

Notes of the Big Local Sompting meeting held on Wednesday 15th May 2013

Location: Sompting Village Primary School

Attendees: Mel Shaw, Adur and Worthing Councils/Resident; Sue Holland, Resident (North); Trevor Crowter, Resident (East); Jim Boot, Big Local Rep; Chris Servante, Resident/Sompting Parish Council; Carson Albury, Adur Council; Jonathan Paine, Resident/Sompting Community Church; Mick Laker, Resident; Kerry Ramshaw, Resident/Sir Robert Woodard Academy (SRWA); Adrian Barritt, Adur Voluntary Action.

Apologies: Cllr David Simmons

Welcome and introduction

1. Most of the group had already met except Mick Laker who was joining the group for the first time. He had heard about the meeting by word of mouth and was concerned that many residents didn't know what was going on with Big Local. It was acknowledged that despite front page headlines in the local paper, leafleting every household in February and holding two events, still there was a great deal to do in terms of raising and maintaining the profile of Big Local.

Big Local re-cap and Star People

2. The Big Local Rep reminded the group about the key points about Big Local – the £1m Lottery funding awarded to the area in December, that residents should be in the driving seat, the Pathway and the Getting Started funding. Over the next twelve months the residents working with other local stakeholders have to:
 - a. Put together a profile of the area – issues, views and opportunities
 - b. Set up a Big Local Partnership (51% of members have to be residents)
 - c. Work to identify a Vision/s for the area
 - d. Develop an action plan to draw down the £1m.
3. The parallel Star People programme was described as a separate fund aimed at 'people who have an enterprising idea to benefit the local community' or social entrepreneurs. Jim said that some young people at SRWA were thinking about approaching the school's board about opening up the gym for community use with students being trained and getting work experience as personal trainers/instructors. Ideas from other areas included setting up a community run café offering employment training and an internet/media consultancy for community and voluntary groups. Residents with enterprising ideas should contact Jim or go to the Star People website: <http://unltd.org.uk/starpeople/>

What's happened so far; meetings, events and findings

4. Sue Holland, Chris Servante and Jim Boot reminded the group of the activities that had taken place so far including the Family Play Morning held on 5th April at the Harriet Johnson Centre and the work that Lee Billingham, Neighbourhood Worker for Adur and Worthing Councils had been doing in contacting local groups such as Mums and Toddlers.

How to find out more about local issues, ideas and aspirations?

5. The group then brain stormed ideas to engage with a wider audience within Sompting:
 - a. Serious activities/work as well as fun
 - b. Events for older age group as well
 - c. Non-stereotypical activities ie older people's roller disco
 - d. Setting up a youth council/using existing secondary school councils to give young people a voice
 - e. How to tackle apathy
 - f. How to get word out
 - g. A permanent presence ie shop, library or family centre
 - h. Explain what it (Big Local) means to residents/make it meaningful
 - i. Use Sompting Festival and other events to meet people where they are – map the events and go to those
 - j. A person to do this – like Lee – a community worker but recruit a local person
 - k. Explain what you can do with the momney (see h)
 - l. How to find about events in enough time? (an event at the weekend was mentioned but no-one had the capacity/ability to make it there at such short notice)
 - m. Website – training (to set it up) – actively maintained
 - n. Utilise Tim Loughton's questionnaire (results as well as those from the Neighbourhood Plan).
6. The three underlined activities were agreed as the key activities to take forward. The group then split up into groups of three to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the different activities:

Key worker:

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus point • Information gathering • Management • Good communicator • Set targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost • Requires training (depends on candidate) • Can't cover everything • Bias
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use existing worker • Presenting benefits to public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding the right person (or not) • Time consuming (to get them started)

Permanent presence – shop/library

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location • Visible • Central • Volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow start – footfall (based on experience in Lancing)
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted (or supported) by Adur Voluntary Action • (Use Getting Started funding for) Digital display (for news and events) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to contact Landlord/Estate Agent • (Cost) of rates, rents, services

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Sompting Festival (12,13 and 14th July) and community events

Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (Use Getting Started funding for) Professional, appealing displays, T-shirts and hoodies• Float at the Worthing Carnival• Count-downs (to create anticipation/excitement)• 'Give aways'/freebies ie stretchy bracelets (for children and young people) and equivalents for older people (ie fridge magnets)• Announcements on the day• Prior to event• Individual groups• Advertising• Word of mouth• Social media• Headlines of the events afterwards• Community evenings at pubs, Academy other venues

7. Jim asked the sub-groups that had discussed the activities if on balance they felt they were worth pursuing using the Getting Started funding. All of the groups agreed that they were and the group agreed to use these three activities as the focus of their Getting Started funding submission.

Locally Trusted Organisation

8. The next item on the agenda was to discuss what criteria should be used to choose the Locally Trusted Organisation who would hold the £20,000 Getting Started funding in Sompting. It was asked who was undertaking this role in other areas. Jim said that in one area the Council for Voluntary Service had undertaken this role, in another the housing association while in another area a local cricket club had done this and in another the local Academy (secondary school). The key thing was – is that it does what it says on the tin – that it is a Locally Trusted Organisation. The group then brain-stormed some key criteria:
- a. Non-political
 - b. Accessible
 - c. Not for profit
 - d. Competent treasurer/financial processes AAA
 - e. Locally represented/care about Sompting
9. The group then discussed possible candidates:
- a. Sompting Parish Council
 - b. Sompting Community Church
 - c. Adur Voluntary Action
 - d. Sompting Village Primary School
10. Jim agreed to make initial contact with these organisations to discuss what holding the Getting Started funding entailed and the Terms and Conditions of Local Trust. Jim asked if anyone from the group would be available week commencing 20th May to start writing the

Getting Started submission. Trevor and Sue agreed to meet with Jim on 21st May at 10am at the Boundstone Children's Centre Café. The meeting closed at 9pm.

11. Date of the next meeting: Thursday 6th June 7-8.30pm, Sompting Village Primary School.