



Big Local North East Hastings Resident-Led Partnership (RLP) Annual Report 2019

This is the Resident-Led Partnership's report for the period July 2018 - September 2019.

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 RLP's role is to draw up an action plan and budget and to manage the Big Local programme of events and projects in its area. The partnership has met 11 times since the last AGM.

Resident Members of the Partnership during the period: Maureen Gardiner; Jackie Gaunt (Vice-Chair); Mags Pawson; Becky Polain; Pat Simnett (stood down in December); Richard Street (Chair); Rachel Pearson, Martin Styring; Jim Breeds, Karen Smith.

Co-opted members: Cllr Tania Charman, Zoe Jackson (Optivo), Graham Hodgson (1066 Community).

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

We have paid out £19,944 through our Small Grants fund which invites organisations to bid for up to £1,066 to provide activities and services for residents of the Big Local Area. These have covered an enormous range including Christmas decorations in Ore Village, summer outings, a puppet workshop, play activities for young children and other activities for older youngsters including football. Older folk haven't been neglected either with activities for them funded as well.

Many residents of the area would never have had the opportunity to get away and experience great locations and activities further afield without this funding. The extensive programme of events over the school summer holidays has also provided respite for harassed parents and brilliant, new experiences for the children taking part.

I was particularly pleased that we agreed to a grant to Sussex Prisoners Families to provide much-needed support to the families of those serving prison sentences who often face isolation and exclusion for no fault of their own.

We have also paid out £87,765 in larger grants. These have included a continuation of the highly popular Get Connected digital training for older residents, a range of activities for younger children and 2 major projects aimed at older children supporting the GAP Project and Motivate with Optivo's Fresh Visions both of which provide very constructive ways of engaging teenagers and diverting them from anti-social activities. We have also provided funding to ensure the survival of the Men's Shed in its present location at Manhattan Gardens.

Every penny paid out in grants has contributed to our mission to make the area a GREAT place to live. As I have said on more than one occasion, we may not be able to change people's lives but we can make them that bit better.

We held a very successful Fun Day in July 2018 at the Broomgrove Power Station site in partnership with the Heart of Hastings Community Land Trust brilliantly organised by Martin Styring. In August this year we held a very different but equally successful Fun Day at The Bridge Community Centre organised by 18 Hours with giant rabbits, puppets and brilliant entertainment which was very well-received by the large number who attended.

One project we have supported from the beginning with significant funds is the Heart of Hastings project to bring affordable housing, skills and jobs to the long-derelict Broomgrove Power station site in the Ore Valley. Sadly this has been delayed by the decision by the owners, SeaSpace, to put it on the market in the hope of getting a better deal. There is still a possibility that it might happen but this is looking increasingly unlikely as time passes.

One thing that concerned me when I took over as Chair in July 2018 was the lack of recognition among local residents of Big Local and what it was about. With this in mind I have produced 2 Newsletters detailing our aims and activities which have been widely distributed and also managed to persuade local media both print and online to publish Press Releases. It was very reassuring to talk to many residents at the recent Fun Day who were well aware of us.

There is a great deal of work involved behind the scenes in ensuring that the Partnership keeps going and achieves its aims. It's only since becoming Chair that I have realised just how much Jan and Lisa do outside of meetings and I would like to propose a massive vote of thanks for their dedication and the hard work they do. We've also had great support from Steve Manwaring and others at HVA, our Local Trusted Organisation.

I would also like to thank the RLP members who come along to meetings regularly and ensure that the £1 million is spent wisely and in the best interests of our residents. Many come to additional meetings to make decisions on Small Grants and to organise events and activities as well as being strong advocates of Big Local in their local areas and bringing that knowledge to the decision-making table. It would be wonderful to welcome many more with fresh eyes to the table.

Richard Street 17/09/19