

Notes of the Big Local Sompting Working Group Meeting on 21st July 2013 7.00-8.30pm

Venue: Harriet Johnson Centre

Attendees: Nina Bishop (Resident), Jonathan Paine (Resident), Nigel Howard (Resident), Chris Servante (Resident/Parish Councillor), Albert Cuckney (Sompting Football Club/Resident), Nicky Hellard (Resident), Alun Jones (Resident), Mel Shaw (Resident/Adur & Worthing Council), M and D Lethby (Residents), A and P Godley (Residents), W Wibrew (Resident), Trevor Crowter (Resident), Adrian Barritt (Adur Voluntary Action/Locally Trusted Organisation), Roger Meopham (Resident), Ken Bashford (Resident/Parish Council), Carson Albury (District Councillor), Gareth Smith (Parish Council), Jim Boot (Big Local Rep).

Introduction

1. The meeting was called to maintain momentum during the summer holidays. A meeting and drop in session had been advertised for the afternoon as well, but attendance had been limited.

Getting Started funding

2. In August, the Sompting Big Local working group was awarded £20,000 by Local Trust¹ to implement the Getting Started phase of the Big Local Pathway for Sompting to:
 - a. Start the Conversation with local residents through a road-show
 - b. Set up a Big Local Partnership (successor to the working group)
 - c. Develop a Profile of Sompting
 - d. Develop a Vision for Sompting
 - e. Developing a Big Local Action Plan for submission to Local Trust in the New Year.
3. The funding was specifically awarded for the following activities:
 - a. Employing a part-time co-ordinator/worker for six months
 - b. Opening a community café/hub on Cokeham Parade
 - c. Undertaking a road-show to engage local residents.
4. As the working group's Locally Trusted Organisation, and with the agreement of Local Trust, Adur Voluntary Action will hold the £20,000 on behalf the working group. Additionally, and for no fee, they will employ the worker, hold the lease and support the road-show process through providing advice, lending equipment such as a gazebo and exhibition boards and provide public liability insurance (the latter funded from the Getting Started funding). On completion of the Getting Started phase, the Sompting Big Local Partnership will be able to start to draw down the £1m to implement its Big Local Action Plan over the next ten years.

Shop/hub

5. Trevor Crowter gave an update on progress on securing the shop on Cokeham Parade with the intention of running this as an information point or hub and potentially a café during the period of the Getting Started phase of the Big Local programme. The agent for the owners of the shop have said that they have instructed their solicitor to draw up a lease. This will be for five years but with a get out after one year.
6. The existing shop needs clearing out and decorating – an ideal DIY SOS style project for residents. The intention is to open on Saturday 26th October, although a 'soft' opening may be possible in the fortnight or week beforehand. The intention is that it will be run by residents on a voluntary basis – who will be able to receive training in customer services, food hygiene etc. It will be run for the benefit of all the residents of Sompting.
7. It was suggested that the project would need to be evaluated to see if it has been successful. Jim said that evaluation is a key part of the Big Local process and so this will be built in from

¹ Local Trust is the national body that oversees the Big Local programme on behalf of the National Lottery. There are 150 Big Local areas in England. Sompting is in Wave 3 of the Big Local programme.

the beginning. At the same time, Local Trust don't want to overburden Big Local communities with bureaucracy and so a light touch approach would be encouraged. Concerns were raised over access for disabled people and parking (on the parade of shops). Appropriate measures would be built into the plans.

Locally Trusted Organisation

8. Adur Voluntary Action (AVA) had to pass a number of tests before Local Trust agreed to it becoming Sompting's Locally Trusted Organisation. Firstly it had to be selected by residents. It was one of five organisations short-listed to take on this role at previous meetings of the working group held in May. It then received the highest number of votes at the meeting held on 6th June. It then had to satisfy Local Trust that it was a fit and proper organisation to undertake this role on behalf of the residents of Sompting. The Chief Executive of AVA Adrian Barritt and one of their workers Sarah Leeding (also a resident) introduced themselves to the meeting. Adrian confirmed that he was very pleased and excited to be asked to get involved with Big Local in Sompting. He or one of his team would be attending future meetings of the working group, and then the Big Local Partnership, to provide budget updates on the Getting Started funding as well as the other support previously mentioned.

