Windmill Hill
Big Local
Community Plan
2018-2020:

"It's all about year 11"

JULY 2018

"It's all about year 11"
“It’s all about year 11”
Our NEW Vision for Windmill Hill:

“We will strive to create a happy and healthy community where everyone feels supported.

We will strive to create an environment where all residents are able to achieve and aspire.

As residents, we will work in partnership to make Windmill Hill the best it can be.

Big Local facilitates and supports initiatives that provide improved wellbeing for Windmill Hill residents.

Big Local will strive to create an environment where residents are proud of where they live and come from.”

“It’s all about year 11”
Windmill Hill Big Local

Our neighbourhood:

“It’s all about year 11”
Windmill Hill Big Local Partnership 2018

Windmill Hill Big Local Partnership:

Welcome from the new Chair:

I’m delighted and I feel very privileged to be elected as Chair of Windmill Hill Big Local. As a long term resident and passionate about our community I can see we have some very exciting and challenging times ahead of us.

It has never been more important for residents of Windmill Hill community to come together and support Big Local. To help make our community a place to be proud of and a place where our children and young people can thrive. This plan has been shaped by residents for the benefit of all our community and I would love to see even more residents involved in helping to take our ambitious and exciting Big Local plan forward.

I would also like to thank Mike Shepherd for all his hard work over many years as Chair and his continuing commitment to the Windmill Hill community and the Big Local partnership. It is greatly appreciated.

Irene Bramwell

Update from the outgoing Chair:

“As Chair of Windmill Hill Big Local and as a resident it’s a challenging task, together with the other residents on the Partnership, we give our time freely as we look to improve life on the hill. We have big issues to address; wealth, health and happiness, a tough agenda.

We are addressing wealth through commissioning the Citizens Advice Bureau to offer one to one support for people struggling financially. In just the past year over £30,000 of debt has been written off, over £20,000 of additional benefits accessed and almost £10,000 saved through better money management. Since the initiative

“It’s all about year 11”
began two years ago, collectively the residents of Windmill Hill are over £100,000 better off!

We are also in the latter stages of a feasibility study looking at developing a health and well-being hub for Windmill Hill. A final preferred design option has been identified and as a key part of this new plan we are committing to door-knocking the estate to ensure as many people as possible are aware of the plans. This will also raise the profile of Big Local and our other plans for the future.

We are also in discussion with Halton Borough Council as we are looking to improve Phoenix Park by re-opening the Urban Cafe into a friendly community cafe and develop a new BMX / pump track for local young people. We have already invested in a local CIC which is developing activities at Priory View for all ages to access the activities going on in the building.

We continue to invest in individuals and groups to help them prosper and the results have been positive. We continue to work with Windmill Hill Primary School to improve the life chances of our local children. We provide fun activities at half-terms and summer holidays and have recently expanded the annual Big Week to the ‘BIG2WEEKS’ as well as Halloween and Christmas parties.

So it has been with considerable reluctance that I have decided to step down as Chair. I will continue to fully support the Partnership but I recognise I can’t give the role the time it deserves at a time when my family have to be my first priority. I wish the new chair all the best and look forward to seeing the good work continue and grow.”

Mike Shepherd

Our Overall Role & Approach

The Windmill Hill Big Local partnership is made up of a range of stakeholders. On the partnership we have:-
- Local Residents both individually and representing local community led groups
- our LTO, Groundwork CLM (Cheshire Lancashire Merseyside)
- Local Trust Facilitator
- representatives from the Council’s Community Development Team and Children’s Centre
- St Berteline’s Church
- Windmill Hill Primary School
- Norton Priory (local museum in the Windmill Hill ward)
- Creative Health Initiatives (CHI), a local CIC whose service delivery is within the Windmill Hill ward commissioned by Big Local
- Onward Homes, the social landlord for the housing stock in Windmill Hill

“It’s all about year 11”
• Local Ward Councillor

To ensure residents maintain a majority when voting only Halton Borough Council, the Children’s Centre, Onward Homes (formers Liverpool Housing Trust) and Norton Priory are voting members.

