**Notes from ABL Board Meeting 15th May 2017**

**Our Vision for Aberfeldy**

This is our vision for the Aberfeldy estate in an ideal world after the Big Local programme has ended:

* We’ll have vibrant community spaces where people can meet each other and hang out, such as shops, cafes and a pub
* Our green spaces will be full of activity, such as group exercises
* People will say ‘hello’ to each other in the street and take a genuine interest in their neighbours
* Young people will be in decent work in the industries they are passionate about
* Supporting the over 40s into work
* Residents will be united and able to stand up for themselves, and people will come together to get things done (strength in numbers)
* We will have beautiful green spaces with trees
* Children and young people will have adequate activities to get involved with to keep them out of trouble
* Lonely and isolated people will be looked after and cared for
* All residents will have things to do together, helping to build our community
* People will have a sense of ownership over the estate and be proud to call Aberfeldy their home
* Residents will have more power over life on the estate
* We will have a more tight-knit community that looks out for each other

**A Strong, Tight-Knit Community**

We want to build on the sense of community that already exists in Aberfeldy to make the area a better place to live. We want more opportunities for local people to interact and do things together, sharing their skills and passions to forge stronger local connections. We aspire to create vibrant community spaces where people can meet and get to know each other, such as shops, cafes and pubs.

Actions:

* Community Speed-Dating
* Community Potluck Dinner
* Skills Shop
* Fun day
* Aberfeldy Social Club- initial one night?
* Aberfeldy Community Shop

**Taking Back Control of our Estate**

We want local people to have a greater sense of ownership over Aberfeldy, uniting together to be able to stand up for ourselves and shape the future of the area to benefit residents. We want to get the best deal from all of the developments planned for the estate, rather than losing out. To do this, we will engage with developers to make sure that they change our estate for the better, creating the spaces that we want.

Actions:

* Aberfeldy Street redevelopment conversations: mosque, shops, church
* Aberfeldy Film- about developments: speak to MCP??

**Giving a Helping Hand to those Who Need it**

Certain people on our estate could do with some support. Our young people deserve a leg-up to help them get into decent work that they are passionate about and keep them out of trouble. Older residents on the estate also need our help to make them feel less lonely and more valued as part of our community.

Actions:

* Youth engagement
* Older people engagement

**What’s Stopping Us Achieving this Vision?**

Things that are stopping us achieve this vision are:

* People don’t know where to go to or how to get involved. Poor communication- old TRAs did door knocking but now this is much harder
* There are very few community spaces to meet others in to share information: no pub, restaurant etc.
* Lots of community-building activities are in the day when people are at work
* We don’t know what developers are doing- need for meeting with Poplar Harca about this?
* Why aren’t local people being given construction jobs on the estate?
* Young people feel excluded and disenfranchised, not being engage well enough with others in the community- need targeted work with young people
* Sense of apathy amongst local people, and a lack of sense of ownership over the estate
* People lack confidence to get more involved in the community
* People lack the time to get more involved in the community with work and family commitments

**What’s Good on Aberfeldy and can Help Us Achieve Our Vision?**

* Shops are great spaces for conversations that connect people on the estate:
  + - Off-licenses
    - Newsagents- esp. Abbots Road newsagents
    - PFC
    - Chinese
* Langdon Park good site to engage with teenagers
* Culloden School- good site to engage with parents and children
* Spotlight- good provision for young people
* Good existing community on the estate, which can be built upon and grown
* Island Mentality can be used in a positive way to galvanise people to work together to better the area
* Skills and talents of local people can be tapped into to improve the area
* Lots of green spaces to utilise for events
* Really good GP- respected by local people

**Publicity and Promotion**

**Tagline**: Our Aberfeldy: Our people, Our Talent, Our Community

**Banners** on each entry and exit point to the estate: You’re Now Entering Aberfeldy; with contact details of Liam/ABL; no Harca logo; - ask school kids to design the banner?

**Bunting** on main roads- with ABL logo?

**Community Noticeboards** on the greens

Signs on **lamposts**

Regular **newsletter**

Update **website** and remove Harca logos

**Facebook** page

**Putting the Vision into Practice**

We discussed the following ideas for putting our vision into practice:

* Need to expand the board
* Need a programme of events linked to the main themes
* Creating a calendar of local events on Aberfeldy made available to everyone
* Weekly Big Local evening event
* Creating a skills exchange or time bank on the estate
* Getting hold of the empty shop on Aberfeldy Street and turning into a multi-use space for people to meet, share skills, learn new things, hang out etc.
* Aberfeldy Radio show
* Summer fun day

We also discussed the **Community Chest**:

* A total pot of £2500
* People will be able to bid for up to £500 for an idea
* They will have to complete a simple application form and provide costings for the activity
* Selling the Community Chest: ‘Your Community Needs You, to make Aberfeldy a better place to live!’
* Need a criteria for the community chest to help board judge applications

**Timeline of Action**

Money Available

**May-October 2017**:

£6250 for projects/community chest

£3750 for resident engagement

£12000 for communications and publicity

**October 2017-April 2018:**

£48,750 for projects/community chest

£3750 for resident engagement

**May**

Create website, Facebook page etc.

Create banners with artwork from Culloden, Church and/or mosque

Talk to young people on the estate- ongoing

**June**

Aberfeldy Iftar- pop-up outside the mosque during Ramadan, possibly in shop across the road?

**July**

1st July Aberfeldy Street party- with The People Speak?

**August**

**September**

2nd September- Fun day on the green. We need an organising committee for this

Next Steps

**Communications and Social Media:** Liam to look into these and get back to everyone with potential costings.

**Community Chest**: Liam to create an application form and criteria for community chest and send to board for feedback and approval.

**Aberfeldy Fun Day**: We need to organise an organising committee for the fun day. This should include board members, but also other residents we know.

**Talking with Young People**: Liam, Leila and Kim (?) to meet this week or next to set out a plan for engaging with young people on the estate.

**Aberfeldy Street Redevelopment**: Liam to make contact with shop keepers, mosque, school etc. on Aberfeldy Street to have conversations about the redevelopment plans and what people are thinking about these. Would be good to do this with Matt if you’re up for it?

**Date for Next Board Meeting**: Monday 5th June/12th June