



Big Local North-East Hastings

Report for April 2022-August 2023

Appendix 1: Small Grants Information 2022/23

Organisation	Project	Funding	Beneficiaries Forecast	Actual	BL Area	Volunteers Forecast	Actual
Hastings Storytelling Festival	Norwich Puppet Theatre at Sandown School	1,066	370	387	387	5	4
Hastings and St Leonards Men's Shed	Workshop Equipment Replacement	458	10	12	12	1	0
Ore Community Land Trust	Forest School	400	20	31	31	2	3
SC Pass + Move	Football for all Launch	1,020	50	35	35	5	5
Sussex Futsal Club	2022/23 Season Youth Academy	1,025	40			2	
IdolRich Theatre Rotto	Buckets and Barnacles	1,066	3	10	10	2	1

Hastings Storytelling Festival – Norwich Puppet Theatre at Sandown School

BL funded: £1,066

Forecast: 370 beneficiaries & 5 volunteers

Actual: 387 beneficiaries & 4 volunteers

Hastings Storytelling Festival hosted two performances from the Norwich Puppet Theatre's Little Red Riding Hood. The performances were held at Sandown School. An afternoon performance for school children and an evening performance for families.

Hastings and St Leonards Men's Shed – Workshop Equipment Replacement

BL funded: £458

Forecast: 10 beneficiaries & 1 volunteer

Actual: 12 beneficiaries & 0 volunteers

Funding from Big Local helped towards the costs of replacement of equipment that was old and failing. The Hastings and St Leonards Men’s Shed purchased a new sharpening system and a dust extractor for all members to use.

Ore Community Land Trust – Forest School

BL funded: £400

Forecast: 20 beneficiaries & 2 volunteers

Actual: 31 beneficiaries & 3 volunteers

Funding Ore Community Land Trust enabled the continuation of the weekly parent and toddler forest school sessions. This was held at the Ore Community Garden in Ore Village. Families enjoyed access to woodlands and the garden exploring nature and nature based activities.

SC Pass + Move – Football for all Launch

BL funded: £1,020

Forecast: 50 beneficiaries & 5 volunteers

Actual: 35 beneficiaries & 5 volunteers

The football sessions were aimed at 4-13 year olds at Hastings Academy. Big Local funding enabled two volunteer Coaches achieve their level 1 FA qualification. Funding also contributed towards venue hire costs and the purchase of additional footballs.

Sussex Futsal Club – 2022-23 Season Youth Academy

BL funded: £1,025

Forecast: 40 beneficiaries & 2 volunteers

Actual: Awaiting monitoring information.

IdolRich Theatre Rotto – Buckets and Barnacles

BL funded: £1,066

Forecast: 3 beneficiaries & 10 volunteers

Actual: 2 beneficiaries & 1 volunteers

Big Local small grants contributed towards after school puppet making sessions for children. They designed, crafted and animated their own shadow puppet characters over three sessions. The final exhibition of the children’s work were then displayed in Hastings’s Priory Meadow shopping centre.

Appendix 2: Small Grants Round 1 New Plan 2023/24

HARC	HARC Outreach at Dom's Food Mission	A 6 months pilot welfare benefit advice at Downs Farm
Pass + Move Football Coaching	Football for all weekly open session to all children aged 4-12	To enable the continuation of weekly sessions
Oasis Community Project	Suitable Seating and Suitable Eating	For suitable seating for older people on higher chairs. For Grumpy Cook to supply low cost breakfasts for residents

Groundwork South, Hastings and Rother	Greening for Wellbeing Family Activities at Farley Bank	To continue community nature engagement projects and improve residents of Farley Bank wellbeing.
AOI Bara Meditation and Wellness CIC	Ore 12 week Introductory Meditation and Wellness Course	A 12 week introductory meditation techniques free to the public
Manzi Foundation	one-one Digital Support	To provide additional digital support either online or by telephone
In2play CIC	Adventure Play Ground Wheels and Meals	To expand adventure playground sessions to deliver young volunteer cooking sessions
Hastings and St Leonards Men's Shed	Creation of Enlarged Workshop Space Stage 1	Creation of an enlarged workshop to provide more working space for members. Stage 1 will be clearance of part of the grounds and construction of external covered storage by Nov 23
IdolRich TheatreRotto	Magic Lantern Curios	To deliver 1-2 after school workshops
Ore Community Library	Ore Community Library	To enable the Library to open more often
Pindrop Trust	Fit for Long Life	Fitness for older people
Marine Training Corps CIC	Field Trips for Cadets	To contribute towards cadets field trips concentrating on discipline, team work and helping the community
Hastings Storytelling Festival	Little Angel Theatre at Sandown School	An afternoon performance for children at the school and an after school performance for children and families

