

Partnership Meeting

09 January 2018 at
Lynemouth Resource
Centre 5.00 – 7.00pm



Making a Difference

in Cresswell, Ellington, Linton and Lynemouth



Attendees:	Clare McKay, Lesley Crow (minute taker), Kevin Hindmarsh, Guy Nokes (partial attendance), Shirley Johnson (observer - partial attendance), John McCann, Bill Tarbit, Pat McCann, Liz Dunn, Heather Wallace, Rob Cox, Sal Armitage (chair)
Apologies:	Bob and Christina Manners

		Actions
Welcome & declarations of interest	The chair welcomed Shirley Johnson to the meeting as a guest observer. It was noted that the agenda item Community Buildings Rationalisation was a potentially sensitive item of discussion and the chair asked members views on whether it was appropriate for Shirley to be present for that discussion. Shirley said she would leave the meeting prior to the discussion taking place. Introductions were made and Shirley gave a brief summary of her background and interests.	
Minutes of November meeting	The minutes of the 15 November 2017 meeting were agreed, and signed off for uploading to the website.	
Matters arising	<p>Baron's Walk - There has still been no movement with the Baron's Walk project in the Dene. Clare has forwarded an email to Liz regarding this.</p> <p>Big Local Shared Learning Event - Rob gave members a brief summary update of his visit to Hartlepool. Rob said it was a positive event that highlighted different approaches to involving young people and it was an opportunity to compare best practice and how we are doing compared to other Big Local organisations.</p>	
LTO/finance update	Kevin queried the total transport figure of -£2,575.00 on the accounts and whether it was overspent. Clare explained that there is no issue or	

	<p>overspend with this figure and it is shown as a deficit as we have yet to draw down the payment that was due in November.</p> <p>Clare noted that there is a lack of spend on Environment on the Groundwork side and those projects will be starting in the new year.</p> <p>With regard to Jobs, Clare has a meeting with Christina to discuss all the projects as well as plans to work with Northumberland Community Bank on small start up loans for businesses. The bank would have a pot of money from Cell Big Local that they can loan out and any interest payments would be taken as an admin fee for administering the loans. Liz noted that she had recently seen a presentation from Northumberland Community Bank at a council meeting and they have the council's backing.</p> <p>Liz queried what would happen to the allocated money if the Baron's Walk project doesn't go ahead. Kevin suggested that the money should remain in the environment budget, with Liz suggesting that the money remain in Lynemouth. It was agreed that the money should remain with environment but not necessarily be earmarked to be spent within Lynemouth.</p>	<p>Liz to chase up again</p>
<p>Community consultation/ evaluation</p>	<p>Pat, John, Kevin, Sal and Clare attended a meeting with Ian Johnson who is a PHD candidate in Digital Civics. Ian has done 2 pieces of work that Cell Big Local could make use of in this area. Ian has placed interactive digital kiosks in Amble and also created a method to run group discussions without a facilitator. The cost would be minimal as the equipment is already available and set up, and it would give us the opportunity to have evaluation data to use. The partnership would need a clear idea of what questions we'd like to ask people to produce useful data. Rob requested that there be some focus on questioning what young people want and that the youth worker from YMCA, Fern, is included in any further meetings. Following a doodle being sent the preferred date for a further meeting to discuss this matter is 22 January 2018, either 3.00-4.30pm or 5.00-6.30pm. Rob indicated he could attend an earlier meeting</p>	<p>Clare to let people know</p>
<p>Changes to Website</p>	<p>Clare stated that it is a priority this year to update the website. There were some technical issues prior to Christmas but they were quickly resolved. The website was devised and maintained by Max Cairns, who is no longer involved with Cell Big Local, but any</p>	<p>Clare to keep members</p>

	<p>amendments still have to be done by him. The accounts and Community Membership information hosted alongside the website will now be held and maintained offline.</p> <p>Clare noted that we need pull up banners for publicity at events.</p>	informed of progress
Forthcoming Meetings/ Partners availability	<p>Using the doodle polls for partners' availability for meetings hasn't worked as expected as people are choosing their preferred dates and times rather than when they are actually available. It has been decided that it would work better if members provided information on when they are never able to attend, then from this information hopefully 2 days and times will be devised that will be alternated.</p>	Lesley to email members
Gateshead Big Local Possible exchange visit	<p>Clare has been contacted by the Big Local representative from Gateshead. Clare has visited him in Gateshead to see how they do things and he asked whether we would be interested in doing an exchange visit. Big Local in Gateshead covers the Teams and Bensham areas and their issues are quite different to Cell Big Local. However, this would be an opportunity to share ideas and best practice and have a discussion on publicity, engagement and any other issues encountered. It was decided that this would be a beneficial exercise.</p>	Clare to arrange
A.O.B	<p>The decision was made to move this agenda item to allow greater discussion of the next item.</p> <p>Partnership - Shirley indicated that she would like to come back and join the Partnership.</p> <p>Public Transport Research – John emailed a document to members regarding the research prior to the meeting and explained more for Shirley's benefit. The document outlined what needs to be agreed for the trial to go ahead and members were asked whether they wanted to go ahead with the trial as there are deadlines that would need to be met. There was a brief discussion regarding the transport needs of Linton and whether a specialist commission needed to be sought to better understand the transport needs of all four villages. Arriva are happy to run services where there is a need but won't sustain unprofitable routes. All members agreed the trial.</p> <p>YMCA Kitchen – Pat queried if there was a</p>	John to send the approval form to members and talk to Chris Curtis on further transport needs

