

CELL Big Local Project Update – June 2017

Having received confirmation, at the end of April, of the approval of our Big Local funding for the next two years, CELL Big Local is in the process of starting work on a range of new projects, which we'll update you on as things progress. For full details of the projects planned for the coming two years, please look at the CELL Big Local Plan in the documents section of our website.

In terms of ongoing pieces of work, here are some updates from our theme Task Groups:

TRANSPORT

Community Transport

The Wednesday Morpeth Market day CT service is now running to its summer schedule with one service only each Wednesday. This reduction is due to the pressure on CELL Big Local funds from other projects and the number of empty spaces on the previous services. A second bus will be run whenever the demand requires it during the summer months. The service will make small diversions from its normal route on request whenever this is feasible. There are now more than 500 holders of the Community Card which is required for travelling on this service so the opportunity exists for more people to use the service. New issues and renewals of the Community card can be made ON THE BUS during the regular service to make this process as easy as possible for residents.

We hope to run this modified service through to at least 30th August 2017 which is the period of our agreement with WATBus. During the coming summer period we want to work with residents, especially the regular current users to find ways to make this service more effective and sustainable. Please use the CELL website and the CELL post boxes to let us know what you want.

CELL Big Local post boxes

Remember that the BIG Local post boxes are in their new positions around the villages including the Lynemouth Pharmacy, the Ellington Institute and an extra box in the new 'Little Shop of Surprises' as a supplement to the facilities in the refurbished Ellington Post Office (Bank Top Store) next door. We want to encourage residents to use these boxes to get your messages, feedback and suggestions to the CELL BIG Local partnership and the Task groups.

Public Transport Research

As a follow-up to the re-instatement of the ARRIVA Route 1 service on Sundays and Bank Holidays we also ask residents for their thoughts and suggestions of other Public Transport needs that they may have and we are ready to trial these with ARRIVA if these new requests are seen as possible long term propositions.

JOBS

Under the Jobs theme we have a range of new projects starting, including support for CELL residents thinking of starting a business or social enterprise, financial incentives for businesses creating new apprenticeship opportunities, and financial support towards the cost of specific training courses to help people into work. Watch this space for more information!

ENVIRONMENT

Our monthly task days, run by Groundwork and the Friends of Lyne Dene, are continuing throughout the year, with some work in the River Lyne planned for 8th July, and a local history walk in the Dene on 13th August. You can find the full list of events on our website. If you're able to go along to any, please do; it would be great to get more people enjoying and taking care of our green environment.

We'll be working with Groundwork in the coming months to begin a number of new projects including environmental improvements in the Pele Tower and Stank Letch areas of Cresswell, development of a recreational cycle track for children, and working with local schools on a Green Space Activities programme.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth Sessions

The Y-Dropin sessions, run by the YMCA at Linton on Mondays 4pm-8pm have a strong and loyal group of attendees and are looking forward to some fun summer activities and fund raising together.

The Tuesday (4pm-8pm) Lynemouth Y-Dropins also have regular 8+ year olds attending but there have been continuing issues with the older age group that are having to be addressed. The Welfare venue is currently undergoing refurbishment inside and should be finished in June. This will provide a much improved area for activities and chilling. Sessions have changed from a Wednesday and Thursday to a Monday and Tuesday, this was to fit in with the request of young people and allow extra staff support at these sessions, since the changes have been made the sessions have seen a more consistent attendance.

Scouting

The 1st CELL Scout Group is now firmly established with over 60 young members and most of the 11 Leaders have completed their training. Already making an impact in the Morpeth District, the Beaver Colony won the District Collage Competition and they have their first sleepover organised at Cresswell Village Hall in June. The Scouts have also had their first weekend camp which was a great success and they are off to Kielder Forest in the summer. The older Cubs will have the opportunity to join them. Fundraising for camp equipment is going well and there are two ongoing ways you can help:

1) if you have a Co-op card then sign into your account on line and nominate 1st CELL Scouts. The Co-op donate funds to your chosen cause for every pound you spend. This ends in October but already stands at several hundred pounds from all our many supporters.

2) [Easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) has hundreds of retailers signed up to give a small percent of customer spending to a nominated cause. Sign onto the Easyfundraising website and nominate 1st CELL Scouts as your chosen charity and they do the rest. Instead of going direct to Amazon (or whoever) go through the [Easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) website who direct you to your retailer and they automatically give their donation to your charity. So simple, you just have to remember to go Easyfundraising first. They have many retailers on board with this: Amazon, Argos, Sainsbury, John Lewis, Virgin Trains and many more.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

Update from the CELL Private Sector Housing Officer, Alex Wood

We are starting to see progress being made in the Lynemouth area, it is only on a small scale thus far. However, these types of projects take time and patience as there is very rarely an overnight fix due to many issues being complex and requiring multi agency collaborative working. We have however been able to demonstrate success with proactive work that we have been doing. Due to data protection I won't be giving away addresses or landlord details however I can give an overview of the issues.

- A property which has been a long term empty has been brought back up to the standard to which it can be rented out and is now being advertised so it can be tenanted. Because it had been empty the property was starting to cause nuisance and was becoming a hotspot for fly tipping.
- A property which has been a long term empty in the area has had a section 215 notice served which has meant we have been able to carry out works on the property in order to secure it to prevent vandals gaining access. We are still working in order to trace an owner who has claimed the property.
- We have worked with public health protection unit to have rubbish removed from the rear of properties by serving community protection warning notices and community protection warnings.
- A complainant recently approached the council with a complaint about a long term empty. I met him at the property, again it was a target for anti social behaviour. We were not getting owner cooperation however I was finally able to track down the owner of the property and discussions are now under way with how the council can help bring this property back into use.
- A property in the Linton area which has been empty for 11 years has been inspected by myself in the last week. I am now working alongside the owner in order to help

him bring the property back into use as it will need work in order for it to be at a standard where it can be rented.

- I have recently done a walkaround Linton with Councillor Dunn identifying issues in the area. I have also worked with Councillor Dunn quite closely by triaging complaints from members of the public to be dealt with either by myself or another remit within the council.
- I am also working on a number of empty properties in the Lynemouth area in the hope that we will be able to bring these properties back into use.

Whilst working in the community I have also been able to raise other issues with other teams within the council, such as beginning to address the dog fouling issue. Progress is starting to be made in the Lynemouth area and I am confident that with collaborative and cooperative working we can help raise the profile of the area and reduce many of the issues that blight the area. The more we raise the profile of the area the more we can increase the demand to want to live in the area.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

We're continuing to work with BACMANs Community Ltd to offer support for CELL area residents experiencing debt, poverty and unemployment. The service also offers easy access to wider support including foodbank, credit union and CAB services. For anyone needing this support BACMANs are open Tues-Thurs, 10am-3pm in Lynemouth Resource Centre.

Our Community Kitty funding pot, offering up to £500 for CELL area groups, is still available, and application forms can be found on our website. If you want to discuss any ideas for this please contact Clare McKay on 01670 863000 or email clare@cell-biglocal.org.uk

Work to create a Community Allotment in Lynemouth continues, with support from the North East Dads and Lads project. We're hoping the site will be ready to begin planting from September onwards.

In addition to this we've got a number of new projects planned including the development of a shared Community Shed, and working with the South East Northumberland Dementia Action Alliance to support the development of Dementia Friendly Communities within the CELL villages.