Organisation	Project	Funding	Beneficiaries Forecast	Actual	BL Area	Volunteers Forecast	Actual
HARC	Benefits advice at Dom's Food Mission	1,066	35			0	
Pass and Move Football Coaching	Workshop Equipment Replacement	1,066	50	52	13	5	5
Oasis Community Project	Suitable Seating Suitable Eating	1,065	27	29	29	4	4

Groundwork South Hastings and Rother	Greening for Wellbeing Family Activities at Farley Bank	1,066	50			4	
AOI Bara Meditation and Wellness CIC	Ore 12 week Introductory Meditation and Wellness Course	472	15	3	3	2	2
Manzi Foundation	One-One Digital Support	1,020	80	86	86	0	0
In2play CIC	Adventure Playground Meals and Wheels	1,050	86	86	86	0	0
Hastings and St Leonards Men's Shed	Creation of Enlarged Work Space Stage 1	750	10			5	
IdolRich Theatre Rotto	Magic Lantern Curios	1,066	65			1	
Ore Community library	Ore Community Library	950	140			15	
Pindrop Trust	Fit For Long Life	1,065	50			5	
Marine Training Corps CIC	Field Trips for Cadets	950	30			8	
Hastings Storytelling Festival	Little Angel Theatre at Sandown School	1,066	370			5	

Appendix 3: Infrastructure Grants Information

Org	Project	BL funding
Hastings and St Leonards Men's Shed	Creation of a new workshop space	2,500
Ore Community Library	Internal external lighting, power sockets, printer and library signage	3,609
Ore Centre	Installation of a fire alarm system	2,000
In2play CIC	For the purchase and installation of an outside pizza oven	2,200
Oasis Community Project	Planning permission and architect costs for extending Broomgrove Community centre	Waiting for quotes
		10,309

Appendix 4: Feedback

Qualitative information provided by project leaders

Round 1 2022-23 reporting

SG148 Hastings Storytelling Festival – Norwich Puppet Theatre at Sandown School

Big Local provided a unique opportunity to reach children at Sandown School with a free afternoon show for children aged Reception-Year 4. It was a noisy but totally engaged audience; the children lapped up the puppets, drama, interaction. Teachers also valued the experience.

After school the public show saw 87 people from Sandown and other schools providing another full show which audiences really enjoyed. Feedback included:

“Very engaging for everyone.”

“The Children loved it so much that they saw it in the day time at school then wanted to watch it again.”

When asked what could be better next time we received the comment: “Nothing! We thoroughly enjoyed it.”

It was delightful to see Richard Street present at the event which gave Hastings Storytelling Festival the opportunity to thank Big Local publicly.

Thank you for enabling us to continue to reach audiences in NE Hastings.

SG153 IdolRich Theatre Rotto – Buckets and Barnacles

After some alterations with the venue for the workshops which relocated from Ore Village Primary to Ore Community Centre, the three BUCKETS & BARNACLES sessions went ahead and were very much enjoyed by a series of participants from families in the area. Some came on more than one occasion however a drop in element was also welcomed as although the themes were linked, they worked as standalone sessions. The results have ended up in the town centre over the summer holidays as a shop window exhibition at Priory Meadow, Queens Square, for all to see. The exhibition clearly flags up the Big Local Logo and the window display is still in situ to date.

Children and young people saw and made puppets from three components of the Hastings shoreline: the ocean, the beach and the prom. This incorporated a historical wander from the Victorian funicular

railway, along by the bathing machines, Punch & Judy, pier and beach huts and ended up at the Marine Court deco building of St Leonards.

