

South Bermondsey Big Local Partnership

OUR PLAN

Approved at the Big Local South Bermondsey Partnership Meeting on October 22, 2012.

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1. Vision

The aim of this plan is to bring community-led change to the area and to deliver our vision

That vision has two parts. There is the long-term 10 year vision:

- Our area will be visibly cared for, with green spaces 'owned and tended' by local people for community benefit
- Older people will have developed mutually respected relationships with younger people in the area, the consequence of which is that they will feel less threatened and anti social behaviour will have decreased. Older people will be mentally and physically prepared to be able to participate fully in community life.
- Many young people will have developed skills enabling them to participate in the wider community either in undertaking volunteering roles, returning to further education or will be in some form of training or employment
- Each year we will hold a recognition ceremony to highlight individual and group achievement and at the end of the 10 years these results will be put together with our story of how we reached the goal of making our area a better place in which to live.

In order to deliver that 10 year vision we have identified 3 key areas where we will focus our actions and energy in the first years.

A. We want to improve the usage of the green and open space on and around our estates and increase the sense of ownership of those living in the area through improving those spaces and through food growing. In the longer term we would like to identify an unused piece of land and work together on the project to put this to good use.

B. We want to ensure that young people are actively involved in the area across the estates and thereby reduce gang activity and anti-social behaviour. Our first project will be a football

training programme on each estate with a bringing together to select an A and B team representing all the estates where training would take place on a neutral ground. In the second year we aim to introduce an additional programme, probably dance, and that in the longer term for each additional year a further joint activity would be added.

C. We want to see an improvement in community participation by older people in the area, increasing their mental and physical activity and also to see active intergenerational involvement. To achieve this on each estate we will run a series of active events such as armchair exercises, board game competitions, history talks some of which would involve local schools and youth groups. In the longer term we would like to work on a project which would capture some of the history of the area. To this end we as a group identified getting together the history of the local carnival by getting the younger people to capture the older peoples' memories of past events and to get them working together by making costumes to participate in a future carnival event.

All this links to the long-term goal of independent activity led by the Partnership. This will require higher levels of skills and confidence within the local tenants' groups which at the moment are not always there. Therefore one focus for first two years is to build the skills of those who want to get involved in this work and to develop a solid local infrastructure.

2. The story so far

Most of the work to date has been done by the estate TRAs working with Ann Clayton and increasingly working as a group through the 'all estate' meetings which in turn inform the partnership. At the start several of the TRAs were weak or inactive, and newer groups had inherited the poor reputations of previous TRAs. This was a major hurdle to overcome and this working with these groups to build their confidence and readiness to engage with Big Local was a vital first step.

The funding received from the Big Local Getting People Involved Programme and working with Ann's guidance has meant that we have been able to achieve funding way beyond our original expectations. This is because funding opportunities have been brought to our attention, support given to complete the applications, evidence that we have been able to run events successfully and within budget. The funding has been given both financially and in kind.

We are currently reflecting on our success over the last 18 months but we are confident that the figure achieved will be close to £500,000. We intend to document this on a quarterly basis since our start to show the investment over our journey.

Our funders have included:

- Peabody Housing Association
- Tesco
- Asda
- The Queen's Jubilee Fund
- Community First
- The Situ Foundation
- Southwark Council 'Cleaner Greener Safer' fund
- The Community Council

- The Southwark Council Halls Fund
- Southwark Mobility Fund
- United St Saviour's

Events funding has enabled us to hold Fun days, run Coach Outings, an Eid Awareness Day, hold Jubilee Celebrations, Olympic Legacy Events, Easter Celebrations, St Georges Day, Halloween and Christmas Parties, Planting days to name but a few. The St Georges Day alone had attendance of over 300 people. The planting programme has received approximately £4,500 to date.

We have been able to upgrade our halls with notice boards, disability ramps, new chairs and tables, air conditioning, dart board, surround and lighting, new fridge/freezer. We have been able to secure £130,000 for two sites to have play areas and air conditioning. Improving the facilities gives people a sense of pride and we would not have been able to do this without first proving that the halls were being used by the community.

