



William Morris Big Local - the £1million Lottery Funded Project

William Morris Big Local is a neighbourhood improvement scheme run by local residents for the benefit of the community. Our ward is one of 150 areas in the UK to receive £1m of lottery funding to make a lasting positive difference and we get to make the decisions on how the money is spent. Our main priorities for the area based on residents' views so far can be found on the back of this newsletter!

WMBL Get Together - Join your fellow William Morris Ward residents at our upcoming social forum!

Every three months we host a public event for local residents to meet and share what's going on in the area and help build connections within our community. Our next get together is on the 9th May and is going to be a great evening filled with delicious food, presentations, performances, and a chance to meet with the people involved with William Morris Big Local and hear what's going on.

Community Chest Launch - On the night we will also be opening up our Community Chest grants programme again and hearing from some of the groups funded from the last round. Our development worker will be on hand with applications and guidance for anyone wishing to apply for this round. Any projects that bring the community together are considered!

Get involved with the Partnership or our newly emerging sub groups! - William Morris Big Local has a steering group that we call a *Partnership* that is made up of 8 local residents who together manage the project. We currently have space for up to 6 new partnership members and will be opening up membership at our event as part of our AGM items. You will also be able to hear from our sub groups that focus on open spaces, local economy and older people services. Getting involved means you can help us make decisions, feel more connected to the community and build skills and confidence. *If you would like to express an interest in joining the partnership or a sub group or for more information please get in touch with Gabriel on 07947 766 251 or devwmb@gmail.com.*



WMBL Get Together

Tuesday 9th May, 7.00pm – 9.00pm
William Morris Community Centre
6-8 Greenleaf Road, E17 6QQ

- *Free Food & Cakes*
- *Presentations & Performances*
- *Community Chest Grants Launch*
- *Resident social & meet the Partnership*



Community Chest - small grants programme returns!

Up to £500 grants available for new and existing local projects

Are you part of a local group that runs activities or services for the benefit of the local community? Or have you been thinking about a small project that would be really good for the area but needed the money to help get it started?

Our small grants programme is back and the money can be used for any activity or project that brings the community of the William Morris Ward together. This could be anything from a coffee morning or a street party to putting on a new activity at a community centre.

The application process is straight forward and if you are a newly emerging group or collection of volunteers unfamiliar with applying for grants then we can support you with the process.

For more information and guidance plus for copies of our application form please come to our get together on the 9th May!



News from Gabriel our Development Worker

Spring is definitely here and you can feel it around the area with plants and trees bursting into life! Back in the cold of February I went out with local residents snapping photos of all the outside spaces people have told us could be improved. We snapped over 40 corners of the ward from Blackhorse Road to Bell Corner and the streets in between. We are now developing a plan to get improving these areas from grassroots improvements to more major tasks. If you want to help us develop our programme or get hands on with improving outside spaces do get in touch. Meanwhile I've been building links in the area attending community centres, volunteer events, business support meetings and finding out what is out and about that already helps our priorities. I'll be attending a number of events over the spring and summer including the Garden Party so I hope to see many of your out and about on my travels around the area!

My working hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and I can be reached on 07947 766 251 or devwmb@gmail.com

News of our Funded Projects

Woven Air Workshop

Fancy trying something new? Join master weaver Rezia Wahid and Sufi musician Khaled Hakim for a free workshop in weaving and Sufi drumming. You'll pick up the knack of weaving in no time and be able to pick up a drum and learn to play it in 20 minutes. The workshop is open to all ages and all equipment is provided.



*13th May @ Winns Gallery, Lloyd Park, E17 5JW
Contact Khaled and Rezia on
reziahalima@gmail.com or 07939824177*

Bees Knees @ Priory Court

The Bees Knees patchwork and sewing group has been getting together to make blankets for local children's wards. The ones in this photograph are for incubators, and they will be making cot and small bed size ones too. Liz from the group said, "we are all enjoying making them, and new skills are being learnt!"



*Bees Knees get together every Tuesday at Priory Court Community Centre, please contact Liz if you'd like to join or find out more about what they do.
lizjohnopen@gmail.com*

A Partnership member's view of WMBL

"My name is Mr Khan and I've lived in Walthamstow since 1978 and raised my family here. I have been involved with William Morris Big Local for 2 years and have always been an active member of the community. I got interested when I saw one of these newsletters. I got in touch with the Development Worker who told me all about the project and then I attended a Forum. I liked what I heard so I joined to help. I have experience with running older persons groups and am an active member of the Muslim population so help WMBL in these areas mainly. I like the fact that we have control over the lottery money to improve the area how we want. I would like to see more Asian people involved with the project and for us to connect all of the people in the ward. One of the best things about WMBL at the moment is the Community Chest fund helping grassroots projects."

You can meet Mr Khan and all of the current partnership members at our get together event on the 9th May. If you are interested in being a partnership member please contact Gabriel on 07947 766 251

Bedford Road Residents Association

Bedford Road residents' group held its first meeting recently, after being awarded £250 through the Community Chest grant. Nearly 30% of street residents had responded positively to a survey to back the set up. Lots of ideas were discussed during a lively discussion. Reducing traffic and planting tree pits with wildflowers were agreed, amongst other things, as immediate actions that residents are following up on. *The next meeting will be at the Rose & Crown pub, 26 April, 7.30 - 9.30pm. Contact Justin for further details dustymcd@gmail.com*

These projects were funded through round 1 of our Community Chest grant scheme. Round 2 will be launched at our get together event on the 9th May!

Our Priorities

Green Spaces & Environment – we aim to increase the availability and use of green spaces, promote wellbeing through outdoor activities and increase overall pride in the look and feel of the William Morris Ward.

Intergenerational Working – we want to build relationships between the generations by uniting voices, sharing skills and experiences, and ensuring adequate provision of services and activities are available for all ages.

Improving Community Spaces – we seek to provide support to community spaces by encouraging their use for grass roots activities, identifying opportunities and funding streams for community spaces, and championing investment in our community centres.

Improving Local Economy – we aim to combat the challenges faced by deprivation, unemployment, rising rents and economic inequality. We also want to support local businesses to succeed.

Contact Us

William Morris Big Local, Office 1, William Morris Community Centre, 6-8 Greenleaf Road, Walthamstow, E17 6QQ

Phone - 07947 766 251 (Mon, Tues, Weds)

Email - coordinator@wmbiglocal.org

Website – <http://wmbiglocal.org>

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