

## How Boston Big Local is Run

With over £1 Million to spend in the Boston Big Local area it is important the people of Boston are sure it is being spent responsibly. Our Rep, **Bill Badham** explains how Big Local is run nationally and how it works with us locally.



Occasionally questions arise about how the Big Local resident-led programme is managed and overseen. Residents on the local partnership put themselves forward to support the community, giving of their time and expertise. They do an amazing job in identifying and responding to its priorities. They can face many challenges, along with the rewards of helping make their area an even better place to live. They open themselves up to comment and, just occasionally, this can become quite personal and hurtful. This blog sets out how Big Local is run and the checks in place to make sure there is maximum benefit to residents, minimum bureaucracy and sound scrutiny to make sure things are run right.

Back in 2010, the National Lottery set up Big Local as a community-led programme to reach 150 areas in England, with at least £1m to spend over about 10 years. By 2012, all areas had got underway. Each area must follow a required pathway, including setting up a local residents' group, choosing a local trusted organisation

to be the legally accountable body, connecting with the wider community, researching local needs and building, implementing and reviewing a plan that responds to local priorities.

Local Trust manages the whole programme and holds and invests unspent money until needed. Return on that investment is distributed locally to add to the £1m for each area. Each area must have a Big Local rep to oversee progress and support the local area, also paid for centrally and managed through Local Trust.

Each Big Local area is run by a local partnership which must include at least five residents, making up at least 51% of the partnership with at least 51% of voting rights. The make-up and functioning of the partnership is reviewed annually to check that it is in good health and remains relevant and responsive to local needs, with clear policies and procedures to guide its work and respond to concerns and complaints.

The Local Trusted Organisation is chosen by the local partnership as one that can be accountable,

support the partnership and keep to the vision and values of Big Local. It is vetted by Local Trust and must keep all relevant records, submit its accounts and be open to spot checks from Local Trust. It signs a legal contract with Local Trust to ensure it keeps to the ethical and financial requirements of Big Local. In this area, it is paid no more than 5% of local spend and this payment is paid centrally, not from local funds.

The partnership is responsible for the development of the local plan and to make sure it is delivered with partners working toward the shared vision and objectives. This plan is checked thoroughly by Local Trust before approval. Subsequent spend is reviewed every six months by the partnership and Local Trust. There are Service Level Agreements between the Local Trusted Organisation and partner organisations to monitor progress. Reports from delivery partners need approval from the partnership before funding is released. The Big Local rep also submits a quarterly report to Local Trust on progress, successes and any areas of concern locally.

Each area is part of the wider Big Local community. Support, learning and sharing opportunities are available to make the most of Big Local as a powerful, resident-led, community focused programme to help make the 150 areas even better places to live.

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

## NEWSLETTER Boston Big Local

Residents Leading Change



October 2018

# SURPRISE!

### The residents of Boston Big Local had the pleasure of surprising the volunteer gardeners at Fydell House.

For a while now the volunteers have been nursing their old petrol mower to keep it going and make the gardens at Fydell House look amazing for all to see.

When, on the grapevine, we heard of the volunteers' peril, we as a group of residents had a discussion and decided to purchase a new mower for the volunteers.

We covertly found out the requirements and it was decided to purchase an ultra modern STIHL battery powered mower.

We presented this to the shocked and surprised volunteers: Jan Dawson, Adrian Carrotte and Pete Smith.



Left to Right: Adrian Carrotte, BBL Chair Richard Tory, Jan Dawson & Pete Smith

Adrian stated that "The bigger capacity grass holder would make it easier because I would have to empty it a lot less."

We are pleased you like it Adrian and it is of help to you all who do such a wonderful job volunteering your time and effort.

If we can help surprise another good cause in the Boston Big Local Area please do get in touch at [info@bostonbiglocal.co.uk](mailto:info@bostonbiglocal.co.uk)

### Get in touch with Boston Big Local

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

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



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### UPCOMING EVENTS

Check out our online events calendar.  
[www.bostonbiglocal.co.uk/events/](http://www.bostonbiglocal.co.uk/events/)



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# WHO WE HELPED

We have 10 years to spend the £1 million. We are in year 4 and have spent around £250,000. Here are some ways we, the residents, have spent the Boston Big Local money over the last few months.

## Nacro Education

Requiring funding to purchase fitness equipment for the students at their premises in South Street. Nacro applied for £610 from the Community Chest.

£ 610.00



## Friar's Folly

Based at Blackfriars Theatre, Friar's Folly meet to learn to play musical instruments. They required Community Chest funding to keep their group running.

£ 1000.00



## Boston Community Transport (BCT)

Based in The Len Medlock Voluntary Centre, BCT provide essential transport for the community. They required Community Chest funding for advertising.