We were able to negotiate a deal for one of our halls to become a temporary (two years) Free School until their permanent premises are ready. This has enabled the estate hall to be fully refurbished, secure an income and still use the premises in the evenings, at weekends and during non term time. The hall will be returned to the tenants fully at the end of the 2 years in pristine condition.

We are beginning to learn negotiating skills, so one of our sites let their hall for karate for private use for two evenings a week, providing the trainer used the hall one evening a week to give free training to tenants of the estate.

A major accounting practice offered their time to clear an allotment space on one of our sites for older people.

Local businesses have provided us with manpower to support events, items to undertake the events and prizes so that we can raise funds at events.

We are actively exploring further funding opportunities and have had direct interest from other funders from whom we believe we will achieve additional funding and support once we secure the next stage of funding from the Big Local.

3. The Key to success - local infrastructure

3.1 Building local skills

The key to all three parts of our vision is that we provide training for local people to support the programme so that the expertise is entrenched in the community and gives sustainability in the longer term. This work links and cuts across all our three project areas.

For example we envisage that in the football programme older people would be involved as coaches, referees, and that the young trainees would be encouraged to befriend a local elderly

person to accompany them to a local football match. We already have the agreement from Millwall F.C. - our local football club - that they would provide both transport and free tickets if required.

These three key objectives when successfully implemented will ensure we have a better community for all, including the hard to reach groups, to live in.

Previous experience of regeneration has seen money poured into programmes but when the money stopped so did the activities. We believe that getting local people involved and trained will ensure that this does not happen and we have 10 years in which to put in these foundation stones. We have already identified our first person to train as a Youth Worker so that he has the expertise to ensure that the youth programme is run well. We have also identified three people who wish to take training for the Green project, one to specialise in therapeutic gardening for the elderly.

3.2 Building more engagement

We have focused the initial work in the Big Local area on Tenant and Resident Associations as the existing and constituted community organisations in the area. We all recognise that there are many more people to be involved, but with limited resources we have focussed on these core organisations.

Our work in the first two years will therefore include expanding our outreach and engagement across the community. We will want to ensure that everyone knows Big Local is happening and has easy opportunities to engage.

We already undertake face to face work, issue flyers, and put up posters. But we need to do more for the people who are harder to reach. A key part of this will be to develop our media work. We will develop and run a website and a regular newsletter with local advertising etc. We will also develop our use of social media, notably facebook and twitter to reach and attract younger people. We have also agreed we need to offer a 'befriending' service for those less confident to participate on their own.

All this will support work on the 3 key issues

3.3 Local Champions

Part of our outreach work will include a Champions Programme which will recognise and celebrate the success of the individuals, the community support and the progress of the Big Local Programme.

This will include an Annual Awards Ceremony open to all those participating in the programme, to which key local figures and groups and press will be invited.

The awards will be presented by a key local figure alongside Big Local Representation from the Big Lottery. This will be captured both photographically and on film for comparison to subsequent ceremonies and the information used in our final report.

We envisage annually that the award will have different levels (similar to the colours of a judo belt) to recognise individual journeys along the 10 year path.

We will encourage our Champions to take every opportunity to speak to the local community such as at Community Council meetings, local Chamber of Commerce, Education facilities, Constituted Groups etc.

3.4 Work with other agencies

There are a great many other organisations and agencies both locally and across London with whom we will look to work. This will be important for our success.

The local organisations include:

- Bede - infrastructure support
- Time and Talents - grassroots support worker
- Local Councillors in both wards
- Local Council particularly Green Space Manager, Mike Mann
- Age UK- to develop the Older Persons key members
- Surrey Docks Farm - to develop a supportive network
- Millwall F.C. Community - to assist with the youth programme
- Local Schools - Evelyn Lowe, Phoenix, Coburg, Walworth Academy, City Academy
- Faith Groups - e.g. the local mosque
- The Bubble - local theatre
- Asylum Artists – a local art group based on one of the estates
- Local Business - Community Champions from Asda and Tesco, local market (the Blue shopping centre) and smaller local traders such as Pound shop, Mothercare, Hairdressers
- Housing Providers - Southwark, City of London, Peabody, Hyde, Amicus Horizon, Family Mosaic
- Statutory Services, Fire, Police
- NHS – both local centres and public health advisors
- Thrive - training for the Green and Elderly group key members
- RHS - training for the Green group key members
- YCA – training for youth workers
- Galleywall Nature Reserve – gardening opportunities

Our intention is to build a network map to show our partnership and collaborative working. This list will continue to grow as we develop and increase our knowledge of our area and on our path to achieve our vision.

