

BIG LOCAL



NEWS

MAKING
HERE
BETTER

...Summer 2021...

WHAT NEXT FOR WMBL?



You, me, us, everyone

Whoever you are, whatever your story, welcome to this special edition of our newsletter. We're taking a look at what's on the horizon for William Morris Big Local and soon putting together a new community plan to send to our funders, the National Lottery Community Fund. We are a small community organisation with a big heart and even bigger ambition and we'd love to get your feedback on what we're outlining for the next few years ahead. You might even find yourself tempted to join us on the journey forward!



Big Local... what, who?

We are a community run organisation made up of local residents in the William Morris ward of Walthamstow. Like many places around here we share our name with the great designer and social activist William Morris, but contrary to what some might think we aren't part of the William Morris Gallery. Though we do love to visit it of course!

We've got the financial backing of a National Lottery Community Fund and use this to deliver and fund projects that improve our community. We also fund local groups and organisations that provide activities and opportunities for the area and we aim to benefit everyone that lives, works and plays here.

Our mission is to involve as many local people as possible in helping create positive change. Our projects to date have reached over 3,000 local people and we have just over 50 residents directly involved in the planning and organising of Big Local from ages 10 to 80.

Established in 2012 we are now over halfway through the Big Local programme and still have half of the original £1 million Lottery Community Fund awarded to the area. The next wave of funding is set to take us through to the end of 2025 and the completion of the Big Local programme.



We want to make sure that we invest the money on projects that mean the most to people, can have the biggest benefit to the area and can last beyond Big Local.

Over the next few pages you can read about the areas of investment that we are considering. They have been developed through the work we've done to date, the successes and learnings we've had, and the community connections we've made since we began.

We've also learnt a lot over the last 12 months through the connections and work done during the coronavirus pandemic.



We are not alone



Teaming up with local organisations that do great work in the area is vital to making Big Local a success. Here are just some of the organisations we've worked with on projects and events over the last 3 years. A huge thank you to all of them as well as those we couldn't fit on this page.



SOME OF OUR CURRENT PROJECTS



Laptops for families in need

We continue working with local schools to help families in need of computers. You can help us by donating your old working laptops, tablets and smart phones. Laptops should be under 6 years old and have more than 4GB memory and 250GB hard drive.

You can donate to one of these three locations:

Salvation Army, 434 Forest Road (middle doors), E17 4PY. Monday – Friday 9.30am – 4pm. Saturday 9.30am – 1pm.

The Mill Community Centre, 7-11 Coppermill Lane, E17 7HA. Wednesday – Friday 10.30am – 2.30pm.

Yonder, 4-6 Hookers Road, E17 6DP.

(Book a slot by emailing thanh@thisisyonder.com)

Blackhorse Station Bookshelves

Our local residents led by Kirstin Sibley applied for funding to revamp the bookshelves in the Blackhorse Road Station with new paint and planters. The shelves are filled and tidied regularly by volunteers. Blackhorse Road Station customer service assistant Gursh Bhalla has been an amazing help, 'It's really pleasant to see kids coming to get a book, say 'thank you' and go off happy.' We will continue funding small community led projects with small grants. If you have an idea how to improve your area and want to organise a group project, you too can apply for a grant.



Tool Lending Library is now open

The Tool Lending Library in 2a Priory Court has opened its doors for an additional day. From now on you can borrow tools & swap seeds on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 4-7pm.

It's the best time to spruce up your garden, try your hands on growing veg or build your own garden furniture. And we've got the tools for it.

Recently added items are hedge trimmers, circular saws and a long extension ladder of over 6m.

Get borrowing, growing and in touch by emailing tools@frpuk.org.
<https://frpuk.org/community-work/tools/>

Instagram @walthamstowtoolibrary



So what's the plan?

Our existing community plan has consisted of three main themes: *Strengthening the Community*, *Improving Outdoor Spaces* and *Supporting the Local Economy*. These themes have always been high on the list of things local people would like WMBL to focus on ever since our first community poll in 2012 through to opinions shared during the coronavirus pandemic. We suggest these themes continue to be our focus.



Help Alleviate Social Isolation

We've been acutely aware that social isolation is a real issue for our area. What if we were to provide:

- Community lunches & more social clubs
- Help for people to access and use technology
- Support to existing befriending schemes



Community Events

Bringing people together, creating connections and getting people involved.

