

**Minutes of**  
**William Morris Big Local – Get Together**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017

7.00pm – 9.00pm

Big Creative Academy, Clifton Avenue, Walthamstow, E17 6HL

Partnership members present

Adam Taylor  
Angela Rouse  
Chrys Christy  
Emily Rogers  
Lawrence Walker  
Mohamed Khan

Other representatives

Gabriel Edwards (GE) – WMBL Development Worker (minutes)  
Sian Penner (SP) – Local Trust Representative  
Alan Horne (AH) – Crest Waltham Forest (Locally Trusted Organisation)  
Clare Farrow – MovE17  
Harriet Warden – Blackhorse Workshop  
Peter Stanton – co-opted Partnership member  
Rezia Wahid - co-opted Partnership member

Apologies

Alison Caldwell  
Valerie Stapleton  
Valentina Lewis

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1. Welcome &amp; Introductions</b></p> <p>Gabriel welcomed everyone to the Get Together and outlined the meeting's agenda. He explained that the Get Together was a chance for people to meet and hear about William Morris Big Local and for people to contribute their ideas and potentially get involved with the project. Gabriel also gave some background to WM Big Local for those that hadn't previously attended.</p> <p>Gabriel presented the minutes from last meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017. There</p>	

were no actions from the last meeting. Minutes were signed off as correct.

WM Big Local partnership members were introduced to the meeting.

Gabriel introduced two new partnership members who up until now had been co-opted and were formally joining at this meeting.

They were;

Peter Stanton – Partnership who has been with the project since the beginning was returning to the partnership.

Rezia Wahid – local resident and weaver who had linked up with Big Local through receiving a community chest grant and wanted to now support further and help strengthen ties in the community.

Existing partnership members and the meeting formally welcomed Rezia and Peter.

## **2. MovE17 Community Dance Project – Clare Farrow**

Clare Farrow talked about her Rosas Danst Rosas project that had been partly funded by WM Big Local through the community chest programme.

- WM Big Local funding enabled Clare to broker additional funding from the Barbican
- New participants from the William Morris area were welcomed to Clare's existing dance group and rehearsals for a creative piece called Rosas danst Rosas took place at Gnome House.
- The group performed twice at the Garden Party on stage and in front of the WM Gallery.
- Participants felt increased confidence and were delighted to have been involved in the learning and performing of the piece.

Clare then shared a video of the two Garden Party performances that was available to watch on Youtube.

## **3. Big Creative Academy – Sacha Corcoran**

Sacha gave an overview of Big Creative Academy.

- Originally part of DV8 training which was set up to engage with young people not in education or training.
- Sacha put in a bid to create Big Creative Academy at Uplands House.

- Department for Education funds has facilitated a move to the former Willowfield School site.
- Part of the old site to be redeveloped over the next couple of years. Looking to build a theatre as part of the development.
- BCA took occupation in the summer and opened in September.
- Currently around 200 pupils. Once site is fully redeveloped college will cater for up to 500.
- 50% of pupils from LBWF, the rest from across East and North London.
- Taught in the creative fields with the creative economy worth around £71 billion to the UK.
- Staff all qualified in the industry they teach and work around wellbeing.
- Sacha wants the school to be a community resource
- Looking for governors
- Extra sessions for young people in the community have been funded by the lottery and will be available to local young people.
- 1<sup>st</sup> event that pupils will run is a Mcmillian event.

*Q: Are the community activities to pay for?*

*A: no they are free.*

*Q: Once the theatre is set up will it be for the whole of Waltham Forest*

*A: yes, it will have a separate access so that it can be opened up outside of school hours.*

*Q: How long has BCA been here?*

*A: In Waltham Forest for 3 years and on this new site 6 weeks.*

*Q: How do we keep up to date with what's going on at BCA?*

*A: There is a once a term newsletter that goes out to local residents. Can also sign up online for it too.*

#### **4. Spotlight on WM Big Local funded projects**

Beatroots Grime Project - *Emma Betts, Director*

- The project was an opportunity for young people aged 14+ to learn about, create and record Grime music with a local Grime artist, Lemzy
- The project was also a chance to consult about a larger scale project that could potentially happen next year.
- The project was carried out at Priory Court in partnership with Stow in Action youth club.
- It was successful in engaging additional people from the estate and Lemzi carried out a performance at the insistence of the young people.

Make Stuff Club - Harriet Warden, Creative Director

Harriet gave some background information about Blackhorse Workshop. The funded sessions took place in the workshop and in the new creative space called Sideshow which is situated opposite Blackhorse Tube station.