4 The three core issues

In the first 2 years this is how we see our approach being implemented:

4.1 The Green Programme:

On each estate we will identify at least one green and open space for improvement. We will attract all age groups in a beautification of those spaces and involvement in growing healthy produce. This will engage people in both healthy exercise and the programme will be extended to include healthy eating. This is a project which will attract people from a very diverse background not just young and old, but different ethnic backgrounds, those with disabilities, and will bring a community together. The ideas for this project area have originated with the CAPIC group (Children and Parents in the Community). For those not interested in gardening we will introduce an art element such as painting and photography. We have agreed access for joint working with 3 local gardens: the sensory and main garden of Time and Talents, Aspinden Nature Garden, and Galleywall Garden. This will help build cooperation and skills.

To support the project we will ensure that a key implementation team from the membership are fully trained and encouragement will be given for others to follow in their footsteps.

This will lead to greater opportunities for volunteering, education and employment. Two key members will be trained by the Royal Horticultural Society in level 2 Horticulture and a third initially will receive training with Thrive concentrating on Therapeutic Gardening.

After gaining experience and support during the first 2 years of the project the long term plan is to secure unused land outside of the estates on a short term lease to have a communal project which will benefit both individuals and the area but will also encourage visitors to the area and increase biodiversity. This is essential in this area as it is currently viewed by many outsiders as an unsafe inner city area. Also the bonds that are forged by working on each others estates will help a communal project to have strong foundations.

4.2 The Youth Programme:

Currently our young people are not engaged in the community and separate estates are seen as isolated units which encourages friction between the young on the different estates. This is further exacerbated by the Old Kent Road which act as a barrier between the estates and by the barriers around the estates themselves.

We would like to introduce an activity programme on the estates and train local people to act as youth workers to sustain the programme. The first part of the programme will mean setting up a football training programme on each estate and teaching leadership skills. On a regular basis the individual groups will be mixed on an off-site area to form two teams to represent the estates in a formal league. Initially we need the professional support and experience of a local provider and have therefore identified Millwall Community as the group we would like to work with. This decision was taken based on their prominence in the local community and their success with working with younger people particularly those harder to reach or not in education, training or work.

We know that for many of these youths formal education did not work as maths and English attainment is very low. We will introduce into the programme novel methods of teaching these subjects to aid long term further education, volunteering and increase employment opportunities.

Each year we would introduce a supplementary activity to the programme and train local people accordingly in the new skills required. This will broaden the attraction to individuals to the programme and account for different interests and skills.

To underpin this programme we will train local people as Youth Workers ensuring that they gain appropriate qualifications and face to face experience in youth work. Our first key member will start a programme this September with the YCA. Training will extend to those interested in providing support as referees and coaches such as some of the parents on the estate.

None of our programmes will work in isolation. We see all these as part of an integrated plan with cross-cutting issues and only in this manner can we ensure a cohesive community in the longer term.

4.3 The Older Peoples Programme with an emphasis on Intergenerational development

It became clear early on that older people had two clear strands of what they would like to see in their 10 year vision. They want to be physically and mentally able to participate in the community so that they are respected and have a significant role to play.

One of our sites Caroline Gardens is only for older tenants and they felt that they had become far removed from the society around them. Another site - the Avondale - has a separate sheltered unit in its grounds the tenants of which rarely mixed with the estate which they are part of. Two sites did have something in place for the older people, one a coffee afternoon and the other a Wednesday club which were enjoyed by the attendees but also did not help to forge relationships with younger people and families on the estates. Some people said that what was on offer did not afford them the opportunity to leave the estate and this only increased isolation and decreased confidence in venturing out of the known into different environments.

Our programme is designed in blocks of eight weeks on each estate (48 weeks –two weeks off for summer and two off for Christmas). Each block would be a different topic or activity and would be open for all the older people on our estates to attend.

