



## **Newington Big Local Partnership Meeting**

### **Minutes**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 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), Pat (local Cllr), Cara (Big Local Worker), Carl (Local Trust Rep).

Apologies: Richard, Nova, Peter and Anndina. Mike and Keven do not work on Thursdays.

1. Charlie welcomed to everyone to the meeting.
2. The minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 meeting were agreed.
3. The finance report for December 2023 was circulated and there were no questions.
4. Partnership discussion:
  - a. Creative Newington 2 is in the named of NCA. Angela is delivering weekly sessions at Copperfields. There are plans to create craft kits for people who can't leave their rooms and something for the public spaces. Family sessions will run weekly, afterschool from week commencing 29 January. The first sessions will focus on designing furniture etc for the new garden. The consultation is likely to include the centre refurbishment. We can use the Copse when the centre is closed. Afterschool groups will facilitate groups of up to about 12 children, with opportunities for new children/families every 6 weeks.
  - b. Food Club (Cara) We ran consultation sessions early in January to explain the (a) process of food club, (b) the limitations of FareShare and (c) price increases. Every food club member was invited and around 25% attended a session. We have agreed to test a new approach whereby food collected in the morning is distributed to members, with no storage required. This reduced the staff time needed for food club. If food club is going to continue longer term it

is going to have to be financially sustainable. We anticipate food bag costs will need to be increased, up to £15/bag. We are working to communicate with food club members and manage expectations.

- c. Garden Safari – Angela is looking at 7<sup>th</sup> April (Easter holidays) for the next garden safari; she will set up the map and new poster ready for circulation next week.
  - d. The Community Chef's contract comes to an end in March 2024 and he will go onto a zero hours employment basis. This will allow us to utilise his skills and experience when we have funded projects and/or want to consult/develop ideas for the new kitchen.
5. Updates by exception:
- a. Levelling Up Fund – the next LUF steering group meeting will be Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 11am. Please let Charlie know if you would like to attend.
  - b. Charlie has applied to the Shared Prosperity Fund for community activities in the Copse when the centre is closed for refurbishment.
6. AOB
- The NBL van is owned by NCA and costs are covered by Food Club. We have used it in the past for gardening/green spaces. It is currently a critical resource for food club. All to offer ideas (in writing) of how the van could support the community.
  - Catherine raised the issue of staff coverage and resource. It was agreed that succession planning and staffing capacity/resource will be crucial for the future sustainability of the 'new' community centre.
7. The next meeting will be on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February, at 1:00pm at the community centre.

Meeting ended 15:10