

WEOLEY WARD LOCAL INNOVATION FUND PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS
8 APRIL 2017 AT 10AM AT ST GABRIELS CHURCH CENTRE, MARSTON ROAD

PRESENT:- Councillor Steve Booton (Chair) & Councillor Julie Johnson
Richard Burden M.P.
PCSO's Karen Sutton & Tina Rose, Debbie Hall (Stonehouse Gang),
Paul Tucker (resident), Helen Sephton (The Project), Steve Bedser,
Terry Fowler (Fast Aid), Olly Armstrong (Northfield Arts Forum),
Carol Busk (resident), Reverend Fiona Harrison-Smith , Debbie
Wyborn (WPP Project), Austin Rodriguez (BCC), Kay Thomas (BCC)

1. Introductions & Welcome form the Chair
2. Apology – Councillor Peter Douglas Osborn
3. Local Innovation Fund Workshops

Austin Rodriguez gave a brief outline of the criteria for the Local Innovation Fund.

The following had been identified as priorities for the Weoley ward;

- Jobs & Skills, especially 18-25year group
- Health & social care – older than average population, higher death rate in under 75's
- Smoking, obesity, cancer deaths, dementia
- Young people, early years & GCSE attainment
- Fewer registered charities in Weoley compared to other wards

The meeting then broke into 3 groups. The Chair asked groups to consider the priorities for the ward and ideas for proposals for the LIF. A further meeting was being held on 24 April at a different venue and after that all ideas/proposals would be put together and a group set up to consider the proposals. Reverend Fiona commented that residents in Weoley often felt 'things were done to them' and therefore would like to see residents involved in making the decisions. The Chair confirmed this would be the case.

4. Feedback from Groups

Group 1

- Preventative approach

- Community have the lead role/ community intervention approach
- Upskill local people to get more involved in local decision making (Vancouver approach)
- Meeting & eating – space for people to meet together
- Support for single parents & older people, inter-generational activity, build relationships - village approach – community lead approach
- School holiday intervention project/ places for single parents to meet – volunteer development approach
- Use peoples stories not data. Build from existing. Need pathways to open doors and opportunities
- Consider other funding opportunities
- Collaboration between groups was happening but needed to be expanded – empower the community not ‘do to them’ - challenge to this in Weoley compared to some other wards was appreciated.
- Time frame needed to build on things already in place/happening
- Promote other funding opportunities
- Meeting, eating, growing considered a good enabler. Choose projects around this idea.

Group 2

- Celebration events – local award nights – bring groups together – offer awards in health, education etc to encourage people to join in, engage
- Make the ward look nicer
- Gardening competitions, plant vegetables, fruit etc in available spaces – get neighbours, streets working together – adopt a patch of land
- Incorporate meeting & eating collaborations

Group 3

Priorities – youth, elderly, single parents, unemployment, health, crime, substance misuse

- Community café in the Square
- Incorporate support & advice services at the café to help young people job searching, health teams to tackle health issues

including drug & alcohol advice, domestic abuse advice, mental health support & crime advice.

- Café acts as a base
- Volunteer drivers – hospital transport has been cut so use LIF to set up a wider volunteer scheme
- Money from the sale of the Square Club was earmarked for youth provision and could be used in conjunction with the LIF to fund youth workers, provide out-reach work, diversionary schemes, trips, sports leagues and work with schools.

During the course of discussion an assurance was sought that money from the sale of the Square Club would be used for the benefit of young people from Weoley only. Councillor Johnson said that the amount or process for receiving the money had not yet been agreed but when the details were known she would report to a future ward forum. Austin advised that Big Lottery was looking at Weoley as an area for youth contract. Councillor Johnson advised of other sources of community funding from organisations such as Starbucks, Greggs, Asda, Sainsbury and the Active Citizens Fund.