We looked first at our two year vision and felt that it would be good to offer an initial programme which would at least take older people in each estate to meet other older people across the area and to have some joint outings during the year to broker friendships and increase confidence. Looking at the two strands identified we feel that an armchair exercise class open to all would be very beneficial as would head massage and reflexology. The second strand would address mental health and the idea of board game challenges seemed very popular, such as darts, chess, draughts, cards. This would encourage active minds and is an activity which could involve younger people too both from the estates, scouts and brownies and local schools. Also it would not rule out those for whom English is not their first language and would help us to involve a wider range of local people.

In the longer term the view was that the local history knowledge and experience of this group is very valuable and could be lost if we did not act quickly. The request initially was for talks on local history which would involve reminiscence and which could help younger people increase their knowledge of their own history and be useful to them to understand the area in which they lived. Making a series of quilts to exhibit based on the diverse background history of our older people is another suggestion that we would like to run with.

This led to an agreement that what was needed in the longer term was a main project which the whole community could work on and which would showcase the work of the group and the area. The conclusion was that the Bermondsey Carnival would be an ideal project to do this. The original carnival started to raise money for local widows and orphans and has been running for many years but there is very little written about it. It is envisaged that young people would be able to interview the older people to capture their memories and to work together on costumes and floats to involve the whole community in a celebratory carnival event across all of the sites. To ensure sustainment of the project our volunteers from the estates will be trained in skills required to work with older people.

5. Delivery and Staffing

Work across the estates that make up the Bermondsey Big Local area requires careful coordination and support. This has been done by Ann Clayton over the last 18 months (see section 2). At a meeting in July 2012 this was discussed with the key groups. They were unanimous in stating that they wanted her to continue. The key reasons given for this was her ability to train and mentor the group, her knowledge of the area which aids development of collaborative and partnerships working, her experience in securing funding, and her level of understanding of the legal requirements needed for a project of this kind.

It is therefore the case that above and beyond the local people three other organisations will have key roles in delivery (see also section 6 below).

Ann Clayton from the Time and Talents centre will work as Community Engagement Facilitator (21 hours per week, see appendix for JD)

Nick Dunne from Bede Settlement will advise as Strategist, providing overview and management support (see appendix for JD)

The United St Saviours charity will act as the Locally Trusted Organisation to manage the finances (see agreement).

6. The risk and challenges

To be successful we agreed that we needed to continue with the infrastructure support provided by Bede and Time and Talents (Ann Clayton). We recognise that we still lack knowledge and experience and that with their support we would be signposted to key connections in our area. Moreover the additional funding brought in with their support enabled us to run more events, attend more training and gain more skills.

We were concerned that this is a large amount of money for us to be responsible for ourselves at this stage as many of us still have fairly basic treasury skills. Also we wanted to use the skills of a professional grant giving organisation to initially assess the feasibility of any applications for projects. We approached United St Saviour's - the most active local charity who operate only in Southwark - to see if they felt they could assist us and our request has been received by them very positively.

Throughout this period the Partnership will still take the final decisions but we feel this will help us during our learning curve phase and we will ensure that there are no conflicts of interests by involving a reputable third party.

7. Other funding

As will be seen above the various organisations within the partnership have been very successful in bringing in other funding to the area for local projects. This will be particularly important as the number of core projects develop and will also support a growing programme of social activities and improvements on and across the estates.

At present it is hard to be precise on this. Areas where we will work most actively will be those which look to replace BL funds committed in the budget below so that these programmes can continue using less or no BL funds in the future.

To give you examples by programme of where we think these savings can be made, here are a few examples:

The youth programme – having established our teams we will seek sponsorship for kits and equipment from local business. We will also be eligible to apply for relevant funding from the likes of Sport England and the Football Foundation. We will have our own trained coaches and referees on the estates without the need to hire in.

The green programme – at the beginning it will be necessary to purchase tools and storage facilities but these are one offs and the purchase of further items will reduce after the first two years. We currently have agreed access with 3 local gardens (see 4.1). This network will assist in the development of partnership working and increase funding opportunity with the likes of the Tudor Trust.

