Aberfeldy Big Local

**Minutes of Board Meeting held on Tuesday 20th June 2017 at the Aberfeldy Centre**

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| *Board Members in Attendance*   1. Kim Nguyen (Chair) 2. Ahmed Hussain 3. Leila Lawal 4. Patrick Harrison 5. Abigail Gilbert   **N.B. The meeting was inquorate.**  *Also in attendance:*   * Sian Penner (Big Local Rep) * Stacey (Aberfeldy Resident) * Liam Harney (Engagement Worker) | *Apologies received:*   * Matt Wall * Val de Vos * Rokib Choudhury (Aberfeldy FC) |

|  |  | **Action** | **By Whom** | **By When** |
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| **1**  1.1 | **Recap of Away Day**  Liam presented a recap of what was discussed at the big local away day in May. Other resident board members said that they found the away day empowering and that it helped to break down the Local Plan and make it more tangible, laying the foundations for action. |  |  |  |
| **2**  2.1  2.2  2.3 | **Kaizen Engagement Project**  Liam proposed to work with Kaizen as they have already been commissioned for the Big Local to talk to residents and help develop action teams around ideas and issues.  Board said that Kaizen need to come to the next board meeting so the board can decide what work they want them to do.  Leila suggested that Kaizen could identify people for Big Local activity, ask people what they can offer to the area, and find people with ideas who can be potential leaders in the community | Kaizen to be invited to next board meeting to discuss how we can employ them best |  |  |
| **3**  3.1  3.2  3.3  3.4  3.5  3.6  3.7 | **Allocating Money**  Liam proposed different ways to make money available for residents and organisations to access- including a £30,000 big ideas grant pot with one funding round open in October 2017, a smaller community chest pot to support smaller-scale activity and a £5000 ‘step up’ fund to support residents after the kaizen project  Questions were raised by some over what to name the money available to residents. Should there be separate funds, or one big pot called the Community Chest. Having one pot and one name was seen as less confusing for people. It was also made clear that the funding allocated needs to fit with the content of the Local Plan.  Leila suggested that we have an open funding system, with applications being made to the board before each board meeting and the board deciding during the meeting.  Liam suggested that this might result in money not being evenly available throughout the year- with the potential for money to be ‘swallowed’ early on in the year  Abi said that we need to think about what would work best for Aberfeldy and how people operate here. We also need to reflect on the processes of funding used before and how well these worked  Liam argued that there was a need for some money to be available to support ideas and request being made by residents now, such as providing cakes for an elders night being planned by a local resident (Maria). Sian said this was fine for a one-off but that we need a clear process for accountability reasons. Sian also suggested that ABL can offer other forms of support open to everyone, such as allocating a pot of money for room bookings in the Aberfeldy Centre for resident activities  Will EECF administer grants this time? Patrick said that this would save time for Liam and allow him to do more hand on engagement work. Sian said that the EECF process is quite long-winded and has put people off applying for money in Hackney Wick.  Kim said that we all need to think about different models for allocating money to people to discuss and decide at the next board meeting | Liam to offer to provide these with money for engagement  Everyone to think of different funding models and send to Liam before next board meeting for discussion | All board members | Before next board meeting (18th July) |
| **4**  4.1  4.2  4.3  4.4  4.5 | **Aberfeldy Stories Engagement Project**  Liam proposed a story-telling project for Aberfeldy to collect stories of the past and highlight unsung heroes and hidden assets in the area, as a way of bringing people together, identifying leaders and facilitating conversations about the future of the area and how residents can shape it. He suggested making a book and a film to showcase the stories and use as an engagement tool- costing around £10,000 in total and starting in October.  The majority of the board liked the idea, seeing it as a good way to build connections between people, give them a voice and let people believe that they can make a difference  Sian said that Big Local are holding a film festival this year and that it might become an annual event  Abi said that this project sounds well worth the money, and that a similar project run by Liam in E14 had a positive effect on community networks and action on the Isle of Dogs  Ahmed liked the idea but asked how Liam planned to get different people involved. Leila suggested that Kaizen could promote the project when they go door knocking. Sian said that looking at the history of the area is a good way to get people interested. Abi suggested we could offer residents free professional family photographs in exchange for sharing stories | Liam to think about how to make the stories project work for Aberfeldy | Liam | By August |
| **5**  5.1  5.2  5.3  5.4  5.5  5.6 | **Youth Employment Strategy**  Liam suggested allocating £5,000 to fund community-based research into a youth employment strategy for Big Local- possibly paying local young people to have conversations with their peers about aspirations and barriers to employment and decent careers.  Leila suggested Kaizen can start conversations around youth employment with residents. She also suggested that we need to talk to young people first to get this initiative right. We also need to acknowledge older people’s employment needs and work out how to accommodate these.  Stacey suggested that we need to help change young people’s mentality around work and what careers are possible for them to have  Ahmed suggested that Ted Talks could be a good model for engaging young people around this, and that we need to grow this slowly. Liam mentioned the method of ‘house parties’ as a way of getting young people talking around this topic. Leila suggested training older teenagers (17/18 yo) as researchers to hold these conversations as they are key influencers of younger ones  Sian said that ABL can commission people/organisation to hold these conversations (over a 6 month period for example), rather than the board having to do this themselves. They do something similar in Hackney to develop the youth voice. Also, this is a marathon, not a sprint- so we don’t have to do all of the proposed activities at the same time, and can take out time to make sure we get them right.  Liam suggested creating a subgroup to develop ideas to plan this project. Stacey, Ahmed and Kim expressed an interest to join | Subgroup to meet to discuss initial ideas | Liam, Stacey, Ahmed, Kim |  |
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| **6**  6.1  6.2  6.3  6.4  6.5  6.6 | **Aberfeldy Public House**  Liam proposed spending £10,000 of Big Local money to renovate the empty shop unit on Aberfeldy Street (Redwood’s Florist) to create a hub for the Big Local with a mixed use community space in the day, and a licensed bar operating some weekday evenings and at the weekend. There is a lot of local support for this idea, with around 60 signatures of support already collected- board agree to the spend and the idea.  Leila liked the idea because there is nowhere to hang out in Aberfeldy at the evenings and weekend, but is aware of the challenges of getting a licence etc. She said that space doesn’t have to serve alcohol  Abi suggested that the yurt at St Katherine’s in limehouse, which is a similar space, could be a good idea to adapt for Aberfeldy  Ahmed really likes the idea as a promotional space for Aberfeldy to create a buzz around the area  Stacey liked the idea as everyone wants a place to hang out. The space could host activities like yoga etc. and would be good for newcomers to meet people, buy things and volunteer  Sian suggested looking into the Ivy House community pub in Nunhead as an example of a pub that is more than just a place that sells alcohol. Also look at Enfield Big Local (Bountagu) for advice, they have a pop-up shop for big local activities | Secure shop unit from Open Poplar (Poplar Harca). And if successful work with the board and other residents to create the space | Liam | Deadline for Open Poplar application 23.06.17 |
| 7  7.1  7.2  7.3  7.4  7.5 | **Funday and Culloden Summer Fayre**  Liam proposed £5000 budget for funday (total for everything). .  Sian suggested to buy stuff in for the funday rather than seeking to use volunteers to run it as we are low on volunteers at the moment. Liam said he was talking with Shah at DoLittle events to arrange this.  Sian suggested paying Aberfeldy FC a sum of money, suggested £500, as a form of sponsorship, if they agree to support the fun day by organising a football tournament  ABL have a stall at Culloden School summer fayre to speak with parents and promote the programme  Stacey and Abi offered to attend the fayre with Liam | Leila and Ahmed to help oversee the funday. Liam to find suppliers for event and get costings.  Stacey and Liam to meet to organise t-shirt making. Liam to confirm details of event. Event on 1st July | Leila, Ahmed, Liam | ASAP |
| 8  8.1  8.2  8.3  8.4  8.5 | **Ollie Proposed Investment in Music Studio**  Ollie from Spotlight visited the board with Babu from Poplar Harca to share his idea of developing a music/video production studio in the old library at Leeside. The studio would benefit local residents with opportunities of affordable studio space for music and video, helping with careers in these industries. There is also scope for running educational and skills development initiatives through the space to benefit Aberfeldy residents. Ollie is looking for a loan from Aberfeldy for the studio build- the total cost of which is around £150,000  Sian explained that it is possible to give loans through Big Local, but that this would have to be done through a loan agency and would be subject to their conditions.  Ahmed and Kim said that the board are open to discussion of the idea and would look to ensure there are tangible benefits for Aberfeldy residents, such as free access to space in the studio.  Babu said that any deal should involve Big Local getting free access to use Poplar Harca Aberfeldy centre for activities etc. And Ollie would look to pay ‘interest’ on the repayment of the loan (e.g. £180,000 returned on a £150,000 loan).  Board agreed for Ollie to send more information to them about the proposal and to hold next board meeting at Leeside to incorporate a site visit | Ollie to send details to board | Liam to coordinate | Week before next board meeting |

**Date of next meeting: Tue 18th July 2017, 6-8pm (Leeside Redbox)**

**Proposed Agenda for next meeting: first half deciding how to allocate money; second half discussion with Kaizen, plus site visit to potential space for Leeside studio.**