The partnership meets monthly, the administration for the meetings are provided by our Groundwork CLM representative, Dan Ellis. In 2013 a tendering process was conducted by the partnership to appoint a support organisation, Groundwork were successful and have provided the LTO support since then. Dan has been the consistent support worker since 2013, this has been pivotal in building relationships and providing continuity in approach.

Windmill Hill is beginning to see community led activity emerging hence, round the table are residents who are attending on behalf of local groups (such as Snappers, Women of Windmill, Pixel Perfect) as well as those who wish to be involved and supporting Big Local. Numbers of residents on the partnership have grown slowly but steadily with twelve attending recent meetings. There are task and finish style sub-groups as required to develop areas of work, currently there are two sub-groups for the Phoenix Park development and community engagement – both with a core of enthusiastic residents.

The partnership is supported by the Council’s Community Development Team; they have been involved and key supporters since the inception of the programme and provide links for the partnership across the Council and with other public sector bodies at both senior and service grass roots levels. The team also invest time with capacity building and funding support to both new and existing groups on Windmill Hill.

Knowing the Community of Windmill Hill

Windmill Hill is a community of 2,364 people, with a 1003 households. It is the most deprived ward in the Borough of Halton, has the highest level claiming out of work benefits and carers in the Borough. It has the least car ownership with 47% not owning a car or a van and 45% of children are living in poverty; the whole of the ward are in the 10% most deprived in England.

Life expectancy for males is 73.4 years and 78.1 years for females however, healthy life expectancy for males is 50.7 years and for females 49.8 years hence, on average men will experience 23 of their later years in poor health and its 27 years respectively for females.

The largest cohorts of Windmill Hill population are ages 5-9 years and 20-24 years and there is a growing population of older people.

In terms of crime and anti-social behaviour Windmill Hill has less incidents reported than the Borough average.

“It’s all about year 11”
The local primary school, church, children’s centre, social landlord and community venue are active partners with Big Local. There are strong relationships and opportunities to gather insight in knowing and understanding the resident experience and story of place for Windmill Hill.

Within the ward boundary of Windmill Hill there has been a new housing development in the last two years with an expansion of 341 new homes. The dwellings are privately owned and are physically sited on the periphery of the Windmill Hill estate.

**Consultation**

At the outset, Big Local conducted extensive community consultation using an appreciative enquiry style through world café style events, community events, community conversations, social media, a report was produced in April 2014 presenting the detail. One of the questions asked was “What would make the biggest difference in Windmill Hill?” The top responses where:-

- Activities for children
- Less litter & dog mess
- Activities for young people
- Multi-functional community hub
- Environmental Improvements
- Improved transport

The Big Local partnership has embraced these as key priorities and has developed strands of work to respond to these concerns.

The multi-functional hub strand conducted an infrastructure study to articulate the assets, services and activities for local residents. The report also considered opportunities to realise a multi-functional space and concluded recommending a focus around the existing Children’s Centre and St Berteline’s church for potential development.

In 2016 Halton became a pathfinder site for a programme called “Well North”. Well North is a Public Health England initiative striving to address health inequalities between the north and south. Well North works with grass roots projects to create lasting change. The Well North programme for our pathfinder area is known as Well Halton, through our partnership support links with Big Local were forged and Windmill Hill became a Well Halton area of focus, their principles are:-

- Improving the health and wellbeing of everyone
- Backing real people’s dreams and ideas
- Working alongside people and trusting them to shape their own futures
- Bringing energy and creativity to kick-start change
- Tapping into existing assets, resources, talents and skills
- Building new connections and relationships
- Working with social entrepreneurs and businesses to create new enterprises and jobs

