

THE ABERFELDY ANNOUNCER

The newsletter from Aberfeldy Big Local

39



In this issue:

- Meet the ABL Team
- The Partnership Board
- Community Chest
- Improving Aberfeldy Open Spaces

Aberfeldy Big Local is moving in!

After a long year of closed shops everywhere, it was exciting to open the shutters at 39 Aberfeldy Street.

Called the Aberfeldy Front Room, 39 will be a comfortable, welcoming space for local people to drop in and the work space for Aberfeldy Big Local's new staff team. As restrictions ease the Front Room could run regular tea and coffee mornings, hold training sessions and varied activities for Aberfeldy residents of all ages.

The aims of Aberfeldy Big Local are to invest in PEOPLE, influence and create welcoming PLACES to meet and build the POWER of Aberfeldy residents to ensure your voices are heard.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram or visit our website:



Aberfeldy Big Local



@AberfeldyBL



www.aberfeldybiglocal.com



ABERFELDY
big local

Meet the ABL Team

Eleanor Image – Project Manager

Hi! I am looking forward to meeting more local people, whether through phone conversations or, as we move into 39 Aberfeldy St, in person at a safe distance.

Before starting at ABL in February, I worked at Play Association Tower Hamlets (PATH) and have managed play sessions on Millennium Green, an Adventure Playground in Stepney and various community projects.

I am excited to work at ABL and on the mission of sharing skills and talents within the community and working together to create opportunities that benefit local people.



Veronica Sarmiento – Community Engagement Officer

Hi everyone! I'm really excited to be joining Aberfeldy Big Local.

I have previously worked and volunteered on community projects at several museums in London, running workshops for people of all ages, including young people, families and older people living with Dementia. I'm really passionate about doing work that supports building skills and employability for young people and working on projects that empower communities and promote inclusion for all.

I'm looking forward to meeting local residents, hearing about what you love about your area and supporting your plans and ideas to enhance community life.



Noore Rahman – Community Engagement Officer

Hi, I am so excited to have joined the ABL team!

I'm really looking forward to engaging with the community in person once Lockdown restrictions have eased. I enjoy talking with and listening to local people and learning more about the history of Aberfeldy, the place and area that is "Home".

I live in Tower Hamlets myself and have worked with many community projects, bringing positive changes to lives and wellbeing. My background is in early years and early intervention, I also work in one of the TH Children's centre.

We are here to support, enable and empower the local residents in unlocking their full potential to shape the present and the future for the coming generations of the Aberfeldy area.



Aberfeldy Big Local

ABOUT ABERFELDY BIG LOCAL

Aberfeldy Big Local (ABL) has been in existence since 2013. Part of the national Big Local programme, ABL is a group of residents working to invest £1 million of Lottery money into the estate up until 2026. Big Local has gifted £1 million each to 150 areas across England. The aims of the Big Local programme are that:

- Communities will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them
- People will have increased skills and confidence, so that they continue to identify and respond to needs in the future
- The community will make a difference to the needs it prioritises
- People will feel that their area is an even better place to live

In Aberfeldy, we are investing this money to make the area a better place to live and allow all residents to benefit from the changes taking place in the community.

HOW DO WE OPERATE?

We operate through a partnership board of residents that meets once a month to make decisions on how to use the Big Local funding to benefit the whole community. All our members live in Aberfeldy. We work with Quaker Social Action, a charity based in Bethnal Green, to put our plans into practice. They hold the money on behalf of the partnership and support our work in the community. We employ staff to help us achieve our goals, including our ABL team and staff at Tommy's Tea Room.

ABL Virtual Afternoon Tea

Meet the team at our first ever ABL Virtual Afternoon Tea

Come along and join us for a relaxed afternoon tea
from the comfort of your own space.

A great, safe opportunity to meet with the ABL team and
chat about what is important to you about the Aberfeldy area.

Date: Monday 29th March 2021

Time: 2-3pm

Platform: Zoom



To book and receive the Zoom link please contact hello@aberfeldybiglocal.com or
07436 568 483.

The Partnership Board

The board is made up of 8 proactive, dedicated local residents who are volunteer partnership board members working together to make decisions about Big Local funding that benefits community life and residents of all ages living on Aberfeldy. Hear from some of the board members:

The biggest asset in Aberfeldy are the residents. I joined Aberfeldy Big Local because it allows all of us to build our confidence and capacity, and enables us to have our voices heard.

Leila Lawal, Chair

I've lived on the Aberfeldy for four years and it has been great to be welcomed and included in the community. Aberfeldy Big Local has been a big part of that. Coming together for the good of everyone who lives and works here - whether they are newcomers or those who've lived here for decades - is what the Big Local is all about.

Reverend Matt Wall

ABL is doing great work, I enjoy volunteering and that's what got me involved, it is great to see what is going on. I'm looking forward to what comes next.

