



Newington Big Local Partnership Meeting

Minutes

Thursday 15th February 2024 at 2:00pm

Newington Community Centre

In attendance: Catherine Curtis (Chair, resident), Sally Harrison (resident), Angela Vicker-Craddock (Big Local worker), Charlie Fox (LTO), Maxine (resident), Cara (Big Local Worker), Linda (resident), Anndina (resident), Christine (resident)

1. Charlie welcomed to everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Richard, Nova, Peter, Pat, Carl, Jenny (Mike and Keven do not work on Thursdays).
2. The minutes of the 18th January 2024 meeting were agreed. Charlie will add Christine and Anndina.
3. The finance report for January 2024 was circulated and there were no questions.
4. The Employment Agreement and NBL Starlings Partnership Agreement were approved, and signed.
5. Partnership discussion:
 - a. Food Club (Cara/all) Cara explained that the food bags are wholly dependent on the food that FareShare allocate to us. We don't know whether FareShare are having difficulty sourcing food themselves, but suspect that this is the case. One option may be to deliver food club one day per week only. We have started a conversation with Social Enterprise Kent, they are looking for funding for a suitable van and would consider bringing their social kitchen to Newington one day per week.
6. Updates by exception:
 - a. Levelling Up Fund – the LUF steering group met on Friday 2nd February – TDC advised that there is a £300,000 shortfall and they presented two options. We continue to liaise with them and will arrange a meeting with the NCA trustees.
 - b. Creative Newington 2 (Angela) creative activities funded by Awards 4 All. Angela is delivering weekly family creative sessions and weekly

sessions at Copperfields. Attendance is really good at both sessions. Angela explained some of the activities, and how the two groups are interacting. Partners commended Angela for her excellent progress with this project.

- c. Garden Safari – Angela has started promoting this, which is on 7th April (10am to 3pm). There are already 18 households signed up and Angela has posters. Anndina suggested asking people for a donation – perhaps towards a specific item or cause.
- d. Our Shared Prosperity Fund application has been successful. We will work with Nova to design and deliver community activities with the aim to get people interested/involved in nature and gardening activities. We hope to set up a gardening club which can take ownership of the community garden when the community centre refurbishment is completed.

7. AOB

- a. Cara will explore basic IT/computing training for partnership members. Sally advised that there is an IT suite at Copperfields that we may be able to use and she will speak to Julie.
- b. The NBL van is owned by NCA. The trustees discussed the logistics of making the van available to residents and concluded that this wouldn't be covered by insurance and is too high risk for the trustees.
- c. Cara hasn't started the coffee mornings yet.
- d. Charlie is arranging a trip to Thanington Neighbourhood Community Centre in Canterbury on 12th March. This is in a similar area to Newington. Catherine, Sally, Anndina, Linda, Christine and Maxine (potentially) are interested in coming.
- e. Linda asked whether we have heard anything from Tesco's Bags of Help – we are still waiting to hear the result.
- f. Anndina described the 'free shop' in Herne Bay.

8. The next meeting will be on Thursday 21st March, at 2:00pm at the community centre.

Meeting ended 15:10