

THE ABERFELDY ANNOUNCER

The newsletter from Aberfeldy Big Local



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Aberfeldy Big Local Updates

It has been a year since the Aberfeldy Big Local team moved into the space at 39 Aberfeldy Street, and what a successful year it has been!

Despite working through Covid restrictions, we have supported many different activities, engaging with local residents through Community Chest funded projects, the Tea Room, Community Food Resource and through our social media. Hundreds of residents benefitted from ABL's activities and we welcomed 4 new members to our Partnership Board.

There is a lot to look forward to this year, with a big focus on engaging residents of all ages to inform the writing of our new Local Plan.

Read on to find out what's coming up and how to get involved!

Follow us on social media or visit our website:



Aberfeldy Big Local



@AberfeldyBL



@AberfeldyBL



www.aberfeldybiglocal.com

ABERFELDY
big local

Highlights from ABL

In 2021, 225 residents accessed 12 different projects funded by Community Chest. Popular activities for adults included sewing and walking groups and 172 different children aged 0-16 took part in a range of activities including active football sessions, creative art club and messy play for under 5's.

8 local people were trained to deliver First Aid at work, all living and working on Aberfeldy, this increases First Aid skills in the community. Lots of cups of tea were made and enjoyed at the newly named Sheila's Brew, a great place to meet and we met over 100 residents of all ages at Summer, Halloween and Winter events on Aberfeldy Street.

18 tablets and data were given to Aberfeldy residents as part of a digital poverty project. There are now 180 local residents on the mailing list getting regular updates. To join our mailing list, please give us your email address and we will sign you up to get regular updates.

We have been updating the Aberfeldy Big Local website adding a calendar of activities in Aberfeldy and previous issues of the Aberfeldy Announcer. Documents about developments in the area will be collated on one regeneration page so you are informed about what is happening.



Visit www.aberfeldybiglocal.com to find out more!

Community Events

Last year we asked for ideas and hoped to run the annual ABL summer event. The ABL staff team heard from residents who wanted to hold street parties, celebrate World Cup games and occasions like Christmas and Eid. Unfortunately, ABL didn't organise any big event in 2021, however, we are planning for that to change in 2022.

With the Jubilee in June and so many good ideas to build on, we are planning to hold an event on Millennium Green, to give a proper street party feel, we will investigate using street space nearby to create more opportunities and activities.

If you live in Balmore Close or Jura House, what do you think of using the street space near you?

What are your great ideas and how would you like to get involved? The Jubilee weekend and Bank Holidays are June 2nd - 5th. Join our mailing list to keep up to date.



Have you got photos from the 1977 Jubilee on Aberfeldy that could be displayed on the day?

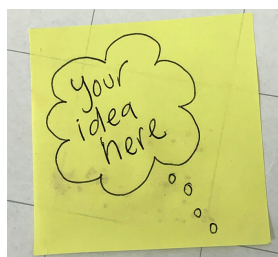
Want to help create miles of bunting to hang?

Consulting on the ABL Local Plan

All 150 Big Local projects are community led and informed by the changes residents want to make in their areas.

Every 2 years a new Local Plan is written after consultation and engagement with the Aberfeldy community. During March & April we want to hear from residents of all ages. What would you like to see happen in your community and how can you make it happen?

Aberfeldy is going through huge changes as part of the regeneration programme, continuing over the next 10 years, past the lifetime of ABL which ends in March 2026. Residents have said a connected community is a stronger community. We want to hear from you, what do you think makes your community stronger and makes Aberfeldy a better place to live?



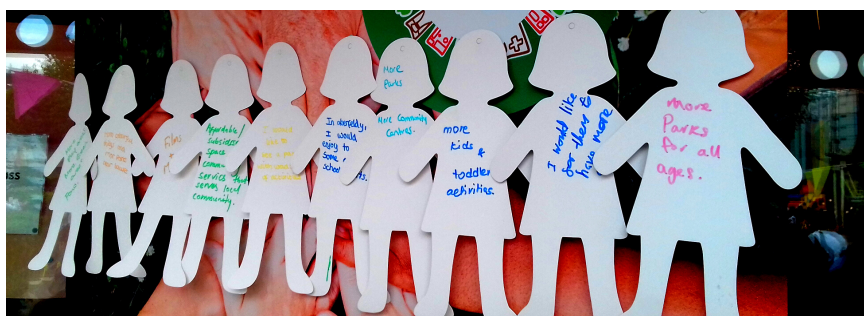
What will help build community spirit and connections over the next 4 years as the area goes through a big change? ABL's current Local Plan identified People, Places and Power as themes to work towards, upskilling local people, creating places to meet and building the power of local residents to influence change.

Writing this Local Plan involves planning the legacy of ABL as we get closer to the end of the project.