Sheila Bridgen

I am Jimmy, aged 62, and have lived in Poplar all my life. For the past 35 years, I have lived on the Aberfeldy Estate. In 2016 I had to stop work due to poor health and I started to get involved in some local volunteering activities which led to me joining the Aberfeldy Big Local. Through working together, we have achieved a lot and I feel strongly that the best results for the community can be achieved by local people working together.

Jimmy Watters

My name is Wayne and I have lived on this estate for most of my life. I joined the Big Local group to ensure that our community has a say in the changes that are occurring in our neighbourhood. The Big Local has enabled us, as a group, to engage with the organisations that are involved with this change, rather than have change foisted upon us.

Wayne Murphy

I have been a resident of Aberfeldy for over 42 years. I have watched my children grow up in the area, and am thankful that I can still surround myself with my friends and family in the area I care about. I have watched as Aberfeldy has grown and changed, and I am proud to be part of the growing community. I look forward to being part of the development of Aberfeldy, and hope it continues to evolve in to a place I would like my grandchildren to grow up in.

Kirk Whitelock

ABL is as an opportunity to help shape our neighbourhood and community into the best place for us and our neighbours to live with skills, ideas and talents encouraged to benefit all with everyone welcome. I have lived here since I was born and have always been interested in the community, running a tenant's association, being involved in street parties, meeting councillors and developers regarding plans for the Estate. I am passionate about provisions for children and young people as I believe that if they enjoy where they live they will respect and be involved in the area.

Val De-Vos

I have only been an Aberfeldy resident for the last five years. In this time, I have made new friends and met some lovely people that I am proud to call my family (albeit extended). Part of the reason I fell in love with Aberfeldy was the sense of community. It is a great feeling to be able to walk down the road and say hello to friends and family. I hope the new developments on Aberfeldy only add to the already great community spirit.

Daryl Pryer

Community Chest

Community Chest are grants for local people to fund new ideas, activities and events that bring people in Aberfeldy together, build community spirit and create opportunities to meet and have fun with neighbours. Previous grants of up to £500 have funded bingo sessions, seaside trips, nutrition workshops, film nights, sports and children's play, to name a few.

If you have an idea get in touch with the ABL team to talk it through, get help filling in your application and support planning the activity to make sure your great idea will be safe for all. After a year of restrictions that have limited or cancelled group activities, new ideas will take extra thought and planning. To help with this, grants in 2021 are increased to up to £1,000.

The deadline for applications to be emailed to eleanorimage@aberfeldybiglocal.com is 10.00am Monday 19th April

MORE HOME LIFE Recipient of an ABL business grant



My name is Natalie Dinsmore and I have been working and volunteering in E14 for the past 6 years setting up community projects providing locals with spaces for their businesses, social activities and causes. During my time here, I have formed strong ties at a grass-roots level, learning about and supporting those with limited access to opportunities, as a result of socio-economic issues.

Through my work, I discovered that as a result of these problems, there are 1000s of residents in Tower Hamlets struggling to afford essential furniture and homeware items for their homes. It never sat well with me that a child may not have a bed to sleep in or a person exiting homelessness, the basic essentials required when settling into a property. Furthermore, even locals on low incomes were desperate for reasonably priced furniture that didn't result in them having to take out a loan in order to purchase.

More Life Home, currently run by volunteers was created as a way to tackle and bring about more awareness to these issues. We do this by recycling donated furniture, clothes and homeware items, saving them from landfill and instead redistributing them into the homes of people that need help or re-selling at low cost, via our community shop, now based at 41 Aberfeldy Street.

We are so excited to be opening on Aberfeldy Street, so we can not only introduce a new type of product but encourage locals to join in fun workshops that will teach new skills and enable participants to connect with members of their community. The space will also be utilised by young people and creatives to host podcasts, photoshoots and events that residents will be invited to attend. More Life Home can't wait to help make-up the face of the street and become a local service the people of Aberfeldy can rely on.



Improving Aberfeldy Open Spaces

In 2019, Aberfeldy Big Local started working with Tower Hamlets Parks department to plan improvements to the three parks on the Aberfeldy Estate: Braithwaite Park, Leven Road Open Space and Millennium Green.

The idea was to recruit a landscape architect to develop a scheme involving the three parks and the links between them. Both ABL and the council's parks team wanted to get as much input from local residents as possible, so planned a series of consultation stages.

In the summer of 2019, at the ABL open day in August, residents were invited to share their views on the three parks. Residents identified play as the top priority for improvements along with planting, wildlife and areas for relaxation.

