

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

NEWSLETTER

Boston Big Local



November 2017

THINKING ABOUT LEGACY

a workshop for
residents and
delivery partners

Boston Big Local residents and delivery partners attended a workshop earlier this month to consider the impact of the Big Local project in Boston and what the lasting legacy will be once all of the £1m funding has been spent.

Big Local Rep, Bill Badham, opened the discussions with a simple definition of legacy: *what will be left behind when the money has run out?* However, the ensuing conversations quickly established that a legacy was, in fact, already in place. The conference concluded that several of the activities initiated or supported by Boston Big Local have already been a catalyst for change.

For instance, Boston Big Local funding helped to establish the Boston Marathon, which is now doing well and growing in popularity. The conference considered whether this kind of success could be replicated to support other events that might generate local interest and attract visitors to the town.



A legacy of change was highlighted in local attitudes to environmental improvements. Boston Big Local has funded initiatives to help tackle issues such as litter, cigarette litter, and dog fouling, which are helping to raise awareness and increase resident pride. Such changes in attitude and behaviour make it easier for the Council to embed solutions and gain business sponsorship for further environmental initiatives.

Another example is the spin-off group that has arisen from the Boston Big Local funded dementia sessions. Whilst the funded activity may not continue when Boston Big Local ends, the spin-off group can continue as it is not reliant on funding.

The final workshop session of the day considered whether and how ongoing activities could be made



sustainable beyond the 10 years of the Big Local project.

Richard Tory said: "The workshop allowed us to take stock and think about the impact and long term legacy of Boston Big Local. The ideas generated will be useful as we start to develop the next plan, which will cover years 5 and 6 of our ten year Big Local project."

Read more about the Legacy Workshop (pictured above) at bostonbiglocal.co.uk/legacy.

Official opening of Art Deco garden

A new sculpture has been unveiled as part of the official opening of the £15,000 Art Deco garden project in Central Park, to which Boston Big Local contributed £10,000. Our Chair, Richard Tory was at the ceremony. He said: "We wanted to help create a lasting legacy for the people of Boston."



WE'RE LISTENING TO RESIDENTS

Like all Big Local projects, Boston Big Local is a resident-led initiative aimed at providing local people with a vehicle for driving change and making things happen in the area. The Boston Big Local partnership group constantly reviews and monitors the activities we fund to make sure they are meeting the needs of local people.

"Having an understanding of local issues and an awareness of emerging trends is a key strength of the Boston Big Local partnership," said Richard Tory, Chair of Boston Big Local. "The majority of partnership group members are residents who are supported by a worker, a local trusted organisation, our delivery partners and a Big Local Rep - all of whom bring a wealth of experience and local knowledge to the project. Added to this, we consult with residents from Boston Big Local and the surrounding area to find out what they think of the area and what issues are important to them.

"Our most recent consultation with Boston residents took place at the Boston Beach event back in August," Richard added. "We surveyed 322 people over the two days of the event, asking them what they thought of Boston in general, what they liked about the town, and what they disliked about it. Later, as I collated the results of this survey and compared them with the research we carried out in 2014, I was pleased to discover an improving trend in perceptions overall. For example, 83% of Boston Big Local residents felt positively about Boston in general, compared to 69% in 2014. Perceptions of the town have improved even more amongst the people who live outside the Boston Big Local area. 92% of non-residents rated Boston positively in general.

"People told us that they liked the community events held in Boston, as well as the town centre, the market and the public areas. They also valued Boston's history and heritage and local landmarks such as the Stump. Interestingly, people who did not live in the Boston Big Local area were more likely to comment on the friendliness of local people, than those who live here.

"Of course not all the comments we received were positive. When prompted, the people we spoke to cited anti-social behaviour as a particular bug bear, as well as a lack of things for children to do, the impact of immigration and poor maintenance of local areas."

"Obviously Boston Big Local has a limited amount of funding available and it is not possible for the project to address all of the issues that are creating negative perceptions in the town. However, the survey has given us a much better understanding of how local residents are feeling and their comments will help us to clarify priorities as we start to think about what activities to fund in the next plan."

The key points from the 2017 resident consultation are listed on page 3 of this newsletter, but if you would like to read the full analysis of the perception survey you can download the results as a PDF from bostonbiglocal.co.uk/survey-2017.

If you have any comments about local issues or would like to share your ideas about how Boston Big Local should invest funding locally, please email info@bostonbiglocal.co.uk.



Boston Big Local Chair, Richard Tory

An extra £105k from Local Trust

Local Trust has announced additional funding for all 150 areas taking part in the Big Local programme, including Boston. Big Local areas will each receive an extra £105,000 on top of the £1 million already committed to making their communities even better.

The additional funding for Big Local areas is coming from the investment return on the Big Local endowment, which is managed by Local Trust to provide funding from the programme, which runs until 2026-27.

