Aberfeldy Big Local

**Minutes of Board Meeting held on Tuesday 9th January 2018 at Aberfeldy Community Centre**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Board Members in Attendance*   1. Val de Vos 2. Stacey Kimbo 3. Jimmy Watters 4. Ahmed Hussain 5. Leila Lawal 6. Matt Wall   *Also in attendance:*   * Edna Howard (local resident) * Tofayel (local resident) * Sian Penner (Local Trust representative) * Liam Harney (ABL engagement worker) | *Apologies received:*   * Kim Nguyen * Abdul Mukith * Abi Gilbert |

|  |  | **Action** | **By Whom** | **By When** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1**  **1.1**  **1.2**  **1.3**  **1.4** | **Invitation to Meet from St William re: Leven Road Gas Works redevelopment**  Liam explained that ABL board have been invited to meet with St William, the developers at the Gas Works site on Leven Road, and Iceni (consultation company) to discuss how the development can help meet community priorities.  Liam had a meeting booked with people from St William and Iceni the following day. He asked the board what they want to find out before we take anything further with the developers.  The board spoke about the following:   * How much room is there for the community to influence the plans? How much is already set in stone? * How much social housing will be delivered? * Will the community have access to the river? * What can the developers offer to the community, more than money- i.e. apprenticeships, local contracts, community spaces (and ownership of these spaces)? * What other community organisations are the developers talking to?   Liam agreed to ask these questions at the meeting before deciding whether to pursue with them. Liam invited board members to the meeting if they were free. | Feedback on meeting with developers to rest of board | Liam and other board members | February board meeting |
| **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**  **2.13** | **Discussion about Young People and Big Local**  The board discussed issues and opportunities around young people in Aberfeldy, and how ABL can invest its money to support them.  Leila said that Spotlight was the most well-known youth facility in the area but that not many young people from Aberfeldy travel over there because of fear of gangs and trouble  Leila also said that there are people that hang around and deal drugs by the blue football pitch at night. Matt agreed with this, and said it’s mainly adults there.  Tofayel said that the football team have been trying on and off for a while to get floodlights for the blue pitch so that young people can play football at night, and to deter dealers away. But they have been unsuccessful with Poplar HARCA (who own the pitch) in doing this.  Edna said that there are floodlight by the circular seating area on Millenoum Green, which could be turned on at night to deter dealers from hanging around there, and that Poplar HARCA’s caretakers have access to the switch for these.  Tofayel said that it’s possible to buy relatively cheap floodlights that can go in the corners of the blue pitch at night, but when they tried to do this before some local residents kicked up a fuss and nothing happened. Sian suggested that we could ask Kaizen to do a small piece of consultation with neighbours around the pitch about floodlights, with the view of ABL purchasing them. It could be a good, quick win for the board.  The conversation got onto the topic of ‘gangs’ and whether there were gangs, or just groups of young people hanging out together. Val said that there has also been territorial rivalries in the area, between Aberfeldy, Teviot, Chrisp Street and the Island. Sian asked whether it was fair to label them as gangs. She spoke about work in Hackney Wick Big Local that showed that young people had fear of gangs even though gang activity in the area was very low. She said the Hackney work shows the importance of listening to young people’s opinions first.  Stacey said that when she talks to young people in the area, they say that they want a youth space in Aberfeldy as Spotlight is not accessible to them. Val said that there used to be a youth centre in Aberfeldy, but that when Spotlight was built, all the resources went there instead.  Sian said that we should find out what young people want and how they feel about things first before putting on lots of new activities for them- in case they don’t want those either.  Liam asked Sian how they found out what young people wanted in Hackney Wick. Sian said they paid a youth organisation to employ 2 local young women, who were trained up as researchers and supported to talk to young people in the area- creating a report with recommendations. Sian has a brief for this project that she can share with the ABL board, and she can invite Nick, who worked on it in Hackney to our next board meeting.  Matt said that if we do something like this, then we need to talk to and work with young people at school and below, not just those on the street- as they might already be out of the ‘system’ of going to activities etc.  Leila said she is part of Community Insights network with Tower Hamlets Council, and they could help provide free training for researchers for something like this.  Jimmy questioned whether the lack of a visible police presence in the area was to blame for bad behaviour and gangs in the area. He said that nowadays we have a reactive police presence where the police only turn up to address crimes or anti-social behaviour, rather than a proactive presence to prevent these from happening. He said it’d be good to have more community self-policing in the area, where people were responsible for the behaviour of others. | Create a proposal with Kaizen for this piece of work to present at the next board meeting.  Sian to provide brief and invite Nick to meeting. | Liam | February board meeting |
