

## Radstock & Westfield Big Local: Meet and Mingle, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018

### Report



*photo courtesy of Becky Brooks*

We were recently given the good news that our community investment plan for 2019 to 2022 (Plan 2) has been endorsed by our funders (Local Trust), with a proviso that we can access the community kitchen funds if a business plan demonstrates need and value.

The beginning of the new plan is great because we can build community energy and support around it and increase our partnership numbers in the process. The Meet and Mingle was our first celebration of this pivotal moment and was a chance to welcome interested people from the community, explain where we're going and invite them to join us.

A number of people joined the Partnership at (and just before) the Meet and Mingle event and we now have 26 members who will help to guide and support the Plan!

Partnership members were invited to get down to business right away as we needed to move on a number of things. You can see below the items that they voted on / responded to.

The first three relate to the Community Interest Company (CIC) that was set up by the Partnership. The CIC will deliver the Plan 2 on behalf of the Partnership, including taking on the risk and liabilities of running events, employing staff and holding assets. It will also bring in more funds from other sources that complement the aims of the Partnership. The CIC currently has four directors – volunteers from the Partnership – and there is space for 2 more to join.

Items 4 and 5 are about the community kitchen we have planned. 6 & 7 are regarding the Youth Fund and Panel we set up. 8 is about the annual Dragons' Den

event we run. 9 is asking for ideas on workshops that will help partnership members and community organisations.

The background to these questions can be found in the appendix.

**1. Do you agree the CIC should be commissioned to deliver the plan?**

Yes - 16 Partnership members

No - 0

**2. Do you agree that volunteer directors (of the CIC) can only be removed from post if they are unable to deliver the plan or they choose to leave?**

Yes - 14

No - 1

Unclear question – 1

**3. Do you agree that the CIC has a maximum of 6 people as residents?**

Yes - 9

No – 5

**4. Ideas for Community Kitchen space?**

Link up with the Carers Centre

Food for thought – MIND peer support <https://www.bathmind.org.uk/what-we-do/share/food-for-thought/>

SWALLOW – Maggie

Somervalley foodbank- offer cheap eating course make the most of the food parcels

Childrens' Centre – Healthy eating programme

Brownies

Guides

Girls brigade

Vulnerable local people – esp those isolated/lonely

Contact OAP organising to help widowers/single/sudden

bereavements/health- cooking skills

Breakfast Club for young /people promoting health and wellbeing

Make lunch/school holiday sessions

**5. Do you know of a professional who can complete a business plan (for the kitchen)?**

Janine- business development part of role in Carers centre

Strongly suggest not paying heavy consultation fees

The Midsomer & Radstock Rotary Club – Dom Chambers happy to take forward

**6. Do you know anyone that may be interested in applying to the youth fund?**

SWALLOW youth group

WPA and sporting change

Young Carers Team

Off the Record

**7. Do you know anyone who might be interested in joining the youth panel?**

Young carers

Visit local schools promoting panel to approach T Gibbs to arrange

**8. Are you willing to support the Dragons' Den?**

Yes - I think it's a great, feel-good community event

I think it needs a re-vamping on a few levels

Yes- I think it's a good idea

Yes – a very good event

What does support the event mean

If available/appropriate as SWALLOW maybe pitching

**9. Do you have any suggestions for a workshop that would help you or your organisation to sustainably deliver community projects?**