The older peoples / intergenerational programme – initially costs incur hire charges for transport but we anticipate that people will grow in confidence and may make more use of Dial-a-ride, Taxi-card and other similar transport opportunities. We will ensure that newly made friendships are fostered and that befriending assists in getting older people to share transport. We already have offers from several speakers who will help us with our history programme for the older people and they are willing to do this free of charge. By developing our networks locally we will see more of this benefit in kind which will assist us in reducing programme costs.

For all our programmes and events we will make best use of our local contacts and networks to assist in reducing costs and we will develop our funding knowledge to be able to take advantage of funding opportunities. To show our progress in this area in our end of year report we will include full updates on the above.

8. The Budget

The first two year costs are going to be higher than for following years. We believe it is essential that we frontload our programme for the following reasons:

- Set up costs for the website, newsletter and other forms of media
- Training for key members of the programme as currently we have no mentors who have these skills
- The cost of the football programme in the first year has set up costs and development costs which will not be required as the programme continues as we will have our own trained coaches for example. Also subsequent programmes such as dance and karate will be less expensive and will be able to use developed parts of the other programme such as English and Mathematics skills.
- Our knowledge of the funding available and our ability to secure funding will improve and we will no longer need to concentrate on bringing premises and equipment up to date as we have achieved that already.
- We believe in time we will be able to develop the skills required to fully manage the programme ourselves.

YEAR 1

Local priority/theme	Project/activity task	Start date (MM/YY)	End date (MM/YY)	Cost (£1,000's)	Organisation delivering
Infrastructure	Website	11/12	2/13	2.0	AC will sub contract
	Training see below for breakdown	11/12	10/13	5.0	various
	SBP support	11/12	10/13	2.0	Bede
	Staffing	11/12	10/13	47	AC
	Newsletter	11/12	10/13	2.0	AC will sub contract with local people
	Management	11/12	10/13	9.0	Bede
	Champions	4/13	10/13	2.0	AC
	Mentoring (Kevin)	11/12	10/13	2.0	Various- staff at Bede
	USS	11/12	10/13	5.0	USS
Young people	Coordination Kevin	11/12	10/13	1.0	AC w KJS
	Events	11/12	10/13	6.0	Local groups
	Football see below for breakdown	11/12	10/13	49	Millwall
Green spaces	Coordination	11/12	10/13	3.0	AC w others
	Local projects	3/13	10/13	6.0	Local groups
	Events	11/12	10/13	4.0	Local groups
Older people	Coordination	11/12	10/13	2.0	AC w others
	Local projects	11/12	10/13	6.0	Local groups
	Events	11/12	10/13	2.0	Local groups
	Transport	11/12	10/13	5.0	AC will sub contract
TOTAL				160	

YEAR 2

Local priority/theme	Project/activity task	Start date (MM/YY)	End date (MM/YY)	Cost (£1,000's)	Organisation delivering
Infrastructure	Website	3/13	2/14	2.0	AC as above
	Training see below for breakdown	3/13	2/14	4.0	various
	SBP support	3/13	2/14	2.0	Bede
	uss	3/13	2/14	5.0	uss
	Staffing	11/13	10/14	47.0	AC
	Newsletter	11/13	10/14	1.0	AC as above
	Management	11/13	10/14	9.0	Bede
	Champions	11/13	10/14	2.0	AC
Young people	Coordination	11/13	10/14	2.0	AC – KJS & another
	Events	11/13	10/14	5.0	Local groups
	Football ongoing costs	11/13	10/14	48.0	Millwall
	New programme – e.g. dance	11/13	10/14	5.0	To be agreed
Green spaces	Coordination	11/13	10/14	2.0	AC & others
	Local projects	3/14	10/14	5.0	Local groups
	Events	11/13	10/14	5.0	Local groups
Older people	Coordination	11/13	10/14	2.0	AC & others
	Local projects	11/13	10/14	5.0	Local groups
	Events	11/13	10/14	5.0	Local groups
	Transport	11/13	10/14	4.0	AC -sub con
TOTAL				160	

- Appendix 1 Training programme costs
- Appendix 2 Football programme costs
- Appendix 3 Ann Clayton, Time and Talents, Job Description
- Appendix 4 Nick Dunne, Bede Settlement, Job Description
- Appendix 5 United St Saviours Flowchart