

BIG LOCAL REP'S REVIEW

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 looks back and ahead to share how we run and do things.



Every three months or so, I share my thoughts on local area progress with you as residents as your Big Local Rep and with the central team managing the national programme. Your comments and thoughts are always welcome.

Looking back Running things

This has been a very important and successful three months for the partnership, managing transitions of plan co-ordinator and having the third two year plan submitted, assessed and approved.

In January, the last plan was reviewed by the partnership, achievements recognised and gaps identified. The Local Trust central team had this to say.

- » This is an excellent plan review. It provided a thorough and clear picture of what Boston Big Local is doing, the successes and challenges and how you have used what you have learned to develop your next plan and the legacy of Boston Big Local.
- » It is great to see your thorough use of data, especially open data from Local Insight and other sources, to help you review your activities and develop your next plan.
- » We liked the wealth of supporting information you provided through links to your website that included blogs, films and infographics. These provided depth and context to

your activities. We especially liked the infographic of your survey results and film from the 2017 Boston Beach event.

In February the new plan for 2019 – 21 was submitted, with very positive comments from the assessor, Mark Bishop, including:

- » Evidence of a strong team, welcoming and well organised
- » A well thought through plan based on a sound understanding of what residents want
- » An effective contracting and outsourcing model, keeping running costs to a minimum and maximising investment in the community
- » Appreciation that the plan had been developed during an interregnum of plan co-ordinator
- » Sound Local Trusted Organisation support
- » Good plans in place for better engagement with a wider group of people, including Eastern European communities and young people.

Mark concluded by saying: "I was mightily impressed by the quality and volume of the projects being supported by BBL and I thought it was a really enthusiastic and professional team there; I wish them every success with delivering this Plan and for the future."

The partnership continues to meet monthly with strong support from the Local Trusted Organisation, Age

UK Lincoln & South Lincolnshire. The new plan co-ordinator, Katy Roberts, is in post and the partnership is looking forward to launching the new plan over the coming months.

Doing things

A range of new posts on the website demonstrate the value to local residents of the activities invested in by Boston Big Local and the outcomes being achieved.

Some of the funding is small-scale through the community chest but with significant impact. Recent examples include the Talking Newspaper, so that it can continue to be providing a free audio service to visually impaired people around our area. Also, Women's Aid received a grant to help refurbish some of the facilities that are so much in need and under increasing demand for refuge accommodation for victims of domestic abuse and their families. The Samaritans also gained funding to train more volunteers and so help keep this vital service in the area.

Looking ahead

Boston Big Local is looking forward to driving forward the new plan in April 2019, including the community engagement strand being led by Fran Taylor. This will provide an excellent opportunity and approach to widen and deepen the sense of ownership residents have for Boston Big Local and in turn strengthen community spirit in the area.



Read our latest news:
www.bostonbiglocal.co.uk/news/

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



OUR PARTNER OF THE YEAR 2019



BBL Chairman Richard Tory presented Debbie Broadley with her well deserved award.

At our AGM on the 9th May, Debbie Broadley was announced as our Partner of The Year for 2019.

We asked Debbie some questions and here are her answers:

Q1. Well done Debbie, How do you feel having been awarded Boston Big Local Partner of the year?

Thank you. Surprised. Shocked. Amazed. All of the above. I do my job, to the best of my ability and

never expected the work to be recognised in this way. There is a whole team behind the scenes at Memory Lane Creative Arts and this is recognition for all of their hard work too and that of the artists who work alongside us

Q2. Can you tell us a little about your job role at LHP?

My job title at LHP is Health and Wellbeing Co-Ordinator. This encompasses a multitude of sins. The biggest part of my role by far is the co-ordination of

dementia activities and services and also ensuring that LHP staff are, as a minimum, dementia friends but that many more have further training. My role also involves actively encouraging and promoting healthy lifestyles to our communities, partners and staff.

Q3. What has been your favourite or most rewarding project that you have worked on?

There are so many, it's impossible to choose one project. Working on the B&M Quarter mosaic was amazing. When our group saw their own pieces displayed as part of the whole piece, it was quite emotional. It not only worked on improving the health and wellbeing of the people taking...

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To get updates on Boston Big Local, subscribe to our newsletter at bostonbiglocal.co.uk, like our Facebook page or follow @bostonbiglocal on Twitter



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- BBL Meetings:** 2nd Thurs of each month.
- BLIC Conversation in Craft at LMVC:** Thursdays 11am -1pm.
- Boston Beach Event:** 15th August.
- Cycle Road Show:** 26th July.

£500 FOR BOSTON & SOUTH HOLLAND TALKING NEWSPAPER



Back in November, the BBL Community Chest Panel gave Boston & South Holland Talking Newspaper £500 to purchase new audio players and batteries. In March we went to see the great work the volunteers do to support people without sight in our area. We also used to opportunity to present our standard oversized cheque.