5. Proposals Already Submitted

- i) Fast Aid – Terry Fowler explained the work of Fast Aid volunteers and that there were 2 elements to the LIF bid which if successful would enable more training to be undertaken and a better service if a suitable vehicle could be purchased and better equipment & radio equipment carried.
- ii) Early Intervention & Homeless Project – Helen Sephton outlined the proposal to offer advice to families to prevent them becoming homeless and to offer support on benefits, debt & housing. She stressed that the proposal was open to amendment/suggestions to tailor services to meet the needs of Weoley residents and existing partners.
- iii) Shencare Together as One, Smartworks & Northfield House – Austin outlined the proposals on behalf of the individual organisations.

6. Way Forward

- Further meeting on 24 April at Allens Cross Community Centre.

- Chair explained the process for approval of the proposals via the Cabinet Committee Local Leadership
- Groups to complete proposal form/expression of interest and forward to Austin
- Group of local people to meet with the councillors after meeting on 24 April to consider proposals.

Meeting ended 11.45am

MONDAY 24 APRIL 2017 AT 7PM AT ALLENS CROSS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present:- Councillor Steve Booton (Chair), Councillor Julie Johnson & Councillor Peter Douglas Osborn

Joanne Penn (Smartworks), Reverend Dave Tubby (Prices Square), Sheila Hall (Allens Cross), 5 residents were also in attendance.

Austin Rodriguez (BCC), Kay Thomas (BCC)

1. Welcome & introductions by the Chair
2. Local Innovation Fund

Austin Rodriguez gave a brief outline of the criteria for the Local Innovation Fund.

The following had been identified as priorities for the Weoley ward;

- Jobs & Skills, especially 18-25year group
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3. Proposals Already Submitted

- i) Prices Square – Reverend Dave Tubby explained the proposal to bring together support/advice services in one place addressing numerous issues facing residents in the District. The space would also provide office space for business start ups, training & workshops, pop up events, computer suite and office space for other local organisations. It was not intended to take away from existing hubs but to add to the support on

offer. LIF had been applied for from the 4 wards in Northfield District, with £4,000 requested from Weoley. In response to a question the meeting was advised that there was a rental structure in place to provide future funding and become self-financing. The project was sustainable but LIF was being sought to prepare the building.

- ii) Smartworks – Joanne Penn explained the proposal and that £5,000 was being sought from each of the four wards in Northfield district. Smartworks supported women through the interview process, including providing suitable clothes & interview training. The funding would go towards the appointment of an apprentice to enable the development of the charity to reach more women, especially those that were hard to reach. In response to questions it was confirmed the apprenticeship would be for one year and would be from the Northfield District. Specific projects could also be offered, including projects in schools.
- iii) Together As One – Sheila Hall outlined the proposal which was a joint bid for Weoley and Northfield wards to bring together a number of older people's groups in a 'one stop, one number' hub to simplify services for customers and carers. Councillor Peter Douglas Osborn declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Director on the Shencare Board.
- iv) Fast Aid & The Project, Early Intervention & Homeless project – Austin briefly outlined the proposals (representatives from the organisations had attended the 8 April meeting)

There was some discussion regarding the LIF and it was queried whether it could be used to help secure a lease to assist the Shenley Lane Cricket Club/ Northfield Football Club who had secured a 99 year lease from BVT and wanted to set up a sports hub CIC. Austin advised that it could be possible but other funding sources were available. The main considerations when deciding on allocations was the general benefit to the ward and how best to spend the £48k. Information was available on the council's website but proposals had to meet one of the councils priorities, local priorities, be sustainable and be of benefit to the ward. The successful proposals would be monitored and would need to report regularly to the ward meetings.

4. Way Forward

Councillor Johnson briefly summarised ideas that had been discussed at the previous meeting as follows;

- ‘We Love Weoley’ - ideas included - sings, visual gardening, hanging baskets, primary school visits to nursing homes, markets, Christmas trees/festive lighting, active streets, litter picks, volunteering opportunities for older teenagers
 - Promote other funding sources
 - Collaboration, empowerment – getting people involved – build on what already existed
 - Upskilling
 - Support for single parents, school holiday support, support for mental health, domestic abuse
 - Community café
 - Hospital transport volunteers
- The Chair said that he would organise a group of local people to meet with the councillors to consider proposals and asked that any proposals be submitted to Austin either on a LIF form or as an expression of interest within the next 2 weeks.

Meeting ended at 7.45pm