The final exhibition featuring, puppets and photography and seaside elements fitted well with Priory Meadow's plans for installing a holiday sandpit in the centre of the town. The photography includes big colour print photos of the BUCKETS & BARNACLES scheme, its participants and progress. The project also tapped into some appreciation of the history of the Hastings seaside and activities of a bygone era though black and white and antique colour pictures and discussion before moving into practical art work and design to make the shadow puppets and create a moving acetate background journey. This led to some technical coaching and stagecraft happening for young participants alongside manipulation and performance opportunities and the chance for young and old to work together to create an end product. The spread of ages was quite significant although the main appeal was typically for younger children.

We had originally intended to hold the workshops in Ore Village Primary. However, the school had to make schedule alterations and wanted us to delay the sessions until the autumn i.e. in the new academic year which fell outside of our original brief. Nevertheless, we are keen to maintain contact so that we can continue to support an often hard to reach audience base. Despite the last minute changes we were delighted to have at least ten participants from the area plus welcoming others from across St Leonards and Hastings.

Some written feedback from across the workshops:

The children and I had a lovely afternoon. Thank you.

It was fun.

It made me feel happy working with others.

We enjoyed it all

I liked doing the drawing. When I got to make the treasure chest.

I liked the biscuit, the orange and the apples and the crisps.

I liked pulling the plastic colouring with Julian.

I liked it making my fish.

I liked it when the fish went right and left.

I enjoyed their puppets.

SG156 Oasis Community Project – Suitable Eating Suitable Seating

The Afternoon Teas give a great opportunity for getting together and socialising rather than feeling lonely sitting at home alone, the prospect of a tasty tea encourages us to venture out even if it's cold and rainy."

And another quote we have had in says "It was lovely to see the back of the old sofa and chairs and to be able to replace them with a comfy set of sofa and chairs that make the room look much nicer. Thank you Big Local for the funding."

We have not delivered the ten pin bowling session yet as there were not enough people to fill a minibus at Easter so we postponed it, to get more from the funding in having more people attend. It is now happening in the summer holidays.

The Grumpy Cook has no longer been offering the cooked breakfasts but we will now offer these ourselves and rent the rooms.

We have received a quote from one of our members "The tremendously helpful funding that we recently received allowed for new furniture. The furniture we had was old and saggy giving no support.

We now have some smart attractive chairs and a sofa which look good and are so comfortable to sit on, we have some older members who find getting in and out of low saggy chairs difficult, what a difference this new furniture makes”.

SG158 AOI Bara Meditation and Wellness CIC – Ore 12 Week Introductory Meditation and Wellness Course

One difficulty was gaining regular students. After some initial research it seems mid-morning is not a good time of day for most people. I am now on waiting list for an evening slot as one becomes available. The venue, Ore Community Centre, was praised for having parking and a café on site. I am now in partnership with them, moving into a shed office space in their courtyard this year. This also means venue hire costs are as low as possible.

My students have offered up some lovely feedback praising the course and asking for more classes. Donations were very low during this course, but they have asked for a stall to purchase items from which is encouraging.

96% happiness, relaxation, and motivation ratings from weekly feedback

4-5 star rating each lesson

During the course the word spread, but people are reluctant to join a course part way through so are awaiting a new class.

SG159 Manzi Foundation – One-One Digital Support

All 86 beneficiaries were emailed regarding the opportunity for support & digital skills provision within the Big Local Area.

There were only 7 email replies (some asked for more than one aspect):

- 5 didn't require help at the moment but asked if they could come back at a later date – we linked them to the Newsletter
- 2 asked if their family (from outside the area) could be helped – we researched & sent information & links to more local services available.
- 2 had moved out of the area & asked for the same as above
- 2 called into the Manzi office & asked if there was any ongoing help available – we linked them to the Newsletter
- 1 declined any help

In total we made 247 follow-up telephone calls with the following results:

- 3 had moved away & asked for help local to them - we researched & sent information & links to more local services available.
- A large number (27) refused to speak with us
- 28 didn't require help either now or in the future
- 3 were now working & didn't require any help
- 14 said more local services in future would help as they were parents of children in local schools – we linked them to the Newsletter

Overall:

- We were disappointed in general, however for those we could help we made some difference
- 21 were linked to the monthly Newsletter
- 5 had detailed (out of the area) help provided
- 14 confirmed some in-school time local provision would be helpful (this included introductory, catch up & qualification access levels).