“*It’s all about year 11*”
• Sparking community-centred investment and regeneration
• Working with communities to shape more effective health, care and welfare services
• Creating a culture which, wherever possible, says ‘yes’, rather than ‘no’
• Using language which is positive, concise and cuts out jargon
• Boosting confidence through creative and inspiring activities involving everyone
• Creating culture change, enterprise and inspiration in communities which lasts long after we’ve gone

Well Halton & Big Local commissioned a feasibility study for an integrated asset to RIBA stage 2 in September 2017. A steering group was established to oversee the study with Big Local represented alongside partner agencies. The study required consultation with residents and local stakeholders and to further support this work both Big Local and Well Halton co-funded a fixed term (Jan 2017 - March 2018) Community Engagement post to support community conversations and raising awareness within the local community in tandem with the study. The post holder was a Windmill Hill local resident.

During the study, the architects met with local community groups to gather information on community needs, drop in sessions were hosted to view plans on building options and all households received details of the options developed seeking feedback. Disappointingly the responses have been sparing, with just less than 100 residents engaging with the process.

Big Local recognise the need to further engage residents, it has been five years since the last estate wide consultation and the significant potential development of a hub needs more residents to be aware of what’s planned and becoming involved.

September 2018 will be engagement month for Windmill Hill residents. There will be a team (made up of residents and officers) covering the whole estate door knocking each Monday throughout the month during afternoons and early evenings. The estate is split into four zones, as well as door knocking there will be a pop up information point in each area hence, if people don’t wish to talk on their door step but are keen to find out more there will be a highly visible team to visit. We will also have two Friday catch up days, the locations will be promoted for anyone who missed the chance for a conversation to meet the team.

The purpose is:-
• to raise awareness of the Big Local Partnership
• ensure Big Local priorities are right for the residents.
• seek views on the feasibility study option for an integrated asset
• seek views on what’s good about Windmill Hill
• identify residents for regular engagement
• identify future volunteers – in particular striving to establish a Street Champion initiative

The consultation will be completed by the end of September and a report provided to the partnership by the end of October 2018.

“It’s all about year 11”
Annual Plan Review:
“It’s all about Year 11…..but here’s what we did in Year three”

Anne Sherriff our Local Trust facilitator lead the partnership in reviewing their progress over the past year.

This has been approved by the Partnership and submitted to Local Trust.

“It’s all about Year 11”
Years 4 and 5: Plan activity and funding required:

This 2-year plan is the most ambitious yet. With the recent opportunity to refurbish and re-open the local Urban Café and invest in the BMX bike track in Windmill Hill the Partnership are committing to a larger annual spend that any previous Plan. However, the Partnership are still looking to use this investment to draw in additional funds and gift in kind resources. Several local businesses have already offered to provide free materials to help fit-out the new kitchen and an application to a Landfill Tax provider may increase the capital budget for the BMX track by another £20,000.

There are also significant projects in the Plan where the Partnership is not yet able to accurately assess the contribution required from Local Trust. The Health and Well-being Hub feasibility study is all but complete but the costs associated with the next development stage are still unclear. The Partnership also need to agree the contribution to any capital build costs which could be significant. The Partnership will submit a separate application to Local Trust to draw down these funds when the costs are clearer and they feel that they have a mandate from the Community to ring fence any substantial funds to the overall project.

The transport theme is one area of the plan that has made least progress so the Partnership are taking a fresh approach to tackling this problem. There will be a small resident lead working group looking at the most promising opportunities to tackle transport and will again approach Local Trust for funds when they have a clearer understanding of the costs.

