

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Background to the Local Trust & Big Local..... | 3 |
| Our People and Our History | 5 |
| Our Gems | 12 |
| Our Health..... | 14 |
| New Developments..... | 15 |
| What Have We Been Doing? | 17 |
| The rep – what did she do? | 17 |
| What else has been going on? | 32 |
| What YOU Told Us..... | 35 |
| Our First Year Plan | 37 |

Background to the Local Trust & Big Local

History of the Local Trust – Our area is one of the 150 communities across England chosen to be part of the **Big Local**. This is an exciting opportunity for us to make changes in our neighbourhoods by bringing together all the local talent, ambitions, skills and energy from individuals, groups and organisations who want to make our neighbourhood an even better place to live.

Through the Big Local Trust we have funding of £1m to spend on local need. **WE** decide what the local need is because we live here and we have already talked with local people, so we believe we really understand the issues we face and that we can find our own answers.

The four Big Local outcomes are directly about local people and that puts **US** firmly in the

driving seat:-

- **Communities identify local needs and take action**
- **People will have increased skills and confidence so that they can**
- **continue into the future**
- **The community will make a difference
People will feel that their area is an even better place to live**

The Local Trust directed:- ***“The partnership needs to work in a way that keeps people who live in the area at the centre of decision making and Big Local activities. People locally must be meaningfully involved and their views and aspirations must inform the choices the partnership makes.”***

So remember the Big Local is **NOT** about the government or other organisations telling us what to do. It's **NOT** about individual groups fixing their favourite problem without talking to a wide range of people who live and work in the community and it's **NOT** about short-term

thinking – **WE** have **10 years** or more **to plan and deliver the best options for our area** and whilst we do not need people telling us what to do, we would appreciate their help and support.

Our People and Our History



Chadwell Heath Station 1900

Our area was recorded in 1254 as Chadwell which means “the cold spring” but it merged with Blackheath Common in the 1600’s and became Chadwell Heath. Marks Gate comes from the boundary gate of the Barking Abbey Land and the Royal Hainault Forest.

Our community is now made up of mix of cultures with 59 different spoken languages, though English is the main language spoken by the highest proportion of residents.

The changing landscape of our area means that people have very different experiences of living here and these experiences are all very important in planning changes the area wants to see.

We have 10,021¹ people living in our area with a higher proportion of older people than other wards with 891 residents over 70. This older age profile gives us one of the lowest working age populations in the borough as well as lower proportions of some of the younger age groups. Our large elderly population also dictate some of our housing requirements with sheltered accommodation.

We already have a children's centre which is really good because although our younger population is not as high as some areas it is set to

¹ Corporate Policy and Performance June 2013

grow, some of which can be attributed to the new housing development.

Our community includes 2218 people who are registered as economically inactive, this includes a high number of people who are retired, students and full time carers. Within the whole number we have around 480 residents who are registered as claiming unemployment benefit. Even when in work, our families are on low incomes with full-time salaries lower than any other authority in London.

Community Safety

The crimes in our area that most concern residents are burglary, theft from motor vehicles and antisocial behaviour. Results show violent crime to be the highest percentage of crime within Chadwell Heath ward, but when looking into this further it is because violent crime incorporates a number of different crimes under one title.

Education

Statistics show **some good news**, in that there have been significant improvements in recent years in our education attainment, but more progress is needed to take education across the area up into excellent standards. All of our schools are ranked as at least Good by OFSTED and the quality of teaching is at least good.



Interestingly - and at odds with national and international research – In secondary school it is the girls in the area who are not performing as well as the boys and within that our white population GCSE success rates are 7% lower than national equivalents whilst Black and Asian young people are getting rates that are higher than their national equivalent.



There is some progress into Higher Education, more young people enter further education. Again there is some progress in that “A” level results are improving as is post 16 learning and the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET).

There are some issues in terms of post code rivalry which can affect choices which are made in terms of which school to attend.

Our Place

Over half of our 3,942 homes are owned by us and a quarter of us have paid off our mortgages which means we own them outright. Most of the



remainder of our people live in rented houses with the higher proportion in council or other social housing provision.

We have one of the lowest areas of private rented homes in the borough. Our homes come in all shapes and sizes.

Although there is a lot of green space in the north of the area and a park in the south, young people are not encouraged to use them and sometimes complain of not having enough activities or things to do. In the age old tradition of young people they then take to hanging about areas especially where there are lights and they feel safe. This can cause other people to feel uncomfortable and it has been something that has been commented upon during community activities and events.



Marks Gate has a community centre which houses the library, the adult college and is available for meetings of community groups as well as to local residents for private functions.



The local churches run a range of activities and services for all ages from playgroups through to Elderly drop-in services.

