Aberfeldy Big Local

**Minutes of Board Meeting held on Tuesday 15th August 2017 at number 50 Aberfeldy Street**

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| *Board Members in Attendance*   1. Kim Nguyen (Chair) 2. Abigail Gilbert 3. Val de Vos 4. Patrick Harrison 5. Ahmed Hussain 6. Leila Lawal   *Also in attendance:*   * Hanif Osmani (LTO Rep) * Stacey (Prospective Resident Board Member) * James Watters (Aberfeldy Resident) * Maria (Aberfeldy Resident/Works at Aberfeldy practice) * Karen (Poplar Resident/Works at Aberfeldy practice) | *Apologies received:*   * Matt Wall * Sian Penner (Big Local Rep) |

|  |  | **Action** | **By Whom** | **By When** |
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| **1**  1.1  2.1 | **Minutes of Last Meeting**  The minutes were reviewed and outstanding actions noted.  Update that Fun Day is going to plan- Abi, Kim, Leila, Stacey and Ahmed volunteered to help with the fun day on the day | ***(Outstanding Action)***  Confirm when Church require funding for play worker  Liam to circulate plan for fun day and volunteer role | Matt  Liam | Before next Board meeting  During WC 21st August |
| **2**  2.1  2.2  2.3  2.4  2.5  2.6  2.7  2.8  2.9  2.10  2.11  2.12 | **Aberfeldy Public House**  The Board were joined by Garry and Ged from Fitzrovia Noir, who are looking to enter a partnership with ABL to run a community pub in Aberfeldy Street. Garry and Ged presented their plans for the pub, including arts projects with the local community, focussing on the local history of the area.  Kim asked Garry and Ged what their vision for the pub was and how it fits with the ABL priorities. Garry and Ged said they wanted to get something going and create a social space for people in the area to meet  Liam added that the latest he has heard, from Malcolm Ward at Poplar HARCA, is that the shop units on Aberfeldy Street will not be demolished until April 2020- giving around 2 years potential for the pub to be open  Abi asked whether the space would be open to all communities in the area, especially Muslim people who don’t drink alcohol. Ahmed said that the multi-use nature of the space makes it accessible to different people and that the name should not say ‘Pub’ in it to encourage different people to use it.  Liam raised a concern that the pub is the right tone for the area and existing community, so that it meets the needs of existing residents and is not seen to be part of the gentrification of Aberfeldy. Garry and Ged are keen to work with the community to root the pub in local culture and history. They will seek to engage residents, their skills and ideas through the refurbishment process by keeping the door open for people to make suggestions. James offered his services to help paint the pub space, Garry and Ged were happy to accept this help.  Liam suggested a steering group of local residents, and Garry and Ged to oversee the development of the pub and keep it in fitting with local tastes, as well as take a long-term approach to securing a permanent pub in Aberfeldy, possibly in the Village development. Steering group would be separate to the ABL partnership but would feedback when necessary. James and Matt have agreed to sit on the group. Should look to get a younger person on it too.  Val said the space needs to cater to people who just want to sit with a cup of coffee and chat with others during the day. James said that the pub needs to become a place where local networks of people are developed, acting as a new night time hub for the community- like the old Aberfeldy Tavern once was. Karen suggested a range of activities for the use of the space including: quiz nights, storytelling evenings, and bingo and singalong nights. The point is to get people knowing who their neighbours are. Kim said this was key for helping ABL be a success. James argued about the need for the pub to be a pub, rather than a community centre and that the steering group can help ensure this happens. James expressed an interest in joining the steering group.  A vote was taken on whether to fund Garry and Ged through buying hours of access to the pub space. As proposed in the proposal document, the ABL partnership would buy 21 hours per week, for 52 weeks (equivalent) at a cost of £15 per hour, totalling: £16, 380. All board members voted to fund this amount.  The partnership agreed to fund the pub from the following budgets in the Local Plan:   * Discretionary Projects: £10,000 * Community Cohesion: £6380   It was noted, that the partnership needs to re-do the Local Plan in order to define the budget headings more clearly and the priorities of the Year 2 plan.  Suggested we visit another community pub to get ideas for the space. Also asked to see who sits on Fitzrovia Noir’s borad (if they have one) and to get their business plan for the pub. Also invite Garry and Ged to the fun day.  Ahmed said that focussing all activity in the shop in ABerfeldy Street might only draw in some residents, and exclude those living in different parts of the estate. Abi suggested that we start with the shop unit and build from there, making it a hub of activity that spreads outwards.  Ahmed asked what happens if the premises licence or change of use planning application do not come through. The partnership discussed the risk of this and the danger of buying hours in a space that may not materialise. Liam said the licensing and planning decisions are made by LBTH council, who have been spoken to about the proposed pub and seemed happy with the idea. He has also spoken with local planning consultant David Black about the Change of Use application and he seems to think there will be no problems with the proposed change, and has offered to formalise an application for us in kind. For both applications, the council will only reject an application if local people object to it. So the onus is on ABL and Garry and Ged to talk to people about the proposal and get them on board. Abi has a link at LBTH in the licencing team to help. A few residents said that we need to take the risk in relation to licencing and turn the space into a community space sooner rather than later as it allows people to pop in and discover Big Local as they pass by. Suggested we have a Plan B for if licencing fails and we have a refurbished space- i.e. another organisation to take on the lease.  Hanif said we need to talk to Local Trust about how to manage this, and whether ABL is able to spend the money and with the risk that a licence may not be granted for the space. We may need a contingency plan for the space if the licence does not come through. | Hanif to email Sian about this to check with Local Trust. Liam to email the board with the information and options for when to pay Garry and Ged for a decision to be made. | Hanif, Sian, Liam | 21.08.17 |
| **3**  3.1  3.2  3.3 | **Community Chest**  5 applications were received for the August Community Chest grants.  The partnership agreed to fund all five applications- noting that applications that went over the £250 budget be offered £250 only.  It was suggested that we further refine the community chest process with a dedicated panel, increasing its publicity and seeking to get a wider range of activities apply. E.g. none of the proposed exercise activities were for men. The next round will be open in October. |  |  |  |
| **4**  4.1  4.2 | **Community Meal**  The board agreed to host a community meal on Wednesday 4th October to promote Big Local and engage residents in conversations about the area. We will look to hold it in St Nicholas’ Church, with partnership members serving (but not cooking!) the food to residents. Garry and Ged will be invited to the meal to discuss the pub plans.  The meal will be advertised at the fun day, with invitations. Proposed timings were 5:30 start, food served at 6, ending at 7/7:30. | Liam to organise the meal- confirming venue | Liam | Venue confirmed before fund day (02.09.17) |
| **5**  5.1  5.2 | **Engagement Budget**  Liam asked the board for permission to have a budget for engagement that did not need sign-off from the board for expenditure.  Partnership agreed, setting a £1,000 budget to be reviewed after 6 months. Liam to file monthly spend reports at partnership meetings. |  |  |  |
| **6**  6.1  6.2 | **AOB**  Patrick announced that he is stepping down from the ABL partnership as Poplar HARCA have agreed to have less of an influence with ABL, keeping their input to Hanif’s representation as LTO. The partnership thanked Patrick for all his hard work in getting ABL up and running.  Abi has a new role with Tower Hamlets council, but will be staying on the board for now. In time the person taking up her old role will be invited to attend partnership meetings. |  |  |  |
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**Date of next meeting: Tue 12th September 2017**