

CELL Big Local Update – September 2017

TRANSPORT

Community Transport: Around 10-15 people are using the Morpeth Shopper service each week, providing an excellent resource for people who may otherwise become isolated. The service has been extended to the end of 2017 and will be reviewed in November to confirm future plans.

Public Transport Research: Following the successful reinstatement of the route 1 Sunday service, we're hoping to work with Arriva again to explore to ideas for other improvements to public transport provision within the villages. We'd love to hear residents' thoughts on this subject.

Cycle Route Feasibility Study: Sustrans are beginning their feasibility study to explore options for developing cycle routes connecting the CELL villages, and making links to the National Cycle Network and other forms of public transport. We expect to receive their report by the end of 2017.

JOBS

Support for Enterprise: CELL Big Local is funding the provision of information and support for CELL area residents who have an idea for a new business or social enterprise. A small funding pot of up to £300 is also available towards start-up costs for new social enterprises.

Specialist Training: Via Bacmans Community Ltd we are offering support and funding for any unemployed resident who needs to undertake specific qualifications or complete a DBS check to enable them to move into employment.

Apprenticeships: CELL Big Local will be offering financial incentives of up to £1400 to employers who create new apprenticeships which will benefit the CELL area. We are in the process of identifying partners to work with on this project.

ENVIRONMENT

Local History Walk: Friends of Lyne Dene and Groundworks ran a successful Local History Walk in the Dene on 13th August. Similar monthly activities, funded by CELL Big Local, are planned up to the end of this year, and will be ongoing throughout 2018.

Other Environmental Projects: Other planned environmental projects including a Green Space Special Activities Programme, and capital projects and volunteer training in Cresswell, have been on hold due to changes of staffing at Groundwork, but we anticipate that this work will begin soon.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth Sessions: The YMCA-led youth sessions at Lynemouth & Linton are going well, with attendance in the high teens each week. The Lynemouth group is largely 10-14 year olds, and Linton 8 years plus. The refurbished drop-in at Lynemouth was officially opened by Cllr Liz Dunn during the Lynemouth Gala, and there was a lot of interest in the space.

Youth Forum: This project has been delayed slightly due to difficulties in recruiting a suitably experienced worker. However we're hoping to be up and running soon.

Ellington Juniors: Groundworks at the site are progressing well and will continue for another few weeks. Work on the clubhouse is due to begin in April.

Ellington Playpark: Ellington PARC have made great progress with fundraising and will be selecting a preferred contractor to deliver the project in the very near future.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

Rationalisation of Lynemouth Community Buildings: CELL Big Local has received a draft funding request towards the cost of a full feasibility study on the proposed Lynemouth community hub. This application will be developed further and a decision made over the next few weeks.

Private Sector Housing Officer: Good progress continues to be made building relationships with private sector landlords and tenants. In the coming months CELL Big Local is also hoping to work with a range of partners to plan a campaign tackling anti-social behaviour in the area.

Lynemouth Community Trust: While there are some ongoing financial concerns, the Board of LCT is working hard to ensure the future sustainability of the Trust, and the enterprises and services it hosts. The CELL Partnership is currently considering a request for funding to support this sustainability going forward.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

Support Services: The CELL-funded support services offered via Bacmans Community Ltd continue to be very well used, and are open to any CELL area resident needing help around benefits, state pension eligibility, debt management, employment support, as well as access to foodbank and credit union services.

Community Allotment: Some delays have been caused by ongoing planning queries, but the site is now cleared and should be fenced off soon. The plot will then be rotivated before the planting of fruit trees in October. The bee-keeping project is on hold subject to planning approval.

Community Kitty: We are encouraging applications to our Community Kitty funding pot which offers up to £500 to groups or individuals with ideas that would benefit the CELL community, including requests for subsidised Community Transport for local groups.

BI-MONTHLY PLANNING GET-TOGETHERS

From September onwards we will be having bi-monthly get-togethers, open to all CELL residents, and with a focus on a particular theme. The first, on Tues 26th Sept, from 1-3pm, at Linton Village Hall, and 6.30-8.30pm at Lynemouth Resource Centre, will be to discuss ideas for CELL area Christmas events.

CELL LIFE

Everyone should be receiving the next edition of CELL Life towards the end of September.

For more information on any of the above please contact Clare McKay (CELL Big Local Project Co-ordinator) on 01670 863000, option 6, or email clare@cell-biglocal.org.uk