

	SOHO WARD MEETING 29 NOVEMBER 2016 AT 7PM AT THE SUMMERFIELD CENTRE, WINSON GREEN ROAD B18 4EJ	
	ACTION NOTES	
In Attendance	<p>Councillors Sybil Spence (Chair) and Chaman Lal</p> <p>Anita Richards, John Payne, Rhona Rouse, Carol Henry, Adella Prichard, Yessica Colombi, Thomas Cantwell, Andrew Simons, Madeline Tappy, Tammy Aho, John Williams, Timothy Aho, Mohammed Altaf, Ross Traffard, John Dunleavy(Place Manager), Ranjit Randhawa, Dolores Pinkney, Clive Holgate (WMFS), Aaron Bedward (WMFS), James Ashcroft (WMP), PC Uddin(WMP) Ken Brown & Pat Whyte (Neighbourhood Development & Support Unit), Kay Thomas (Community Governance Manager)</p>	
Apologies		
Agenda Item		Action
1.	<p><u>Welcome & Introductions</u></p> <p>Councillor Spence welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made by all present.</p> <p>Councillor Spence gave a brief introduction to the Local Innovation Fund, explained its purpose and that it was intended that the meeting would discuss the priorities for the ward and the best way that the LIF allocation could be spent to the optimum benefit of the local community using partnership working.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Local Innovation Fund</u></p> <p>Ken Brown provided further detail and suggested the meeting split into 3 groups to discuss suggestions for the LIF spend in more depth.</p> <p>In response to questions it was confirmed that LIF was unlike community chest funding and could not be used for 'grants' and the funding was available to spend.</p> <p>Andrew Simons, Soho First, explained that the group made up of representatives from across the ward including faith groups and residents and had worked well together to tackle issues and was now planning to form into a community development trust. Various community events had been held help formulate a plan focusing on the environment and community cohesion. Other needs that had been identified included jobs & skills and young people. The CDT wanted to be representative of all of the ward</p>	

	<p>and all neighbourhoods across the ward and therefore discussion was needed with those in the meeting to join and represent their area.</p> <p>The meeting then broke into 3 groups and the following ideas came forward as suggested ways to use the Local Innovation Fund in Soho;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To promote community cohesion in the ward to create a sense of belonging/community, celebrate/promote the ward. Instead of negatives work from positives. Celebrate the cultural diversity of the ward. Create a project to promote community cohesion. b) Health – advertise/promote activity eg: walking groups, exercise classes etc – look at all aspects – groups already providing activities, tap in and look at joining up across the ward. Include all aspects of ways to improve health. c) Young people – careers advice available not helpful so better, more relevant advice needed – could involve input from all partners including police & fire. Not just careers advice but something to assist young people to be work ready, self- sufficient and able to cope by involving active volunteers and businesses. d) There were specific issues in the ward so people needed to be brought together, young and old, from across the ward. Food was a good way to bring people together – build up from grass roots via eg a neighbourhood BBQ. e) Volunteering & supporting volunteers – ie Street Watch – share experiences and train more volunteers f) Make people more aware of what was already going on/ assets available and join together – capacity building g) Isolated people – provision of activity to establish contact via eg sports, mentoring, involvement in local green spaces. Involve new hospital. h) Develop grow sites and meaningful activity for people on the margins (intergenerational) and neighbourhood maintenance (Real Junk Food project) i) Creating meaningful activity for time rich people around taking care of the neighbourhood j) Take pride in the area – litter picking, clean ups. Young people helping to take care of an elderly resident's garden, involve jobs and skills training. k) Education project around refuse, disposal of rubbish, fly tipping etc l) Working with existing groups – ie Handsworth Helping Hands, neighbourhood watch, street watch together with other partners, rather than create new groups. Smethwick Litter Watch and Real Junk Food Kitchen also undertook excellent work and could be involved in projects in the ward. m) Project to sustain groups 	
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	n) Litter and environmental issues – particular issue in the ward therefore a group/business be set up to assist in keeping the ward clean.	
3.	<p><u>Next Steps</u></p> <p>Further conversations to be held to develop ideas/projects and bring back proposals to a future meeting. The use of an umbrella organisation to pull ideas together suggested.</p> <p>It was noted that other sources of funding was available for projects that did not fit the LIF criteria.</p> <p>Councillor Spence suggested that Soho Community First be used as the umbrella group to pull residents/groups/partners together and come up with some projects for LIF funding. Councillor Lal stressed the need to ensure all sections of the community were included in the discussions. It was therefore agreed that Soho Community First act as the umbrella group to bring together a steering group made up of those attending this meeting, police, fire and school representatives and also residents/groups not represented at this meeting to ensure all neighbourhoods in the ward were represented.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Steering Group to be set up to include all those present at this meeting, councilors, police & fire representation, school representation and residents/groups from parts of the ward not represented at the meeting to be also invited. b) Steering Group meeting to be held in January/February to consider ideas/proposals for Local Innovation Fund spending. c) Proposals to be shared at a future ward meeting. d) The Soho Community First group to act as the umbrella group to bring suggestions together. 	

Meeting ended 8.50pm