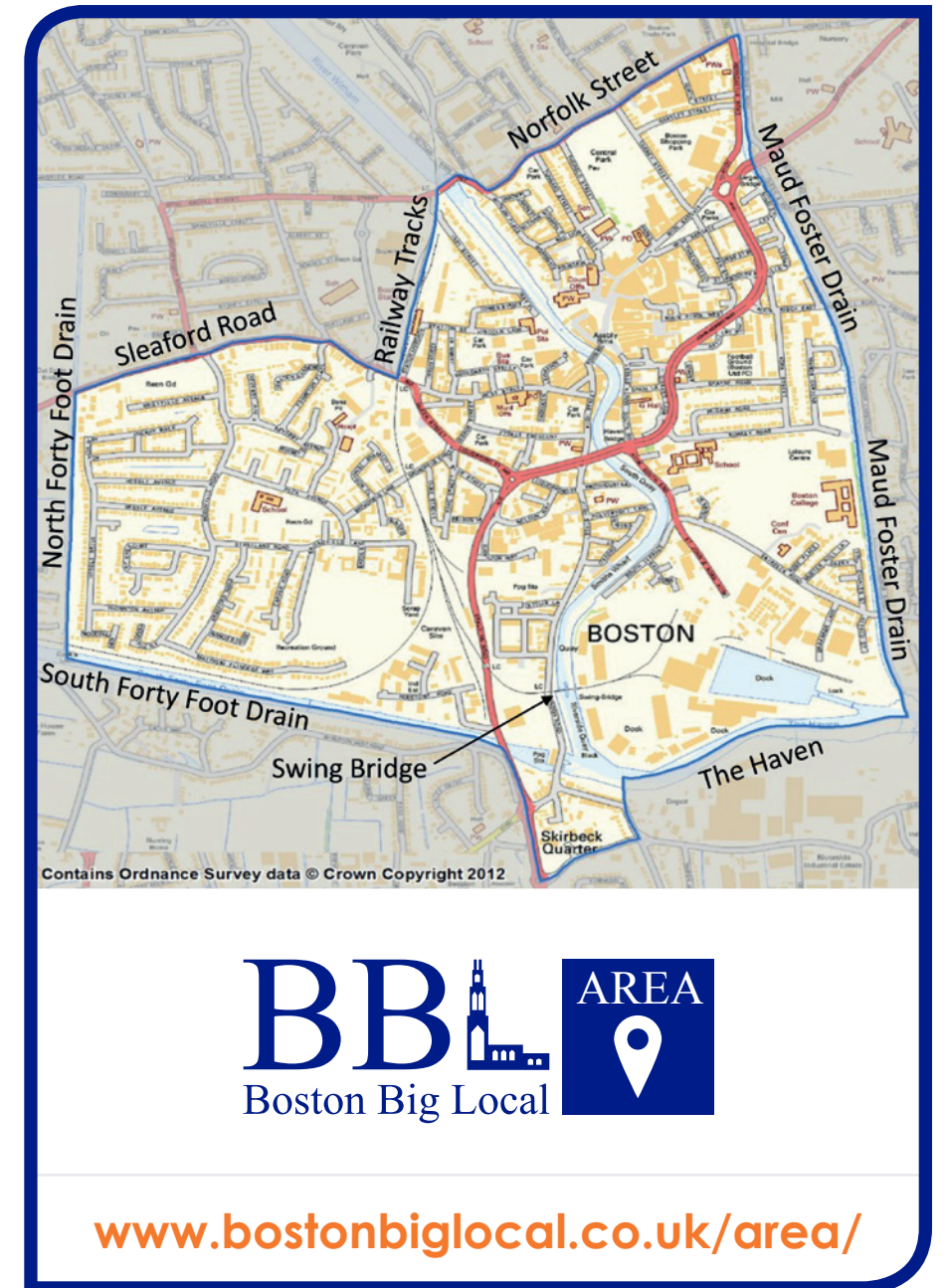
£ 1212.00



## Beach Event

Fully funded by us, and skillfully actioned by the council, the beach event is now in its 4th year. Held in Central Park and available to all, this years event held additional days for adults with Special Education Needs, People with Dementia, as well as a day for the Golden Oldies.

£ 7800.00 +



# DID YOU KNOW?

IF YOU LIVE IN THE BOSTON BIG LOCAL AREA YOU CAN HELP SPEND THE REMAINING MONEY ON GOOD CAUSES IN YOUR COMMUNITY.  
[www.bostonbiglocal.co.uk/contact/](http://www.bostonbiglocal.co.uk/contact/)

