Aberfeldy Big Local

**Minutes of Board Meeting held on Tuesday 10th October 2017 at the Aberfeldy Community Centre**

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| *Board Members in Attendance*   1. Kim Nguyen (Chair) 2. Leila Lawal 3. Rev Matt Wall   *Also in attendance:*   * Sian Penner (Local Trust representative) * Edna Howard (Aberfeldy Resident) * James Watters (Aberfeldy Resident) * Abdul (Aberfeldy FC and resident) * Tofayel (Aberfeldy FC and resident) Liam Harney (ABL engagement worker) | *Apologies received:*   * Val De Vos * Ahmed Hussain * Rafi * Loretta |

|  |  | **Action** | **By Whom** | **By When** |
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| **1**  1.1  1.2 | **Reflection on the October Get Together**  **What Went Well**   * Good turnout: 40-60 people * Writing on the tables was a good ice breaker * Good to talk to people we see on the street * Good food * People seemed to enjoy themselves * Wasn’t a ‘moan fest’ * Lots of chatting was a good thing- it was a social occasion for most people to hang out with their neighbours and friends * It was good to get together for its own sake- we need more of this in Aberfeldy * Speech bubbles got lots of ideas, and were a good way to share information * The night turned out to be more informal than planned- but this was quite nice   **Even Better If**   * We used a microphone to get people’s attention * The tables were arranged perpendicular to the stage and the speakers stood on that to keep people’s attention * There was more movement and connectivity between tables * We didn’t try to squeeze as much in as we originally planned * Would be good to publicise more local activities * Publicising what ABL has spent on different initiatives- to be transparent |  |  |  |
| **2**  2.1  2.2  2.3  2.4  2.5 | **Discussion on the Ideas Shared at the Get Together: What Does Aberfeldy Need More Of?**  ‘Small Things’   * **Games nights**, Xbox/PlayStation competitions * **Women-only sports club** * **Day Trips** outside the area for children * **Women’s Exercise** in afternoon * **Sports for kids** * **More community events** and outings * **Ice Sports** for kids * **Women and Children’s Sport** ( * **Company and support for older people**/ point of access for older people to get help with shopping etc * **Live Music** * **Fetes and Fun Days** in the summer * **Variety Nights** * **Work Experience** * **A local directory of tradesmen** to help people in the community in an emergency, i.e. plumbers, electricians etc. * **Homework clubs** for primary school kids * **Christmas Meal and Party** * **Girls Football team** * **Fruit and Veg growing** * **Comedy Nights** * **Live plays**, dance performances etc. * **Somali language class for kids** * **People signing up to help in the community**, i.e. litter picking * **Advice on bidding for properties**   ‘Big Things’   * **Social Club** * **Pub** * **Better Shops** * **Low-Rise Living** **A Place for people to learn skills (Carpentry etc.)** * **Affordable Gym** * **Skate boarding area for youth** * **Youth Club** * **Lower Rents**-pricing local people out of the area * **Better Parks** with equipment for older kids   The group discussed some of these ideas, noting that we couldn’t do all of it due to not having the capacity. Some things will be easier to make happen when the Tommy Flowers is open. With the smaller things, Liam can talk to people who suggested them about possibly getting things going, but not rushing things. It was suggested that Aberfeldy FC could look at setting up a girl’s football team with help from Lukki Lashley. A gardening/growing iniaitive for Aberfeldy was also discussed, with mixed opinions from the group. A notice board was also suggested as a good idea to make people aware of local goings on. It was decided to keep these thoughts on the back burner as we go forwards.  The bigger things are harder to achieve, but not impossible, especially given that the estate is being regenerated, which gives potential opportunities for the community to leverage bigger changes from developers. It was suggested that ABL hold a public event for people to see all the planned developments on the estate and hear from developers. We can use this event to get ideas for how to engage with developers to get bigger things done. Also, where possible, ABL can partner with other groups to address issues, i.e. Citizens UK and their work on rent.  The group decided that we should focus next on organising a Christmas event for the community. We suggested a meal, indoor ice skating, a pantomime etc. James suggested a panto involving local people like there to be in the church hall. Matt said we’d need someone locally to be driving this. This is something we can aim towards in the long-run as we find people with different passions etc. | Liam to look into organising an event like this for the new year.  Liam to arrange a date for interested people to meet to plan this event ASAP. |  |  |
| **3**  3.1  3.2  3.3  3.4  3.5  3.6  3.7  3.8  3.9  3.10  3.11  3.12  3.13  3.14  3.15  3.16  3.17  3.18 | **Funding Applications**  The group assessed 3 applications for funding that had been submitted to the board this month. The applications had been assessed prior to this meeting on Friday 6th October by Leila, Liam and Sian.  The first application for discussion was from Aberfeldy Football Club. The proposal for a £12,000 grant for 3 years (£12,000 per year) to support the ongoing development of the team and the creation of 2 new youth teams: under 14 and under 16. Abdul and Tofayel left the room during this discussion.  Leila presented a summary of the review, responding to 8 questions that were asked of each application. The summary was as follows:   1. **How does the project proposal fit with the goals of ABL?**   Activity for young people and children  Making Aberfeldy safer by reducing ASB  Making Aberfeldy healthier through regular sport  Community Cohesion- bringing young boys and men together regularly  Employment- confidence and discipline for young people, skills development of residents through coaching  Engagement – raising the profile of Big Local through logo on kit and word of mouth  Engaging with young people and families  Resident engagement  Ensuring project funding can demonstrate resident involvement   1. **What would the project achieve towards the ABL Local Plan?