| **3**  **3.1**  **3.2**  **3.3** | **Tommy Flowers Update**  Jimmy explained that refurbishment work has begun on the Tommy Flowers pub- Ged is in there over the next 3 weeks creating the shell of the pub, and Jimmy will be in there this Friday to paint the wood effect on the bar. The pub is due to open in March  Liam added that the planning and licensing documents have both been submitted to the council, so now it’s a case of waiting to hear of their decision. Liam will be submitting a list of signatures from local people in support of the pub to the council next week, and asked board members to add theirs to the list and gather some from the community if possible. Matt said he will try to get some by next week.  Val asked if we knew of any of Tommy’s relatives who still live locally, as she was asked about a Mr Flowers recently. Liam said that Garry has been in email contact with his son who lives out of the area, who gave his support to the naming. Sian said she has contacts at the Bishopsgate Institute, who ran an exhibition on Tommy Flowers, and can put us in touch with them for access to pictures etc. |  |  |  |
| **4**  **4.1**  **4.2**  **4.3** | **Christmas Events Feedback**  Liam reported back the Christmas events were a success- the Santa’s Grotto and the Christmas Dinner & Disco went well and a team of local residents helped out for both, which was nice to see.  Val said she enjoyed the event, but that turnout could have been a bit better, although some people were ill around the time and it was quite close to Christmas so people would have been shopping too.  Matt said it can takes years for these events to build up a reputation to get more people, and that if we do one every year, people will gradually get to know and expect the Aberfeldy Christmas do. |  |  |  |
| **5**  5.1  5.2  5.3  5.4  5.5  5.6  5.7 | **Spend Report**  The latest spend report was presented to the board.  Ahmed asked where people could find information about the community chest activities. Liam said they were listed in the newsletter, and on the website, but other than that it was through word of mouth. Most activities were hosted in the community centre, so unless people went in there they might not find out about them. We also spoke about social media, promoting the website on the white wall and potentially hiring someone locally to manage communications.  Leila asked when the website was going to be launched. Liam thought it already had been- but it hasn’t. The old website is also still live. Leila also questioned the deal with the website:   * Who owns the domain name? * How many email addresses can we have? * What are the yearly running costs   Sian suggested the web developer be invited to the next board meeting to talk about this.  Matt asked if every organisation listed has been paid yet, as the church hasn’t and the football team had difficulties getting paid. Liam explained that the football team could not be paid by HARCA due to their financial regulations, and that they were paid via DoLittle, with 10% management fee added on to the cost of the grant. The board were happy that the team managed to get paid through DoLittle.  Ahmed asked if there was another way that we could process payments to organisations that HARCA’s policies prevented them from paying.  Liam asked whether we could set up a Community Interest Company for ABL to hold and process payments with a more flexible set of financial regulations than HARCA. Sian said this was possible but can take a long time to set up, as in her experience in doing this with Brixton Big Local. This would need finding trustees and setting out a governance document. It also costs to run the organisation. In Brixton they set one up to receive money from a property developer.  Sian also said that in Brixton they have Nurture Organisations that hold smaller chunks of money to give to individuals for small initiatives. These organisations are paid a 10% on top of the grant as a fee in return for doing the monitoring and evaluation of the grants. There is also the option of nominating a second LTO alongside HARCA to do this. There is one LTO that works in 5 Big Local areas, who could be approached about this as they understand the needs of the Big Local programme and are more flexible. | Meeting to chat through a communications strategy to discuss at next board meeting  Liam to get site launched and ask Shah to remove the old site.  Liam to find summary of the deal and ask the developer if he can make a board meeting.  N.B- since the Board meeting, Poplar HARCA have emailed Sian informing her of their intention to step down as LTO by April 2018- Given this, Liam and Sian will discuss issues around LTOs, financial policies etc. in preparation for a full board discussion on our strategy going forwards. | Ahmed and Liam  Sian and Liam | February board meeting  ASAP |
