

# Allenton Big Local Community Chest training

This is a short report from our training on 18 February 2014

## Those who took part were:

Margaret, John, Edith, Mike, Thomas, Sue, Kim from Allenton, Hazel from Kirk Hallam and Bill the Big Local Rep

## Those who couldn't make it this time:

Two students from Merrill Academy are interested but were not able to take part this time.

## Our aims for the training:

- Form a panel
- Know what we're doing
- Feel confident in doing it well

## Our plan for the training is shown on this flipchart



## What we did on the training: our report



### 1. Who am I? What do I love about Allenton?

We introduced ourselves briefly and described things that we like about Allenton.

Some of the things that were said included:

- I love how things are constantly changing and evolving for the positive.
- I like the different feel, different people and different vibe around the shops depending on the time of day.
- I was born here and have lived here all my life. I love it. I love the community spirit and how we go from strength to strength. I love the buzz.
- As a shop keeper in Allenton I value the local support, the footfall and that crime and problems with gangs have got better recently.
- People stop and talk to each other.
- The massive wide pavement is really good because there is room to stop and chat and meet people.
- I have lived here for over 50 years and know it well. I like the friendliness and the shopping area and its big range of shops. You can't go out without someone stopping to talk with you.
- I like the mix of people and that it is a friendly place. It is a vibrant area and the shops are welcoming.

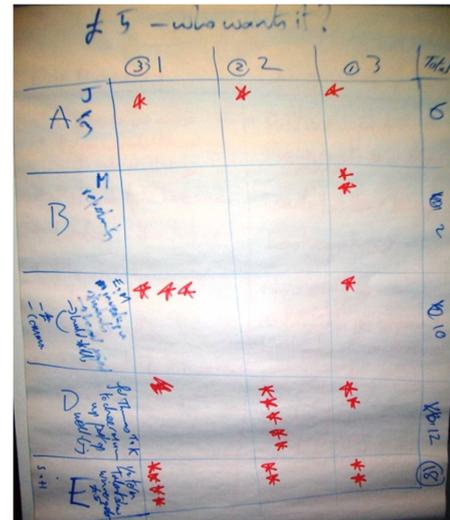
- People use the local shops and support the local area. At our Christmas event, I bumped into 30 people I know.
- There is a bit of everything in the area and it has the potential to become even better. There are exciting opportunities and the chance to build on strengths and to enjoy making the area an even better place to live.

## 2. £5 – who wants it? Exploring grant making

With £5 on the table, small groups prepared and pitched a bid as to why they should get the £5. There were no rules or criteria set.

Everyone voted for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, again with no guidance being given as to what to judge the bids by. After the vote, the group with most votes (E) walked away with the £5.

From this fun but revealing set of grant applications, we looked at what had guided us in casting our own votes, without being instructed. We drew up this list which will now be used to help us for real when making decisions about the community chest applications. No application is likely to meet all of these, but we agreed they offered an important reference point.



Our reasoning	Our guidance	Our reasoning	Our guidance
It would be nice	Positive impact	It would be nice	Positive impact
The idea would lead to other things	Relevant to our plan in the area	The idea would lead to other things	Relevant to our plan
Relevant to the here and now	Leads to other things	Relevant to the here and now	Links to our outcomes
Looking to the future	Looking ahead	Looking to the future	Fit for purpose
How many would benefit	How many would benefit	How many would benefit	Leads to other things
Sounded fun	Reach across the community	Sounded fun	Looks ahead
Appropriate to the amount	Links to our outcomes	Appropriate to the amount of money	How many would benefit
What you can get for your money	Fun / exciting	What do you get for your money	Reach across the community
Our values	Value for money	Our values	Fun and exciting
	Fit for purpose		Value for money
	Our values		Avoids double funding within the plan
	Avoid double funding within the plan		

### Hazel's reflections from her experience in Kirk Hallam

We are very proud about what we have managed and the stories from groups gaining funding are really encouraging. The community chest makes a real difference and has already helped local groups a lot.

The guidelines we developed have really helped us in holding on. We thought we knew everybody in the area, but without being clear about our rules we would have been caught out more than once. On one occasion a residents' name was on an application but they

knew nothing about it. On another occasion two residents had been asked to put their names to an application but had taken no part in developing the bid and knew nothing about the detail.

Most people of course are honest, but some may not follow the rules we have set out. Sometimes as residents on the panel, it can feel a bit exposed if someone else takes a pot at you. All our correspondence is now dealt with via the Local Trusted organisation which gives residents a bit of protection.

We are really clear about the importance of the interview and when people don't show there is nothing we can do! We prepare specific questions for people based on our shortlisting. Telling their story of what's changed thanks to the funding is a requirement of the funding.

### **3. Who are we and what do we do? A quiz about Allenton Big Local**

The next step having thought about grant making in general was to refresh our minds about what Big Kirk Hallam is about in particular. We did this by dividing into teams and having a quiz. Here are the questions and answers.

#### **1) What is Allenton Big Local?**

Allenton Big Local is a £1m over 10 year resident-led programme to help make Allenton an even better place to live. It is run by a partnership board with a majority of residents. It is managed by Enthusiasm, acting as the Local Trusted Organisation.

#### **2) Where's the money coming from and how can it be spent?**

The Lottery has put aside £200m. £150m of this goes to 150 local areas. Spend should fit with the Allenton Big Local vision to make the area an even better place to live. It must be in addition to and not replace what council and other statutory bodies should pay for. The money can be spent on small, medium or large projects responding to local priorities as set out in the Big Local plan.

#### **3) How much money do we have to spend?**

There is £1 million pounds over 10 years. A bit more than that will come from interest on the money we don't spend straight away. We also got some money to help get us started, running local events, consulting local groups, building the partnership and creating the plan.