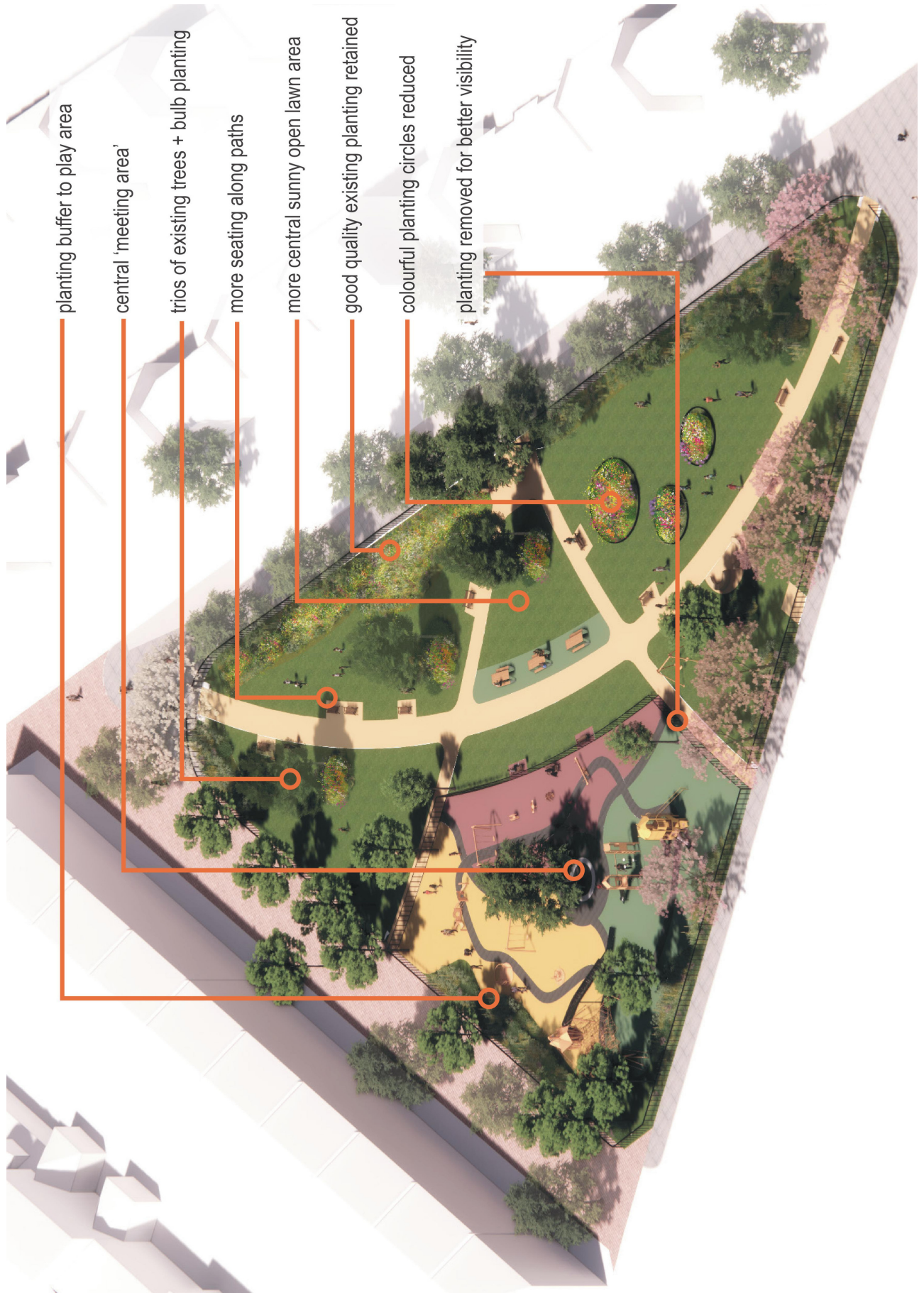
One legacy plan that has been discussed over the last 2 years is to set up a new organisation and continue the community development work on Aberfeldy.

Another legacy plan is to set up a Friends of Aberfeldy Parks group, building on all the positive engagement over the last 2 years consulting locally and working with LBTH Parks Team on designs for Braithwaite Park, Leven Road and Millennium Green. A Friends Group would protect these spaces from future development and ensure the community has a voice in maintenance, planting and activities.

