



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

Our ward is one of 150 areas in the UK to receive £1m of lottery funding to make a lasting positive difference to our area and we the local residents have been given control to make the decisions on how the money is spent. Our main priorities for the area were formed through a major consultation exercise done in 2012-13 and a summary of these priorities can be found on the back of this newsletter.

In 2016 we funded 7 different projects from youth clubs to over 50s keep fit sessions with 588 people getting involved. We also had new residents join our steering group to help continue the good work and expand on what we are doing. The steering group is made up of 10 local residents from across the ward and meets every 6 weeks with our community development worker to keep things moving. We hold 4 public meetings a year to share with people what we are doing and we speak with local residents, community groups and organisations to get improvement ideas for the area. We're really excited about the year ahead with new projects and proposals in the pipeline. Below are photos from three of our currently funded projects. Please read on to find out a bit more of what's going on!

We're always keen to hear how you feel the area could be improved so please don't hesitate to get in touch with us by letter, phone, email or through social media. All of our contact details are on the back of this newsletter.



Lloyd Park Nature Explorers



Over 50's Keep Fit



Gnome House Youth Club

WMBL Funded Projects in 2016

- * Priory Court Youth Club
- * William Morris Mural
- * Let's Roll Skating Sessions
- * Gnome House Youth Club
- * Extra Nature Explorers sessions at Lloyd Park
- * Over 50's Keep Fit
- * New I.T facilities at William Morris Community Centre

More details about these projects can be found on our website at: www.wmbiglocal.org

10 exciting local projects granted Community Chest funding!

Our new WMBL Community Chest fund was launched in October and gave local groups the chance to apply for funds of up to £500 to put on a project for the benefit of the local community. We were delighted with the response we got and applications came in from all over the ward. Ten groups have now been awarded funds for projects that include street planting, community dance sessions, weaving sessions, and an intergenerational games day. These projects will be taking place throughout 2017 so keep an eye out for information on them by checking out our website, social media and the next edition of this newsletter!

One project that successfully took place already was Priory Court's Lunch Club Christmas lunch and buffet for over 60s.

There were 57 attendances over the two events in December with a cracking Christmas dinner served up by 6 dedicated volunteers. Entertainment was provided in the form of music, raffles and dancing and in the words of organiser Pauline Whitbread the event "gave older people a little cheer at Christmas who might be lonelier than others at that time of year."



Public Forum

Our next Forum is on Tuesday 7th February

7.00pm – 9.00pm at

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

This is an opportunity to find out what we have been doing, what's coming up and to meet the Partnership members. We also want to hear what is important to you and for you to give us your ideas on how to improve the William Morris Ward in particular around greenspaces and the local economy.



News from Gabriel our Development Worker

I'm feeling really positive about 2017 and what WMBL can achieve this year to make the ward even better. I have been to visit the majority of our currently funded projects such as Gnome House Youth Club and the Over 50's keep fit classes. (they let me in though I'm in my 30s!) I can honestly say they are great projects and would highly recommend them. Check out the full list on the front of this newsletter. Meanwhile, my to do list for this year includes more communication with the ward, putting our priorities into action, linking up with local organisations and finding out what opportunities there are for WMBL to make a difference.

I shall be continuing to support the partnership and encouraging people from the wider community to link up with us whether through participation at our Forums, volunteering at one of our events or simply by having a say on what's important.

Gabriel's working hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and he can be reached on 07947 766 251 or devwmbbl@gmail.com

News of our Funded Projects

New Dance Project!

MovE17 is creating a unique opportunity for residents of William Morris Ward to take part in *Rosas danst Rosas* for FREE! This mass dance performance is planned to be performed at the E17 Art Trail in June and the Walthamstow Garden Party in July 2017 and you will be taught the routine over a course of free lessons.

We will join thousands of people across the world who have performed this piece. Open to people aged 12+ of all abilities this is a chance to come together, have fun and learn some new skills.

For more information contact:
clarefarrow2@gmail.com / 07939 125014.

Boxercise & Socialise for over 50's

WMBL currently helps fund an over 50's club where keeping fit in a friendly atmosphere is central to the sessions. Every Thursday at William Morris Community

Centre keep fit fans meet up at 11am before a boxercise session at midday. Sessions are for men and women of all abilities and led by former boxing pro Mark Callaghan. *Contact club organiser Mr Khan on 0208 509 2399 for more info or just turn up one Thursday!*

Youth Bus Coming soon to Omnibus Way!

The Youth Bus will soon be pulling up at Omnibus Way. Worth Unlimited runs the bus which is packed full of games and activities for ages 11-19 and they will be putting flyers through Omnibus resident's doors to announce when the bus is coming so keep your eyes peeled!



Chair's Corner - Chrys Christy

Happy New Year to you all. I am so proud of what has been achieved in 2016 by WMBL ranging from the William Morris Mural to the Community Chest grants that have been approved for community groups. We have also been hard at work ensuring that we engage more with William Morris residents and generally increase awareness of WMBL. This has helped us to grow and we're really pleased to have welcomed 3 new resident members to our partnership.

Our aims in 2017 are to continue with our resident engagement as well as focusing on two of our key priorities – Green Spaces and Local Economy. We welcome your ideas and thoughts on what you would like to see happen under these priorities. Please come along to our Forum in February to have your say!

Chrys Christy is the chairperson of WMBL alongside 9 other resident members who form the WMBL Partnership. You can meet and talk to the members at our public meeting on the 7th February, 7.00pm at Priory Court Community Centre, 11 Priory Court, E17 5NB

Computer classes & Digital Workshops

William Morris Community Centre begins its timetable of computer classes and courses in partnership with Adult Learning. There are also plans for tailor made courses and free public drop in sessions.



Contact Patricia at the Community Centre for more information on 0207 520 5021 or drop in to the centre at 6-8 Greenleaf Road, E17 7QQ.

To stay up to date with all of our funded projects sign up to our e-news alerts, follow us on social media or have a look at our website!

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>

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to receive up to date Big Local news and events!

  @wmbiglocal