Business planning

Risk Assessments

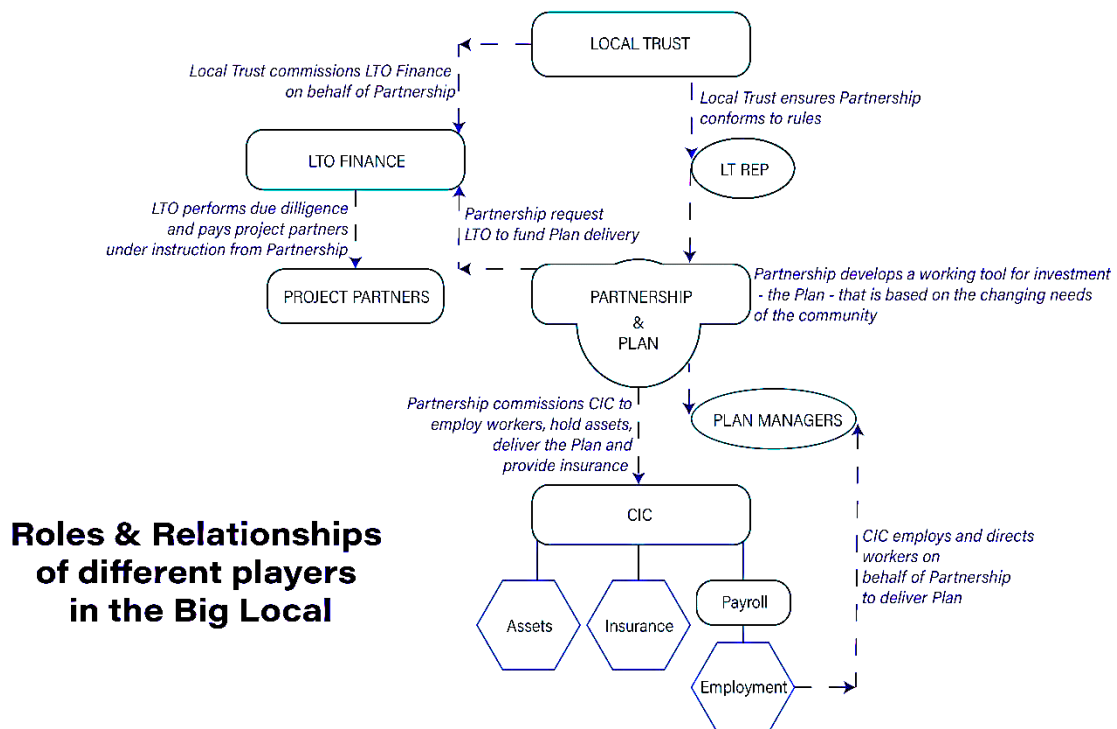
Safe Guarding

**Appendix:**

Background notes.

**Table one: How the Big Local operates**

OUR VISION: For a community that is creating its own future and working together to make good things happen.



In December 2017 the Radstock & Westfield Big Local set up a Community Interest Company – It was set up to ensure the Plan can be delivered in a sustainable and professional manner. Currently there are three volunteer Directors taken from the Partnership who support and direct the paid community workers.

The advantages of becoming the Radstock & Westfield Big Local CIC make it possible to employ the staff who support plan delivery and enable us to apply to other funding streams, bringing even more money and resources into the community. Becoming a CIC permits the partnership to take up liability insurance so we can run events and protect our members, and also provides us with an asset lock to safeguard items bought by Big Local such as the Bleacher-Seating so it will remain in the community for communal use beyond the end of Big Local.

**ACTION NEEDED:** As a Partnership member we need an official vote and a decision to be made on the following questions:

- 1. Do you agree that the CIC should be commissioned to deliver the Plan? Please vote either – Yes or No**
- 2. Do you agree that the volunteer directors can only be removed from post if they are not able to deliver the Plan, or unless they choose to leave? Please vote either – Yes or No**
- 3. Do you agree that the CIC has a maximum of 6 people as directors? Please vote either – Yes or No**

## Table two: Invest in health & well-being to improve quality of life



Poor health is an area of concern in our community especially obesity, diabetes and mental health, we believe by supporting projects that promote and enable healthy lifestyles we can make a positive impact.