Our Gems

We are lucky to have Wellgate Community Farm in our Big Local Area. It is a traditional city farm.

Its purpose is to provide a focus for community activity and aims to provide education, training, therapy and recreation.



Another of our gems is Padnall Lake. The Friends of Padnall Lake, now part of Agenda 21, work with



the community to make environmental improvements which encourage the wild life, keeps it looking good and provide a natural play area for our children.

A Mirror to Marks Gate

As part of their concern to increase pride in the area Marks Gate Agenda 21 won a grant to establish the Mirror to Marks Gate project. Working with schools, oral historians, memory sessions and displays, residents were made aware of the history of the area from Roman

times to the Second World War. A Heritage Lottery fund feasibility grant has enabled Agenda 21 to continue to explore this history with local partners around how this research can be taken forward.

Our Health



Our consultation suggested that most people are happy with Health services and health workers.

Alcohol misuse creates more stays in hospital when compared to the rest of the borough and

national averages², and although residents have raised issues on a regular basis in terms of drug use in the area this is anecdotal rather than being supported by statistics

New Developments



There is a good mixture of new developments in the area which include:

- Plans for 88 zero carbon 5 bedroom houses in Collier Row Road;
-
-

² Appendix 1: Census Ward Profile and Public Health Statistics

- An exciting development led by St. Mark's Church and their partners for 90 new social homes; a community centre and coffee shop;
- The development of two further sites owned LBBB which will build a further 30 new homes.



What Have We Been Doing?

The rep – what did she do?



Our journey started slowly working with appointment by the Local Trust of the Marks Gate Big Local Rep. She spent most of the summer and autumn of 2012 meeting local

residents, trying to build their interest and confidence for them to become involved with Big Local in the area. Building slowly a group of residents started to become interested and involved; for most this is the first time they had become involved in a resident led and run programme – for many this remains a huge responsibility and very scary.



The Rep attended most meetings, visited local groups and met many local residents to raise awareness resulting in the involvement of a group of 45 residents many of whom attended the open Big Local meetings.

There were a lot of us in the early days, and the open meetings could sometimes run and run. Over a period of months the numbers started to become more manageable with a core group of regular attendees.



The Group decided that the name 'Marks Gate' Big Local didn't represent the whole area and so a new name and logo was designed by a local resident Eddie Piper. 'North Meets South'

(NMS) Big local was born.

Who are we?

We are the group of residents who despite the long and sometimes challenging meetings kept coming back. We are all people who have agreed to volunteer to drive Big Local forward in our area for the benefit of **all!**

We began our initial engagement and outreach

What we did

As a newly formed group we were able to access funding from Big Local to run a number of events and activities to gather a wide range of views and opinions from a range of different people from across the area.



Using the funding available we were able to organise a range of different activities and events. Each event was organised by resident



volunteers – that is local residents who came

forward and were happy to arrange, publicise and run an event. Each event was open to people from across the area to attend.

The purpose of the events was simple:

To raise awareness locally about Big Local;

To ask everybody the same simple questions

‘If you could change one big thing and one little thing locally, what would they be?’

Between our core group we organised:



A trip for families from across the area to Colchester zoo which 50 people attended

A lunch for older people, mostly from the Chadwell Heath side of the area, at the Moby Dick pub. This was attended by 50 people;

Two coffee mornings in the East Road Church Hall, one specifically for Big Local

and another timed to coincide with the National Macmillan Coffee morning both of which attracted 40-50 people;



A fun day at the garden of St. Mark's Church with



the Wellgate Mobile Farm and a bouncy castle which was very popular – not quite so popular as the Ice cream van who set up outside and attracted much passing trade for us!

A morning of ten pin bowling at the City Pavilion in Collier Row Road, this trip was heavily subsidised by them (which we

continue to be thankful for) They provided such a good reduction that 96 people were able to bowl for the morning. There was a mixture of



families and young people – including a group from the local youth club, who were drawn from across the area;

A day out and meal in Brentwood for a group of 27 elderly residents from Portland Gardens sheltered accommodation in Chadwell Heath;

A day out and lunch for a group of 11 residents from Abbey Fields home for the elderly in Chadwell Heath;

We have attended Marks Gate day twice with balloons to entice feedback from local resident's particularly local families;



A summer programme of activities for children from across the area. As with all of the other events and activities the question remained the same 'if you could change one big thing and one little thing locally what would they be'.

The activities included:

Wellgate Farm - 30 children aged 8-14 were able to experience life on a farm for the day;

Jolly Jungle – 25 children aged 1-7 got to run, jump, slip and slide in the Jolly Jungle whilst their parents were able to watch with a cup of tea;

60 people, families with children were able to go swimming (some for the first time) at the swimming pool in Beacontree Heath;

A football day which 60 people attended, children, parents and grandparents which ended with the biggest football match known to the area;

A day at Stubbers for 16 young people aged between 15yrs -21yrs.

