**Minutes of Newington Big Local Partnership Meeting**

**21/3/16 at St Christophers Church**

**Attending:**

Marie Thomas – Secretary/Resident

Richard Nicholson – Interim Chairperson

Steph Todd – Chairperson (Currently on temporary leave)

Cara Thorpe – N.B.L Community Development Officer

Tammy Sains – Resident/Volunteer

Simon Crouchman – Volunteer

Becky Vincer – People United

Mike Harrison

Liam Clark – N.B.L Apprentice

Keven Gabriel – N.B.L Gardener

Hannah Todd – Newington Little Local/N.B.L Ambassador

Carl Adams – Local Trust

Chris – Resident/Volunteer

Andrew Moss

Debbie Day - Academy Fm

Lisa Evans - St Christophers Church

Charlie Fox - Red Zebra/L.T.O

Richard - Porchlight

Sam Voak - Resident/Volunteer

Vic Todd - Academy Fm

Caroline Pinchbeck

Dr Uma & Colleague - The Beacon

**Apologies:**

Sandrra Sudds – Resident/Volunteer

Sandra Herring – Resident/Volunteer

Shola Aoko - St Christophers Church

Tess Luetchford – Marsh Monitors

Colin Thompson

**Minutes of last Meeting were gone through and agreed**

**- Chaipersons Update:** Richard has been attending various Meetings, including a telephone Meeting with Tom, who is a Local Trust Rep, for the purpose of agreeing our next Budget & to discuss the NBL Plan.

~ It was noted that Tom is impressed so far.

It was discussed that the publicity for NBL needs to be stepped up, to ensure it is better known about locally.

**Citizens Advice:** Starting on Tuesday 12th April there will be a FREE drop-in service at the Green Roof Shelter, offering help/advice for anyone struggling with energy bills/debt. This is funded by EDF Energy Trust, but is for customers of any of the energy companies. - for further info, contact the team on 01843 229696.

Citizens Advice are still looking for local people interested in training to be advisors. This is a voluntary role which requires commitment of a minimum of 10 hours per week.

**Academy Fm:** Debbie explained what has been happening with them over the last few months, with regards to their facing possible closure at the end of last year and what has happened since.

They had started up a “go fund me” page to help with their fundraising efforts, gained support from the local MP and others, in their efforts to save the station. They now have a new Board of Trustees and after much work they have managed to remain open. They are now attracting more businesses on board for sponsorship and have received a grant from Ofcom. They are helping promote local bands by allowing them to play live on air, in the Studio on Saturdays and are also wanting to train 25 local young people to be able to work in radio.

Now that they know they are to remain, they are asking N.B.L if the agreement that was made previously for us to assist them with funding, that was put on hold until they knew they were to remain, can now continue the process. Charlie is to deal with the contract being drawn up for this.

We were reminded that we need to update our Community Action announcement with Academy Fm, plus that anyone is very welcome to go in, even if it’s just to look around and see the radio station premises.

Richard Nicholson put forward his intent to go in to talk about N.B.L, we also need to encourage some of our N.B.L youth to do so. Also, it could be helpful for Keven to go in to talk about what he is doing as Community Gardener.

Within the school day, pupils who attend the Royal Harbour Academy which the radio station is based in, who maybe struggle in various ways with school, are allowed to pop into Academy Fm if they wish, if it helps them.

**Steph: -**  informed us that she is not going to be returning as Chairperson. She will be handing over the e-mail address, etc, to Cara. A huge Thank you was extended to Steph for all the hard work she has put in to N.B.L and good luck wishes from us all for her future.

**The Beacon:** Steph had invited a couple of people from The Beacon to attend the Meeting, as they are wanting to engage with and work closer with our Community. Dr Uma explained a bit about their roles and then went on to explain how they would very much like to set up a crisis cafe, possibly at Newington Community Centre, on weekends. This is due to the fact that Crisis support is generally closed at weekends, leaving people in need vulnerable. The question was asked about if there is any way it can be found out how much the service reduces A&E attendance. Cara is to be in touch with them with regards to further discussions about the setting up of the Crisis Cafe at a separate Meeting.

**Porchlight:** “The Hat That I Wear” is to be re-visited as there are now a number of us who would like to attend. Names on the list are Marie, Sam Voak, Cara Thorpe, Sam Horn, Tammy & Sinead, Lisa Evans, Hannah & Lottie Todd, Debbie Day and Caroline Pinchbeck.