	<p>timeframe for the new YMCA training kitchen. Rob hoped that it would be done by the summer. The kitchen will enable YMCA to run cooking courses.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*SHIRLEY LEFT THE MEETING*</p>	
<p>Community Buildings Rationalisation</p>	<p>Sal stated that an overall decision would not be made on this issue tonight but the next steps in planning for the future could be agreed.</p> <p>Clare gave a brief summary of discussions so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost £73,000 was required for the feasibility study but with the known financial difficulties of the LCT and no possibility of match funding, the conclusion was that, while the idea was supported in principle, Cell Big Local would not be funding the feasibility study. • CELL Big Local continues to support the aims of LCT and the community resource of LRC, and had discussed the idea of somehow investing in the building, for example through shared ownership • As requested Clare had discussed this with Pete Duncan in relation to Community Land Trusts, but Pete felt that more advice would be needed to look at the legal structure of any organisation created. He felt it would be appropriate for CELL Big Local to get advice from Ann Lawson (who works alongside Tony Kirsop) as she has experience of such situations. • Pete also suggested that the board of LCT and CELL Big Local meet to collectively look at all the available options, and he would be happy to facilitate this. <p>Members agreed that the LRC is a community resource that we don't want to lose. Clare suggested that everything that has been done so far has been very focussed on supporting LCT as an organisation but that CELL's role should be in focussing on the community's needs and protecting those resources rather than the organisation itself.</p> <p>Concern was expressed around whether the organisations involved in the proposed rationalisation had been informed of CELL's decision not to fund the feasibility study, and it was felt that the public also needed to be told what was happening. This was agreed but it was also agreed that, as the</p>	

rationalisation project was not actually being lead by CELL, it wasn't CELL's responsibility to inform those people. It was also stressed that due process had been followed in making that decision, and although there were funds allocated for the study, the application didn't stack up. The vision and commitment from everyone involved in the project was acknowledged but it was reiterated that CELL are accountable for public money and would therefore need to look at other ways of supporting the Lynemouth community resources, to ensure the community have something going forward. Guy felt that some work needed to be done to identify how much the LRC building is needed and used by the community

Bill gave an update on LCT and following a board meeting the day before, explained that all are now aware of the situation, though no firm decisions had been made. It was stated that LCT would find it very difficult to pay wages at the end of January, and it continues to have other significant outstanding financial commitments. However new orders are expected for both social enterprises, and NCC has all the information they need in relation to the requested £80,000 loan. Liz said that the NCC report is near to completion but a decision wouldn't be made until February. LCT is also exploring some loan funding through Reach and a consultant is visiting to look at the sustainability and profitability of Weave and Kenspeckle; Bill queried if this cost could be supported by CELL.

There was some discussion around current income levels of the building and its running costs, with utilities alone at around £26,000. It was noted that Blyth Development Trust is interested in investing in Kenspeckle and Weave, but the significant building overheads make things very difficult.

CELL has provided some financial support to LCT in the past year, and Bill's wish was for CELL to continue to provide support until February when the NCC loan decision is made. It was felt that the Partnership could make no further decisions until the LCT board had decided on their next steps.

There was lengthy discussion around LCT's position, and concerns raised about the possibility of a non-managed closure, and the negative impact of this. Possible alternative options for LRC tenants were

	<p>also explored. Suggestions were made for people/organisations who could support LCT through the process of a potential closure. A joint meeting between CELL and the LCT board was also proposed if that would be appropriate.</p> <p>It was noted that CELL have invested significant time and money in supporting the sustainability of LCT and the existing companies, and while the Partnership continues to be supportive, the LCT board has a tough decision to make moving forward. The significant work put in by Bill and the LCT board over the past year was also acknowledged. Guy reiterated his previous concerns about the capacity and skills within LCT to address David Lodge's recommendations, with no manager in post, but emphasised that CELL could not agree further funds to address the continued financial issues of LCT.</p> <p>The chair asked partnership members to vote on the request for CELL to provide further funding to support the LCT until the end of February. In a show of hands, four of the five members eligible to vote, agreed no further financial assistance should be provided.</p> <p>All members expressed their sadness about the situation.</p> <p>A query was raised around whether CELL could provide any support with costs associated with closure. Clare felt that CELL's role would be to look at what can be done to support the wind down process, and if a request for money was made to help with that, how it would benefit the community going forward. Bill felt that a joint meeting with the Board and CELL would be supportive.</p>	<p>Bill to inform the board of CELL's decision</p> <p>Bill to get back to Clare after speaking to the Board</p>
<p>Date and time of next meeting.</p>	<p>Tuesday 6th Match at Lynemouth Miners' Welfare Institute, 5pm.</p>	