

Minutes of

William Morris Big Local - FORUM

Priory Court Community Centre, 11 Priory Court, E17 5NB

Tuesday 7th February 2017

Partnership members present

Adam Taylor (AT) – Vice Chair
Angela Rouse (AR)
Chrys Christy (CC) – Chair
Gillian Jacob (GJ)
Lawrence Walker (LW)
Mohamed Khan (MK)
Valerie Stapleton (VS)

Other representatives

Gabriel Edwards (GE) – WMBL Development Worker (minutes)
Vicky Peet – The Conservation Volunteers
Brian Ellick - Neighbourhoods Team LBWF

Apologies

Sian Penner (SP) – Local Trust Representative
Alan Horne (AH) – Crest Waltham Forest (Locally Trusted Organisation)

	Action
<p>1. Welcome & Introductions</p> <p>CC welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the meeting's agenda.</p> <p>CC explained that it was a busy time for the Partnership. There had been 10 Community Chest grants approved, the existing WMBL plan was being looked at with a new plan about to be created. The Partnership was focussing on Greenspaces and Local Economy themes which up until now had not been moved forward as much as the other WMBL priority areas.</p>	

2. Minutes and actions from last forum

GE asked if there were any amendments for the minutes of the last forum. There were no amendments and the minutes were signed off by the Chair and Vice Chair.

GE explained that there had been one action point from the last Forum which was to upload information from the Wood Street Walls presentation onto the WMBL website.

GE explained this had been done and could be found on the sites tab marked *Projects 2016*.

GE explained that a video had been prepared by Wood Street Walls which would also be uploaded to the WMBL website.

The video was then shown at the meeting and introduced by Mark Clack of Wood Street Walls.

He said that it was a culmination of a lot of hard work by local resident Ric Toone, who had produced the video.

3. Presentation 1 – Brian Ellick, Neighbourhoods Area Manager, LBWF

Brian Ellick introduced the Neighbourhoods service and gave the following main points;

- The service responds to envirocrime, such as littering, dog fouling, fly tipping and anti-social behaviour.
- Mahtabur Rahman is named officer for William Morris Ward
- The service includes enforcement and licencing.
- Works with police, landlords and property licencing team
- Work closely with residents
- Coordinate 'action days, where resources are flooded into an area to tackle persistent problems.
- Carry out street inspections and make rough sleeper referrals
- Help enhance area
- Have met with GE to look at some potential joint projects and areas of working together

Question from Forum:

Q: How much funding for a combined project would come from council and how much from Big Local?

A: Very early on in scoping joint projects. GE clarified that Big Local would not provide funding to anything considered statutory services, but

Big Local might propose funding a project identified by people that may also tackle a persistent greenspace/environment problem.

Cllr Grace Williams highlighted to the meeting that Ward Councillor funding was to be increased to £20k in April 2017 which gave an opportunity for extra improvements to the ward.

Questions from Forum:

Q: What about the fact people don't report issues?

A: That's one of the reasons for the action days and Maht Rahman carries out street inspections.

Q: What advertising of the service has been done?

A: It has featured prominently in the WF News

Q: The WMBL budget states a budget of £12,000 for greenspaces with a budget of £9,500 remaining. What is the time length of the plan?

A: It's an 18 month plan, from May 2016 to November 2017. There is no pressure from Local Trust for WMBL to spend all of the money before the end of the plan. Underspend can be rolled over to the next plan.

4. Presentation 2 – Vicky Peet, Project Officer, The Conservation Volunteers, Lloyd Park

Vicky Peet introduced herself and made the following main points in her presentation;

- WMBL currently funds 1 day a month Nature Explorers session in Lloyd Park. This is a session for under 5's and their parents/guardians
- The sessions have been very popular; 20 people attended 1st session (of which 13 were children)
- Best feedback so far was the participants giving a round of applause at the end of the session
- Vicky's role is to link up with schools and the community so to engage and educate young children on how to make a positive difference to their natural environment.
- The aim is to reach kids at a young age before bad habits form and they can also in turn educate their parents.
- Current activities taking place in Lloyd Park are; WM Gardeners, Sharing Heritage classes, Better Together, Tai Chi, Gardening Courses, Green Gym, Park Walks
- There is potential for Bat Walks and Birdsong walks as well as adult pond dipping.
- The Green Gym, run by Gareth Chambers, is an adult volunteer

programme with benefits for both mental and physical health. The green gym gives adults responsibility to maintain certain areas of the park plus build improvements such as flower beds and bee homes.

Q: Are there any links with doctor surgeries for getting participants to the green gym?

A: We haven't had specific links with surgeries but we get lots of different people with different health issues that sometimes present themselves.

Q: Are you linked in with Healthwatch?

A: No – what is it?

A: *Body that represents views of patients in local area and also promotes what health initiatives happen in the area. Would be good to be included on their newsletter of activities.*

5. Workshop sessions

GE thanked the presenters and informed the Forum that two workshop sessions would now be held on Greenspaces and Local Economy as the partnership were wanting to take the two themes forward.

Angela Rouse introduced the Greenspaces workshop session to the Forum summarising the partnership's work and thoughts to date. There was already some information from previous consultation and this workshop was for checking what direction to take Greenspaces and what other ideas could go into what we are going to do.

Lawrence Walker introduced the Local Economy workshop stating that not much work had been carried out on this theme yet. He summarised some early thoughts the partnership had had and was asking the Forum to help define what local economy meant to people and seek a direction for WMBL work on it.

GE added that any other issues coming out of discussions that weren't Local Economy or Greenspaces could be referred to him at the 'carpark' area where he also had general information about Big Local and the current budget and funding.

****The Forum then broke out for refreshments and workshop sessions****

Following the workshops the Forum ended