Going forward suggestions:

- A regular drop in facility within the area (this would also help get over the initial reluctance via word of mouth)
- Manzi to seek funding to continue & expand the Newsletter

SG160 In2play CIC – Adventure Playground Wheels and Meals

The sessions were all well attended by the local children. The registers for the period Big Local funded average an attendance rate of about 22 children per session. For each session there were at least 2 or 3 young volunteers, these volunteers weren't booked in advance but were older young people who like to help out turning up to each session and lending a hand. The young people helped us cook for the younger children. Each week children were provided with snacks and drinks at the beginning of the session and then something cooked as well, nearer the end of the session. We cooked a number of different foods that were requested by the children and suggested by the young volunteers. These included homemade garlic bread, pasta dishes, homemade pizza, brownies, and an apple crumble. Some of the young volunteers that helped out with meals and wheels are going to now help out with further in2play events. We are planning on taking some of them to the beach hut to help with the parent and toddler sessions.

Instead of buying a boring off the shelf sports kits (which often comes with lots of bits in that the children may not use and always costs a lot) , the managers purchased items that the children had requested for sports from separate places. So the items we purchased included lots of different balls, ping pong kits and tennis rackets. The rainbow3 balls have been

There has been one set back to the project. We haven't had the top space resurfaced as the funding from HBC has taken longer to come through that hoped. We still purchased all the items we said we would. This was to ensure we had the meals and offer was still in place even without the new tarmac and for the children to enjoy all the new play items during the funded sessions just using the existing flat spaces and the ramp. This included making and buying a mixture of wheeled items. As part of the play offer funded by big local the children enjoyed making flat go carts/ ride on wheeled items. We purchased lots of strong caster wheels and then they helped to make the flat ride on items themselves using old pallets.

Large Grants Awarded for 2022/23

LG33 Energise Sussex Coast – Energy Crisis

During the busy winter time we were able to access £23,513 of financial benefit for Big Local residents. This was achieved by giving advice and materials to help save energy, helping with applications to energy trusts for debt write off, accessing water bill savings, providing emergency fuel vouchers and bill payments (separately funded) and applying for grants for household items such as cookers and washing machines.

Tariff switching savings	£128
Energy efficiency bill savings	£2,376
Water bill savings	£1,406
Fuel voucher savings	£3,942
Working from home tax back	£62
Value of debt to be written off	£11,166
Value of grants applied to	£3,802

Incorrect billing £631

TOTAL £23,513

In addition to the above we provided residents with £3655 worth of energy saving materials. This included draught proofing materials, chimney balloons, water tank lagging, radiator reflectors, LED lightbulbs, curtain liners.

We are very grateful for the funding we received from Big Local which enabled us to support Big Local residents to bring down their bills through energy saving, accessing support and emergency fuel voucher help. This winter saw energy prices double from the last winter. This created an impossible situation for many people where their budgets didn't add up anymore. During our appointments we looked at all the different ways people could bring their bills down, with a particular focus on energy saving. We were able to provide energy saving kit or a visit from our green handyman to install measures. We ran a weekly drop in advice desk at Ore Community Centre, in the end we stopped this as we weren't reaching enough people in the BL postcodes to justify the time there, so we then switched to Broomgrove Community Centre and also gave some talks there. Unfortunately the numbers were also low in Broomgrove but our referral partnerships with HARC and the foodbank (and others) meant we were still able to reach a good number of BL residents. On top of the drop in advice desks we held a cost of living crisis event and a tips and tricks to save energy events.

I'm pleased to say we have a plan for a next step with Broomgrove. We recently received funding from the National Lottery which will enable us to train up and support volunteer Energy Champions. We hope to recruit and train a small group of Broomgrove residents who can then give energy advice (or refer to us for more complex cases) and (hopefully) look at the longer term things that can be done to bring down energy costs.

