

# Project Progress Meeting

20<sup>th</sup> December at  
Lynemouth Resource  
Centre 7.00-8.00pm



*Making a Difference*

*in Cresswell, Ellington, Linton and Lynemouth*

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- 1. Attendance:** John McCann (Chair), Sal Armitage, Kevin Hindmarsh, Clare McKay (Minutes), Barry Mead, Geoff Crow, Colin Bell, Harry Allport
  - 2. Apologies:** Christina Manners, Bob Manners, Pat McCann, Andrew Gooding, Rebecca Matthews
  - 3. Introductions**
  - 4. Task group and project updates**

## **Transport**

The Wednesday Morpeth Market day CT service is now running to its winter schedule with two services each day. The service will make runs down Windmill Hill in Ellington on request. In November, there were 113 passenger journeys on this service.

The BIG Local post boxes are now 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. To date these boxes have been used primarily to process Community Card applications which are essential for the Community Transport services but we would like to encourage residents to use these boxes to get your messages, feedback and suggestions to the CELL BIG Local partnership and the Task groups. The new issue of the Community card is underway and, in addition to the usual process using the post boxes, renewals can be made on the bus during the regular service to make this transition as easy as possible for residents.

Following the re-instatement of the ARRIVA Route 1 service on Sundays and Bank Holidays we will use the Spring Edition of CELL Life to survey other Transport needs that may be requested by residents and are ready to trial these with ARRIVA if these new requests are seen as possible long term propositions.

The Youth CT service taking youngsters from the four villages to YMCA Ashington on Friday evenings has restarted and the new 1<sup>st</sup> CELL Scout group have two members trained in MIDAS which will enable the group to use CT services funded by Big Local at a reduced cost to us.

### **Youth**

The Scouts finished their first half term on a high with all 11 Leaders now invested and in full uniform. They also raised over £100 from a Chocolate House made and donated by a parent. The first meetings after the holidays are on Monday 9th January and on 16th January all the young members will be given their Group scarves and invested together in their sections.

### **Housing**

Cell Big Local funding has been agreed to make an appointment of a Private Sector Landlord Liaison Officer for Lynemouth and Linton who will be responsible for engaging with private landlords in the villages to sign up to the accreditation scheme which will improve problematic empty properties. It is hoped that the person will be appointed in early January.

The Community Buildings Working Group met briefly on 29<sup>th</sup> November. Three bids for funding have been submitted that will, if approved, enable the next stage to be undertaken – detailed architectural drawings, estimates, etc. A decision on the funding is expected at the end of January 2017. The next scheduled meeting of the Working Group is Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January.

### **Environment**

Colin Bell attended the meeting as representative of the Friends of Lyne Dene (FOLD). The FOLD committee has recently reduced from 6 to 3 people, and the group desperately needs more people to get involved. The FOLD committee meets monthly on a Monday evening, and also has a monthly weekend activity day.

There was some discussion around ways to attract new volunteers both for FOLD and for CELL Big Local, and Clare will liaise with Colin to take this forward.

Since completing the pathway work in the Dene, there are reports of more people enjoying the space: running, walking and dog-walking. Information panels will be added in the New Year. There was some discussion around the monthly events, which have mostly been very successful in attracting participants, though turnout at the Christmas event was disappointing.

The Cresswell Pele Tower has recently received the Permission to Start from the Heritage Lottery Fund so it's all systems go from now on. An initial part of the project is the community archaeology programme in January and February. If anybody wants to take part in any of the activities please get in touch with Barry Mead. In addition there is also an Open Day planned for Sunday, 19th February where people can visit the tower and excavations.

## **Jobs**

No Report.

## **Strengthening Communities**

The Family Festive Fun Fayre was well attended and everyone had a wonderful time watching the performances, meeting Santa and writing out Christmas Lists. The minimum advertising due to CELL Life being delayed at the printers did not affect the turnout at all. We would like to thank everyone for coming! We are hoping to continue this Christmas Event yearly.

CELL Life Newsletter is out eventually due to a delay at the printers knocking our delivery slot back which caused a couple of the events to have passed by the time the four Villages received the Newsletter. However the events were advertised on Facebook and posters were put around the villages. Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

## **5. AOB**

### **Financial sustainability of CELL Big Local work**

A query was raised around the long-term financing of CELL Big Local projects and there was some discussion around our need to develop strong partnerships to ensure sustainability of the work, and to explore all opportunities for external funding.

### **Progress meetings**

The future of the monthly Progress Meetings was discussed, and it was agreed that Clare would consult with residents on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan around preferred methods of communication. Further decisions will be made when feedback has been obtained.

### **Community Kitty**

It was suggested that we should have news of successful Community Kitty awards in CELL Life to promote the funding opportunity further, and to give residents ideas of how the funds could be used.

### **Next meeting**

No further meetings arranged at present. Weekly public drop-ins are taking place each Thursday 3.30-5.30pm at Lynemouth Resource Centre.