

Notes on Big Local Partnership Meeting – 30th June 2023

Present: Marlene Morley, Rob Wicke, Sue Hill, Liam Kirby, Katie Mason, Ruth Jones, Martin Strube, Dom Tristram, Helen Adams

Apologies: Becky Brooks, Lavinia Corrick, Robin Moss, Angie Moss, Ron Hopkins, Andrew Morley, Bev Crane, Sally Bailey, Janine Woodward-Grant

- **Updates on Loan and LTO.**

Loan –

We have been informed that Key Fund have made the offer to RTC, which has been approved at a full council meeting.

Awaiting further information from Local Trust, but understand that it should start by 1st Aug, and be a two year loan, to be repaid at the end.

Our concern regarding Local Trust's capacity to then pass the payment to us is being considered and we should have a response soon.

Also discussed RTC progress with purchasing the building and the potential for it not to go through at all. **ACTION:** Rob to enquire with RTC the seriousness of the situation and relay to the Partnership.

LTO -

We're waiting to hear back on a start date. There has been a technical issue with the electronic signature software. **ACTION** Rob and Robin to sort with Ruth asap.

- **Funded project updates.**

- Reports are coming in for the projects funded by **Dragons' Den 8** (event took place in July 2022).

You can see brief write-ups on our website as they come in.

Can confirm the following projects went ahead:

- Creativity Works – Artist stage at Radstock Fayre
- Norton Radstock Amateur Boxing – Defibrillator
- SWALLOW – Summer Trip
- Youth Connect South West – Radstock Graffiti Project
- Radstock Foodies Club – Cookbooks

Should get the remaining reports by the end of July.

- St Nics school have returned their grant – from the **School Capital Fund** - as they weren't able to get their project started. The grant was for a yurt and pizza oven.

- The **Learn to Lead** director, Max, has reported that Norton Hill have struggled for capacity from staff to support the project and this has had a knock on effect with pupil engagement. Max commented that his contacts within the youth provision field agree that this is a nation-wide issue that has persisted since the Covid-19 crisis, and sustained access to schools remain very difficult.

Learn to Lead are keen to support the completion of the project and are in contact with Norton Hill to attempt this.

Learn to Lead are still in contact with Trinity School, who are interested in piloting it there, but no decision has been made yet.

Partnership discussed further and felt that it may be that the funds we'd earmarked for expanding Learn to Lead out to other schools is redirected to other projects. Having a strong leader who can see the project through would be very beneficial. **ACTION**: Rob to start looking at alternatives, including working with uniformed groups, youth sports teams etc.

- Rob and Liam have met with Sally at St Nics Church to discuss the **green space** behind their community building (Swallow café), and how we can help them find funds for the creation of a green amphitheatre, as well as securing the perimeter with native hedgerows. Partnership discussed this further and had ideas for engaging with young people around it – e.g. Radical, YCSW, Duke of Edinburgh etc. **ACTION**: Rob to investigate possibilities for community inclusion.

It was suggested that WECA may have money available in September.

Partnership members may have contacts with expert knowledge in developing green spaces and community engagement.

- **Dragons' Den 10** planning.

Looking ahead, what do we think about having a general Dragons' Den next as our 10th one? Is 10 a significant, do we want to do something special? Partnership considered raising the winning amount. Something to consider at our future meetings.

- **Next meeting, 28th July, 1:30pm to 2:30pm:**
 - Reacquaint ourselves with the spending plan – what we're spending it on, and when.
 - If time: Start contingency planning for the Learn to Lead budget.