



Meet 'n' Mingle

**Notes on the Radstock & Westfield Big Local Partnership discussion,
10th March 2021**

Present: Stef Coombs, Liam Kirby, Emily Merko, Becky Brooks, Robin Moss, Julian Mellor, Rob Wicke, Ron Hopkins (left early), Sue Hill (left early).
Apologies from the other members.

COVID RESPONSE FUND

Hot Square Meal Project

Hot Square Meal Project – We ran a smaller operation this time, with a few referrals and a few volunteers – many thanks to Emily and Robin for volunteering throughout, as well as Sue for stepping in when called upon. The recipients were very grateful. Sorry, we should have a pic up with Emily in it too really!

We signposted the recipients to the other community food projects in the area – the pantries, the Olio app, the community food network, children's centre food club, the foodbank and to info from the community hub and facebook pages.

Outdoor play at Trinity School

We still have funds set aside for our longer term Covid response and we're keeping alert to situations where our resources can best be focused.

With that in mind, we're pleased to say the outdoor play equipment at Trinity School has been completed – both the climbing frame and gazebo, which were constructed by a local firm, look amazing. Robin and Rob were at the opening ceremony on Monday where the whole school was present – the Journal have the pics of everyone looking very happy, so keep an eye out for that story on their front page. Also, there are other schools that have been in touch about the funding towards outdoor learning support and we expect a few applications over the next couple of months.

Forest school projects

The forest school projects will go ahead soon. Curiositree, who are leading it, are just getting their ducks in a row before rolling it out.



SMALL FUND

Replaced the Dragons' Den, so that local community groups could apply for funds that increase their resilience or the resilience of the people they serve.

Resilience, in it's broadest sense, is the ability to recover from or adapt to threats or disturbances.

In the context of the Small Fund, this could be something that brings people together and improves people's health such as organised walks, exercise classes in the park, explore sessions in the woods, end of lockdown celebrations, front garden displays, food projects. It could also include finding ways to get more people involved in their community associations so responsibility is shared wider and helps to forge more links with neighbours.

We've had one application so far, a really great one to kick us off, with a few more anticipated soon.

Tynning Together are going to have a sunflower competition and will use the funds to purchase seeds and compost to share amongst the community. They will also buy veg seed and hold a seed swap so that people can grow their own this year! They're also going to keep the momentum going with their litter picking forays, and will buy equipment so they don't have to borrow In Bloom's every time, which will help them to be self-sufficient and a bit more spontaneous.

Liam explained how residents of Tynning have communicated via their facebook group in order to get organised. It would seem that a variety of situations created a local buzz, such as changes involving the Walnut buildings, Tynning Inn and litter, and that has galvanised people. Also, the area is fortunate to have people who like to take action to make a positive difference.

Can we support other communities to develop, or does it just happen organically?



NEW OPPORTUNITY

Hope House – Community building



RW gave a summary: We've been on the look-out for opportunities to invest in projects that bring a financial return in perpetuity. The current Hope House building will be sold and we're looking to see if we could make it a viable project. There is a possibility of turning it into a community housing project – either for vulnerable people or as affordable homes. There may be funding available for us to tap in to. We've spoken with BANES, YMCA and Community Led Homes West to get an idea of the advice and support they can give us. The recommendation is to carry out a housing survey of the area, which will actually be really useful for the councils with their planning, even if nothing comes of it for us.

The cost of the survey would come from our current plan, as part of our resilience building for the community.

A discussion followed and points were raised:

- Housing survey usually done by unitary authority but BANES aren't going to do one – a benefit if we do it is that developers can't access and profit from our results unless we choose to share with them, gives us a better negotiating position. If BANES carried out the survey, the developers could access it via FOI.
- Our investment doesn't have to bring a financial return.
- Community housing doesn't have to take place in that building -the location and property layout may not be suitable, there may be other places that are better.
- The HH building is listed and this restricts possibilities (e.g. can't have shop front).
- Perhaps the building could be used for small offices, start-ups, creatives etc and we could be involved in this?
- We will continue pursuing the housing survey.

Slightly flexible

TIMELINE FOR WRITING PLAN 3

31st Jan, Plan 2 Review complete

21st Sept, Plan 3 complete



LEGACY STATEMENT

- What will remain in our area after the Big Local funds have been spent?
- What are the main things – if any – that we want to do by then so that these changes are long lasting?
- What do we think this will mean for our area’s future?



PLAN 3

To include: Executive summary * Contact details * Introduction * Local Trust requirements *

About Radstock and Westfield (info from gov data, knowledge of community infrastructure,

details from consultations) * Previous Plans (summary and reviews) * Consultation on new

plan * Costed vision * Action Plan (broken into themes, ideas, outcomes) * Legacy statement

* Glossary * Footnotes

LEGACY STATEMENT

The Local Trust require us to write a legacy statement, which will form part of our upcoming plan. Originally, they wanted us to complete it last year but due to covid they have extended the deadline so we actually have until 21st Sept when we submit the plan to them for approval. However, it would be good to get most of it agreed soon, and we can then fine tune it a bit as we develop Plan 3 over the next few months.

The key questions they want us to address are:

- What will remain in our area after the Big Local funds have been spent?
- What are the main things if any that we want to do by then so that these changes are long lasting?
- What do we think this will mean for our area's future?