Below is the half-year report from Boston & South Holland Talking Newspaper to share how the £500 has helped them provide their service.

Our aim

Our aim continues to be providing a free audio service to visually impaired people around our area. A handful who used to live locally have moved outside of it but still like to hear our local news.

Listeners.

We have recently lost some to natural causes – with a small cluster of 4 within a week or so of each other in February/March

this year. Of those 3 were in their nineties. We currently have 113 listeners (4 pending). We provide a service indiscriminately of postcode to the eligible. Referrals come from – South Lincs B.S., the Sensory Service, the Macular Chair – the RNIB contact based at Pilgrim. We still have 9 Listeners in postcodes PE21 – 8 & PE21 -6. I attach a copy (redacted) email sent to me recently by the daughter of a lady who has recently passed away.

Volunteer Recruitment

Over the last year we lost 3 volunteers due to ill health but new people have joined us. We currently have 20 volunteers.

Running Costs

We were very pleased to receive the £500 grant, which covered the cost of 6 new players and spare batteries. We cannot always retrieve players from family. Occasionally players come back without batteries. The bill was £294+ the balance will be allocated again other overheads.

Our accommodation in the LMVC is small but adequate – wallets are dealt with on a Wednesday and recording and copying on a Thursday morning continuing into early afternoon. Our volunteers really appreciate decent accommodation, which is well managed, warm, no steep stairs to navigate and a convenient location.

Rent will once again rise by up to 5% plus VAT for the financial year April 2019 to March 2020. Very few volunteers claim expense – so the contribution beyond their time is quite substantial, especially the editors who buy 4 local papers on their editing weeks.

Future Fundraising and final accounts

Although our financial situation is sound at the present it would be irresponsible for Trustees not to aim to replenish capital. Our objective of having sufficient funds for at least an ongoing five year life of the T.N. is met but subject to the following possible caveats:-

- » Sufficient demand from sight impaired people for the service.
- » Adequate numbers of capable volunteers to manage the charity
- » Suitable accommodation
- » Availability of news in any local press.

To learn more or to volunteer for the Boston & South Holland Talking Newspaper please either visit www.bashtn.org.uk or email enquiries@bashtn.org.uk

APPLY FOR FUNDING LIKE B&SH TALKING NEWSPAPER

OPTION 1

COMMUNITY CHEST

up to **£1,500**

At the start of each year we have £12,000 to invest in Community Projects in the BBL area.

APPLY

OPTION 2

SMALLER EVENTS

up to **£1,500**

At the start of each year we have £5,000 to invest in small events in the BBL area.

APPLY

OPTION 3

LARGER EVENTS

up to **£4,500**

At the start of each year we have £5,000 to invest in large events in the BBL area.

APPLY

FILL IN OUR SIMPLE FIVE MINUTE FUNDING FORM
WWW.BOSTONBIGLOCAL.CO.UK/FUNDING/

The BBL funding panel meets on the 2nd Tuesday of May, September and January to consider all applications we have received since our previous meeting. Very soon after the meeting, we will let you know the outcome of your application. If successful we will transfer your funding to your bank account so you can fulfil your objectives. Once you have completed your project or event we request that you send us some photos and a few words of how everything went.

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...part, it also absolutely created a more attractive environment. The glasswork with Liz Pearson of the Glass Room and creating memory boxes brought forward so many animated discussions, it has to be note-worthy. But also the simple projects, such as repurposing some gifted picture postcards and seeing the different interpretations and creations was a favourite of mine.

Q4. Is it possible that any of your projects would not have happened without the funding from the residents at BBL?

None of our projects would have taken place without the funding from BBL residents.

We do not want people wishing to attend to suffer financial exclusion and this matches BBL long term shared vision. With careful planning, we are able, with BBL funding, to offer fortnightly sessions, all the materials and refreshments completely free of charge. I know from the feedback from our clients that this is very much appreciated.

Q5. What differences do feel BBL has made to Boston in its first 4 years?

BBL has opened up opportunities for people to access and enjoy activities and services that otherwise would not have been available to them. Boston tends to gain most of its press/media

coverage for negative events. BBL highlights the positives. Good things do happen in Boston, for Boston residents. It's a great shame that this doesn't get more coverage.

Q6. Any other comments you may wish to add.

I would just like to thank Boston Big Local for its continued support of Memory Lane Creative Arts. This group is a lifeline for many of our attendees, particularly those in a 24/7 caring role. To quote a carer who spoke to me at the last session, "I really enjoyed that. Do you know, this group is my lifeline. I don't know what I'd do without you all."

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2012, The National Lottery gave the residents of Boston Big Local £1 Million to invest in their local area over ten years. Learn more at www.bostonbiglocal.co.uk

