Aberfeldy Big Local

**Minutes of Board Meeting held on Tuesday 13th March 2018 at Aberfeldy Community Centre**

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| *Board Members in Attendance*   1. Val de Vos 2. Ahmed Hussain 3. Leila Lawal 4. Loretta Davies 5. Matt Wall 6. Kim Nguyen   *Also in attendance:*   * Val (local resident) * Tofayel (local resident) * Khaled (local resident) * Mikey (The People Speak) * Sian Penner (Local Trust representative) * Liam Harney (ABL engagement worker) * Steve Hill and Cathy Weir (Island House Community Centre) * Judith Moran (Quaker Social Action) * Philip (CREST) | *Apologies received:*   * Abdul Mukith |

|  |  | **Action** | **By Whom** | **By When** |
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| **1**  **1.1**  **1.2**  **1.3** | **LTO Interviews**  The first half of the meeting was taken up by interviews of 3 prospective LTOs: Quaker Social Action (QSA); CREST; and Island House.  Interviews were conducted on 3 panels, with each panel asking 2 of the following 6 questions:  **Panel 1**   1. Why do you think you are well placed to work with us? 2. How would you envisage working with the Partnership Group? What would you need from us?   **Panel 2**   1. Please give us some examples of this type of activity that you have done before. What worked well? What did not work well? 2. What do you already know about the Aberfeldy are and community?   **Panel 3**   1. What is your understanding of the Big Local programme ethos and the requirement of the LTO? 2. What experience do you have in providing appropriate financial arrangement and plans to support community initiatives and projects from the small scale to large scale?   Val DeVos, Kim, Liam and Val were on Panel 1. Ahmed, Tofayel, Khaled and Sian were on Panel 2. Leila, Matt, Loretta and Mikey were on Panel 3. |  |  |  |
| **2**  **2.1**  **2.2**  **2.3**  **2.4**  **2.5** | **Feedback on Interviews**    Feedback on Island House  Panel 1:   * Liked that IH work on the Isle of Dogs, which is a similar area to Aberfeldy in terms of being geographically isolated and undergoing a lot of redevelopment * Liked the offer of 1 day per week of their worker’s time to support Liam in Aberfeldy * Liked their system for allocating small grants to people through Can Do- would be good for our community chest   Panel 2:   * Like the offer of a support worker * Like the projects they have done before, such as a local asset map, which could be used as a tool in Aberfeldy * Liked their honesty about what hasn’t worked for them before * Thought they had good links in the local area and nice that both Steve and Cathy live in the area   Panel 3:   * Liked their experience in managing Can D- they understand the admin side of it and the training they offer residents * When asked about their thoughts on the risks of becoming the new LTO, IH focussed on the ability of building strong relationships locally to mitigate the risks * IH had good knowledge of resident boards and ongoing engagement in the community   Feedback on CREST  Panel 1:   * They said they could offer us continuity and stability whilst the board members change over time * Were more reticent on the question of finances than IH * Said their role would be to listen and enable the board   Panel 2:   * Seemed more business-like than the other organisations * Would offer us less support on the ground- more of a money-holder * Had little knowledge of Aberfeldy and were honest about that * Had good financial systems in place- so would be a good accountable body, but offered no extra support   Panel 3:   * Seemed well organised * Had informed answers * Already have 4 Big Local areas so they know the score * Would be like getting a new bank- they seem more concerned with being our money-holder rather than investing in Aberfeldy emotionally   Feedback on Quaker Social Action  Panel 1:   * Wanted to be more than our banker, and enable us to move forwards * Offered Liam a team to work in * Said they’d like to offer ideas for how to do things locally * Have good experience in outreach and communications   Panel 2:   * Seemed very practical and full of good ideas * Said they’d enable residents to do things themselves * Didn’t overpromise anything * Are long-stablished in east London * Offered a team of colleagues for Liam to work within * Judith seemed the most committed and interested of all candidates   Panel 3:   * Judith seemed very experienced and wise * She also has experience in conflocit-resolution, which could be useful * They had done their research on Big Local and Aberfeldy * QSA less local than IH, which could be good so as to avoid overlap |  |  |  |
| **3**  **3.1**  **3.2**  **3.3**  **3.4**  **3.5**  **3.6**  **3.7**  **3.8**  **3.9**  **3.10** | **Discussion and Decision on New LTO**  Matt said there seems to be a continuum, with CREST at the end of pure-banker and QSA on the end of wanting to be really involved, and IH somewhere in the middle  Val feared ABL could be swallowed up by QSA because it’s such a big organisation with lots going on  Sian explained that the role of the LTO is merely to hold the money and anything extra would need to be agreed by the ABL partnership, which could avoid this happening  Liam said he’d go for either IH or QSA as would appreciate the extra support in his role- but he doesn’t have a vote in the decision.  Kim said that she feels that both QSA and IH have a focus on relationships and on the ground support for Liam. She feels that IH work in a similar area to ABL and would know a lot about how the community works, whilst QSA seemed to be better with new ideas for doing things here and innovating how we work.  Sian asked whether we should now take CREST out of the decision and just pick between IH and QSA- everyone agreed.  Leila said she felt that IH are too similar to ABL, especially as the Can Do project is very similar to ABL’s community chest and both operate in Aberfeldy, meaning there might be some competition there, or confusion over the different organisations. Mikey said that IH’s experience with Can Do might be a positive for ABL, in terms of allowing us to learn from them and access the training they provide. Sian said that whoever we pick, we can still ask to buy services from the other one if we want too.  Val DeVos was slightly concerned that because QSA are a big organisaiton, with lots of projects going on, there is a risk that ABL might get side-lined in the organisation  Ahmed thought that because IH are more local to ABL than QSA, it would be easier to buy services from them, whereas QSA are not operating in Poplar, so there is more separation which could be healthy.  A vote was held, and QSA were chosen to become the new LTO. | Sian to inform all candidates of the decision and thank them for taking part. LTO to carry out due diligence on QSA. |  |  |

**Date of next meeting: Tue 10th April 2018**