**   As above   1. **Are there currently other projects similar or the same locally, or that are used by Aberfeldy residents? If so, why support this proposal over other local provision?**   There is no other regular football provision locally for Aberfeldy residents   1. **What are the risks of the project?**   Capacity – will the group be able to cater for the local interest?  Ongoing funding, the application is for a 3 year commitment – support is needed to help the group fundraise and develop the provision to ensure sustainability  Will the teams be open to all communities in the area?   1. **How are residents involved in this proposal?**   AFC is a resident-led team, and 80% of players are Aberfeldy residents. Residents are coaches in the team and the goal of the proposal is to benefit young Aberfeldy residents.   1. **Does the proposal come from residents? (ie the project has been designed and proposed by residents or with local residents)**   As above.   1. **What is the ongoing role of residents in the project delivery?**   As above.  The reviewers recommended that that partnership award the requested funding of £12,000 a year for 3 years to support the development of the team, including 2 new youth teams. The reviews also recommended supporting AFC to becoming financially sustainable by the end of the 3 years. The reviewers also asked if AFC could help develop a girl’s football team in the area as part of the grant.  The group discussed the proposal and the recommendations. James praised the team for being self-reliant for years before asking for funding which he felt shows a real commitment to the Aberfeldy community. Edna said it was good for young people in the area to do something positive. Sian suggested the ABL logo be included on the team’s training wear but not kit as it looks a bit too garish  A vote was held- it was decided unanimously to award AFC the money as requested.  The group then reviewed the proposal from Rejuvinate CIC to fund 120 hours’ worth of training provision in glasswork, carpentry, 3D printing, administration and design software skills as part of the East London Makerspace initiative that Rejuvinate were seeking to crowdfund around £60,000 to develop.  Liam, Sian and Leila reported back on the assessment of this application, answering the following questions:   1. **How does the project proposal fit with the goals of ABL?**   Project has the potential to support local people into employment, but we’re uncler about the actual proposed provision  Quoted from the application: *‘£20,000 to provide x4 x30hour accredited training sessions over course of year totaling 120 hours provision. With view to take on apprentices with view to providing full time jobs if they pass apprenticeship’*  4 weeks of training over 52 week period for 15 young people? Is this value for money: £166.66 an hour (£20,000/120 hours of provision).  Could ABL get more from £20,000?  5 or 6 volunteer placements seems quite low for the money.  What qualifications will people get?  Jobs and apprenticeships are not guaranteed  Are carpentry and glassware skills relevant to the current job market, and are Aberfeldy young people interested in these? Where’s the proof of community need/support for this idea?  Two services included as part of the proposal were participants’ access to Tower Hamlets Workpath and Poplar HARCA’s Employment service, but both are available to all Aberfeldy residents anyway, for free. Is this proposal good value for money?   1. **What would the project achieve towards the ABL Local Plan?**   Unsure  Employment- but is this the right scheme for Aberfeldy residents? Where’s the research to back this idea up and root it in community need?   1. **Are there currently other projects similar or the same locally, or that are used by Aberfeldy residents? If so, why support this proposal over other local provision?**   Unsure  Employment- but is this the right scheme for Aberfeldy residents? Where’s the research to back this idea up and root it in community need?   1. **What are the risks of the project?**   Potential lack of interest from young people- ABL and Rejuvinate have not consulted local young people on this  Delivery is unclear- we don’t fully understand the project  The application only contains a breakdown of the funding for the £20K requested from ABL rather than the full £60K funding breakdown  We do not have confirmation of any of the match funding  The training scheme is 30 hours of training over 52 weeks and there is no information about what the trainees will be involved with, when and for how long  There is no information included about the lease, business plan etc for the organisation  Unclear timeline for the project  Training program for £20k depends on all other funding coming through  Unclear on whether volunteers will receive financial reward if their products are sold by Rejuvinate   1. **How are residents involved in this proposal?**   Residents have not been involved in the development of this proposal.   1. **Does the proposal come from residents? (ie the project has been designed and proposed by residents or with local residents)**   Residents have not been involved in the development of this proposal.   1. **What is the ongoing role of residents in the project delivery?**   *Quoted from application: ELM will invite residents to participate on the project as; board members, volunteers, trainees, apprentices, & workers. We will offer all Aberfeldy residents to apply to become board members on Rejuvenate board of trustees, they will be offered opportunity to volunteer and participate on training programmes throughout the first year of project. we will offer 15 - 30 training places, x6 volunteers places, x3 -6 apprenticeships leading to jobs over course of a year.