- Priory Court Carnival
- Community Fun Days

A calendar of multicultural events led by our diverse community

**Strengthen
the
Community**

Community Grant Schemes

Our grant schemes have supported 70 projects for the area with over 2,000 participants. We suggest keeping our Community Chest Grants and Multicultural grants in place to support community led activities.

Capacity Building

We're going to find out how best we can support our local groups and charities to carry on the great work they do indefinitely.



Green Grants Scheme

We also aim to continue these and make grants of £1,000 – £5,000 available for local resident groups, community groups and organisations to improve outdoor spaces.

**Improve
Outdoor
Spaces**

Outdoor Health & Wellbeing

We're asking what type of activities would help people connect with their outdoor spaces and increase wellbeing. So far the list includes:

- A Green Fair in Lloyd Park
- Trails and guided walks
- Sports and games sessions
- Gardening and horticulture courses for beginners
- Seasonal workshops

Transforming dead spaces

There is a lot of grey in the area. We're looking at how to transform these into useful and beautiful spaces. What about?

- Mini parks here, there, everywhere
 - More seating areas
 - Working with LBWF to secure co-designed public realm improvements
 - Transforming the garages at William Morris Close
- Greening the sea of grey outside Higham Hill Library



Tool Lending Library

Now fully up and running we want to ensure that the tool library can develop into a long lasting community facility to support growing, greening and the brightening up of the area.



THE PLAN

Enterprise Grants

Equivalent to our other small grant schemes we would make grants available for businesses to provide a community offer or try something innovative. Grants would also be made available for young entrepreneurs wanting to test their ideas out.



Enterprise Advice, Guidance and Support

- Signposting businesses to specialist services and help in the area
- Workshops, masterclasses and events for local independent businesses and freelancers.
- Create an Enterprise Hub
- Coaching & mentoring for young locals provided by local business people.



Support the
*Local
Economy*

Employability Programme

Traineeships, apprenticeships, and the creation of more work experience opportunities for local young people. Our partners at Big Creative Academy and East End Trades Guild would be instrumental in helping make this happen.



Supporting a Green Economy

The boom and bust economy is totally unsustainable and environmentally damaging. We want to encourage a new green based market that puts repair, remake, reuse and local supply chains at the heart of all our activity. Our approach still needs developing but ideas also include the brokering of a "green" hallmark for businesses to show they are environmentally sustainable and so gives residents an easy way to make environmentally based shopping choices.



What do you think? What would you do?

We are seeking community feedback and guidance on our plans. For around 5 minutes of your time you can help us prioritise and make the right choices for the area.

The WMBL survey can be found here:
<https://tinyurl.com/WMBLConsultation>

If you want to read a bit more about our plan before completing the survey go here:
<https://tinyurl.com/WMBLOurPlan>

If you would like a paper copy of the survey please give us a call on 07552 364380. If you would like to give your feedback over the phone we are also happy to arrange this too.



Consultation QR Code



Have your say now. Go to
tinyurl.com/WMBLConsultation
and tell us what you think.
**Consultation closes
13 June 2021**

Easter Egg Trail

Our Youth Local Group organised an Easter Egg trail for the families. Over 30 eggcellent hampers were given to those who signed up, and the Youth Group also gave hampers to the local Salvation Army to share with families in need.

There will be more events soon, so follow us on Twitter, Instagram or Facebook @WMBigLocal.



Join our sunflower competition

It is still not too late to join our sunflower growing competition. And if you can't grow, there are also prizes for decorated flower pots and artwork. To find out more, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/WMBLSunflower>



Photo credit: Marta Erdoss

**The life is beautiful, unjust and deep,
But he has promises to keep,
Until then he shall not sleep.
He rises from his bitter bed,
With thoughts of sadness in his head,
He idolises being dead.. -Dom.**

Do you write poetry, paint, draw or like creating crosswords or games?

Email them to milla@wmbiglocal.org and we might be able to include them in our next newsletter.



COME AND JOIN
WILLIAM MORRIS YOUTH GROUP

SPRING PARTY

SATURDAY 29TH MAY 12.30-4.30PM

OUTDOOR FAMILY FUN
MUSIC AND DANCING
FOOTBALL
GAMES AND ENTERTAINMENT
JUMBLE SALE AND TOY SWAP

TASTY TREATS
BRING A DISH!