#### **4) How do you get involved and who can get involved?**

Anyone who lives, works or volunteers in Allenton can take part by keeping in touch, by helping take action or by being on the partnership board. You can contact us via our website, via Enthusiasm or by emailing our coordinator: Kim Bell: [kimallentonblt@virginmedia.com](mailto:kimallentonblt@virginmedia.com).

#### **5) Who runs Allenton Big Local?**

Allenton Big Local is guided by a partnership of residents and workers for the community, supported by our Local Trusted Organisation. Our chair is a resident, Joe Russo. Our Local Trusted Organisation is Enthusiasm.

#### **6) When do you meet and how do we know what's happening?**

Dates of the partnership meetings are on our website and are usually on the third Tuesday of each month. Partnership members are voted on the Board at the annual AGM.

#### **7) What's the money going to be spent on then?**

We had our first two year plan approved by Local trust in January 2014. Our three main areas to focus activity and funding on are to strengthen the community, improve life skills and create opportunities for training and employment. Our plan gives the detail of what will be funded and the outcomes we are aiming for.

### **8) What do we do about embezzlement?**

The plan has to be (and has been) approved by Local Trust, which is appointed by the Lottery to manage the whole programme. The money is paid quarterly to Enthusiasm and has to be reported against to show it is being used for the agreed purposes. Enthusiasm will make funds available to vetted organisations, based on agreement about what they plan to do or proof of what they have done.

### **9) Does the council have a say in this?**

This is a resident led programme based on resident priorities. Some of these will need residents to link with the council to get the best results (like training and employment). The council cannot tell Big Kirk Hallam what to spend our money on. There are two councillors on the partnership board.

### **10) How do people apply for money?**

The community consultation agreed themes and priorities for action. There is a community chest for small grants for groups and organisations to apply for. Larger agreements are being put in place as part of the overall Big Local plan, approved in January 2014.

## **4. Let's have a go! A chance to assess some pretend applications**

Having thought about grant making and how we judge a good application and then having refreshed our memories about Big Kirk Hallam, we then brought these two things together by having a go with some pretend applications. Here is the activity.

Look at these examples. What do you think? Use the application form to think about:

- What seems to fit with the criteria?
  - What doesn't fit?
  - What clarification might you seek?
  - Would you shortlist?
1. Jane and John are passionate about supporting young people at risk and apply for a grant of £500 to run a youth club facility, run by volunteers, helping young people in the Spondon area.
  2. Sanjit and Sophie are workers with the Derby Food Bank. They apply for £1000 to increase their reach to families in the Allenton area, offering good cheap food and household essentials to families in need, thus helping improve their quality of life.
  3. Pat, Paul and Pascale live in Allenton and represent a group committed to tackling the long standing problems about parking availability in the area. They have formed a powerful group and apply for £500 to lobby the council to undertake improvements.
  4. Carol is a 22 year old resident of Allenton starting up a cake and pastry business. She has built a sound business plan and has a good grasp of the local needs and opportunities. She applies for funding.
  5. Karamvir and Kirsty are 8 years old and apply for £1000 for a joint primary school celebration of achievement. Their application includes a range of ideas and has the support and backing from the school.

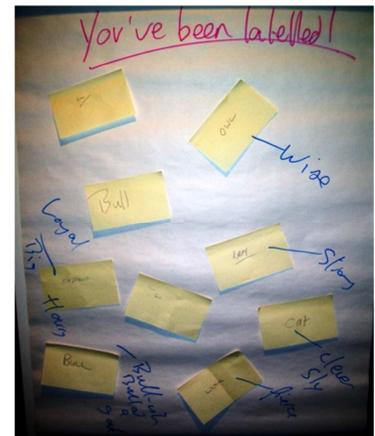
We then talked these through as a whole group and added to our list to think about to make the Community Chest work as well as possible in Allenton.

- Building contacts and relationships
- Being prepared to find out more – we want to help people apply successfully
- Thinking about campaigns – they may not cost much, but they can be supported
- Thinking about amounts and other sources of funding
- Thinking about whether Community Chest is the most appropriate source of funding
- Working with people's strengths and vision
- Teasing out about the benefits
- Referring people with enterprising ideas to Star People run by UnLtd.

## 6. Labels! Labels! Thinking about attitudes that can get in the way

We then took a step back and thought about how we get labelled and how we may label each other and that sometimes this gets in the way of fairness and responding to people openly and giving everyone an equal chance.

We began by labelling ourselves with the name of an animal we thought represented us. We then stuck these on this poster and added the characteristics given to that animal (wise, bullish, strong, sly, clever, loyal, fierce for example). We talked about the importance of the panel being careful not to judge people by the labels we may give them and to be able to work together to make sure people are welcomed and responded to equally with regard to gender, race, culture, age, sexuality, disability.



## 7. Prove it! Exploring how to know we've made a difference

And finally we mentioned how we might know whether people have used the grants and awards well and made the difference they hoped to.

We didn't have a chance to run the activity but here it is just for the record.

Each take a turn in saying three things about ourselves, one of which had to not be true. Then the rest had a go working out which was the lie. The person would try and convince us otherwise with "evidence."

Evidence is usually strongest when it combined written stuff, verbal and visual things like photos or video. So we agreed to change the application form to ask for at least two of these three types of evidence to help make sure the full story of change was shared.

## 8. So how did we do

Before leaving, everyone put 4 dots on the bullseye evaluation to say how well the training had gone. The scores are out of 5.

How enjoyable and interesting?	5
How well did we work together?	5
How useful to me personally?	5
How useful to us as a group?	5
Overall average score:	5 out of 5 (100%)