This was supported by 3 volunteer adults. The day saw the group do archery, sailing and team building challenges;

Big Local 'It's a Knockout' The North Meets South teams (yes we had 2 teams) supported by Big Local Volunteers left East Road Baptist Church early on a Saturday morning to face young teams from other Big Local areas – the day was a success and all had fun – we didn't win but hopefully there will be next year !



Other ways we have tried:

- Creation of a Facebook page;
- A virtual Newsletter;
- Posters advertising the Big Local events and activities;
- Engagement with the Unltd Star people Programme (which is described in more detail a bit later)
- Open Big Local Conversations that we labelled our 'Community Forum' which are becoming our 'Community Conversation's.' We hired Marks Gate Community Centre and provided information,



Activities from 12noon until 8pm. We hired an entertainer for the children; created a wall art story; prepared some food and then laid out our 'talking table cloths' and invited everybody to write or



draw their idea, the big idea and their little idea. Over 200 people attended which was amazing.

Our aims for the day were:

- To introduce our newly appointed Locally Trusted Organisation – London Community Foundation;
- Show people the journey so far;
- Give everybody the opportunity to talk and share their opinions and ideas;
- Continue to collect more data to review;
- To bring the community together and create new links between people.

Our Partner – UnLtd Star People Programme:

One of the pluses of being a Big Local area is the fact that we get access to the UnLtd “Star People” programme. This is a support programme for local people who have great ideas which benefit the local area, have real social impact, are new innovative and have potential. UnLtd provides 1-to-1 support to help develop your idea, your budgets and also gives



you opportunities to network and build your skills.



The funding supports Star People through 3 stages the first of which is the Try It Awards which fund up to £500 for you to try out your idea, secondly there are Do It Awards which are up to up to £5,000 and in exceptional cases the Build It Awards will offer up to £15,000 for social ventures, community projects and ideas which have the potential to develop rapidly.

What else has been going on?

Whilst we have been talking to local people and gathering views, opinions and aspirations we have also been working to build a framework for Big Local in our area.

We have:

Appointed, through a competitive tendering process, an organisation who is now our Locally Trusted Organisation. The role of the organisation is to:

We have **built** a Big Local Steering Group with members from across the area;

Agreed a Code of Conduct for Steering Group members including a declaration of interest

Drawn up and agreed Terms of Reference for the Steering Group which formed part of the Local Trust endorsement process;

We have been endorsed as the Big Local Steering Group by the Local Trust which means that we are able to progress the work locally as the Big Local resident led body locally;

Worked with a Big Local Plan writer to use the information, comments, opinions and aspirations of local people to build our first Big Local Plan;

We are in **the process** of work with Local Trust to access funding for a Big Local worker for the next 6 months.

There remains plenty to do but not bad for a group of resident volunteers even if we do say so ourselves.

We recognise that we need:

Staff resources to progress a number of activities including regular communication;

Provide co-ordination of the Big Local programme in the area:

Organise the Community events completely including publicity, displays, entertainment including Marks Gate Day;

Draft the monthly email newsletters for agreement by the Partnership and then circulate

it to LCF for the email list, the Marksman, the East Road newsletter & the local shops;

Attend some local events to re-raise the profile of Big Local in the area;

Liaise with each of the Partnership members to get their views on things like the profile and plan Collect feedback etc.

Organise Partnership members to volunteer for different events i.e. attending the community events

Update the notice board in the Community Centre;

Provide administrative support.

If you are interested in this post, please email

What YOU Told Us

From all the information we have gathered we have been able to identify the areas and issues that are the most important for us to look at and

work on in the first few years for the Marks Gate Big Local.

The themes which describe the challenges and aspirations of the residents of the area include:

- Provide support and activities for people of all ages particularly the young people of all ages living within the Big Local area. Young people have been identified across all engagement as the focal point for both aspiration and challenge;

Improve the green spaces; local outdoor environment and facilities available in the area so that more people can benefit from them and want to use them for a variety of social, health related and other activities;

Ensure that the community continues to identify and refine its needs and take action to meet these. Provide a Voice to enable local people to access information and influence service delivery;

- Access to information and services, affordable finance, training, employment and enterprise Opportunities

- Accessible transport services

Our First Year Plan

Our Development

As described in our profile document, the Big Local Steering Group, have consulted, involved and engaged with local people over the past 2 1/2 years through community engagement events, workshops and meetings to identify the issues and work which is important to them and which will help to achieve their local vision.

Our vision and priorities

Together we work to strengthen and grow our community through partnership and sharing of aspirations and innovations.