IN WILLIAM MORRIS GREENSPACE AT WILLIAM MORRIS
CLOSE

EMAIL THEBLAIRACADEMY@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFO

Youth group is getting stronger



Our Youth Local group have been working on Easter and Spring events. There are more plans for murals, competitions and parties. The group meets every Thursday on Zoom led by Charlie Blair, our sessional freelance worker, but there are plans for the group to start meeting face to face at the end of May onwards. If you live in the William Morris ward and are between ages 10-14, you can join our weekly sessions. Email theblairacademy@gmail.com for more information.

Milla's family favourite: baking tray pizza

"This family recipe kept us going during the lockdown."

Prepare the base 12h before:

500g white bread flour
1 sachet/ 1.5tsp dried yeast
~350ml warm water

Sauce ingredients

1 onion finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, chopped
1 can passata
Pinch of basil / oregano
Season with salt & pepper

For oiling pan: ~1/2 dl oil

Topping:

Cheese, tomatoes... have fun and create your own mix!

Baking time about 15min in 250c middle of oven, until base is crispy.

Base: Mix the flour & yeast together in a mixing bowl, then mix in enough water to make soft dough. Cover with clingfilm and let it rise in a warm place 6 - 12 hours.

Sauce: Fry onions and garlic until soft, add passata and spices and let bubble until thick. Taste and season.

Heat the oven to 250c.

Spread the oil on the sheet pan, remember to cover edges. Gently scoop the dough with oiled hands to pan and spread thinly, covering corners. Cover with sauce, then toppings. Bake until the base and edges are crispy and golden. Check that the pizza is ready by lifting corner with spatula. Enjoy!



Cheep! If you would like to share your family recipe with us, email milla@wmbiglocal.org

Prize wordsearch: Find all our feathered friends!

Congratulations to our last winner, Otis. You will get a prize posted soon!



- | | | |
|------------|----------|---------|
| HERON | BLUE JAY | QUAIL |
| IBIS | CANARY | QUETZAL |
| KINGFISHER | CRANE | RAVEN |
| KIWI | CROW | ROBIN |
| LARK | DOVE | STORK |
| LOON | DUCK | SWALLOW |
| MACAW | EAGLE | SWAN |
| MAGPIE | EGRET | TERN |
| ORIOLE | EMU | TOUCAN |
| OWL | FALCON | TURKEY |
| PELICAN | GOOSE | WREN |
| PENGUIN | GULL | |
| PUFFIN | HAWK | |

Did you find all the birds? Email a photo to milla@wmbiglocal.org or post to Big Creative Academy, 38 Clifton Avenue, Walthamstow, E17 6HL. One correct entry picked at random before 1st June will win a prize.

Oi! What about me?



Gnome House Spring Splash 23rd May

We will have a stall at the Gnome House Spring fun event on 23rd May 11am-4pm. 7 Blackhorse Lane, E17 6DS. Come and say hello! We will have an activity table and you have a chance to meet our staff and volunteers.

Don't miss out:

Follow us @WMBigLocal on Twitter, Instagram or Facebook to find out about the events we are funding. You can also add your name to our e-news mailing and volunteer list by emailing milla@wmbiglocal.org.

@WMBigLocal



Safer Neighbourhood Team

If an emergency always call 999.
To report a crime call 101 or visit www.metpolice.uk.
Safer Neighbourhood Team for local issues or crime advice: NEMailbox.SNTWilliamMorris@met.police.uk
/ 020 8721 2643

GNOME HOUSE

SPRING SPLASH

Sunday **23 MAY 2021**
11am-9pm

A free community event at Gnome House highlighting some of the activities and achievements of lockdown.

All day tasty Colombian coffee, snacks and bar from Hermanos with delicious cakes from Crumbs.

Stalls, activities, live music and performances on the terrace, in the main space and in the garden.

7 Blackhorse Lane, Walthamstow E17 6DS
(3 min walk from Blackhorse Road Tube Station)

www.gnomehouse.org.uk @gnomehouseCIC

Thanks again for your help!

Our Newsletter is delivered by our wonderful volunteers. Email milla@wmbiglocal.org if you want to help, and we will contact you when the next one is ready to go out.



Thank you David and the Good Gym crew!

WILLIAM MORRIS . BIG LOCAL .

WILLIAM MORRIS BIG LOCAL AGM

There's a bright future ahead of us

IN BIG CREATIVE ACADEMY
38 CLIFTON AVENUE, E17 6HL
Tuesday 29th JUNE 2021
7PM - 9PM

REGISTER NOW: MILLA@WMBIGLOCAL.ORG

Put this date in your calendar!