

NEWSLETTER

Boston Big Local



September 2017

We had a lovely time at

BOSTON BEACH

Another successful Boston Beach event took place in Central Park on 3 and 4 August. Despite a few showers, the beach was packed with families building sandcastles, taking donkey rides, and visiting the bouncy castles and numerous other activities on offer.

The event was organised by Boston Borough Council and supported by Boston Big Local and other partner agencies, including Mayflower Housing, Boston Children's Centre, Transported Arts, Geoff Moulder Leisure Complex and Boston United in the Community.

At the event we talked to Frances Taylor from Boston Borough Council, who said: "Boston Beach brings the community together and gives people an opportunity to take part in things they may not get another chance to do. It's great to see all the children enjoying the beach – taking off their shoes and socks, running through the sand and making sandcastles.

"There are also lots of other activities on offer for families, such as a magic show and beach-themed arts and crafts. All of the organisations involved bring their events for free, which allows us to put on so many things. Networking with local organisations results in bigger and better events for Boston."

You can watch the interview with Fran in a video on our website at bostonbiglocal.co.uk/boston-beach-2017.



The Boston Beach event was held on 3 and 4 August, providing children such as Max (above) with a chance to play in the sand.

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What is your vision for Boston 2024?

We will be holding a meeting in November with partner organisations to discuss ideas for developing sustainability for Boston Big Local projects and a long term legacy for Boston. We would love to hear what positive changes you would like to see in Boston by 2024. Email your ideas to info@bostonbiglocal.co.uk.



THEME 2

CREATING A MORE ATTRACTIVE ENVIRONMENT



Theme 2 in the Boston Big Local Plan is 'A More Attractive Environment'. This element of the plan supports activities and projects that improve Boston's appearance to make the town a more attractive place for people to live and visit.

One of the ways this is achieved is through our commitment to improving open spaces and local amenities in the Boston Big Local area, including Central Park.

To help improve and increase play opportunities, we sponsored a basketball hoop in the park in Year 1 of the Boston Big Local plan. More recently, the Croquet Club was awarded £500 of funding from Boston Big Local to repair their perimeter fencing.

We fund activities that educate and inform residents about their responsibility to the local environment and also support



Above: The new art deco garden in Central Park was supported by Boston Big Local

existing initiatives that brighten up the Boston Big Local area, such as Boston in Bloom. We may also fund additional activities where there is an identified need which is not met by statutory services.

Our goals under Theme 2 of the plan are achieved by working with a lead delivery partner to co-ordinate the activities under each priority. We measure success against the following outcomes:

- There is better partnership working and shared goals to create a more attractive environment in the Boston Big Local area.
- Residents from within the Boston Big Local area take action to create a more attractive environment.
- Residents from the Boston Big Local area tell us that the neighbourhood where they live is more attractive.

Read more details of Theme 2 activities at bostonbiglocal.co.uk/theme-2



STOP PRESS: It's a Bloomin' Hat Trick!

The East Midlands in Bloom results were announced on **Wednesday 13 September** at an award ceremony at The Stump. Congratulations to Boston in Bloom which received GOLD for the third consecutive year. Well done to everyone involved.



STAYING RIGHT ON THE MONEY!



We fund a wide variety of projects and activities as part of the Boston Big Local plan. Most of these are delivered by partner organisations and providers. In this issue of the newsletter we want to share with you the process our partnership group follows to make sure that activities are delivered as agreed.

Partner organisations who are commissioned to provide activities and services on our behalf are required to submit a written report outlining what has been delivered. The reports are usually quarterly for an ongoing activity, or at the end of a project for a one-off activity. We ask that these reports include photographs and case studies where possible, as this gives us a clearer picture of what has been achieved. Activity reports are put onto our website so that residents can read them. They are also used to provide updates and stories of change for our social media pages.

At the July partnership meeting, Boston Big Local members reviewed eight reports on activity from Big Local funded projects. All of the members read through and reviewed the reports to check:

- that the activities funded from the Boston Big Local community programme have been completed as agreed.

- whether there were any shortfalls and, if so, what action should be taken.
- the activity's successes and what we can learn from them.
- whether the payment could be released and if the funding should be continued.

Wendy Griggs from our Local Trusted Organisation, Age UK Boston & South Holland, said: "Reviewing the activity reports is an essential part of the financial process for Boston Big Local.

"The reports allow the partnership members to check that the agreed service has been delivered and that it meets the criteria in the service level agreement. The partnership will only authorise payment of invoices from delivery partners if a review has been completed satisfactorily."

"The reporting reviews make our delivery partners accountable and help us ensure that activities are being delivered to the agreed standards. The Boston Big Local partnership group acts on behalf of local residents to monitor Big Local funds and check they are being spent appropriately and effectively."

RICHARD TORY, CHAIR OF BOSTON BIG LOCAL



Last year Boston Big Local contributed to a research project conducted by Local Trust aimed at learning more about the extent to which Big Local areas around England are drawing in resources over and above the £1m they have been awarded. The research considered what these resources are and their value. You can read more about the findings at bostonbiglocal.co.uk/contributing-to-wider-research. *aa*

QUARTERLY NEWS ROUND-UP

Here are just a few of the activities Boston Big Local has supported over the last few months.



Boston Big Local awarded funding of £2,499 to Boston Bike Night to support the event and allow the organising committee to build foundations for next year.

The volunteer-led event attracts around 5,000 visitors to Boston town centre to enjoy the spectacle of up to 2,000 visiting motorbikes. The Boston Big Local grant helped to cover costs such as insurance, safety barriers and First Aid support. Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service worked with Boston Bike Night to secure the funds and supported the committee with finding volunteer marshals.



Another successful children's indoor triathlon was held at Geoff Moulder Leisure Complex on 10 June, raising over £800 for Pilgrim Hospital.

Fifteen children took part in the event, as well as two young people who entered the teen triathlon. Volunteers were also on hand to help with time keeping, counting swim lengths and distance logging.

Each competitor had to swim, cycle and run for 10 minutes for each discipline (15 minutes for the teenagers), putting every ounce of their energy into each activity and working hard to push themselves physically.



As part of the 'Encouraging Enterprise' theme in our plan we support the Boston Hanse Group which works to promote Boston's history and links with the Hanseatic League, create new international trade links and boost the town's visitor economy.

The group has produced a Merchant's Trail leaflet on the history of Boston, which was handed out to local residents and visitors at Boston's second International Hanseatic Day celebrations in May. The event included music, dancing, spinning and a procession through the market place.

READ MORE ONLINE

Keep up-to-date with the latest news from Boston Big Local at

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