

Our vision is for a happy vibrant area where people feel a sense of belonging

# NEWSLETTER - Annual Review edition

# Boston Big Local



February 2017

## YOU'RE INVITED!

We want to hear from local residents and get your views on how we should invest funding in the next Boston Big Local Plan.

We're holding two special consultation events in February at the Len Medlock Centre – and we hope you'll join us. Come along to find out more about Boston Big Local, share your opinions on the area, and tell us **your** ideas on how we can improve Boston in 2017-19.

### Consultation Event

**20 February 2017**

1pm - 4pm, or

### Consultation Event/AGM

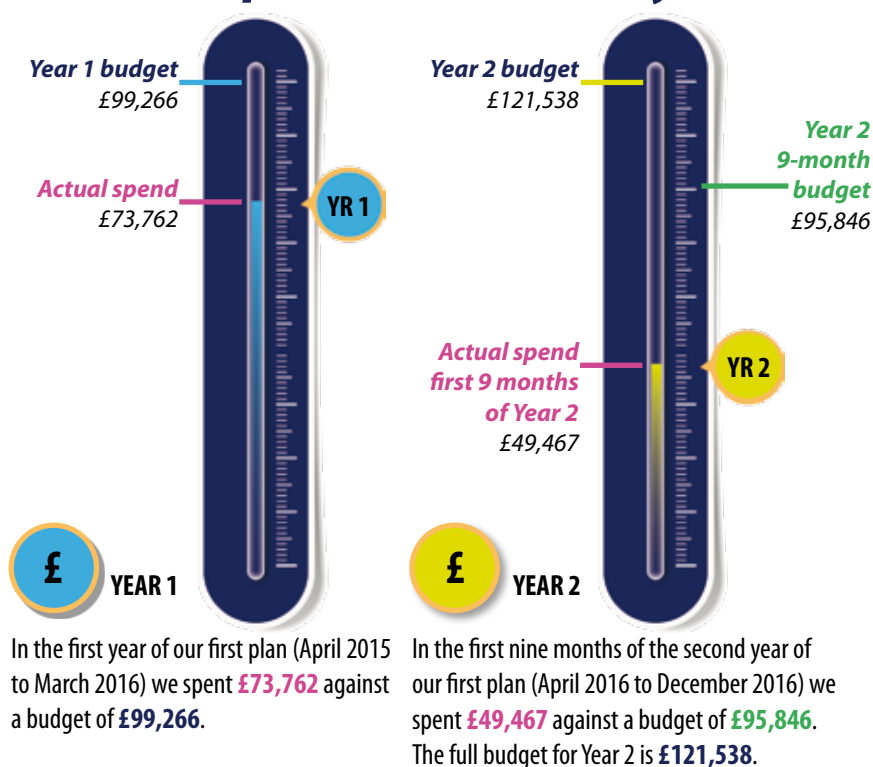
**27 February 2017**

6pm - 9pm

### Venue

The Len Medlock Centre, St George's Road, Boston, PE21 8YB

## What we spent in the first 2 years



This special edition of our newsletter is being delivered to every household in the Boston Big Local area. It provides an update on how much Big Local funding has been spent so far and looks back at some of the activities that have been delivered over the last year.

At our monthly Partnership Group meetings we regularly monitor the Boston Big Local Plan, review activities, reflect on what has worked well, and explore new ideas for funding projects that will address local issues and make Boston a better place to live.

Big Local funding is all about empowering residents by letting them decide how funding should be spent in their area. We need your input to help us shape and develop the next two-year plan for Boston Big Local, which will run from April 2017 to March 2019. Our consultation events on **20 and 27 February** are your chance to express your views, tell us about the things that are important in our community, and influence the projects we choose to fund in 2017-19.

## Can't make the consultation events?

Don't worry if you're unable to attend one of our consultation events. There are other ways to tell us your views on how YOU think Boston Big Local funding should be invested in the area. Email [info@bostonbiglocal.co.uk](mailto:info@bostonbiglocal.co.uk) or go to [bostonbiglocal.co.uk/consultation](http://bostonbiglocal.co.uk/consultation) to leave a comment or suggestion online.

**Submit your  
ideas online**

# Our 'Review of the Year'

## January 2016



In **January** we awarded £1,000 of Community Chest funding to Boston Community Transport.

We also funded Boston Town Team's first **Local Food for Thought** event, which gave Boston residents a chance to learn from nutritional experts and local producers to improve their knowledge of healthy eating and food options.

## March 2016



In **March** we sponsored the printing of a leaflet which was delivered to around 29,000 Boston households with their council tax bills. As part of our 'Creating a More Attractive Environment' theme, the leaflet explained some of the actions that constitute environmental crime, such as littering, fly tipping, dog-fouling and graffiti.

We also reported on a series of successful swimming and gym sessions that had been delivered by Boston Borough Council at Geoff Moulder Leisure Complex during school holidays.



## February 2016



In **February** the Boston Lithuanian Community organised **Pancake Day**

**Together**, which was held on

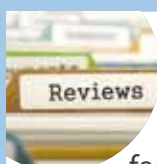
13 February in Boston Market Place, supported by a £1,500 Community Events grant from Boston Big Local.

