

Minutes of

William Morris Big Local - Partnership Meeting

William Morris Community Centre, 6-8 Greenleaf Road, E17 6QQ
Monday 4th September 2017

Partnership members present

Adam Taylor
Angela Rouse
Chrys Christy
Lawrence Walker
Mohamed Khan
Valentina Lewis

Others present

Alan Horne – Crest WF (L.T.O)
Gabriel Edwards – WMBL Development Worker (minutes)
Leesa Herbert – Community Waltham Forest
Rezia Wahid (resident co-optee)
Peter Stanton (resident co-optee)
Sian Penner – Local Trust Rep

Apologies

Alison Caldwell
Emily Rogers
Valerie Stapleton

1. Welcome and Introductions	Actions
Chrys opened the meeting and introductions were made around the table for the benefit of Leesa Herbert present from Community Waltham Forest (CWF).	
2. Community Waltham Forest	
Gabriel and Chrys had previously met with Leesa to introduce WMBL and find out more about each other's organisations and activity in the local area. Leesa gave an overview of CWF and their areas of focus to the meeting, main points being;	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CWF has contract to deliver support to voluntary/community sector in the borough. - Aim to strengthen community and social enterprise sector - Support organisations, volunteering and social action - Team of 5 staff - Deliver training, 1-1 support, resources and information and bring different parts of the community and service areas together. - WMBL and CWF can work together to target parts of the ward that need support services. <p>Q: Does your staff carry out research for the areas in which you work? A: <i>Depends on the research undertaken. Often happens through bringing together funders, businesses and local authority. No capacity at CWF to do borough wide needs analysis. Currently testing asset mapping on small scale.</i></p> <p>Q: What work is CWF doing to help get more resources into the borough? A: <i>working at two ends of the spectrum, working with groups to help income generation and funding streams. Working at strategic level building relationships with funders. Meet the funder type events will be run soon.</i></p> <p>Q: Is there are charge to become a CWF member? A: <i>No charge, organisations just have to work or deliver in the borough.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>**Leesa Herbert left the meeting**</i></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">3. Minutes and Matters arising</p> <p>The minutes from July and August were approved as accurate by the meeting and signed by the chair and vice chair</p> <p>Sian announced that interest payments on the money held by Big Local were going to work out at roughly £100k for each Big Local area and would be added to the pot.</p>	
<p>4. WMBL Plan</p> <p><u>Enterprise</u></p> <p>Lawrence presented his plan for taking the Local Economy theme forward which he was renaming as Enterprise. Main points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a local appetite for supporting social businesses - Need to balance WM Ward focus and the local economy more broadly 	

- Business support networks exist locally but not well coordinated.
- The plan can help us work out where we fit in the local ecology
- Bid was submitted to Unltd and was successful.
- Partnership with Unltd will be aligned with enterprise plan
- Unltd contact is Chris Shutt and a meeting will be scheduled with him to discuss details.
- 3 year partnership with Unltd would start January 2018
- Investment of £50k from WMBL forms part of the grant fund. This is met with £100k worth of investment from Unltd.
- 1 day a week strategic support from Unltd
- How business grants are released is up to the partnership but Unltd models are available.(eg, 3-tier small/medium/large)

Lawrence circulated a menu of resources that would be offered by Unltd. Lawrence then presented additional activities for the enterprise plan outside of the Unltd partnership including network development, innovation fund and further fundraising aims.

A total draft budget of £85,500 was presented.

Some discussion and questions were raised by the meeting which led to the following actions for Lawrence

- Find out who the agreement with Unltd is between. (WMBL, LT or LTO)
- What level of monitoring required?
- Is there a review period?
- Has St James been successful in their bid to Unltd? If so presents some good partnership options.
- Details of the relationship with Unltd to be worked up including what level of resource needed from WMBL
- Who finds the eligible businesses? Need to make sure we get to the hard to reach and the non 'usual suspects'. This last point was also related to the whole plan.

Sian suggested putting a resource in place to manage the Unltd arrangement

There was some discussion around the table about eligibility of organisations and the definitions of social enterprise.

Valentina offered to join the Enterprise sub group

The question of business loans was also raised and Sian highlighted that the organisation *Small Change* are a national partner of Big Local and can help organise the systems. Money would be handled by CDFI. The partnership

1. LW

would set the loan criteria and loans could be personal or straight business loans as well as for social businesses.

Lawrence said loans would be written into the plan

Open Spaces

Angela and Gabriel presented the plan for open spaces.

An internal document was presented that showed the overall vision, research and findings and a list of suggested activities to go into the plan.

The open space plan vision: *“To make 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”*

Three main aims for the theme were:

1. Encourage and support locally-led improvements to neglected and unloved parts of the Ward for the benefit of all.
2. Improve people’s experience of public spaces through medium to larger sized projects led by WMBL in partnership with other agencies and organisations.
3. Encourage more frequent and better-quality use of outdoor spaces

A total of 11 activities relating to the aims were presented and the partnership was asked which activities should be kept and which left out.

Presented a budget figure of £188,300 for all activities

Main comments and discussion points raised were;

- The activities represent everything that has been talked about for greenspaces since the beginning of WMBL consultation.
- Sustainability issues for maintaining a front gardens scheme
- Important to build in training and support at beginning and ongoing.
- Need to be economical with costs
- Good to explore innovative improvements for the area
- Thought to be given for resourcing the theme

There was no disagreement on the activities though some felt it was a large amount to budget overall and could be trimmed. The majority opinion was that all the activities should be included as it was likely that some would not be taken as far forward as desired in the 3 year timescale and there would be an underpend.

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Summary of Action Points arising from meeting	Person/s responsible for Action	Timescale
1. Actions for Lawrence based on Enterprise presentation	Lawrence	<i>Next meeting</i>
2. Loans to be written into the Enterprise theme	Lawrence	<i>Next meeting</i>
3. Email round the open space plan latest draft, partnership to provide feedback to Gabriel/Angela	Gabriel / All	<i>Within 1 week</i>
4. Community theme to be worked up for next meeting	Community Theme	<i>Next meeting</i>
5. Gabriel to circulate community theme draft and partnership to give feedback to Chrys	Gabriel / All	<i>Within 1 week</i>
6. Gabriel to send round May Morris related email regarding sponsorship of the exhibition at WM Gallery. Partnership to give feedback	Gabriel / All	<i>Within 1 week</i>