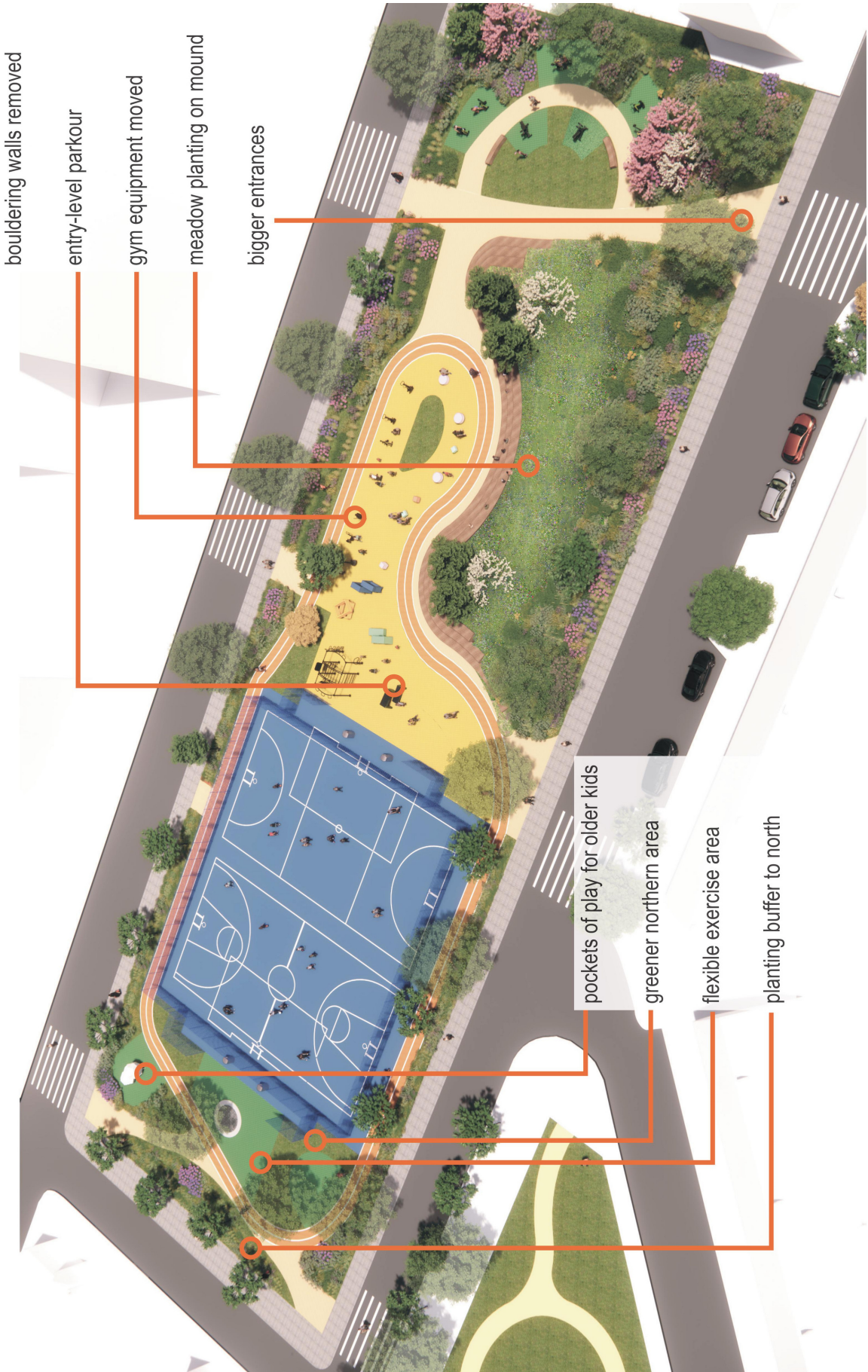
So we need to hear from YOU, the residents of Aberfeldy. We will be consulting in a range of ways, talking & listening, online surveys and you can come and talk at 39 Aberfeldy Street. If you have an email address please email us at hello@aberfeldybiglocal.com so we can add you to our mailing list.



Braithwaite Park



Leven Road



Aberfeldy Big Local has been working with London Borough of Tower Hamlets Parks team (LBTH Parks) over the last 2 years, consulting and engaging on refurbishments being made to the well-loved and used green spaces on Aberfeldy.

Since the last consultation in July 2021, the London Design Agency responded to feedback and produced plans for Braithwaite Park and Leven Road, now submitted as part of the planning application for the next phase of work being done by Poplar HARCA and EcoWorld. Plans for Millennium Green will be part of the next phase of work in starting late 2022 / 2023.

Both Braithwaite and Leven Road are managed by LBTH Parks, their experienced parks, bio-diversity and tree officers have been involved at every stage, with visits to sites done by the maintenance team to ensure the planting of trees, bushes and flowers are suitable to care for and into the future.

BRAITHWAITE PARK

In Braithwaite Park, the play area will increase in size, be fenced on all sides with no access allowed for dogs and provide a range of inclusive play equipment for children 0 – 12 years old. Swings for all ages were asked for at all stages of the consultation, to meet the need for swings an additional set will go outside the fenced area.

There will be space to enjoy the sunshine, more seating with a mix of benches and picnic tables. New pathways will give better connections and feel safer and more open with an additional entrance facing towards the football pitch and new gym equipment at Leven Road.