In the first three years the Partnership have been quite cautious with their expenditure so as they approach half way in the 10-year programme they still have over £800,000 in their budget, (there will be underspend against the July 2017 plan that will take the total remaining over £800k – see table below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant type</th>
<th>Amount of grant offer</th>
<th>Underspend repaid</th>
<th>Total (notes)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Getting Started</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creating your Local Plan</td>
<td>2,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pathway (part of £1million)</td>
<td>18,000.00</td>
<td>-2,260.98</td>
<td>15,739.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2014 Plan</td>
<td>89,000.00</td>
<td>-29,667.00</td>
<td>59,333.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2016 Plan</td>
<td>143,000.00</td>
<td>-21,375.00</td>
<td>121,625.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2017 Plan</td>
<td>137,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>137,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total available (including investment return of £106,000)</td>
<td>1,149,500.00</td>
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<td>793,811.98</td>
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However, this is slightly misleading as any contribution to supporting the development of the new Health and Well-being Hub (a £3m+ project) is likely to be significant. The Partnership will need to balance making a contribution to the Hub that convinces other external funders to financially support the project without leaving the Partnership unable to continue with its other priorities.

“It’s all about year 11”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aim</th>
<th>Intention</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Project Leads (bold) and partners</th>
<th>Proposed Budget £’s</th>
<th>Next steps</th>
<th>By July 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve Community Venues</td>
<td>Create a multi-functional health and wellbeing community hub to provide an integrated approach to the service provision to support community activity, community cohesion and health service provision.</td>
<td>A feasibility study was commissioned co-funded by Big Local and Warrington Borough Council. A study was undertaken with a local steering group made up of local stakeholder organisations. The context for the study was defined within the study so as there is no longer a GP or Primary Care Hub; the strategy is now focused on the project delivery. Community Shop emerged as a key initiative to be included in the project plans. Final report to be disseminated in July 2018.</td>
<td>Halton Borough Council (WBC) Public Health, Children's Centre, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Warrington Partnership Board, St. Christopher's Parish Church</td>
<td>£1000 bcc</td>
<td>Community feedback by end of September 2018 (part of public engagement exercise)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Support the opening and running of the Urban Café in Phoenix Park</td>
<td>Working with HBC and local not for profit organisation to re-open the Urban Café.</td>
<td>Creative Health Initiative Halton Borough Council £30,000 £3000</td>
<td>£3000</td>
<td>Invest in refurbishment of kitchen in the Urban Café and external branding up to £30,000</td>
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<td>Improve Transport</td>
<td>Provide effective, flexible transport for residents to access employment, health, community, leisure and shopping opportunities.</td>
<td>Renewed focus on improving local transport around the estate, potential to access services to any new community hub and to local destinations. Modest budget to support a transport themed working group to research sustainable transport solutions.</td>
<td>Partnership Board Halton BIC £1000 bcc</td>
<td>Set up a working group with a resident project lead. Service users will be consulted as part of researching a longer term transport solution within the estate and off the estate. SWOT analysis of both hiring and buying a community minibus. Investigate using the HBC 'Travel to' tender for a local transport provider. Separate Business Plan submitted to Local Trust for draw down where a viable delivery plan has been agreed.</td>
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<td>Develop an outdoor BMX bike / pump track</td>
<td>Create the first BMX / pump track in the Borough.</td>
<td>Clarity developed design BMX / pump track options and specifications with BMX costs and future maintenance costs agreed with HBC. Engage young people throughout design process. Determine if support for developing a user group that can deliver a programme at events locality?</td>