Kids aged 8 – 13 took part in a Make Stuff Club over four separate sessions where they learnt how to use tools in the workshop and made toolboxes, samba drums, a fort and painted plates. WM Big Local had also appeared alongside Blackhorse Workshop at the Garden Party where kids and families could make flying Pegasus toys.

**5. WM Big Local Plan – The Themes for our new plan**

Lawrence introduced this agenda item and explained the following:

- Partnership has been reviewing activities
- There were 8 core projects funded under the existing plan as well as 20 community chest projects.
- New partnership members had joined
- The existing William Morris Big Local Plan was set to run until November 2017.
- A new plan was needed to submit to the Big Lottery Fund in order to draw down a new instalment of Big Local money.
- The Partnership had been working hard to develop a new plan by looking at all consultation to date along with local knowledge and information for the area.
- The partnership was looking to have the new plan in place for December 2017.
- The new plan was for 3 years and consisted of three priority areas.

Theme 1, Open Spaces - Angela Rouse presented

- The consultation and local knowledge to date pointed to local people wanting to make the best of their outdoor spaces so that they could feel prouder of them and use them more.
- The open space plan was an evolution of the existing greenspace plan and was to include more outdoor space projects in addition to traditional 'greening' projects
- The vision was "*To make the outdoor spaces and external environment in our ward both useful and beautiful for the benefit of all who live, work and play in the area and increase their usage*"
- The plan was to support locally led improvements to neglected parts of the ward, improve people's experience of public spaces and encourage more frequent and better use of outdoor spaces.
- This would be done through working with the community at grassroots level and also having conversations with organisations,

developers and local authority to try and secure bigger improvements.

- A working group for the outdoor spaces theme was being set up with people encouraged to join if they wanted to help.
- Skills training and development for individuals and community groups would also be incorporated into the delivery of the outdoor space plan.

### Theme 2 Community – presented by Chrys Christy

- Core part of the Big Local scheme.
- A merging and evolution of existing community spaces and intergenerational priorities.
- To help celebrate diversity of local area and strengthen the community through activities, events and celebrations.
- Vision to *“create a range of opportunities that brings people together and unites our diverse and beautiful community.”*
- Peter Stanton presented an early idea for the theme to have an association for the Ward that could unite voices, share concerns and come up with solutions for common problems in the area.
- Social isolation had been identified as an important issue and WM Big Local wanted to carry out a piece of research and later team up with other organisations on this issue.
- WM Big Local would also be partnering up with organisations such as Community Waltham Forest to help grassroots groups get funding and capacity build.
- Community Chest Grants would continue as had worked well will the grant amount available being raised. Grants would also be available for cultural and religious events.

### Theme 3 – Social Enterprise - presented by Lawrence Walker

Evolution of the Local Economy Theme which had never truly lifted off the ground. Over the last year the Partnership had been exploring the theme, looking at the local landscape and consultation and created a new Social Enterprise theme.

- There was a demand for businesses with primary social objectives and opportunities for business and entrepreneurs to contribute to our community
- WM Big Local wants to support businesses to succeed, build capacity and create a support ecology for new and existing businesses.
- WM Big Local will grow partnerships with business and business support organisations
- Will be done through a mix of offers with direct support, funding,

<p>networking and campaigns.</p> <p>Q: Existing plan talks about tackling deprivation. What has been done about this and what is in the new plan on this?</p> <p>A: Tackling deprivation was a huge task. The new plan was trying to be realistic in what it could achieve and come up with community led contributions.</p> <p>An observation made from the meeting was that the Community Theme might be clearer if presented as <i>Strengthening the Community</i> or similar</p> <p>Gabriel concluded the agenda item by explaining the next steps the partnership would be taking with finalising the plan;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partnership will finalise content of plan and set budget for delivery</li> <li>- Plan will be written and sent to Local Trust for assessment</li> <li>- Following any amendments or feedback from Local Trust the plan will be signed off by Local Trust and launched in December.</li> <li>- Plan will be published on the website with hard copies available from the WM Big Local office.</li> </ul> <p>Gabriel then shared with the meeting how the community could get involved; people could join a working group for each theme, sign up to e-news, register interest in volunteering, help raise the profile through social media and by keeping in touch.</p>	
<p><b>6. Refreshments and Social</b></p> <p>The meeting then broke into a community social in which attendees were encouraged to speak with each of the theme leads and sign up to help or give ideas for the direction of the theme.</p>	