*  The information about the offer to Aberfeldy residents is unclear above and the applicant has not provided any information to support either the training places, volunteer placements or apprenticeships listed. There is no offer of a community share in the business  The assessors did not recommend this proposal for funding  The group discussed the proposal. Leila said that there was no engagement with Aberfeldy young people to guage their interest in taking part in this, making committing a £20,000 grant too risky. Abdul added that if there were guaranteed job opportunities at the end of the training then it might have been worth funding it, but without these it was too risky. James questioned whether people would engage with it as people can be hard to engage in this sort of thing in Aberfeldy, making it a big ask for Rejuvinate to get people there. James also said he’d have more faith in a project like this if it came from someone already in the community who you could trust more to get it right. Abdul agreed that trust in the deliverer of this project was all important and that he’d personally be more inclined to get involved in an opportunity like this if it was led be someone local who people already knew.  Sian explained the Spacehive crowdfunding platform to the group, saying that is was designed to allow well-supported ideas to flourish and receive the backing they deserved, whilst also making the Mayor of London’s and local authorities’ money go further. As such, ideas and projects that have a strong rooting in a local community tend to do well from it. It was questioned whether Rejuvinate’s project was rooted in the Aberfeldy community or whether the ABL money was seen as just another source of funding for the idea.  The group praised the idea itself, but questioned its feasibility and whether it was value for money. Someone thought the project would struggle in Carradale house which is known locally as a site for vandals and theft.  The group voted unanimously not to fund this proposal.  The final proposal for discussion was from St Nicholas’ church for £6000 to fund the Tint Tots parent and toddler group that is held weekly in the Langley Hall for all parents in Aberfeldy to attend. Matt left the room during this discussion.  Leila, Liam and Sian reported on the assessment of this proposal, answering the following questions.   1. **How does the project proposal fit with the goals of ABL?**   Community Cohesion- weekly meeting space for local residents, especially parents with young children  Young People and Children- supports the development of young kids and allows them to learn and make friends  Profile Raising- potential for Liam to meet parents informally through an established and successful group   1. **What would the project achieve towards the ABL Local Plan?**   As Above   1. **Are there currently other projects similar or the same locally, or that are used by Aberfeldy residents? If so, why support this proposal over other local provision?**   There are play schemes in Tower Hamlets but not in Aberfeldy (only the nursery in the community centre, which serves a different purpose)  Having a local and regular play session for children and parents is especially important given the isolation of the estate and its large size   1. **What are the risks of the project?**   Ongoing service requires ongoing funding that ABL will not be able to provide forever   1. **How are residents involved in this proposal?**   Proposal submitted by Aberfeldy resident Rev Matt Wall. Project is, in part, delivered by Aberfeldy resident volunteers.   1. **Does the proposal come from residents? (ie the project has been designed and proposed by residents or with local residents)**   Yes   1. **What is the ongoing role of residents in the project delivery?**   Residents run and volunteer in the group, as well as benefit from it.  It was recommended to award funding for this proposal.  The group discussed this proposal and the assessment. Leila praised it for being a valuable service for mums who can often become isolated with young kids. Kim said it was also great for young kids. Tofayel agreed saying it was important for kids to make friends at a young age especially in the age of smart phones and tablets. James said the project reflected the ethos of Big Local, being locally-led, for locals and providing something that is not provided for. Edna has seen the group in action and said it is very good and lively.  The group unanimously voted to fund the proposal  Liam suggested that given the ongoing nature of the Tiny Tots group it might be a good idea to fund it over a longer time frame of say 3 years. But in order to do this, it might be good to try to secure some benefits for ABL. Liam suggested that ABL could pay the church £8,000 a year to become a host orgnaisation to administer money for the community chest and for events to allow payment direct to inviduals and upfront or cash payment for event organising (something that is not possible through HARCA as LTO). ABL would then be buying a service from the church, and the church could use £6,000 a year to pay for Tiny Tots and the remaining £2,000 as an administration fee. Sian said they do something similar in Brixton Big Local. It was agreed that the board would like to have this conversation with the church | Talk with the church about this.  Inform all applicants of the funding decisions via email. |  |  |
| **3**  3.1  3.2  3.3  3.4 | **AOB**  Community chest for this month was agreed to be decided over email due to a lack of time this meeting.  Liam asked whether the board would be willing to attend 2 or 3 away days between now and April to re-do the Local Plan. The group said they’d be happy to extend the board meetings to 3.5 or 4 hours and have food in the middle to allow for more in depth conversations. It was also said it’d be good to do these somewhere new and away from Aberfeldy. One possibility is One Canada Square.  Sian said she is conducting a review of the ABL partnership for Local Trust. Sian proposed a process for adopting new board members as the current one is confused. She suggested that prospective board members have to attend 3 consecutive meetings and then announce their intention to join the board, the board will then vote on whether to allow them to join and all new members must sign the ABL code of conduct. This proposal was accepted by the group.  Liam asked for consent to publish a regular newsletter about ABL and local activity in Aberfeldy. The newsletter would be hand delivered to every home in the area to help promote ABL and improve communication in the area. James volunteered to help deliver the newsletters when they’re ready to go out. | Liam to send out community chest applications for board decision  Liam to prepare possible dates for these in the new year, to propose at the next board meeting. |  |  |

**Date of next meeting: Tue 10th October 2017**