**Minutes of Newington Big Local Partnership Meeting**

**18/4/16 at Newington Community Centre**

**Attending:**

Marie Thomas – Secretary/Resident

Richard Nicholson – Interim Chairperson

Cara Thorpe – N.B.L Community Development Officer

Tammy Sains – Resident/Volunteer

Becky Vincer – People United

Mike Harrison

Liam Clark – N.B.L Apprentice

Keven Gabriel – N.B.L Gardener

Carl Adams – Local Trust

Charles - Carls Apprentice

Chris – Resident/Volunteer

Lisa Evans - St Christophers Church

Charlie Fox - Red Zebra/L.T.O

Monique Drinkwater

**Apologies:**

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

Shola Aoko - St Christophers Church

Colin Thompson

Debbie Day - Academy Fm

Betty Birch - St Christophers Church

Caroline Pinchbeck

Sam Voak - Resident/Volunteer

Steph Todd - Volunteer

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

* Matters raised from last Minutes:

~The Meeting that is to be had with The Beacon is still to be arranged - Cara to deal with this.

~The Agreement, etc, between NBL & Academy Fm Thanet has been drawn up and dealt with - Thank you to Charlie.

~ Marketing: A conversation was had regarding Lantern and what they could offer. It was agreed that they should be invited to our next Meeting, to give a presentation.

Debbie Day will also be invited to give us a presentation of how she could help with her Marketing Company. Following this, we will make a decision how to proceed and with whom at the next Meeting.

* Chairpersons Update:

The time & location of our Meetings is to change. They will all from now on be at 6.30pm in Newington Community Centre. This decision has been made largely due to many of the group having other commitments at the time that the Meetings usually are.

Our Chair informed the Meeting that he has been diagnosed with a serious Health issue and went on to discuss what this means for the future.

We now need to put the request out for anyone who may be interested in taking up the position of Chairperson. Richard stressed clearly that he is not walking away from the group and intends to stay on as long as possible, but he was only standing in as a temporary measure and his current health issues mean he may not be able to be as available as necessary. It was also discussed that we may want to consider also appointing a Vice-Chair too. Carl is to send out the application for the position of Chairperson.

* Newington Community Centre:

Various funding applications are being worked on/have been submitted for a number of things including the replacement of the front doors, electrical and other repairs necessary, replacement of the tables and chairs, etc. Marie informed us that Heather from Red Zebra has met with her & is to be helping advise how to write a good funding bid, plus places to apply to.

Discussions regarding the use of the Community Centre kitchen by our Chef were had, Chris isn’t so keen to use it due to lack of space. The possible need for a gas supply safety shut off in the kitchen was discussed, Marie informed us that the Fire Safety officer has advised this is not currently necessary, but would be if the kitchen was to have substantial works done to change it to a Commercial kitchen.

* Citizens Advice:

There is a new free drop in service running from the Green Roof Shelter. This started on Tuesday 12th April 2016 and is to assist anybody who is struggling with energy bills/debt, etc.

* Easter Event:

It was agreed that this was a successful event, which was very well attended. Thank you to everybody who was involved.

Cara gave us some feedback on the survey that was carried out at the event, with the point that was included the most being a lack of activities and things to do for children and young people.

It was mentioned that Dover Big Local have similar issues regarding a lack of Youth provision and also difficulty encouraging the youth to engage with their Big Local. Ideas that they are trying include things like trips to places like Thorpe Park, Picnics, setting up a Market Stall with them, etc and they have found that is helping.

Here in Newington it is felt that there is a definite lack of provision for 5 - 11 year olds currently.

* Green Spaces:

Work on the Secret Garden is progressing nicely, Keven is asking if there is anyone who has any experience with paving, etc, their help would be very much appreciated.

It had been brought to our attention that the land known to us as “Bob-land” (on the corner of Princess Margaret Avenue & Manston Road) has had trees chopped down. It seems this has been carried out, without permission, by the person who has recently brought the house that is next to the land.

This has been reported to local Council, who still own the land and were unaware of this happening.

They have since instructed him to stop as it is their property. NBL have been looking after this patch of land for the last 3 years and we have funding applications in to improve it further for use by the local Community, including foodstuff being grown there, which will then be used by the Chef for things like cookery classes, etc. We would like to get this land listed as a Community Asset.

* Credit Union:

This is going ok and is now being run by Lisa, who is doing a great job. It was mentioned that things like Opening times and Marketing for this need looking at. Cara & Lisa are to attend a Meeting in Canterbury, which is a get-together with other Hubs that run a Credit Union.

Discussions were had around places like Brighthouse, which charge extortionate repayment rates for items and the fact that there are many better places to go, for instance the British Heart Foundation, etc, who have good quality second hand furniture and other items.

* Community Cooking:

Richard spoke about a Parliamentary report regarding statistics showing that 1 in every 5 children are starting school underweight.

Chris - having had discussions with the Community Chefs & others, has decided the Community Centre kitchen is too enclosed to work from, so it has been suggested that purchasing a Commercial grade Marquee, that can be used pretty much wherever required outside around the Community, or elsewhere, for events and other occasions could be a much better option. Chris has been looking at options for this, discussion was had over which size, etc and we were shown info on one that Chris has found available from a Company in Surrey.

It was also mentioned that this could become a funding stream, as we could also hire it out.

After some further discussion the Partnership agreed to the purchase of the Marquee.

Cara will have conversation with East Kent Housing with regards to permissions for it being used on their land around Newington.

Decisions need to be made about equipment needed for the project. Mike suggested looking at MOD Surplus Sales on the internet.

Chris mentioned about things like Health & Safety, Environmental Health and Insurance too.

* Community Development Worker Update:

Cara spoke about the NBL Partners Meeting that was recently held. Some great ideas on how we can all work together, etc, were discussed at this. A suggestion was made that Credit Union have a Stand at BestFest this year, with a large Credit Union Pig used as a promotional installation.

Cara also further explained the use of the Events Planner.

We were informed that Hannah is no longer able to continue with the idea she had regarding an Arts Award project.

* D.D.N Update:

Discussion was had around the current problems regarding this. Marie spoke about some issues that have occurred at recent D.D.N Meetings. The lack of Resident involvement was also mentioned, as there is currently only one Member who is there as a Resident.

Charlie asked if anyone could explain what they think D.D.N is about, but none of us really could.

* Creative Champions:

The interviews have now taken place to select the artist we are to work with this year. After a lot of deliberation, Hug Bag has been chosen as the successful candidate.

There is an away-day planned soon, where the Creative Champions and others get to meet them, as well as artists who have previously been commissioned by People United.

They will also then be taken on a walk-about around Newington, so the Artists can get to know the area.

The Plaque presentation which is to take place on Friday 22/4/16 at Newington Community Centre was spoken about.

***Important Reminder:*** Our NBL Partnership Meetings will take place at Newington Community Centre for the foreseeable future.

These will be on the 3rd Monday of every Month at 6.30pm,

the next one being Monday 16th May 2016.