LG34 In2play CIC – In2play After School Clubs

Big Local After School Play

Report for July 2022- End January 2023

The once weekly play sessions at each site, Broomgrove and Downs Farm, really do retain their different characters and I will report separately about each although we made a similar decision at each site, to work outside through the Summer school break. Being visible in the outside in community spaces can invite passing families to try out the service we offer and make closer links with parents of children that we already know. We welcome younger children with an accompanying adult to join in outside because there is plenty of space to do that. We are very grateful to Broomgrove Community Centre for allowing us to play active games in their sports hall during indoor sessions but at Downs Farm, although children move around freely between different types of activity, high speed running games or skipping dominate the area too much. So we were really happy to be based out of doors to allow for this type of play during the long holiday.

At Downs Farm we set up on the grass between flats behind Dom's Food Mission and at Broomgrove we played under the willow tree on the slope opposite the community centre and on the flat concrete area by Mendip Gardens. At both sites, we offered skipping, chalking, bat and ball games including a mash-up of cricket and stool-ball. We put up a 6-person tent sometimes, attempting to provide some shade when it was crazy hot. It did not really serve for that but children enjoyed helping pitch it and set up crafts like beading and drawing/ paper-folding inside.

From the Excel sheet, I can see that the attendance was lower during these sessions. This is partly because children's routine is altered when they aren't at school but also, it was extremely hot some of the weeks and this might account for the quietness.

At Broomgrove we delivered 30 play sessions during this monitoring period. The highest weekly attendance was 18 children and the lowest, 5. Mean average attendance was 14 children. Children enjoy painting, braiding, using clay and making slime and they are more engaged with modelling using junk than previously. A lot of children enjoy games like Connect 4 when an adult is able to spend 1:1 time with them. They enjoy making snack for the group including cooking / assembling pizza slices or making pancakes. If we do not have a specific cooking activity, then children help to chop fruit and butter toast for everyone. The social element of preparing healthy food together is really prized by children at both sites and we often have 4 older children at Broomgrove who are somewhat helpful in a volunteer role.

Challenges at Broomgrove have centred around a group of young people who we aren't able to include as Young Volunteers due to their unsafe behaviour. One boy aged 14 has caused damage at the community centre, breaking the fire alarm and chipping a window. The police visited him about these incidents. It can be very difficult to stop a very determined person from entering the building and efforts to do that dominate the atmosphere for younger children. A wing mirror on the In2play van was pulled off by another boy on a day when he wanted to come in to the play session. This incident was several months ago and it hasn't been repeated. There was a period at the end of last year when buses stopped serving Broomgrove because a stone was thrown at a bus and a missile was thrown at the In2play van around the same time (it was parked up at the time and not damaged but the incident was a bit unnerving). Building and maintaining relationships with parents in order to try to tackle this type of behaviour can be very challenging. We are making good progress with one family but not so much with another.

At Downs Farm, the highest weekly attendance was 23 children and the lowest, 6. We delivered 28 sessions there during this monitoring period and the mean average attendance was 16 children. Children have enjoyed sewing, knitting and finger knitting in recent weeks and building a den where they play with donated dolls that have quite a lot of kit like clothes and potties and magic bottles of milk. The game continues from week to week and children from the full age range are liable to get involved making the narrative of what they are doing quite complex.

Although there are a number of distinct friendship groups, the play session will normally have a cohesive feel where most of the participants are comfortable with many others in the room. So the small number who clearly experience difficulties and whose need for support is greater, do stand out. The challenge here is simply the noise level at Downs Farm. The hall is very echoey and the children get quite immersed in play. They are mostly talking at a normal level but sometimes an incident can occur where because of the mostly happy hubbub, you have to help unpick the problem afterwards as opposed to being able to sense any friction as it builds. As a worker this can be a bit frustrating. There are 3 or 4 children who have processing problems that hamper their friendships and to safeguard everyone's fun, you have to be very alert to how things are going for these individuals.

I have tried to present the attendance figures more accurately for this report. I am not expert at using Excel so I manually copied and pasted the postcode for each participant from our register into a column for each session date. I did any sums on a calculator because the columns of cells had mixed information to handle. The marks below the list of postcodes indicate individuals who attended for whom we have contact details but no postcode.

Thank you to Big Local for funding weekly after school play sessions at these sites!