Our first Plan builds on the work and information gathered through the events and activities conducted to date. It builds on the work and information within our Profile and for the first year we are confident these projects reflect the priorities highlighted across North meets South whilst giving further development and information gathering time for other programmes and projects.

| Community Priority | Action | Budget Allocation |
|--|--|-------------------|
| Environmental Improvement including use of existing assets | To commission an audit of our green and open spaces. | Up to £7K |
| Strengthening Community Strengthening individuals and families | Anecdotally we know that people in the North Meets South Big Local area experience challenges in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Managing personal finance; ○ Access to affordable finance; ○ Basic ESOL, numeracy, literacy; | Up to £8K |

| | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gaining employment; ○ Accessing training; ○ Enjoying good health, both physical and mental health; ○ access to affordable fresh food ○ Digital exclusion <p>We recognise that this is a wide spread and complex issue and that there is no single solution to this issue.</p> <p>We will Commission a piece of research to provide a clear information base and action plan which prioritises actions in response to local needs.</p> | |
| Strengthening Community Strengthening individuals and families | To commission a summer programme of activities for young people of different ages during the school summer holidays | £5K |
| Strengthening Community – Young People | A Young People’s programme. To develop a tender brief which | Up to £8K |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | research around the services available to young people and then development of a menu of services in response to the needs identified. | |
|--|--|--|

Resources – Making the Plan happen.

| | |
|---|--|
| | |
| <p>Creation of a Big Local Co-ordinator post.</p> <p>This post will manage the delivery of the Big Local Plan for the Partnership; each of the themes and activities and ensure timescales and outcomes and produced for the Partnership to inform the ongoing delivery and development of the Programme.</p> <p>The post will initially be for a six month short term contract to enable us to make progress within the implementation of the Plan and also provide support for communication; en-going partnership support and to have a presence within the area.</p> <p>During the initial 6 month contract a recruitment process will be</p> | <p>Six Month Post: £10K</p> <p>Longer term position - £ 28K per annum pro rata plus on costs @ 3 days per week = £16.8K plus oncosts</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>undertaken to recruit a longer term role.</p> <p>This is a new post for both the pre & post plan implementation. The Post will be appointed and managed by the Steering Group; the employing organisation will be the Locally Trusted Organisation on behalf of the Steering Group. The Work plan for this post, ongoing management and monitoring of performance will be managed by the Steering Group.</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development and maintenance of the Steering Group, recruitment of members; identification of organisations and individuals to engage; ○ Widening the use of the NMS Steering Group to engage with local organisations regarding plans ○ Events / social engagements to encourage groups and individuals to mix ○ Steering Group development Activities | Supported activity by the Big Local Co-ordinator |
| Rental for venues for events and social activities and meetings and refreshments | 3K |

1. Other Core Costs

The plan outlines the costs for year 1 . Funding for year 2 will be dependent on the results of work commissioned in year 1 and the Steering Group’s consideration of what they wish to undertake and how this may be taken forward. Outside of the budgets for particular actions to be taken forward there will be a need for other costs to be budgeted for the Steering Group.

| Plan Issue – Other Core Costs | Budget Year 1 |
|--|----------------------|
| Newsletter x2 – printing & delivery | £3k |
| Website – development | £1.5k |
| Strengthening and building Capacity within North Meets Big area including training programmes: | £5k |
| Office Supplies/Costs/ Photocopying | £3k |
| Cost of premises for Big Local Co-ordinator (this cost is based on Marks Gate Community Centre – on 2 days per week only and could be subject to change) | £8-10K per annum |
| LTO Management Costs above the 5% - employment of the Big Local Co-ordinator etc. | Up to £6K |
| Totals | £25.5K |

Summary of Budget

| Area of Plan | Budget Year 1 |
|---|----------------------------|
| Open spaces and the Environment | Up to £7k |
| Social Investment Baseline Research | Up to £8K |
| Summer Programme of activities for Young People | £5K |
| Research and baseline study of Young People's needs and aspirations across the area | Up to £8K |
| Big Local Co-ordination and delivery CDW Post for an 18 month appointment | Up to £26.8K approximately |
| Other Core Costs – as listed above | £25.5K |
| Totals | £80.3K |

All costs are estimated based examples on similar projects in other parts of London.

Local Residents through the partnership **have a voice** to enable access to information and are able to influence the services delivered locally.

Local Residents and other partners **working together to provide** more support and activities for people of all ages, but particularly young people.

**North Meets South Big
Local Partnership**

Access to **locally affordable finance and information** which develop a better understanding of how money works in our area and in our pockets.

Local Residents and other partners **working together to ensure** more improved green spaces to benefit everyone in terms of social engagement and health.

Bridging our community



Our vision is that:-

**Together we work to strengthen and
grow our community through
partnership and sharing of
aspirations and innovations**