LEVEN ROAD

Plans for Leven Road are to improve the existing football pitch. Throughout the consultations, there have been requests for Astro turf and G4 pitch surfaces. Both of these require a level of maintenance requiring the pitches to be booked and paid for. The surface chosen as the best fit for the space and use is a polymeric surface, made from rubber. It is shock absorbent and is used widely in Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA) like the one at Leven Road.

The mound will stay and be re-shaped, flattening the top for new equipment and cutting into the side to create seating. New gym equipment will be installed at Leven Road, offering a mixture of weight and cardio training spread out around the space.

EcoWorld will be paying for the refurbishment work in agreement with LBTH Parks, buying new play and gym equipment, all new planting, paving, tables and seating. LBTH Parks owns the land and will continue to own and maintain both spaces for years to come.

Youth Activities

A group of year 10 students from Langdon Park school called the Aberfeldy Heroes applied for a Community Chest grant back in March 2021 to sell bubble tea at a community event.

The Aberfeldy Heroes ran a successful Bubble Tea stall at the Meanwhile Space winter event on December 4th. They had a variety of bubble tea flavours on offer, it was a very busy day for them as they reached out and promoted their drink stall.

The young people currently meet on Tuesday afternoons, they pop in to meet with friends, play games and talk about ideas on how to engage other young people. They have also been treated to bowling trips and pizza for their hard work and engagement with ABL.

We will be working with this group and others to help plan our Jubilee summer event. If you're interested in being part of this exciting project, drop into **39 Aberfeldy Street** on **Tuesdays between 3.45-5.30pm!**



Community Food Resource



The Community Food Resource, planned as a 10 week project from October to December 2021, was extended for an additional 6 weeks and finished in February. Thanks to support from the Felix Project and LBTH Tackling Poverty Food Hub, 100 Aberfeldy households benefitted from weekly deliveries of fresh and packaged food.

Some neighbours on Aberfeldy are using the free food sharing app, Olio. Aiming to avoid waste by sharing food, some local supermarkets are signed up to the app, you can collect food from businesses as well as sharing your food with neighbours. Check the Olio website to learn more.

Below is information for some Food Banks in Tower Hamlets:

Neighbours in Poplar
St Matthias Community Centre
113 Poplar High Street, E14 0AE
Thursdays 11am – 1.00pm
enquiries@neighboursinpoplar.com
0207 531 0190

Bethnal Green Food Bank
St Matthew's Church
Bethnal Green, E2 6DT
Wednesdays 2-7pm
bethnalgreenfoodbank@gmail.com
0207 739 7586

Bow Food Bank
Bromley-by-Bow Centre
St Leonard's Street, E3 3BT
Mondays 8.30am-12.30pm
info@bowfoodbank.org
07934 734603 (call or text)
@bowfoodbank

About ABL

Aberfeldy Big Local is a community organisation, set up and funded with an investment of £1 million over 10 - 15 years. All Big Local projects are about local people working together, increasing skills and knowledge and taking action to create a great place to live.

ABL has invested in services open on Aberfeldy High Street including The Tommy Flowers pub, Roots Barbers, More Life Home and Aberfeldy Boxing Club. Projects previously funded include Aberfeldy FC football and youth sessions as well under 5's play at St Nicholas Church. These projects met the aims of the 2020-2022 Local Plan to create places to meet and increase activities for all ages.

Part of how ABL meets aims in the plan is to fund other local organisations through grants, Community Chest between £500 and £1,000 and bigger grants for longer projects. This year grants timetable will be decided when the new Local Plan has been agreed by Local Trust in July 2022. To register your interest email hello@aberfeldybiglocal.com and we will sign you up to our mailing list to keep you up to date.

How does Big Local work?

A partnership board of between 8 and 16 people who live on Aberfeldy meet once a month to discuss the priorities in the Local Plan and make decisions on how to deliver the aims that benefit the whole community. The partnership board and the local knowledge and information they have are essential to running the project.

How to get involved?

Are you interested in community organising, want to build on what makes your community a good place and cooperate with others to identify what could be improved?

Want to do some training to build on existing experience or learn a new skill? ABL trained Community Researchers in 2020 and are planning more training in 2022. If you are interested in doing Community Research training or other training please email us at hello@aberfeldybiglocal.com or come and talk to one of the team at **39 Aberfeldy Street**.

We are actively looking for a local photographer to take photos at ABL activities and events, for publicity, newsletters and social media. If you enjoy taking photos and are interested in working with ABL to create a portfolio of local people and places please contact us.

You can also register your interest in volunteering in the community on projects you are interested in.

For more information on ABL, visit our website by scanning our QR code:



To receive regular updates about ABL activities and opportunities, join our mailing list by scanning our QR code:

