



# **Big Local North East Hastings**

## **Resident Led Partnership**

### **Annual Report 2018**

This is the resident-led partnership's report for the period May 2017- April 2018

North East Hastings was awarded Big Local area status, one of 150 similar areas across the country each with £1million of Lottery money to spend over a 10-year period. The money is administered for the Lottery by Local Trust.

The job of the resident-led partnership is to draw-up the action plan and budget, and to manage the Big Local programme of events and projects in its area.

The partnership met 10 times in the last year.

Resident Members of the Partnership - Maureen Gardiner; Jackie Gaunt; Mags Pawson; Becky Polain; Pat Simnett; Richard Street; Rachel Pearson, Gary Storer; Martin Styring; Jim Breeds.

Co-opted members: Cllr Tania Charman, Emile Tambeh (Hastings Borough Council); Zoe Jackson (Optivo).

The partnership is supported by Jim Boot (Big Local Rep), Jan Papworth (Community Development Worker), Lisa Bartholomew (Administrator) and Steve Manwaring (LTO), Graham Hodgson (1066 Community).

2017/18 represented the 4<sup>th</sup> year of our 10 year plan.

#### **Some of our activities this year**

##### **In spring 2017 the partnership**

- Finalised the GREAT Action Plan leaflet, this was an excellent piece of work.
- Made plans to change our Locally Trusted Organisation from Orbit Housing to Hastings Voluntary Action.
- Delivered a family Easter event at The Bridge which was attended by nearly 100 people, 36 being adults, the remainder children. 67% lived in the Big Local area. Comments were very positive and a good time was had by all.

- Agreed to start work on a Big Local Summer programme for families including a fun day.
- Elected Pat Simnett as chair and Jackie Gaunt as vice chair
- Jackie Gaunt and Maureen Gardiner attended the Local Trust Spring Event in London. This included a workshop about leaving a legacy
- Awarded £4,000 to 1066 Community CIC for promoting Big Local by displaying our logo on a mini bus and making it available for Big Local use and other community work.

### **In summer 2017**

- The transition from Orbit to HVA was completed, including an office move to HVA's town centre offices.
- RLP member Martin Styring took the lead on organising the summer fun day which was held at the Adventure Play Ground as part of our summer programme, during the August Bank Holiday weekend. It was free to enter and enjoyed by over 300 adults and children.
- Two commissioning groups were set up to design and procure projects that supported the themes of Raise a Family and Advance in Years. These were voted for out of the 5 objectives set out in the Big Local vision for the future. The design of projects was based on information that local residents provided in our consultation carried out in early 2017.
- Funded Oasis Community Project to run a series of subsidised outings for local residents. Destinations included Drusilla's, Hampton Court and London Zoo.
- Heart of Hastings Community Land Trust updated Big Local on the progress of their aim to develop the former power station site, off (Upper Broomgrove Road) and their success with door knocking to find out what residents wanted.
- Delivered a round of small grants. Small grants are awarded by a sub-group of RLP members to groups delivering services and activities in the Big Local area. In this round £6,543 was awarded to nine local groups.

### **In autumn 2017**

- We responded to the news of the closure of seven East Sussex libraries in which Ore library was included, by supporting Richard Street's Save Ore Library Campaign and writing to the East Sussex County Council.
- Following an in depth discussion at the Resident Led Partnership, it was agreed to no longer fund the 4 Centres CIC but to investigate alternative ways to support local community facilities in the future.
- £5,300 funding was awarded to Ore Community Land Trust for Speckled Wood Base and Volunteer project.
- Members of the Resident Led Partnership continued to work on the commissioning process and both groups designed a project to directly benefit our residents. The "Advance in Years" group devised a project to help local pensioners to use a tablet so that they could shop and claim benefits online, and use email and social networking to keep in touch with their family. Each participant will receive a tablet to use at home. The "Raise a Family" group designed high quality after school clubs for primary aged children to be based at Downs Farm Community Centre and the Bridge.

### **In winter 2017/18**

- We awarded £40,000 to Heart of Hastings to cover the costs of the planning application, BUD (Bottom Up Development) team wages and expenses with a further £20,000 in reserve once the transfer of the land is secured
- Information packs were provided to all members of the partnership full of relevant info for use throughout their membership and to issue to new members in the future
- Investment of £3,000 to each of the four community centres was agreed in order to promote their sustainability.
- Our funder, Local Trust set up training opportunities for partnership members from all over the country to attend covering many issues that Big Local groups are looking to address
- News was received that the Sandown School had decided that it was unable to raise the fund necessary to develop a new swimming pool project had ended and the money that the school had raised would be allocated to other school projects. The partnership was later advised that an all-weather running track was a consideration, to be agreed the following school term.

- There was a major water issue in Ore, due to burst water pipes. People in Downs Farm, were particularly affected. Downs Farm Community Centre organised local volunteers who worked around the clock to make sure residents were provided with bottled water. The 1066 community bus funded by Big Local helped to make deliveries. It was agreed that any out of pocket expenses incurred by residents would be funded by Big Local. The reimbursement was made at an Optivo event at the community centre in May with three residents receiving certificates recognising their voluntary achievement.
- Oasis established a new group - The Men's group - with a Big Local Small Grant of £1,050 .
- Matt Leach CEO of Local Trust visited Hastings and met with Pat Simnett and Jim Boot. They toured the Ore area and saw local projects funded by Big Local.
- Members of the partnership completed the commissioning process by inviting applications to deliver the projects they had designed, interviewing prospective deliverers and appointing an were completed, Hastings Works were chosen to deliver digital inclusion for the older people project funded with £10,000 and In2play were selected to deliver after school clubs. A lot of hard word work and time went into the creation of these projects, thanks to all involved.

### **Former Power Station Site**

We continued to support the Heart of Hastings Community Land Trust in their bid to deliver a community led development at the site off Broomgrove Road. We have funded the wages of their team which is engaging local residents and working towards ownership of the land in order to proceed with the build. The decision to transfer the land is in the hands of Hastings Borough Council and we hope for progress during the next few weeks.

### **Finance**

Our budget for 2017/18 was £208,000. The Locally Trusted Organisation changed to Hastings Voluntary Action in July 2017 and at the end of March 2018, £121,744 had been spent. As we are currently awaiting our next tranche of funding from Local Trust, we are using the underspend to pay for our running costs. When this financial year has been reconciled and signed off, details of the finance will be made available on our website.

Significant spend this year includes,

- Small Grants (20 grants) £20,258
- Heart of Hastings Community Land Trust (Power Station Site) £40,000

- Events, AGM, Summer fayre & panto 2016 £17,355
- Summer outings for residents £5,000
- Community Centre Support (4Cs CIC) £12,000
- Community Development worker £13,500
- Greenway/Ore Community Land Trust £5,300

### **Where you can find out more**

You can follow our progress on the Big Local Facebook page-NorthEastHastings.BigLocal, and on our website [www.biglocalnortheasthastings.org.uk](http://www.biglocalnortheasthastings.org.uk) where minutes of our partnership meetings can be found.

If you would like to get involved with Big Local, whether it's coming along to one of our meetings or tackling a local problem, please talk to our Community Development Worker today.

*In summary, we have had a very busy, productive year which would not have been possible without the commitment from everyone involved. Special thanks to all the members of the Resident Led Partnership, our support workers Jan Papworth and Lisa Bartholomew, Jim Boot our Big Local representative and Hastings Voluntary Action. Their support and hard work has made my job so much easier for which I am really grateful.*

**Pat Simnett**

**Chair of the Resident Led Partnership**

**June 2018**



**Hastings Voluntary Action is Big Local North East Hastings' Locally Trusted Organisation**