**Minutes of Newington Big Local Partnership Meeting**

**16/5/16 at Newington Community Centre**

**Attending:**

Marie Thomas – Secretary/Resident

Richard Nicholson – Interim Chairperson

Cara Thorpe – N.B.L Community Development Officer

Liam Clark – N.B.L Apprentice

Keven Gabriel – N.B.L Gardener

Carl Adams – Local Trust

Chris – Resident/Volunteer

Charlie Fox - Red Zebra/L.T.O

Pat Moore

Nova Marshall - People United Artist in Residence

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

Steph Todd - Volunteer

Debbie Day - Academy Fm

Sam Voak - Resident/Volunteer

Simon Crouchman - Volunteer

Keven Gabriel - N.B.L Gardener

Betty Birch - St Christophers Church

Tess Luetchford - Marsh Monitors

Ryan Tym - Lantern

**Apologies:**

Richard Barnard - Porchlight

Shola Aoko - St Christophers Church

Tammy Sains – Resident/Volunteer

Lisa Evans - St Christophers Church

Mike Harrison

Andrew Jacobson

* **Lantern: Marketing -** Ryan discussed wanting to find out what Newington is/means to us. The methods we have used so far were discussed, such as door knocking, local Press & radio, word of mouth, school text service, flyers, social networking, etc. Nova mentioned the benefits of using various venues, but we are also aware that there are still many who don’t know what we are about. The possibility of a new logo has been discussed.

Ryan asked whether we had any info in situ at places like The Copse, Secret Garden, etc, with our info on, as that could be helpful for our Marketing. This isn’t currently in place other than a small sign at The Copse.

Our priorities have been more about engaging with local people, encouraging them to events, etc.

A suggestion was made that we could maybe put out an annual report locally, possibly including the chance for someone to win a prize of some sort, so as to encourage them to read it.

Also things like our Gardeners services need to be advertised so people are aware. Our use of Questionnaires so far was discussed as being a good way of finding out what local wants and needs are, with the main issues that come out every time currently being more for Youth/young people to do and the want for a decent park/play area.

Steph mentioned the main Building “want” being help & investment in Newington Community Centre for an extension.

It was suggested that we could approach the local Housing providers for help with advertising NBL.

It was mentioned how events seem to involve the same group of people doing all the organising, which although is always successful, we need to find out how to attract new faces to help too. Ryan suggested maybe a local young person organising possibly a music event, as this could be a good way to attract the younger generation. - We had spoken previously about the possibility of arranging a Battle of the Bands type event, plus Hannah’s Art project/Competition was mentioned.

Ryan was given a brief summary of the history of Newington and some of the problems that have been.

Ryan was thanked for attending this Meeting.

* **Chairpersons Update:** We have had a fairly successful month, the report for year 1 has been submitted & approved, also the budget for year 2 has gone in.

Richard gave us an update on the current situation regarding his health issues.

* **Community Development Officer Update:** A few Members recently visited and enjoyed the Local Trust Spring Event. People United have been asked if they could do “Pop-Ups” in other areas.

The People United away-day that some of us attended was mentioned, this was a fantastic day where we officially met the newly commissioned Artists for BestFest in Canterbury and then enjoyed a meal together in Ramsgate in the Evening. We have also recently had the Presentation day at Newington Community Centre, where Plaques were presented to local people/places in recognition of how they have helped & provided for our Community.

Our NBL Garage has now been cleaned out and items not required disposed of.

Citizens Advice Bureau is now in the Green Roof Shelter for EDF Energy advice sessions, fortnightly on Tuesday’s. They provide help for other energy provision customers, not just EDF and also includes help for people on low income who are in need of white goods.

Money Advice will be the next Citizens Advice service to come in, then followed by the full service provision. Charlie has spoken with Clive, who has mentioned how he is holding the available places for Citizens Advice training, so we need a recruitment drive to try and get local interest and get the places filled. The possibility of organising a Taster Day was suggested.