| **7**  7.1  7.2  7.3  7.4 | **Public Works Funding Application Decision**  Leila and Ahmed presented their assessment of the funding application submitted by Public Works to part fund the building of a garden, with growing spaces on the Bromley Hall Road growing space, as well as fund community consultation around the garden. The application asked for £16,750 of funding in total.  The application was assessed along the following criteria. Leila and Ahmed’s comments are below each question:   1. **How does the project proposal fit with the goals of ABL?**   Engagement- the project is visible and would engage local people, but engagement for Public Works, rather than ABL.   1. **What would the project achieve towards the ABL Local Plan?**   Green Spaces- creating a new park in Aberfeldy is good for residents. BUT…won’t the work go ahead anyway, if Public Works don’t get ABL funding?  Health- new public space good for people’s mental health by connecting with others, and for physical health being outside, and doing gardening etc.   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?**   The proposed site of the project already has allotments/growing beds- could ABL support existing users of this space with funding instead?  Public Works are currently based in Teviot- how many local people get involved with the project there?   1. **What are the risks of the project?**   Can residents actually shape the design of the space if planning permission has already been agreed for specific things?  Do residents want a garden or more growing spaces?  The project is linked to Poplar Harca’s Fashioning Poplar development and risk that ABL is seen as funding HARCA’s developments.  Is the project good value for money? ABL should not be paying for capital on a project that already has so much other funding- ABL is just making up the numbers.  Public Works will need to talk to residents about the garden anyway, regardless if they get funding from ABL   1. **How are residents involved in this proposal?**   Project is not resident-led  ABL did not commission this project- it feels like a last minute approach from Public Works after the details of the project have already been sewn up. ABL could spend more money to build its own space, and also have ownership of it…  Poplar HARCA are going to do Fashioning Poplar anyway- meaning residents don’t have much control over the project  ABL could potentially fund a community kitchen themselves….   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?**   The consultation of residents should have come before the plans were finalised with the council and Poplar HARCA- meaning residents will have very little influence over the garden  Potential for community to take over the garden and kitchen as an asset- but are they assets worth taking over?  The reviewers recommended that that partnership should not pay for the capital costs of the project, as none of it was for essential works and the project would go ahead anyway without ABL funding- so there was no need for ABL to pay anything towards it.  They did recommend to pay £2,800 for the public consultation around the garden. However a discussion amongst the board questioned why they should pay this as Public Works would have to talk to the community about the garden anyway and that £2,800 is a significant amount of money to pay for 4 consultation events.  The board decided not to award any funding to Public Works for this proposal as it was not resident-led and deemed not good value for money. | Liam to inform Public Works of the board’s decision |  | ASAP |
| **8**  **8.1**  **8.2**  **8.3**  **8.4**  **8.5**  **8.6** | **AOB**  Sian asked if anyone wanted to nominate themselves as the new chair of the ABL board. Ahmed asked what the responsibilities and expectations of Chair were, as Kim had, admirably taken a lot of extra work and meetings on when she was chair, which was a burden for her. Sian said that for now, the chair’s role can be solely to chair meetings and that we could have rotating chairs.  Ahmed, Leila and Stacey volunteered to chair the next 3 meetings, starting with Ahmed, then Leila, then Stacey.  The next board meeting was moved to the 20th of February as Ahmed couldn’t make the 13th.  Sian suggested her and Liam meet to work out a more organised schedule for sending out meetings minutes and constructing the agenda, so that meetings are more directed by members  Sian said that Westfield are working with hackney Wick Big Local to set up a job shop in their site to help local young people access retail jobs. They are also looking at employing a youth engagement worker at their site to support local young people. Hackney Wick have invited neighbouring Big Locals to be part of the conversation. Would ABL like to be part of this?  Matt said he’d like to come along if he’s free. Val said it was a good idea and something we could look into doing with Canary Wharf too. Matt said working with Westfield could teach us how to do it with Canary Wharf. | Sian to inform board of the date of the meeting with Westfield |  |  |

**Date of next meeting: Tue 20th February 2018**