<td>Partnership Board Halton BIC £20,000 £3000</td>
<td>Contribution to the 10% third party costs and a capital contribution to support external funding bid for construction costs. Enable BMX / pump track facilities to visit other local tracks to oversee track construction. Use events budget for opening celebration event.</td>
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£160,000 £41,000
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<tr>
<th>Aim</th>
<th>Intention</th>
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<th>Project Leads (bold) and partners</th>
<th>Proposed Budget £’s Yr 4</th>
<th>Proposed Budget £’s Yr 5</th>
<th>Next Steps</th>
<th>July 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raise awareness of Big Local and the opportunities it provides for residents.</td>
<td>Improve Big Local marketing and promotion. Develop a more coherent approach to communicate, connect people and celebrate local success.</td>
<td>Continue Windmill Hill newsletter but develop an equivalent e-newsletter. Develop more online, digital opportunities to share information and engage residents. Look to promote the local and national assets and opportunities on the estate.</td>
<td>Partnership Board (LT) Community Volunteers Local IT expertise</td>
<td>£6000</td>
<td>£9000</td>
<td>Improve promotion of Big Local achievements. Continue hard copy newsletter and encourage residents and partners to sign up to an e-newsletter (SPARC compliant). Develop more coherent marketing of estate assets and branding for events and activities, with new postcards, banners, signage, gannets and maybe a new logo. 14/15 media group to plan marketing opportunities.</td>
<td>Increase DL presence at Priory View – “Home of Big Local”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support events programme.</td>
<td>A rolling programme of community events for all ages.</td>
<td>Due to expand the Big WEEK to the BIG WEEK &amp; Co and develop a variety of events for all age groups and interests. Support the Friends of Windmill Hill Group to run events and being people together. Continue to support St Einf’s Church as they deliver community activities.</td>
<td>Partnership Board Friends of Windmill Hill Onward Housing Halton Borough Council Children’s Centre St Einf’s Church Creative Health Initiatives (CHI)</td>
<td>£12,000</td>
<td>£12,000</td>
<td>Expand the summer events programme – BIG WEEK &amp; Co, and target new audiences especially older residents and young people. Trial new activities to gauge interest, e.g. boat trips. Work with CHI, FACT, Open Eye, Arts Council to develop the “Artful” photography project. Match funding, support £5000 for Norton Priory Blue Room Project to engage local disabled young people in the arts.</td>
<td>Cinema club? A social enterprise opportunity?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating healthy and sustainable places.</td>
<td>Make Windmill Hill less the best it can be? A clean, green and healthy neighbourhood.</td>
<td>Consult with residents to identify other environmental projects that support happiness and healthy lifestyles.</td>
<td>Partnership Board Vtd North Onward Housing Halton Borough Council Greened streets Club Creative Health Initiatives</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
<td>‘In estate’ environmental improvements. Work with Woodland Trust and Onward Housing to explore what would make the estate more appealing, e.g. benches, new building area or bulk planting. Life in the Artful project. &quot;Newbury ‘bush’ waste initiative and the Children’s Centre ‘Monarch’.</td>
<td>Explore future uses of the Health Centre land at the Priory View – Primary School and Community use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manage a small grants fund.</td>
<td>Small grants for local groups and individuals who wish to deliver activities that benefit the wider community.</td>
<td>Continue to promote the newly accessible, low value, quick decision making ‘Community Chest’ grants for the Partnership to manage. Includes bursary fund for talented young people to reach their potential.</td>
<td>Partnership Board Creative Health Initiatives School Board Creative Health Initiatives</td>
<td>£4000</td>
<td>£4000</td>
<td>Continue the small grant fund. Improve reporting and feedback from grant recipients. Enable Cllr to have a delegated £1000 fund for instant mini grants so ideas can be tested before applying for a small grant. Identify a resident encourages feedback from applicants.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support new and existing groups and volunteering opportunities.</td>
<td>Encourage residents to become more active volunteers. Support existing and new youth and community groups delivering services to the community.</td>