We will have invested in a broad range of legacies that will continue well beyond the Big Local programme, this was discussed in the meeting and members are invited to have a think and develop the below further:

[already in place | dependent on Plan 3 actions]

Physical structures and community spaces – wellbeing room in Healthy Living Centre for 20+ years; outdoor gym and running track in Westfield; Radstock Museum improvements (café, clock tower); tiered seating in Victoria Hall; [community orchard in Radstock, this may need to be removed from the list depending on whether it can be salvaged]; Waterside Valley, buildings e.g. Tynning Inn, Hope House, growing spaces (e.g. allotments)

Ongoing activities – Wellbeing sessions in wellbeing room for 20+ years; youth empowerment (Learn 2 Lead); college courses; wellbeing festival; local food festival/taster sessions; running track events

Method of mobilising and sustaining social action – annual Dragons' Den (dependent on income generation project); helping local groups to organise (via DD and Small Fund and other support)

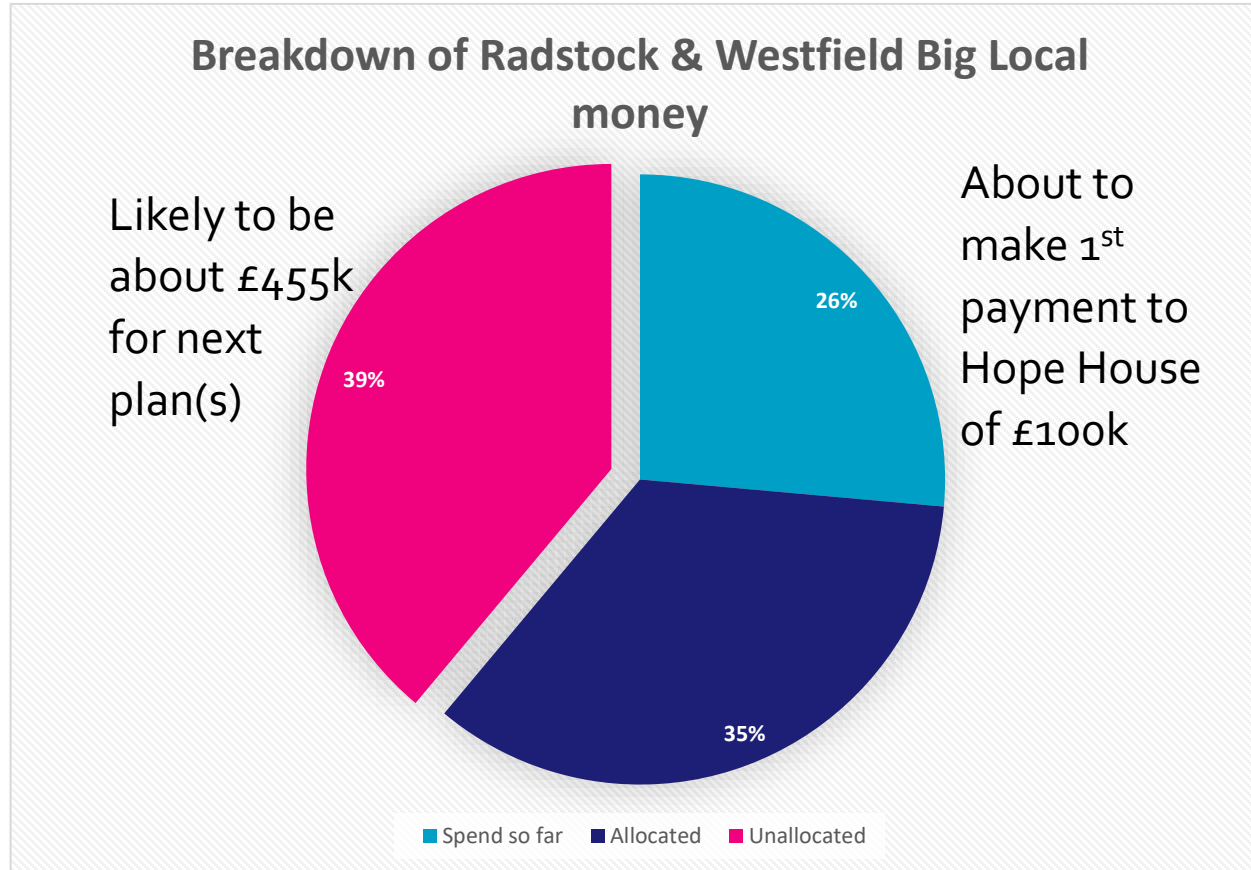
Means of sustainability – Community Interest Company; Physical community building or renewable energy or other opportunity

Community response to potential emergencies - A community and residents who have developed their skills, connections and local knowledge and are ready to support those who need it

Non-physical – projects coming from Dragons' Den that have given people skills and experiences they have shared with others; as well as a sense of community; as well as supporting groups to grow and develop; the concept development of destination Radstock/Westfield

Local Trust want us to create the legacy statement, costed vision and action plan because they want Big Local groups to have a clear idea of how they will be spent up by the end of the programme in 2026. We can spend up before then, and our Plan 3 doesn't have to be the final plan if we want to have more. More plans mean more planning work, however.

FINANCIAL REPORT



AOB

There is a networking opportunity with other Big Locals in the south west – 29th March. It will be held on zoom and we're all invited. These meetings can be a really great way to find out what other groups are doing, learn from each other and make connections. Julian Mellor will circulate details.