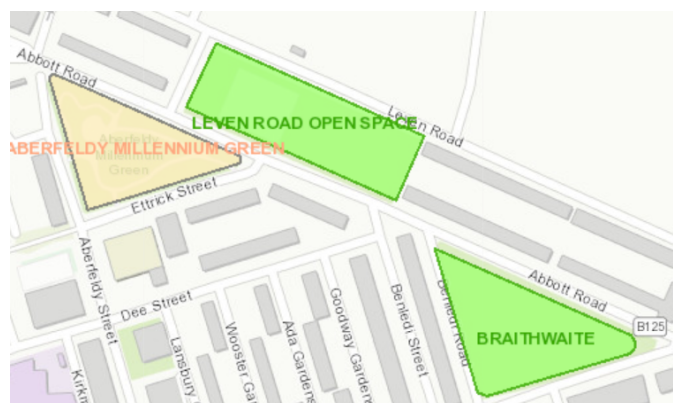
Unfortunately, by early 2020 COVID-19 interfered with planned consultation which was carried out by resident researchers roving around the park sites in August and September 2020, collecting a total of 154 questionnaires in which residents commented on what they like about each site and how they would like to see each improved.



Generally those who contributed suggested all areas need improvement in planting, biodiversity, seating as well as provision for children. Cleaning was also identified as an issue across all sites. At present, each site has a particular identity and residents suggested that these should be enhanced, with improved play and sports facilities as well as planting and seating, while attention should be given to ensuring safety of children and designs should avoid creating areas for anti social behaviour.

Site specific comments were:

- Braithwaite Open Space is used for play and was the space most used by residents. People wished to see the play offer improved, as well as other improvements to planting and areas for relaxation.
- Leven Road Open Space is used for exercise and residents wish to see the offer improved for sports and physical activity.
- Millennium Green is seen as an area for rest and relaxation and residents would like to see improvements to seating, planting and enjoying nature.



Improving Aberfeldy Open Spaces

An advisory group has been set up by ABL and the Council's Parks team to oversee the development of a plan for all three sites and the links between them. In the light of the major developments going on with Ecoworld / Poplar HARCA and St. William, and the emphasis these bodies are placing on green space in the area, they have been invited to join the advisory group, and one of the firms of landscape architects, LDA Design have agreed to work with ABL, the Parks team and the advisory group to develop a plan.

LDA Design are working to create a range of design ideas that will be the subject of the next round of consultation planned for April 2021 which will seek residents input on these ideas with a view to create a final design for the open spaces by the end of June.

We hope that everyone living in the area will share thoughts and ideas on how best to make these spaces work for all residents. New notice boards are being installed in each open space to share up to date ideas and plans.

Alice Bigelow – Tower Hamlets Parks Team

Why is it important we improve our open spaces?

Green spaces are really important for our health. Studies have shown that access to green spaces improved both physical and mental health. Long-term conditions such as heart disease, cancer, musculoskeletal conditions and childhood obesity can be reduced if people have green spaces near to where they live. So it's really important that we have fantastic green spaces in the Aberfeldy Village and that we make the most of them!

Emma Radcliffe, Aberfeldy GP

The Parks team & ABL will hold an outdoor exhibition on Millennium Green on **Saturday April 10th or 17th** to present drawings designers have created based on consultation feedback.

Come and have your say!

This will be an ongoing process throughout April, you can give feedback on designs, share ideas and ask questions at hello@aberfeldybiglocal.com

After the exhibition, drawings will be at the Front Room, 39 Aberfeldy St. Check opening times on the shutters, Instagram, Facebook and ABL website www.aberfeldybiglocal.com.



A trip down memory lane

Aberfeldy has been through many changes since the Second World War, when the bombing destroyed the area and was later developed into the Aberfeldy Estate.

There were well known community spots where the locals were able to meet and socialise. The regeneration of the area has seen some of these places replaced with some new sites and venues.

We would like you to take a trip down memory lane, think about your experiences of Aberfeldy and share some of your favourite or nostalgic moments.

It could be a place that you like, a local person that inspires you, or something that empowers you about the area.

Send in your photos to our Instagram @Aberfeldybl labelling them as one of the categories-

#People #Places #Power



Get Involved

Aberfeldy Big Local is a community organisation that is investing £1 million of Lottery money into the Aberfeldy estate up until 2026.

A partnership of local residents meets once a month to oversee the spending and make decisions on what it should be used to do in the community. We are always looking for people to join us!

You can get involved with ABL in different ways. You can:

- Become a member of the partnership - join our monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of every month to get involved in decision-making and planning
- Become a registered member - sign up as a registered member of ABL to be first to know about news, events and opportunities
- Volunteer - register your interest in volunteering in the community on projects you are interested in

Like and message our Facebook page to register your interest, or visit www.aberfeldybiglocal.com

If you want to find out more about ABL or have an idea for something that would benefit the community, you can contact the team on hello@aberfeldybiglocal.com or 07436 568 483.