Following the success of the **Memory Lane** creative sessions for people with dementia and their carers, we awarded a further £3,000 of funding to enable the group to continue.

In February the **Hanse Group** held its first open meeting at Boston Guildhall. The aim of the group is to promote Boston's history, create new international trade links and boost the town's visitor economy. Boston Big Local is providing £3,000 of funding over three years to support the initiative.



## April 2016



In **April** we received useful feedback from **Local Trust** on our review of the Boston Big Local Plan.

Community Chest funding was awarded to **The Bears Coaching** and local radio station **Endeavour FM**.

Boston Marathon (UK) took place on 17 April and was hailed a great success by runners, spectators and the community. It attracted almost 300 entries across three categories: the full marathon, the half marathon, and a marathon relay. The event was sponsored by Boston Big Local, devised and organised by Harish Kurup (a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Pilgrim Hospital), and supported by Councillor Richard Austin (who was Mayor of Boston at the time) plus a hard-working committee and volunteers.





*Throughout the year Boston Big Local has funded a wide range of worthwhile activities.*



### May/June 2016

In **May** we presented a cheque for £440 to **SMYLLE Boston Area Support Group** which helps local people affected by myeloma, lymphoma, leukaemia and other blood cancers.

During **Dementia Awareness Week 2016** the "Happy memories pieced together" mosaic created by the Memory Lane group was unveiled. Boston Big Local was one of the funders for the project.

In **June** our Chair, Richard Tory, road-tested the £1,200 street vac funded by Boston Big Local. The vac is being put to good use by Boston Borough Council's Street Cleansing team to clean up cigarette and street litter.



Botolph the Big Local Bear completed the **Boston Royal Bear Challenge** at the Boston Stump.

### September/October 2016

In **September** we congratulated **Boston in Bloom** on winning a gold award.

In **October** it was the turn of the adults to take on the **Indoor Triathlon Challenge**, which was supported by Boston Big Local Community Chest funding.

We also held a **Plan Conference** at the Len Medlock Centre for Partnership Group members, key delivery partners and locally based organisations.

At the end of the month we supported a **Halloween Festival** which was organised and delivered by the Boston Town Team to bring a sense of community 'spirit' to the town during Halloween.



### July 2016

To support Boston in Bloom, we provided £9,000 of funding for horticultural displays in the town centre and landscaping improvements along the Haven Bridge corridor.

Funding from the Community Chest supported an Indoor Children's Triathlon, which was held in **July** at Geoff Moulder Leisure Complex, raising £800 for the neonatal unit at the Pilgrim Hospital.

**July** also saw a fun event take place in the Market Place to encourage families to take up cycling. The **Bike Try-Out Roadshow** was organised by Get Cycling and sponsored by Boston Big Local and Boston Borough Council.



### August 2016

In **August** 3,500 people had fun at Boston's two-day beach event at Central Park, which was sponsored by Boston Big Local, delivered by Boston Borough Council, and also supported by other partner agencies.



### November/December 2016

We ended the year by partnering with the **Lincolnshire Credit Union** to launch a special 'five Botolph pounds' voucher, which Boston Big Local residents can use to open an account with the credit union.

Our locally trusted organisation, **Age UK Boston & South Holland**, shared good financial practice with other Big Local areas at an event in **December** held in Sheffield.



# ***The Boston Marathon (UK) is back!***



(photo courtesy of Boston Marathon UK)

There is still time to enter the Boston Marathon (UK), which this year will take place on **Easter Monday, 17 April**. Boston Big Local has provided £8,000 of funding to support the event, meaning we will again be the marathon's main sponsor. Representatives from Boston Big Local will be there to cheer on participants, which will include Boston Big Local Partnership Group member Jody Raggo, who will run the half marathon.

The Boston Marathon (UK) boasts the flattest course in the country, which enabled many of the runners who took part in 2016 to achieve personal best times. It starts at Boston Market Place at 9am and finishes at Boston College. If you are interested in taking part, you have until 3 April 2017 to register. You can sign up online at [bostonmarathon.co.uk](http://bostonmarathon.co.uk), where you will find full details of entry fees, the route and prizes.

The Boston Marathon Association is also facilitating a separate **3 mile fun run** on the same day for young people aged between 12 and 18 years. Further information about the fun run is available at [bostonmarathon.co.uk](http://bostonmarathon.co.uk) (click on the 'Fun Run' tab for full details of how to enter).



## **WE NEED YOU!**

### **Get involved with Boston Big Local**

Are you interested in getting involved with Boston Big Local to help deliver the goals we set out in our plan? There are many ways you can help us – from volunteering at one-off events, to joining the Partnership Group as a resident member. For more information, email Boston Big Local at [info@bostonbiglocal.co.uk](mailto:info@bostonbiglocal.co.uk) or talk to us at one of the consultation events.

## **Stay in touch**

**Email:** [info@bostonbiglocal.co.uk](mailto:info@bostonbiglocal.co.uk)

**Website:** [www.bostonbiglocal.co.uk](http://www.bostonbiglocal.co.uk)



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**LOTTERY FUNDED**

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