Richard & Cara have been discussing the idea of a group trip out somewhere, as a Thank you for our work so far, etc. This may possibly involve an activity or could be a tea somewhere, etc.

*~ If anyone has an idea of where we could go, please e-mail Cara -* cara.thorpe@redzebra.org .uk

Adult Gym - Cara is to be attending a Meeting at the end of the Month where this is to be further discussed and will update us when she knows more.

* **Chairperson position:** There has so far been one application for this and the vote will take place at our June Meeting.
* **Academy Fm:** It was suggested that as well as the Community Action spot, one of us could maybe go in and do an interview about NBL to promote what we are about.

Debbie mentioned that Academy Fm could do a payed for advert on their Facebook page for us, as they reach a large audience base. It was also mentioned that people such as Keven our Gardener and Chris (Chef) could do specialist interviews on the radio to promote their roles. Debbie is on air 10am - 2pm Monday’s & Thursday’s. It was suggested that Princess Margaret Avenue be added as the road name on our advert for the Green Roof Shelter, to help people to know where it is.

* **Community Savers:** This is ticking along nicely; Lisa has been doing a great job with this.

Cara has been covering it while Lisa is currently away.

* **Green spaces: - Area known as Bob-Land:** We have been successful in a bid to the Postcode Lottery and have received funding of £6011. We will be arranging an event to be held on the land to publicise plans, etc and will also be arranging for banners to go up there soon.

It was asked what has been done about the guy who had recently cut down the trees around there? He has been spoken to by Officers from East Kent Housing and told he must not do any more to the plot of land as it is owned by Council & looked after by NBL. It is currently unknown whether further action will be taken against him. Richard mentioned that while they were at “Bob-land” with the EKH Officer a lady who lives at Staner Court area came round and told them how furious she was about what the guy had done to the trees, etc.

- It was voted and agreed that N.B.L put £200 towards this project, so if there are items Keven needs for it that are not included in the budget, we can cover it.

**Green spaces:- Secret Garden:** Seeds have now been planted in the Secret Garden. It was mentioned that more volunteers are needed and would be appreciated, to help with the work planned for the site.

* **Community Cooking/Chef:** The Marquee/Tent has now been purchased and a few of the Partnership have had a trial-run at putting it together. The equipment has now been collected from Ramsgate Harbour and Chris has also been looking at what other equipment is needed, with one of the main items being a Paella Burner. Cara has passed Chris details of a Blacksmith, for the possibility of the Paella Burner being made by them, an example for this was passed around the table.

Chris mentioned also trying to source square pans as an alternative, as they work/fit better on hobs.

Steph mentioned how well using the Paella Pan worked so far with the Community Chefs and that it was always the plan for that to be what we wanted to get. She raised concerns over whether current newer plans were getting a bit too big and deviating a bit too far from the original plan, which was to be able to do quick and easy “Pop-up’s” in various locations.

* **People United:** spoke about events that are coming up, including Community challenge days and BestFest. The newly commissioned artists are starting from 9th June and then it continues from there.

They have also now received funding to start the Community Choir, so listen out for details on that and please let them know if you would like to join in.

* **The Copse -** It was asked how much is currently left in the Copse budget? It was mentioned that this pot also includes Kevens wages. Richard is going to check the budget for this.
* **NBL Vehicle -** The possibility of us purchasing a Van for NBL use was raised. This would be extremely useful, as it could be used by Keven, for the Thanet Earth produce collections, as well as of course for the Community Chef/Cooking. Keven has been looking into info regarding this and it was also suggested we look into the possibility of leasing one as an option. It will be insured for any driver, to enable use by more than one person.

Steph suggested we look at the possibility of ex-mobility vehicles, as they are sold off.

All options regarding this will be looked into further and a decision taken at a future date.

**Meeting closed.**

**Next Meeting Monday 20th June 2016**

**6.30pm at Newington Community Centre**