**Minutes of Newington Big Local Partnership Meeting**

**18/1/16 at Newington Community Centre**

**Attending:**

Marie Thomas – Secretary/Resident

Richard Nicholson – Interim Chairperson

Steph Todd – Chairperson (Currently on temporary leave)

Cara Thorpe – N.B.L Community Development Officer

Charlie Fox – L.T.O

Tammy Sains – Resident/Volunteer

Sandrra Sudds – Resident/Volunteer

Sandra Herring – Resident/Volunteer

Simon Crouchman – Volunteer

Becky Vincer – People United

Mike Harrison

Liam Clark – N.B.L Apprentice

Keven Gabriel – N.B.L Gardener

Tess Luetchford – Marsh Monitors

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

Carl Adams – Local Trust

Chris – Resident/Volunteer

Shola – St Christophers Church

**Apologies:**

Sam Voak – Resident/Volunteer

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

- Points updated from these as follows:

**~ Secret Garden** is to be a priority for this year

**~ Review** has been completed and is very positive. We were all thanked by our Chairperson for the work that has gone in to cause this success.

**~ Credit Union** is growing. Further update on this in main agenda items below.

**~ N.B.L Apprentice –** Cara explained Liam’s role and this has consisted of so far.

**~ The Generator** has been purchased and is already in use.

**~ The Christmas Events** were a success once again. A Thank You was extended to all involved.

**~ Chairperson Update:** Richard has been attending a number of Meetings over the last Month and has been working closely with Steph & Cara.

Concerns were raised regarding some of the items purchased by N.B.L previously, which appear to be missing currently.

It was stressed that this goes back to the time of our previous Chairperson before Steph stepped in.

We were also informed of a number of comments, of a troublemaking nature, that have been made on our Facebook page by our previous Chairperson. Both this and the issue of the missing items are to be looked into further and dealt with accordingly.

Liam has been helping to put together an asset list and has been assisting Cara with sorting through the items in the garage.

We are now in receipt of the accounts from the Diocese, these are all up to date.

N.B.L Accounts are kept up to date and Richard continues to keep a close eye on these.

We are in the process of purchasing a lawn mower for use by the Gardener.

**Kent Wildlife Trust:** There has been a question raised over whether they can continue within Newington as there is a possible conflict over having the same funders as us. They are to be looking into this and will provide an update at our next Meeting. They are hoping to be making a start along at St Christophers Church at the end of January.

**Tess – Marsh Monitors:** Tess was thanked for the work she put into the N.B.L review/evaluation. We have now received her report and it is a very positive one. Tess spoke to us about what she could offer us, should we agree to work with her again this year, this would include training local residents to carry out the info gathering themselves. Tess also suggested it being beneficial to get all stakeholders round a table to find out how things are going for them so far and to ensure we are all working together in the best way. – This should include gathering statistics regarding crime rates, etc.

N.B.L does have to carry out a review annually, so to once again allow this to be done by Tess would take a lot of pressure off of our C.D.O and others who would otherwise be responsible for it. The cost for working with Tess once again would be a total of £3250, although due to the £2500 we receive from Local Trust yearly (in addition to the £1million) our effective contribution will only be £750.

The bid was put to the partnership and all agreed by a show of hands, that we would like to once again work with Tess.

Mike raised concern as to why agencies like Police, Council, etc, don’t appear interested enough in working with us.

Cara explained that N.B.L are engaged with those agencies and she is ensuring they are all kept up to speed with what we are doing. It was suggested that they should regularly be invited to our Partnership Meetings. – Suggestion noted and is to be actioned.

**Community Chef:** Working with these previously has been successful, has helped some to obtain jobs and others to review what they were doing within education to improve their future options.

Chris, who is a local resident, was introduced to the Meeting. Chris was formerly a Chef in the R.A.F and has expressed an interest in working with us. The possibility of once again working with the Community Chef, but on a slightly smaller scale, at the same time working with Chris was discussed at length. Chris has been helping to plan the items that would need to be purchased to make this all possible and is to be invited to come back to our next Meeting after carrying out some research into the idea. A figure of £35,000 was suggested by Steph for the whole package, including the Community Chef, working with Chris, equipment, etc. – This was put to the Partnership and agreed by the majority.

**Finances:** To add to that which is mentioned previously in these minutes, Richard informed us that he is to be meeting with Peter from Red Zebra, to discuss N.B.L Accounts further. It was also mentioned how any money raised at our events, etc, is profit for the Community.

**Credit Union:** This has seen an increase in Members, Steph has been working hard on promoting it and is to be going into the local schools mid February to give them the info. A thank you was extended to Steph for her work on this.

**Event Planning:** An events plan is to be worked on and drawn up. We would like everyone’s input into what is wanted to be done.

**Embedded Advice:** There are 2 Drop-in sessions to be held on Friday 29th January, for anyone interested in finding out more about training to be a Citizens Advice Volunteer. These will be at St Christophers Church in the Morning and Newington Community Centre from 1pm.

**A.O.B:**

* As it was previously agreed that we would sometimes have our Partnership Meetings in the Evening, our next shall be at 6.30pm at St Christophers Church.
* People United are now back in Newington for 2016. They currently meet at Newington Free Church, every Thursday from 6pm. Anyone interested is more than welcome to join in.

- BestFest will be held on 30th & 31st July this year.

* An updated list of Diary Dates is to be sent out to all N.B.L members.
* Christmas Event this year is to be all on one day at both The Copse and Community Centre together.