

Minutes of West End Million Partnership Meeting Monday 9 November, West End Community Centre

Present: Simon Das (Chair), Mike Barr, Andy Hemming, Tom Fyson, Paul Colley, Elizabeth Engelke, Janet Hampson, Marian Korzeniowski, Gill Taylor, Robyn Thomas, Melody Treasure, Olivia Treasure, Steve Coghlan, Michelle and Emma (from Lancaster University), Tigger MacGregor, Kathryn MacDonald, Jo Bambrough, Andrew Galland

Apologies: Garry Lloyd, Olivia Thomas, Liz Graydon, Jim Mackison

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as true and accurate record.

Each person introduced themselves and stated their interest and excitement about the West End Million project; there was broad agreement from the group in line with the themes of the working parties; creativity, harnessing local talent, the arts, up-cycling, renovation of housing stock, improvement of buildings, social entrepreneurship, young people and challenging their perspective of the area, the links between the groups and the potential for cross over, engagement with the widest population, working together, developing and maximising local talent while utilising existing skills, expertise and enthusiasms.

UNLTD

AH introduced the Unltd programme and invited the group to consider how social enterprise and social entrepreneurship could help deliver the West End Million plan.

He advised that some of the funding be allocated to kick start new activity and that income generation is vital to the success of the project. He has yet to offer concrete support although a number of individuals and projects have received money through various Unltd schemes.

There are several ways in which he can support the group

- Review the plan as it develops
- Workshops that would provide tools to think about the economy – keep money local – where does the money come in and where does it go out, £1m is not a large sum
- Support for individuals or groups, he stressed that he is unable to continue to visit regularly though will if requested with 6-8 weeks notice and is available via email

He stressed the importance of agreeing a framework for how decisions around spending are made that projects that have sustainability should be prioritised, an agreed framework should prevent conflict. He added that funding for the WEM area

Is not so readily available unless the idea is very strong. The WEM area has benefitted from significant amounts of money, however, Unltd is very keen to support people starting businesses. He suggested that different decision making processes should be applied to the different pots of money.

SD stressed the importance of taking the initiative and taking advantage of Andy's support and that social entrepreneurship should be embedded in all groups. A framework for decision-making would help this

MT mentioned a course at Lancaster University that might be appropriate for developing entrepreneurial skills

Partnership Officers

SD reported that Tigger and Mike have swapped roles: Mike has reverted to the position of treasurer and Tigger is now the secretary.

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Actions from the previous meeting

- The deputy mayor will attend the unveiling of the new mural on Dec 5th
- Scaffolding via LCC has been erected at no cost to the project. This is a good and positive start to the relationship with LCC
- KM to write press release and send details of SD's article to Janet Hampson who will contact Bay Radio
- A budget of £75 has been allocated for refreshments for the event
- Olivia Thomas will provide a contact sheet.
- Simon to contact Stephen Ogden re the WE traders' plans for the Christmas Lights

Constitution meeting

Tigger, Mike , Paul, Simon and Tom will meet to discuss amendments to the constitution for the partnership which doesn't currently fit within the guidelines. The amended document will be circulated to the group for approval.

Jo B asked if there was any information that should be shared prior to the amendment? Is it transparent? Can it be shared so that people can contribute?

Action

The amended document will be circulated well in advance of the next partnership meeting and 10 minutes of that meeting will be spent discussing and agreeing the constitution.

Christmas Tree Festival

Robyn updated the meeting on the progress of the decorations for the Christmas Tree festival to be held at the parish church at the beginning of December.

Actions

- Copy on WEM project is needed for narrative that will be attached to the WEM tree.
- Elizabeth offered to provide a tree for the 3 days
- Janet offered to provide lights
- Glue, string and Hama beads will be needed by CEEP to complete the decorations.

Communities in Control

Emma and Michelle updated the group on the progress of the study, they explained its background and how the study is examining 15 BL areas , investigating the impact of community control on health and well being ,through observation and by attending events. They project is now in Phase 2 , they requested permission to continue to work with WEM and will be delivering a workshop to which residents from other areas are invited to discuss how people work together and how decisions are made.

A workshop in January will reflect on the findings of Phase1 and Phase 2 will continue into 2017. The group agreed to continue to support the research.

High impact projects

PC cited the example of the art in alleyways project. This was discussed along with a number of ideas, which weren't fully formed. There will be a meeting on November 16 to focus on high impact initiatives that demonstrate the progress of the WEM project .

Suggestions included; improvement to shop fronts, illuminations in Regent Park, a journalism-type project with Young People

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Communication

SD wondered if the group were all receiving emails? The last meeting had been poorly attended with few apologies. It was agreed that long email chains are off putting and potentially confusing

TM there is a new system of weekly updates that is aiming to include all relevant information

SD stressed that if a group email is sent out, it is important enough for everyone to read. All the important information is on that email

Locally Trusted Organisation

Update from TF and a discussion of the Locally Trusted Organisation

He reminded the meeting of the process for adopting the partnership constitution;
Meeting – circulate – approve

The LTO is the organisation that has the legal relationship with Big Local. CEEP has held that responsibility for Phase 1. The partnership needs to review what it needs from the LTO as it develops. He explained that it is possible to work with more than one LTO, if appropriate.

Tom explained the responsibilities of the LTO and that 5% payment is made to LTO above the £1m in recognition of the requirements of the role.

It was agreed that TF would discuss the LTO remit with the officers at the meeting that discusses the constitution. Their discussions will be reported at the next partnership meeting. The decision needs to be made quickly and the selected organisation will be subject to due diligence by Big Local as the plan is submitted.

Tom raised awareness of forthcoming workshops and training opportunities available to those involved in Big Local projects. These are free of charge and the costs of child-care covered; social media in Manchester and Well Being in Birmingham in December.

Any of other business

Tigger reported that the More Together magazine is ready for delivery and volunteers are needed to do this

The website is up and running and there will be training sessions at 21 Alexandra Road Morecambe on Wednesday 18th 2015