**Newington Big Local**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**St Christopher's Church**

**18th February 2015 6:30pm**

Attendees:

Hannah Todd (Resident)

Stephanie Todd (Resident)

Tina Kydd (Resident)

Emma Thorpe (Resident)

Carole Saunders (Resident)

Carl Adams (Local Trust)

Andrew Moss (Resident)

Marie Thomas (Resident/Community Centre Manager)

Tammy Sains (Resident)

Millie Kydd (Resident)

Sam Voak (Resident)

Cara Thorpe (CDW/Resident)

Richard Nicholson (Councillor)

Sandra Herring (Resident)

Charlie Fox (EKVAS)

Betty Birch (Church Warden)

Sara Criddle (Resident)

Sean Willbye (Resident)

Keith Berry (Canterbury Diocese)

Lisa Evans (Church Warden Assistant)

Sarah (People United)

Ashley Hewitt (Visitor)

Apologies:

Mike Harrison (Ward Councillor)

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as correct and were signed by the Chair.

People United

People United are a Kent based Arts Charity and they are going to be working with us to deliver their project in Newington. They look into how art and creativity can be used to make a kinder community using positive stories. The project will be titled "The Best Of Us" and will run for 2 and half years, collecting stories of positives from the community and capturing them using artists. These artists can work with the schools and youth groups and could even create their own group. This group will be "art ambassadors" and they can continue the project after the 2 and half years. The ambassadors will be provided with training and possible learning trips to London and the Turner Contemporary.

The first part of the Programme will consist of working closely with the group. During the summer there will be around 8-10 events which will be based around a whole range of arts and creativity. After that, there will be a public event to present the collected stories.

The next step is for the ambassadors to find out what the residents of Newington would like next, interview the artists and provide another year of arts for the community. This project will be based in Newington as it is all about collecting positives from the area and this will show that we have a positive community.

People United will also be looking for matched funding to help fund this programme. They have already completed this programme in HerneBay in 2009 and it is still going with over 2000 people attending the picnic every year. It was discussed that we could commission a film maker to film the project throughout the 2 and a half years as well to document it. This could also be used to hold a film premier event. Anyone who is interested in being an Art ambassador should contact Cara and she will then connect them with Sarah.

The Copse

The Copse has now been listed as a community asset and is listed on the KCC registry. The budget for the copse has now been agreed by Local Trust. Andrew has been building a beehive in Eastry for the last 4 weeks and this could be placed in the copse.

Community Chef

The One Pot Cooking scheme starts on Thursday 19th Feb which Cara, Charlie and Steph had a meeting with the chefs to discuss a plan for this. Sean is going to be the lead resident on this. This project will focus on one pot cooking for home use but also for events. It will also train the learners to teach others. The aprons have been ordered and we are now just awaiting delivery. If anyone would like to participate in this, please let Cara know.

Green Roof Shelter

The Green Roof shelter will be delivered sometime in the week ending 27th March. The agreement between Big Local and the Church will need to be signed so that the ground works can commence. The Launch Event for this will be April 11th 10am-4pm and the Mayor has been invited to open it at around 11am.

*Cara now has a confirmed date of delivery which will be 26th March.*

Newington Community Savers

The launch for NCS will be April 8th, the leaflets and the logo will be circulated via email for comments and agreement. We will be working with schools once the leaflet has been completed. Keith has been talking to Chris and there has been some confusion over how many Youth accounts we can have. It is possible that Newington is the last area to have this number of accounts. This will be followed up. Also Kent Savers have a marketing team to determine if "savers" is a good word to use. The results will be collected by March 3rd.

Code Of Conduct

Steph emailed out attachments to the group with the code of conduct. It was discussed that the decision making process could be made more private through ballot box or email vote and also made so that time is given for the group to go away and think about their decision. It was also noted that transparency is needed when it comes to voting, conflict of interest and loyalties. It was also discussed whether it should be majority vote or certain percentage.

Officer Positions

Local Trust have to evaluate the current partnership once a year around the time of the anniversary. Job descriptions have been emailed out so if anyone would like to apply, email your interest. Positions will be voted on in secret in April. Charlie and Carl will host a workshop for these roles and the partnership. The group agreed that Steph should continue to act as chair until the votes.

Carl announced that there are lots of training available for Big Local areas such as leadership and team skills, Public speaking and presentation skills, Making meetings work, Managing conflict and dealing with difficult behaviours and many more. Some of these courses are accredited and expenses are paid for. This will also give attendees the opportunity to connect and engage with other areas.

Community Development Worker

Cara has been working on setting up ready for the Green Roof Shelter as it will be arriving on the 26th March. She has also been supporting the group with the set up and organisation of the Credit Union that will be launching in early April. Cara has been taking Andrew to Eastry where he has been building beehives. She has also supported a number of residents with their roles and responsibilities.

DJPA Proposal

The proposal was discussed by the group and it would be ideal to have a breakdown of the money and what exactly it would be spent on. It was also said that this project will need to be self sustainable once the funding has been allocated if successful. Steph will speak to Kate at the school and then will bring it back to the group. The vote was deferred from tonight's meeting and will be held electronically through survey monkey.

Little Local

Hannah and Millie would like to start Little Local again for 11-18 year olds. This will give the youth a chance to voice their opinions, have a go at different position roles, give them training opportunities, hold their own events. This could lower depression and anxiety in the youth as well as benefit the schools and local community. They will be creating a new logo and are looking into funding as asked if Big Local could possibly fund their group. The group agreed that Big Local should fund Little Local. Hannah and Millie are going to make a plan for Little Local and bring it to the next meeting to be discussed.

Assets

Steph thanked the group for producing lists of assets that residents have and she will be creating a spreadsheet so that there is a clear list of what assets Big Local have.

AOB

Betty explained to the group that when she spoke about the possibility of a charity shop in the last meeting, that she was not asking the group to fund this.

Home Budgeting

Keith is setting up a 2 sessions of a home budgeting course. This will have money saving tips, a spending diary etc. It will be simplified to help those who struggle with money management. This has not had a high intake so Keith has offered it to Newington. He can take 8-10 people.

Outdoor Gym

Richard has been in discussions about possibly getting an outdoor gym by Newington Park as this would benefit parents whilst their children play in the park. Richard will set up a meeting with Lucy Tuscon about funding of £50,000 from the "love where you live" environmental improvement project.

Bees

It was discussed that now Andrew has built a beehive, he will need training in how to keep bees. It was discussed that this could come out the community chest funding/ Steph will speak to Wildwood and feedback to the group. Research into costing and other funding will need to be done.

The next meeting will be 17th April at St Christopher's Church at 6:30pm.