Covid situation**

**7:00 – 8:30pm**

**Present:**, Helen, Adrian, Jayne, Brenda, Sarah, Mattie,

**Apologies:** Dawn, Robert, Jo

1. **Notes from the last meeting**: Notes were read and their acceptance proposed by Adrian and seconded by Mattie, agreed by all.
2. **Matters rising from notes**: Adrian suggested that a formal letter was written to Vander to express our support for her and the huge contribution she had made to Big Local DY10 over the years. All echoed his appreciation and Brenda agreed to draft a letter.
3. **Conflicts of interest:** None.
4. **LTO- St George’s finance update:** Robert was unable to attend but had sent his key points, these being: we had about £27,500 relating to legacy organization and just over £22,434 otherwise. HSBC are to start charging for the account.
5. **Grant Application St Ambrose School** The Grant Application for a community project to brighten up the playground to help the mental health of pupils was discussed. **Adrian proposed, Sarah seconded and all agreed that we award the project cost of £500.00,**
6. **Extension to Grant period.** Recently we had been contacted by Cattleya CICand ReadEasy, both grant recipients, asking for extensions to their grant period due to the inability to complete the projects as planned because of Covid restrictions. The Partners discussed and **Sarah proposed, seconded by Adrian**, that all grants be extended for 2 years in light of current Covid uncertainty.
7. **Letter received from Citizen’s Advice Bureau** Brenda shared a letter received from Elaine Lowe of Citizens Advice Bureau explaining their current situation. Wyre Forest will be losing the CAB services that so many of our residents turn to when in need of assistance and guidance. After discussion, Partners agreed Benda should meet with Elaine to prepare a project proposal for CAB to give debt counselling paid for from the Big Local DY10 Covid Recovery Financial Resilience money. This could take place in the Springfield Café.
8. **Christmas Packs** Jayne said that 375 packs had been distributed through schools with an additional 50 packs to the elderly. The recipients had been delighted! Dawn, aided by Dot James had done fantastic job in preparing all the packs and delivering them to the schools.
9. **Remaining Plan review Questions - Helen** Continuing on from work done at the November Away Day, Partners discussed the impact of Big Local DY10 in the area. Highlights were: The community forum, the Big Breakfast, and Mr Tee in the Park and other events. Also important were being recognised as the ‘go-to place’ in the area, and for collaboration with other agencies. Our Home Start Project supports many families in the area and their reports reflect on the massive impact we have and the great appreciation for Big Local’s work in the area. Big Local is changing the perception of the area – the Horsefair especially. Also, social media has an impact and helps people feel they ‘belong’. The surveys were also highlighted and the valuable feedback from the community upon which we will build our next Plan.
10. **Mattie Leadership update** CLA has reached its last session and Mattie feels they have done an amazing amount from being involved and experienced a lot of personal growth. They have learnt how to use storytelling to become the leader they are. They had also gained from the weekend away. They will continue working on self and about the community for the next 4 months.
11. **A.O.B** Brenda said we might be able to get a grant from WFDC to help with food poverty – we would focus on the 375 families who received out Xmas packs through schools, as these were the most in need of support.

A short discussion took place about place about how people joined the Partnership and how we could make it more ‘friendly’. It was thought we should review at the next meeting.