Role of worker/co-ordinator

9. There was a concern raised over whether the number of hours (18 hours or equivalent to half a working week) would be sufficient for the very challenging role. Jim responded that there were budgetary constraints but also the limited number of hours would help ensure a balance was achieved between supporting the residents to lead on the work themselves, and simply getting someone to do it for them. It was essential that residents drive the programme. It was suggested that the pay rate set out in the advert was misleading. Jim explained that this was a standard format used in job adverts but that this could be explained to prospective candidates. The closing date for applications was the 6th of September and **a small short-listing and interview panel involving resident members of the working group would be convened at AVA shortly afterwards.**

Road-show and planning ahead

10. Jim showed on a slide a small list of activities between August and Christmas when residents could be consulted on their aspirations and issues for the profile and action plan:
 - Sompting Parish Council Awards Ceremony – October (date to be confirmed)
 - Adur Voluntary Action AGM 25th October 12.30
 - Christmas Carols – December (tbc)
 - Weekly 'Little Angels' sessions every Thursday at St Peters
11. At present it is planned to take the Good Bad Dream boards to these events to seek residents' views. It was agreed that other surveys such as the recent Neighbourhood Plan survey would also generate important information for the profile as well as the statistical information now available on-line or from the district and county council. Jim encouraged residents to start thinking of events that were planned that could be added to the list but also to identify other group activities such as the Little Angels or Thursday lunch club at the Harriet Johnson. Part of the role of the co-ordinator would be to put together a programme and co-ordinate attendance at these. **Residents to send details of events and activities to Jim in the short term.**

Website and social media

12. Nigel, Trevor and Carson attended a Big Local Networking and Learning event in Eastbourne in July. They have learnt how to set up a website using Word Press and have acquired the domain name <http://www.biglocalsompting.org.uk/> on behalf of the working group. They are starting to put up some basic information about Big Local in Sompting – click on the link

to view the content. They are getting some further help from one of the Big Local group in Devonshire West in Eastbourne who has received Star People² funding to set up a marketing social enterprise. They will also be exploring setting up a dedicated Facebook page and Twitter account. Chris suggested they should be cautious particularly about the latter as there may not be that much demand amongst residents for Tweets based on his own experience as a parish councillor.

Any other business

13. Ideas emerging from the drop-in held in the afternoon included:
 - a. Using a local graphic designer to put together a logo – using ideas from the Festival (Nigel)
 - b. Having the website up and running in a fortnight (Nigel, Trevor and Carson)
 - c. Moving towards a formal structure ie Big Local Partnership using the guidance (all)
 - d. Getting some quick wins (such as the Hub) and celebrating these (all)
 - e. Data protection (to be discussed at the next meeting)
14. The question was asked how the Big Local area of benefit (see attached presentation) had been decided upon. Jim responded by saying that the National Lottery had undertaken a mapping exercise of England to see where it awarded grants and where the greatest need was, based on high unemployment, poor health and low educational attainment. Some disadvantaged areas were not receiving funding. As a result, Sompting along with two other areas in Adur had been short-listed. The National Lottery then made the final decision on which areas were chosen. Only those areas of Sompting with the worst incidence of these problems had been selected – which meant that the old village had not been included (the implication being that the old village has better outcomes for residents). It was proposed by some of those present that Local Trust (now acting on behalf of the Lottery) be asked to re-draw the beneficial area to include the old village as the current situation was unfair and damaging to community cohesion. **Jim agreed to contact Local Trust about how to make an application to change the area.**
15. Communication was also raised as an issue. Some present had only heard about the meeting through word of mouth although posters had been seen by some others. It was proposed to develop a communication strategy or plan and a **small group of those present agreed to share contact details and to arrange to meet to draw up a communications strategy.**

Date of next meeting

16. **An on-line Doodle poll would be conducted** (by Jim) to find the best date for the next meeting. A meeting would be held in the afternoon as well for residents who are unable to attend evening meetings.

² Star People is a parallel programme to Big Local that funds individuals 'with an enterprising idea that will benefit the community'. Awards range from £500 - £5000 and exceptionally £15,000. Further details are available from <http://www.localtrust.org.uk/big-local/star-people/>.