2017 SURVEY

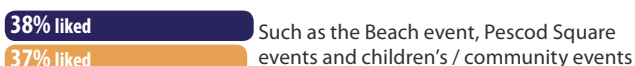
Results summary

We talked to **322 people** at the Boston Beach event in 2017 to get their views on how things are in Boston. Here's a quick summary of the key things they told us:

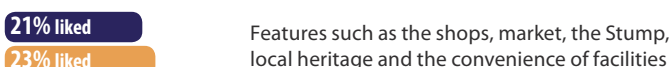
+ The top 3 things you liked in 2017

Public events

KEY **residents** **non-residents**



Town centre

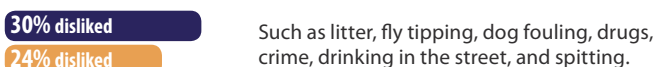


Public areas

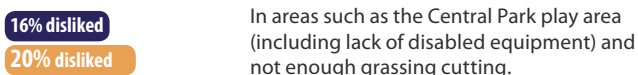


- The top 3 things you didn't like in 2017

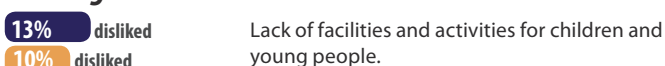
Anti-social behaviour



Lack of maintenance



Nothing for children to do



The results of this survey and the comments we have received from local people have strengthened our understanding of local perceptions and issues. We will use this information as we plan the funding of activities and projects to ensure they meet the needs of the community.

You can download and read the full survey results at bostonbiglocal.co.uk/survey-2017

Overall trend in perceptions

Comparing the positive and negative comments received in 2017 with the results of the 2014 survey, here's how perceptions have changed:

+ Positive comments

2017 | Boston Big Local residents - **83%**

2014 | Boston Big Local residents - **69%**

2017 | Residents living outside the area - **92%**

2014 | Residents living outside the area - **72%**

- Negative comments

2017 | Boston Big Local residents - **17%**

2014 | Boston Big Local residents - **31%**

2017 | Residents living outside the area - **8%**

2014 | Residents living outside the area - **28%**

Gender of respondents (approximately)

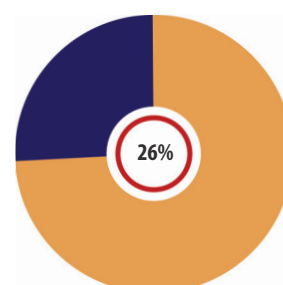


75% Female



25% Male

Location of residents who responded to our survey



26% of the people we spoke to lived in the Boston Big Local area

We surveyed 322 people in 2017 (26% lived in the Boston Big Local area) compared to 134 people in 2014 (37% of whom were Boston Big Local residents).

The additional money has also been made possible because of the proven success of the programme of resident-led investment based on neighbourhood and community priorities for action. The £105k of extra funding for Boston Big Local will be added to the remainder of our £1m after our next plan is submitted and approved for April 2019 onwards.

"We are very happy to be able to allocate this additional funding to the Big Local programme," said Kevin Sugrue, chair of the Local Trust board of trustees. "The energy and initiative released by Big Local is inspiring and amazing. We hope that through this funding Big Local partnerships have the resource to do even more."

QUARTERLY NEWS ROUND-UP

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



Boston Big Local has provided support for a Boston Borough Council initiative to hand out 500 poo-bag dispensers to dog owners, all of which come ready packed with a full roll of bags.

The handy dispensers can be reloaded with rolls of bags which can be bought locally, and have a handy clip to attach to dog leads – meaning that pet owners can always be sure of being fully equipped every time they go for ‘walkies’ with their dog. Pet owners can pick up one of the dispensers for free from the council’s main reception in West Street.



Boston United in the Community delivered five more multi sports days over the summer, supported by funding from Boston Big Local.

The sessions were attended by 35 individual children over the five days, with 86 attendances in total. The children taking part got to play a range of different sports, including dodgeball, football, ultimate frisbee, hockey, basketball, cricket and tag rugby. They also tried some new games such as tug-o-war and had a go on the air trax. Each child was also allocated free time during the day when they could choose to play any sport or game they wanted to.



The Boston Big Local Plan continues to support the provision of affordable transport that enables all residents to access facilities and events within the Boston Big Local area through a partnership with Boston Community Transport.

The membership-based community transport scheme provides a service for people who are unable to use or have difficulty with public transport. Boston Community Transport can help with journeys such as medical appointments or visits to the shops, social clubs or to see friends and relatives. You can find out more on their website at bostonct.org.uk.

SAVE THE DATE
Boston Marathon 2018
will take place on
15 April 2018

More info at
bostonmarathon.co.uk

Get in touch

Email: info@bostonbiglocal.co.uk

Website: www.bostonbiglocal.co.uk



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LOTTERY FUNDED

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