<td>Continue to part fund a local resident to co-ordinate volunteer activity and in developing local groups. Identify residents wishing to be more active in their community, develop the ‘Street Champions’ idea. Agree a brief and commision local providers to deliver services most needed for the young, vulnerable and marginalised groups.</td>
<td>Partnership Board Well North Creative Health initiative Onward Housing Halton Borough Council Halton &amp; St Helens VCA Women of Windmill Hill</td>
<td>£32,000</td>
<td>£15,000</td>
<td>Continue to support CHI programme of activity and in developing new groups, e.g. FIAF/Rainbow project, Look to commission services for young people on the estate. Continue to support WOW, and new groups e.g. photography, gardening clubs, etc. Launch new Big Local Community Awards event. Identify resident leaders to progress themes.</td>
<td>Look to create a Big Local Youth Board with a detailed budget to deliver activities important to them.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improve the health and well-being of residents.</td>
<td>Quicker access to services and improved quality of care.</td>
<td>Support Well North: WOW in developing a Women’s Forum.</td>
<td>Partnership Board Women of Windmill Hill (WOW)</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
<td>£5000</td>
<td>Support WOW to develop programme of activity to engage women on what would make the greatest difference to their health. Respond with activities e.g. food clubs, that have a direct impact on their lives. WOW commissioned to lead on the door knocking and speak to every resident with support from INCASE and all Big Local partners. WOW to secure external funding.</td>
<td>A vibrant women’s forum that supports vulnerable women and is focused to engage and signpost to support services.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partnership with Windmill Hill Primary School</td>
<td>Increase parent’s engagement in their child’s learning. Improve pupil’s writing outcomes.</td>
<td>School to develop a creative approach to inspiring children to inspire their writing skills. Windmill Hill Primary School Local Authors StuTech 6/16</td>
<td>£3000</td>
<td>£3000</td>
<td>School to engage with well-known children’s authors and creative writers to inspire children to read and write more confidently and support teachers in improving writing outcomes. Build on link to StuTech Davidbury with an after-school science club and the aquaponics National Research Council.</td>
<td>Opportunity to run a ‘500 words’ competition in school with both stories submitted to the National Competition.</td>
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**Total:** £83,600 £56,000
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reduces poverty and debt</td>
<td>Improve the financial literacy of residents and maximise their disposable income. To reduce the number of residents reliant on payday loans and loan sharks.</td>
<td>The success of the Citizen’s Advice Bureau financial 1-to-1 advocacy / mentor role has made it a core programme in the Windmill Hill programme. Look to developing this further to increase residents’ budgeting skills and maximising their income levels. Can some of this be delivered as a flat programme?</td>
<td>Halton Citizens Advice Bureau</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Help people develop new skills and find employment</td>
<td>Increase the number of residents accessing training and support into employment</td>
<td>Provides training budget to LHF job club to enable greater variety of training opportunities. Look at accessing ILM Jobs programme.</td>
<td>Onward Housing Partnership Board Creative Health Initiatives</td>
<td>£3000</td>
<td>£3000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Help business start-ups and social enterprises</td>
<td>Support Micro – enterprises with advice, expertise and low interest accessible finance.</td>
<td>Big Local to improve support for small business start-ups and community enterprises. Support to the Enterprise Allowance Scheme and transition off benefits if appropriate.</td>
<td>Halton &amp; St. Helens VCA Halton Borough Council Creative Health Initiatives (CHI)</td>
<td>£3000</td>
<td>£3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Income Generation</td>
<td>To secure a long term source of income into Windmill Hill.</td>
<td>Identify local Trustee bodies and skills to manage a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to oversee the development of the Urban CAB.</td>
<td>Partnership Board Onward Housing Creative Health Initiatives (CHI)</td>
<td>£1000</td>
<td>£0</td>
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TOTAL PROJECT COSTS £165,500 £88,000