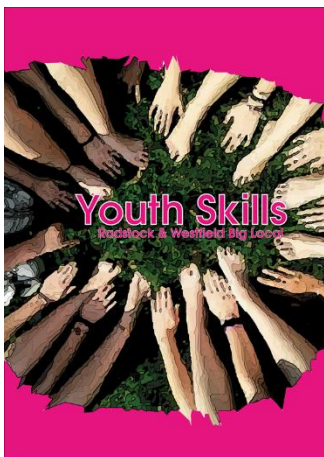
We aim to provide funding towards a community kitchen and training space - we are working on developing a business plan to ensure the space is used and supported by the local community.

The impact this should have is a generational reduction in obesity and other health related issues and an increase in community engagement.

### HELP US:

- 4. Do you have any ideas for how to use the community kitchen space, or know an organisation that may like to use it?**
- 5. Do you know of a professional who can complete a business plan?**

## Table three: Invest in young people to become life, work & further education ready



This priority has developed from consultations, local statistics and following on from Plan 1.

Residents have identified the need to invest in our young people, we aim to focus on empowering them with a devolved budget and creating learning opportunities. Led by the recent youth consultation (Dec 2017) we are using the results and recommendations to inform the decisions we make regarding investing in youth provision.

We expect to allocate £23k per year for the next three years with specified, measurable goals written into the terms and conditions for the funding to be allocated.

The goals will include a successful anti-bullying strategy, an increase in what services are currently available and a re-evaluation of the young people needs

and wants and the impact/improvement the funding has made. We will continue funding the devolved budget of £5k per year working closely with the youth panel, ensuring our young people have their say on how and where money should be spent. We will identify fundraising opportunities to ensure the project remains sustainable into the future of youth provision.

**HELP US:**

- 6. Do you know anyone that may be interested in applying to the youth fund?**
- 7. Do you know any young people who might be interested in joining the youth panel?**

**Table four: Invest in upskilling support for people, organisations and facilities to increase resilience**

This Priority originates from Plan 1. Over the duration of the last plan it became apparent that community organisations face numerous challenges in order to continue and meet the changing needs of our communities.

We felt that some of the resources needed to be used in a way that provided organisations with the skills to raise funds, develop business plans, identify and adapt to the opportunities and needs within the community.

We are keen to develop long term resilience by making funds available annually to provide professional support (workshops/events) to grow these skills and plan for the future.

Our Dragons' Den events have been incredibly successful in bringing together the community to celebrate the creativity and motivation of our community to make good things happen here. We want this to continue for as long as it's

Opportunities for local community organisations to develop knowledge and skills to meet challenges



useful and so will work towards making our Dragons' Den event sustainable – finding funding partners and volunteers to help run and promote it.

We will also identify and provide funding towards training in preparing and cooking healthy food on a budget. We will aim towards making the project self-funding and an integrated part of the health and wellbeing hub that is developing in Radstock and Westfield.

**HELP US:**

- 8. Are you willing to support the Dragons' Den event?**
- 9. do you have any suggestions for workshop that would help you or your organisation to sustainably deliver community projects?**

**Table five: Invest and raise funds to enhance the Radstock & Westfield CIC offer to the community**



The £1million from Local Trust is not enough to fully address the needs/problems we have decided to focus on and this priority shows our commitment to deliver the plan, develop sustainability to continue beyond the 10-year lottery project, build on our capacity and embrace long-term partnerships.

The delivery of the plan will be carried out by the community workers and volunteers in accordance with Local Trust aims as well as Companies House regulations.

We will create a strategy to lever in outside funding using our understanding of the needs of our community. We will utilise match funding and complete funding applications in order to ensure good things continue to happen in our area beyond the Local Trust investment.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Plan 2 was endorsed by Local Trust which enables us to focus on three of the four key projects:

In 2018-2019 the community workers will focus on:

- completing a robust business plan for the community training kitchen to be submitted to Local Trust before funding will be released
- raising funds to ensure the community teaching kitchen is sustainable
- supporting the young people by providing a pot of money for them to decide how to use it
- supporting youth work
- helping community organisations to become more resilient

improving the health opportunities in the area