

SOMPTING BIG LOCAL AGM - 12TH DECEMBER 2015

REPORT & CLOSING ADDRESS BY CHAIR

WELCOME and may I thank you all for attending to our 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

REPORT:

I'm sure those of you that have had time to look around the hall will have seen that this year SBL has been busy working with many local groups and organisations. When this Partnership took over it was obvious from the start there was work to be done .

The first couple of months were spent bedding in and getting to know each other's strengths. We then put essential procedures in place such as insurances, a Health and Safety Policy and a volunteer's procedure. Once completed, we started to look at the Pathway Plan which we needed to follow to achieve our goals.

We believe that working with all the local community is paramount to success, and yes I will agree that communication has been an issue in 2015. We are addressing this with the launch of the new website today, Facebook, and a quarterly newsletter. We are going to appoint a lead communication team member to be responsible for communicating our message to the residents. If you have time to help and can bring alternative ways we can communicate with Sompting, your skills will be much appreciated.

Some of the projects we have undertaken in 2015 include:

- ✚ Minibus launch - approximately 10 different groups are using it , many having used it on several occasions. With the donations received for its use it is almost becoming self-sufficient for its running costs. This is great news after only 8 months in full operation.
- ✚ The installation of two life-saving defibrillators within the community (with two more in our 2016 budget) so all Sompting residents will be within

close proximity of this equipment which is also linked to the ambulance service.

- ✚ We have worked with Sompting Football Club to help secure their future for the next three years, leading up to their centenary year.
- ✚ The appointment of a new female youth worker, who is working alongside Sompting Community Church to provide valuable advice and guidance for the young girls in Sompting. Our investment in this project sufficiently impressed Sompting and Lancing Lions Club that they have added further funding to expand her available hours.
- ✚ We have awarded grants to local community organisations, totalling £13,000, which have enabled people within our community to benefit. This funding also helped these groups to grow, many of which are on display here today

In 2016 our ongoing projects include:

- ✚ A Junior Savers Scheme, in conjunction with the Credit Union and Sompting Primary School, where every child in Year 6 will be given the chance to join a saving scheme. SBL will fund the opening of their accounts and SWRA has agreed to continue with this scheme when they reach secondary school.
- ✚ As said before, the installation of two more defibrillators within the Sompting boundaries. Locations have yet to be decided.
- ✚ We have also set aside a budget to work with both Sompting Parish Council & Adur/ Worthing Council to install up to 3 special swings in our parks where parents can enjoy a dual swing with their little ones. *This idea was put to us by a resident of the village and a poll was held on Facebook to determine the most popular parks. This attracted over 100 votes.*
- ✚ We have also set aside a budget to help with the regeneration of Hamble Park, although we are waiting for confirmation from the Council to go ahead. One of the intended projects would be to install picnic

tables for both able-bodied and disabled persons to use together. Again this is acting on a suggestion from a resident at our Hamble Park Consultation Day .

CLOSING ADDRESS:

So 2016 is shaping up to be a busy year and we have much more to do. We need you, the Sompting residents, to come forward with your ideas or requests for our support in helping you succeed with a project or activity you would like to see in our village.

We will not achieve our goals unless we all work together. Please remember that some projects take time to come to fruition as we have to work with partners who may not be able to work at the same speed as SBL. However, this does not mean anything has been forgotten.

We look forward to the next year's challenges and will ignore, or try to encourage where possible, those in the community who do not want to be part of this exciting programme. It is easy to become involved; you can call into the hub opposite this hall, telephone, email or fill out the volunteer's form on our website. One of our team will then contact you to meet up over a cuppa and discuss ways your valuable input can help shape the way ahead

May I take this opportunity to thank all of the SBL Partnership volunteers, Adrian and his team at Adur Voluntary Action for all their hard work this year and the volunteers who set up today's event. It took a lot of hard work and hours to achieve what we have.

I would also like to say a big thank you to Jim Boot and Alana Gooding from Local Trust / Big Local for their support.

Remember - we welcome any ideas and suggestions. Hopefully, with involvement by more volunteers and partners from Sompting, we can all make Sompting a better place to Live, Work and Play. May I wish you all a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Thank you for attending.

Ray Downie (SBL Chair)