Management Committee Meeting

Date: 3rd February~ 7pm ~9pm

Venue: Prattens Social Club, Westfield, BA3 4BD

**Members present:** Ed Joseph, Rob Watts, Sarah Westell, Keith Bridges, Marlene Morley, Rob Wicke, Ron Hopkins, Dom Chambers, Robin Moss, Caroline Green, Leslie Mansell

**Apologies:** Dave Dixon

**Agenda:**

Welcome and introductions (Robin Moss); Update to Big Local Plan (Sarah), Update and results following successful Dragon’s Den (Sarah, Rob, Robin), Discuss potential of the new community building (Robin), To discuss becoming a CIO (Robin), Any other business?

**Actions:**

DC would like to create a section on the website reporting on the winners.

DC to familiarise himself with the website and use social media to draw people’s attention to it.

DC to link with JM to gain the access to the website.

RM to find out what’s happening with the NRR building and will report back

RM to invite Mark Goodman, Connecting Capacity, for discussion on becoming a CIO

SW to ask her bank manager for a big cheque

RM to invite Simon Swale to come and talk about energy. Also invite representatives from Midsomer Norton and Peasedown St John to take part.

RM to contact the Local Trust to express the committee’s decision to retain Julian Mellor as adviser.

* **Update to Big Local Plan (Sarah)**

The payment schedule was discussed. It was clarified that it was a quarterly payment over a calendar year.

It was clarified that the amount and way we spend the money doesn’t have to strictly adhere to the plan – we don’t have to be under pressure to spend it.

AGREED and minuted that all members warmly welcomed the outline of the budget.

* **Update and results following successful Dragon’s Den (Sarah, Rob, Robin)**

The Dragons’ Den was very successful, more people turned up and voted than the previous year. RM thanked Sarah and Rob.

ACTION: Dom Chambers would like to create a section on the website reporting on the winners.

ACTION: DC to have a look on the website and draw attention via social media to the reports on spend etc.

ACTION: DC to link with JM to gain the access to the website.

Reflections on the Dragons Den – one local had suggested that postal votes might get more people involved: it was agreed that DDen was not a voting exercise, it’s a social exercise.

The possibility of increasing access by providing transport, for example with dial-a-ride, was discussed. A concern was raised that it may not be effective - an example was given by LM where an event in Radstock had done this and people booked a space in a taxi/minibus but didn’t actually attend.

AGREED – We should try to find some way help more people to access the DDen. We will look at transport and other options nearer the time of the next DDen.

We discussed the possibility of more than one DDen a year and different day, different place, different size prize. It was agreed that all this was possible, with the caveat that if the prize money was increased there would need to be some discussion around changing the rules.

AGREED – to have another DD – 1st / 2nd Sat afternoon of September (when children back at school).

* **Discuss potential of the new community building (Robin)**

A discussion was had regarding the possibility of using the NRR building as a base. RM has expressed an interest to the NRR on BLocal’s behalf. LM raised a potential issue, as Radstock Town Council are under the impression that the NRR had been offered to them. RM will meet Kate Mack in ten days’ time to get clarity on the situation, and will feedback to the group. Other options are needed should the NRR be unavailable. Norton College may have a space available in the future.

ACTION: RM to find out what’s happening with the NRR building and report back.

AGREED: that a new community building is important and should be pursued.

* **To discuss becoming a CIO (Robin)**

RM explained that becoming a CIO would mean that we could apply for grants in our own right. He had helped a group in Keynsham do that, with advice from Connecting Capacity.

ACTION: RM to invite Mark Goodman, Connecting Capacity, for advice on becoming a CIO - Connecting Capacity .

* **Any other business?**

DC was concerned that we don’t have a process for people to come to the Big Local with ideas. We discussed the possibility of working with Radstock Town Council and Westfield Parish Council and other grant making bodies to create a joined up process.

Discussed the need to follow up Dragons Den winners and inform them of how they can upscale the projects.

Discussed how to create a visual symbol to inform people (via media) of the million, ideas: treasure chest, chocolate money, big cheque, swag bag.

ACTION: SW to ask her bank manager for a big cheque.

AGREED we will have a number of events:

1. Celebrating the million award

2. Questions/Answers session for how people can approach Big Local

3. Summer event, pimms and cake, to celebration, update, opportunity to meet the partnership

4. Dragons Den in September

Discussed more ideas for spending the money. It was agreed that in the first instance we should use the crib sheets developed by RWi, which set out the objectives of the Plan, to inform us of the projects we should be thinking about.

RM explained that there will be a meeting of a smaller group that will develop the ideas and report back.

AGREED, unanimously, that we want Julian Mellor to provide support – He is highly valued and we need his input.

ACTION: RM to contact the Local Trust to express the committee’s decision to retain Julian Mellor as adviser.

Discussed local energy production. RM has attended a workshop regarding this. BL keen to encourage communities to be involved. Transition Keynsham are already looking into the possibility of this. EJ asked whether we could buy land to put wind turbine up, RM asked why not, others said it could be a good idea.

ACTION: RM suggested to invite Simon Swale to come and talk about it, and also invite representatives from Midsomer Norton and Peasedown St John.