**Simon:** The Planters he has made are now in situ, along by the green roof shelter. - Thank you to Simon for his work on these.

It was also noted that there is once again a bird preparing for nesting, in the nest box at the Green Roof Shelter.

**Easter Event:** Plans for this were discussed and those at this Meeting were asked who would be able to help with the event. Sam Voak would like to run the Kitchen on the day, either Ben or Jack can keep an eye on the Bouncy Castle, Steph is happy to help supervise The Copse & Andrew is to help her, Marie will take care of the Art & Craft, Tammy iand Lisa are happy to be an Event Assistants keeping an eye on all areas used, Keven will be helping in The Copse. Any other help will be appreciated.

Debbie Day offered to provide a raffle prize of Lunch for 2 at Flavours by Kumar.

Floats are to be organised ready for the day, for raffle and refreshments and Sam Voak offered to help if we needed to find any more raffle prizes.

On Friday 25th March there will be an opportunity for anything else that needs to be made for the event and anyone who would like to help with this are welcome to pop in to Newington Community Centre anytime that day. - Help is also needed to make easter nest cakes from around 3pm on Friday the 25th too.

**Secret Garden:** Keven explained how he has been busy making items for the Easter Event, plus doing some lawns, but also that ground has finally been broken at the Secret Garden. Plans are developing nicely for this and it has been requested that if anyone else could offer any help there, it would be much appreciated.

It was suggested that Beacon could possibly get involved with this, as well as the land formerly known as Welcome land too.

**Credit Union:** Lisa is now heading this up, it is currently open on Wednesdays between 11am & 1pm and Fridays by appointment. Lisa will be co-ordinating the volunteers.

**Community Cooking:** Chris ran a session in the Kitchen with some of the young people at youth club. This was a success and had quite a bit of interest, but this isn’t something Chris is so keen to continue. Instead he would maybe like to run something on a different day, separate to Youth Club. The idea of cooking and eating together is being looked into, with the possibility of cookery classes maybe a couple of days a week.

The kit that had been viewed down at the Port is still to be obtained by us, which can be done after the garage has been sorted/organised. One issue that has been identified is lack of current storage space for foodstuff & dry goods.

Suggestions were made including those taking part in the classes possibly doing a Christmas Dinner, similar to how we have done in the past, also, encouraging some to eventually help to teach the classes themselves.

**Community Development Worker Update:** Cara is to have a stand to promote NBL at our Easter Event, Liam is preparing a Flyer and there is also to be a questionnaire to get local people’s views on what they think of the area, what they would like to see, etc.

Marketing for NBL was also discussed and a decision needs to be made regarding possibly inviting to come and help with this.

Cara has had a Meeting with West Kent Housing, who are opening Copperfields in May/June. They are really keen to work with NBL and have suggested that we would be welcome to make use of their kitchen space too. They do have some money in their pot for helping the local area also.

The upcoming interviews for the Artists Commission with People United were discussed. These are to take place at the Green Roof Shelter on Friday 1st April, with activities also taking place all day in St Christophers, as a chance for people to meet those being interviewed.

Concerns were mentioned regarding a suggestion from one that working here would be a challenge and the question will be put to them asking them to explain what they meant by this.

Becky explained what the interviews, etc, are about, for the benefit of new attendees at this Meeting.

**Newington Community Centre:** Mike showed us a letter explained the background of Newington Community Association (NCA02Ltd) and went on to explain the current financial situation at Newington Community Centre.

Due to a lot of necessary large financial outgoings, NCA02Ltd are currently needing to seek help to remain, so are therefore asking if NBL would consider allowing a grant of £5,000 to give us time to source further funding streams.

There was a pot of money ring-fenced with local council, for NCA02Ltd to expand the Community Centre, which they have recently been made aware has been taken away and used elsewhere.

Carl suggested that we wait and have a Meeting with him to look into the possibility of alternative Lottery Funding. This Meeting will take place on Wednesday 6th April at Newington Community Centre. If this isn’t successful they could still have the possibility of coming back to ask for NBL for funding.

Questions were asked including what the money would be for, which Mike explained, also about what groups we have lost.

Charlie has advised someone should help with a sustainability plan.

Debbie Day spoke about how NCA02Ltd could utilise Academy Fm for advertising and that she would be happy to put an advert on for us for free.

**Meeting closed 8.15pm.**

**Next Meeting Monday 18th April 2016**

**10.30am at Newington Community Centre**