Groundwork Partnership Support Function (with 2% uplift) £18,654 £18,028

Consumables £1000 £1000

TOTAL PLAN COSTS £186,154 £108,028
Keeping in touch with our communities:

As part of the Plan review it was clear that there are still residents within the Windmill Hill community that appear not to know anything about Big Local or the Partnership’s achievements.

This provided some food for thought and a catalyst for coordinating the September estate wide door-knock mentioned earlier. The Partnership felt it was crucial to knock on every single door so they could be confident that no-one could honestly report they hadn’t had an opportunity to be involved. As a minimum, a simple image rich version of the Big Local plan would be left with each resident highlighting our aims for the next two years and inviting them to get involved.

It was also agreed to bulk up our social media efforts and traditional marketing. Our Facebook page now has over 600 followers and a reach of around 2000 individuals. The website is continually being developed and is now used for online consultation and up to date event information. For the first time in the BIG2WEEKS QR codes are being used to direct people directly to the website events page.

We will continue to create a newsletter that is delivered to every house. New branded pop-up banners, feather banners and gazebos will also be used. A new draft logo has been designed and if it gains Partnership approval it will be used consistently across all formats (our original logo blurred when scaled up so had to be used with care). We now promote activities at different venues on the estate, working together to inform residents of different events and promoting Big Local.

In the last few months, CHI was featured in the Runcorn Weekly News, promoting their activities and partnership with Big Local and more recently Local MP, Mike Amesbury visited and was very supportive of their work with Big Local and will promote this widely via his own social media platforms.

How will our Plan contribute towards transforming Windmill Hill?

From the very outset the Windmill Hill Big Local Partnership has always had an eye on the future. Our strapline “It’s all about year 11” recognises that the £1million is a once in a lifetime opportunity to try and change the quality of lives of our residents for the better. The need for sustainability beyond year 11 and to leave a legacy, either physical or through people’s changed behaviours, skills and aspirations has guided the development of much of this new Community Plan.

The feasibility study into a new Health and Wellbeing Hub on Windmill Hill is vital as the Hub has the potential to transform people’s lives where the impact could be generational. There is a long way to go but Big Local provides that chance to try and address a long held frustration in the community that Windmill Hill always misses out.

“It’s all about year 11”
Big Local is working closely with a new CIC, Creative Health Initiatives (CHI) to get the iconic Urban Café re-opened in Phoenix Park. CHI share Big Locals values and ethos and so with Big Local funding and CHI’s commitment and enthusiasm we expect to provide a locally responsible café providing good value healthy food and drink that will become a profitable social business in the longer term.

The investment into a BMX / pump track for Windmill Hill is a recognition that young people need more opportunities to engage in active healthier lifestyles. They are working with a Landscape Architect on the track design and opportunities to link this with bike maintenance skill is also being investigated.

The modest Big Local investment into providing a Financial Capability Worker from the Local Citizens’ Advice Bureau is returning incredible results. They have provided case studies showing the impact of their expertise will be life changing. In just one example, an elderly person has now been awarded increased annual payments of over £5000 and a one off backdated payment of over £1000. This person can now at least look forward to the future without the crippling worry over how they will cope financially.

We are also investing in working with ‘WOW’ – Women Of Windmill, a new Community Group set up to engage and inspire women. Recent statistics showing that women on the estate on average only live to 49 before they experience a life limiting illness or disability has made this work even more urgent. Women in other areas of the Borough can expect another 21 years of Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE), which the Partnership feels is unacceptable.

Big Local continues to invest in the local Primary School, to provide additional opportunities for children’s learning, in community groups to grow and expand their activity and in individuals to try new ideas and learn new skills.

There is definitely a feeling of growing momentum, not just from increased numbers of residents attending the meetings, but of them taking up new opportunities and getting involved in shaping how this activity develops. There are still sections of the community where we need to do better in explaining the opportunity Big Local provides and that is why we are improving our ongoing promotion and marketing and embarking on an estate-wide door knock.

Residents also appreciate that to extend the Big Local style activities into year eleven there is a need to set up a separate Charitable Incorporated Organisation, (CIO) that can continue to secure external funds in its own right. By getting established sooner rather than later it gives the CIO an opportunity to build a track record of competence and accountability under the supportive umbrella of Big Local. Identifying residents with the right skills mix and willing to take on the responsibility of being a Trustee of a CIO is the next big challenge

With so much going on and the plans being developed I think we can all agree there are exciting times ahead for Windmill Hill.

“It’s all about year 11”