

Boston Big Local Meeting, 21st August 2014 6.30pm

Black Sluice Lock Cottage

Present

Rachel A Lauberts – Facilitator
Bill Badham – Big Local Rep
Ralph Pryke – Chairman
Stuart Thompson – TaylorITEX CIC
John Bird
Rodney Bowles
Neville Dodd
Mandy Exley
Robert Lauberts
Lisa Stevenson
Paul Stevenson
Richard Tory

The meeting commenced at 6.35pm.

1. Apologies: Mick Taylor – TaylorITEX CIC – LTO, Zee Barbaks, Shirley Richardson and Nathan Bryant.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting 7th August 2014: Minutes of meeting accepted as a true record proposed ND, seconded ME, and carried.
3. Matters arising: Hannah Combes; Mick Taylor's PA has been approached regarding taking on the role of minute taker for the group. RP to speak to ST following the meeting regarding this matter. Pathway funding to be discussed in Action Planning.
4. Themes session led by BB: Profile to be completed by the end of September, following on from that the Plan will be written. Our vision and priorities which link well with what we had previously talked about. In order of importance
 - i) Improving Health and Wellbeing
 - ii) Greater Community Spirit
 - iii) More attractive environment
 - iv) Encouraging Enterprise

RP asked for clarification regarding the priorities of businesses and local authorities, which may be different to those of the residents. BB suggested that we work in partnership with businesses and local authorities which can add value to our aims. RL explained that we should listen to all ideas, evaluate and acknowledge them, and record them in our plan. Those things which fall outside our remit – such as statutory obligations of the council – will then be passed on to the relevant authority for them to deal with.

BB suggested that we now start to develop our Guiding Principles which will clearly define our remit and also provide a measure of protection. BB encouraged the group to write a two year plan. The plan would include how much money we intend to spend over the two years with a quarterly budget. The role of the group as advocates was discussed, BB explained that it is reasonable for the group to have an advocacy role, however this is a spend programme and within that where we are saying that there is an activity where we do not want to fund something but we want to influence the outcome – this also takes time and attracts a cost, as the person leading the advocacy role needs to be paid. So therefore it must be budgeted for within the plan. RL suggested that as we progress we can issue a regular newsletter mentioning the issues that the residents have raised. RAL mentioned other groups in Boston which do already have an advocacy role such as the Disability Forum and the Community Forum and asked if it would be appropriate to fund those groups. BB agreed that this is something we could build into the plan if the aims of the group are in accord with the aims of Boston Big Local. RT asked if we could apply a form of triage mechanism into our decision making. BB referred back to the themes explaining that by identifying these themes we have already decided, based on our research, what is important to the residents. BB explained that RAL had been licensed by the group to be the plan co-ordinator; taking all the suggestions from the residents and the themes and any other ideas which may still come forward in the future to act as a guide to who RAL should approach to make these things happen. It would then be a business planning agreement between that organisation and Boston Big Local for us to fund them for the agreed outcomes.

Vision – wording and editing, BB pointed out that there is an opportunity to make the language consistent in the plan. RAL to take and make it work within the Planning document having the same ring to it. i.e. instead of for e.g.: “Greater community spirit – rather than saying we are going to do such and such it will cut to the chase and say: “residents will feel valued, included and engaged. Similarly in the outcomes – RAL will need to make sure that the outcomes are SMART – S= Specific, M=Measurable, A=Achievable, R=Relevant, T= Time bound. The group agreed that RAL should be authorised to make the outcomes fit for purpose in the plan.

BB asked the group to funnel all the suggestions made by residents into the four themes.

RAL to list the suggestions into themes and indicate on each things which we might fund and things which we might influence. RAL to tighten up wording of the vision with the aim of tying into plan. RAL is also to draft some guiding principles to be discussed at the next meeting.

5. Community conversation – the group decided on the Age UK Community Room as the venue for our event in October, room to be booked from 12pm – 8pm with two sessions at 3.30pm – 5pm and 5.30pm – 7pm suggested date 16th October 2014, ME offered to book the room on our behalf. The newsletter will advertise the date of the consultation event. The newsletter will be combined with RT

design. BB suggested that the key message should be: we have listened, this is what you have told us, now tell us some more. The newsletter should inform residents of the Vision, themes and suggested activities. We should also keep the design light and make it easy and consistent for future use. RL informed the group that there are 6,000 properties including businesses within the area. RP agreed that the newsletter would be designed in early September, printed in mid September to be delivered at the beginning of October, allowing two weeks before the event for delivery. ME will ask for the Police Cadets to help with delivery. RP asked for group members to come forward with volunteers who may be able to help with delivery. RAL to organise the delivery. The group authorised RP and RAL to design the print the newsletter.

6. Action Plan: Pathway Funding £2,000 for writing the Plan, BB has tweaked MT's draft application, RP, RAL and ST to consult with each other sign and submit to Local Trust the group authorised this plan of action. ME shared documents with RAL from surveys and consultation exercises carried out by other organisations.
7. Website: RAL and ST have discussed the website and the issues around technical difficulties. ST offered to contact the designer to release the passwords, and offered the expertise of TaylorITEX staff to carry out the necessary alterations.
8. AOB: RAL asked if any group members would like to attend the TaylorITEX Beer Festival over the bank holiday and carry out some surveys, RL suggested that surveys be made available to the attendees. ME invited RAL to attend a meeting with the Disability Forum on Thursday 23rd October at 1.30pm at Chantry House who would like to contribute collaboratively with Boston Big Local. BB gave his apologies in advance for the next two meetings.
9. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 4th September 2014 starting at 6.30pm, venue Black Sluice Lock Cottage.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm