



Summary report of the Goldthorpe and Bolton on Dearne Big Local Plan Review – May 2016

Introduction

The 19th June 2016 will mark the end of the first year of the delivery of our Plan and in line with Local Trust requirements a structured approach to carrying out a review of our progress has been undertaken.

The main focus of the review is to look at whether we have met our priorities for Year 1 and whether any changes need to be made to the priorities. These priorities are currently in our Plan;

- Housing Project
- Community Learning and Skills Centre
- Community Hub
- Project Worker
- Community Cinema
- Website and Newsletter
- Small Grants
- Social Events for all ages
- CCTV mobile cameras

These projects fall into one of five different themes that form part of our vision and include the following;

- Increasing Community Spirit
- Employment and Training
- Making Big Local Happen
- Environmental Improvements
- More Leisure Activities

Throughout the year we have continually strived to ensure that we consult with the community through regular meetings, social media, Big Local Website, events and extensive networking to make sure we are meeting our priorities.

During May 2016 an electronic survey was developed by our Local Trust Representative, Alister Shaw which was sent to a wide representation of people within our community. The results and comments from this survey have been utilised into our Plan Review.

On the 10th May 2016 our Plan Review meeting took place and the people that attended helped to go through our Plan to look at what we had achieved, what needed improvement and what needed changing. This exercise allowed us to look more closely at the progress we have made and helped us to identify what needs to be included in Year 2 and the budget that will be required to deliver the projects.

Following the Review we were able to identify what we have done well and what lessons we have learnt along the way. We looked at all the projects in the Plan and assessed whether they needed to either kept in the Plan, kept in but changed or dropped from the Plan. We also identified new projects that meet our priorities that need to be included in the Plan.

The main focus to the review is to ensure that the following 9 questions are answered with the results from the Plan Review meeting forming the answer to question 1.

Question 1 - What have you done against what was in your Plan?

Dearne District Junior Football Club (DDJFC)

This club received funding of £7,500 to put on a Football Tournament with a Fun Day that all members of the community could enjoy. Twenty three clubs competed in the completion over 2 days with rides, stalls, BBQ, petting zoo, archery and live music outside on the Saturday evening. The event was really well attended and enough money was raised for the club to put the event on this (2016).

The event could have been marketed better and more community volunteers would have helped the club achieve this. We learnt that by funding this type of event in full for the first time lends itself to a 'springboard' that will allow groups and organisations to continue putting the event on each year. This benefits the community as a whole and not just the football clubs involved and is also a great opportunity for fund raising.

Tour de Dearne

This event was also delivered by the (DDJFC) with match funding of £2,500 from Big Local. The timing of the event coincided with the Tour de France in 2015 and this was a great way to raise awareness of a local cycling activity. There were over 200 hundred participants (all children) and everyone really enjoyed it and support was great on the day. The event was well publicised in the sporting environments and it did encourage health and well-being. Whilst it was a real success the review found that it would have been better if it had been wider advertised to the non-sporting communities and if there could have been involvement from the people influential in cycling. This was another successful project completed and is now part of an annual calendar of community events.

Bounce Into Summer Day

This event was delivered by a local community group (Goldthorpe Development Group) who have a great deal of experience of putting on local events. Big Local fully funded this event which cost £5,000 under the 'springboard' model mentioned above. The event was a mix of rides, stalls and games and a charge of £1 was made for a wristband that allowed a child to go on the rides all day. The event expected to attract an audience of 200 but on the day over 1000 children bought wristbands and the event was a massive success. It gave the whole community a lift and brought friends and families out to enjoy the sunshine and a fun, inexpensive day out. The event is now planned for 2016 and will again be delivered by the GDG and it is felt that this type of event is needed as a yearly event as it gives people something to look forward to and brings the community together. It really lifted community and was talked about as a great day out and was welcomed by all.

Broadband for All

This project has not progressed but work in this area has been carried out by the South Yorkshire Credit Union. We are uncertain whether we will progress with this project in Year 2 of the Plan but will make the provision for it in the budget.

Social events for all ages and small grants

Lots of organisations and groups have benefited from funding including, Goldthorpe Development Group (£8,000), Foodcycle (£1,000), hOurbank (£1,137), Stay Fit, Bolton (£500) Bolton on Dearne Voluntary Action Group (£8,300), Women's Institute (£235.20), Memories of Growing up in Goldthorpe (£1000), Phoenix Futures (£1000) to name a few. This funding has allowed the groups to put on a number of activities working across a broad range of the community and some of the activities include, children's coach trip, social events, Christmas Markets, cookery classes.

The small grants have proved extremely successful and help in bringing the community together and give things to do which everyone looks forward to. The grants have also helped to promote Big Local and ensure that people get involved and stay involved. The grants are usually promoted by word of mouth and there has been very little publicity around the grants but that has not stopped an influx of applications being received.

We have learnt that it is important for openness and transparency when making decisions to spend the money. We have also learnt the value of ensuring that a Service Level Agreement is written for each application which stipulates how the money is to be used and contain a few conditions. We have also learnt that the grants are the best way to encourage community involvement in Big Local and as such will plan to give out more funding during 2016 for local groups and organisations.

Dearne Community Cinema

The Dearne Community Cinema is a project that has had different levels of success over the last twelve months. The project started out as a trial with money from GB Big Local and Big Local Thurnscoe putting money into it and it was operated from the local high school in Goldthorpe. Once money was available from GB Big Local equipment was purchased and installed in the Dearne Playhouse and has resulted in some match funding from Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Newground Together and Unltd. It has also been a great project for attracting volunteers who have really enjoyed getting involved.

There have been a few blips in attracting big enough audiences to the cinema and the Unltd funding received will be used to really market and promote the cinema with a view to have a regular programme of films showing over the summer months and beyond.

The cinema project is a classic example of demonstrating that despite people saying they want something this does not lead to them supporting the project. The cinema is quite expensive to run due to the copyright license fees and we have learnt to research well and look at what other areas are achieving and share ideas and use external partners.

Community Mini Bus

Having done some more research into this project and after speaking to other Big Local areas that have obtained a mini bus we have decided against going down the route of purchasing a mini bus. We have been advised that it can be fraught with difficulties in maintaining and running a service. We have looked into what is available in our area and have found an initiative called 'Door to Door' which is a mini bus service that can be booked by groups or individuals to help them get around. We feel this meets the needs of our community and will be utilising the service to ensure the elderly can get to our events. The mini bus project will be removed from the Plan and replaced with Community Transport.

Quick Feet

Unfortunately this project has not materialised due to the group that requested it informing Big Local that it was not viable for them to run it. The funding allocated to this project was distributed for small grants to a number of other local groups and organisations for a range of different projects and activities that have been identified in this review.

Community Café

This project has been delivered by BODY Carnegie who wanted to put a café for community use into its premises. The project has been slow to complete due to problems with fire regulations and it is dependent on volunteer builders to complete the work. Due to these problems the grant was agreed to be given in three stages and depending of progress of work. The work has progressed really well and the group have worked within the Service Level Agreement and are now ready for the final stages of work and is on track to be

completed within specified timescales. The success of this project has depended on the people who have made it happen been passionate about the project and we have learnt that this helps to build relations and ensure everyone works together to make things happen.

Community Skills and Learning Centre – ‘Our Shed’

This project is proving popular and has attracted some good feedback and good will from volunteers. There are plenty of potential venues for classes within Goldthorpe and Bolton on Dearne and a good base has been established in The Renaissance Centre in Bolton on Dearne.

The project has not proceeded as quickly as we would like due to a number of issues and problems with opening a bank account. The bank account is now open and hopefully money can be drawn down to start the project. We need to consider advertising and promoting the project as widely as possible to ensure its success and we need to engage and find potential learners and possible tutors.

This project has allowed us to learn that our community is positive about learning new skills and there are a lot of people who are keen to help with the project and agree that there is a need for ‘Our Shed’ activities. We now need to establish workshops, and promote the events and build on the good will that has already being established.

Housing Project

This project has progressed very well with four houses purchased and 6 apprentices employed to refurbish the properties. These apprentices will gain a number of skills and qualifications in the building and construction industry including the new ‘Maintenance and Refurbishment’ which is accredited by the industry awarding body.

The project has received lots of local and national attention and is a model that other Big Local areas area interested in learning about. We have also attracted attention and support from local businesses that are keen to help with the scheme.

‘Time’ apprentices are developing work skills and knowledge that will speed up the work to be done. We need to try and increase the number of apprentices to ensure that work can progress on further properties and we will need to look at the possibility of drawing down more funding to ensure that all the properties are completed.

It was decided that the worst of the four houses would be the first to be refurbished due to the state of it and the effect it as having on neighbouring properties. However, it has turned out to be a much bigger job than anticipated and has taken a large amount of the funding. On a positive note it has provided the apprentices with a full range of skills and experience that they might not have achieved so quickly in other properties.

We now need to concentrate on completing all the properties so they can be rented and due to the success of the scheme we would like to look at expanding it by purchasing more houses. We also recognise the importance of giving apprentices good quality training that will give them the skills and experience to gain qualifications that could lead to employment. We have decided that a further £12,000 will be awarded to BCB to fund places for more apprentices to work in Goldthorpe and Bolton on Dearne.

Improve how the area looks and feels

A lot of our work has been aimed at making our community a better place to live and work and to improve how the area looks and feels. There have been many projects undertaken over the last 12 months that have achieved this aim. There are two strong community groups in our Big Local area, Bolton on Dearne Voluntary Action Group and Goldthorpe Development Group. Both have received substantial funding which has helped them to carry out improvements in the area including litter picks, planting schemes, and general tidying up of open areas.

Big Local volunteers and our Support Worker have also been instrumental in making some improvements whilst involving a wide range of the community, such as the Phoenix Park underpass painting project.

Big Local is instrumental in gaining continued support from other groups and agencies to ensure projects continue to be carried out. We have learnt that there is a massive value in having strong, committed voluntary groups who by working together can make a real and lasting difference to the visual look of an area. We also recognise that this project will continually evolve and change as different needs occur in the area.

CCTV mobile cameras

We have established relationships with the Local Authorities Safer Stronger Neighbourhood team to get this project up and running. A deal was negotiated with a company called WCCTV to buy four mobile CCTV cameras with 2 vehicle license plate identification cameras. The cameras will be deployed into our community to help tackle issues surrounding environmental crime and to try and tackle some other crime and safety issues.

The project has been slow off the start due to some companies letting us down with the order and council cut-backs but by persisting we have now forged the relationships to deliver the project and the equipment has been delivered. The CCTV sub-group will now be planning to get the cameras into some hot-spot areas in our community.

Some media coverage will be organised so that the public in our community know that the cameras are available and we will ensure that any success stories are shared.

This project has certainly been challenging due to the range of organisations that need to be involved and the complexity of legislation. However, we are confident the cameras will be in demand and will help to make real difference to our area. There is the potential to earn some income from the scheme or apply for further funding to expand if it is successful.

Big Local Support Worker

It was realised early on that we would need a support worker if we were to get the Plan written and assistance to deliver projects within the Plan. We had a volunteer in our group who was interesting in helping out, initially with the writing of the Plan. It was agreed that she would be employed for 7 hours a week for this purpose. We soon realised our dependence on a worker was becoming a real need and gradually over a period of six months this volunteer moved into role for 30 hours a week.

We firmly believe that the Support Worker has proved to be dedicated to the project delivery and has been instrumental in networking and building relationships with other agencies and organisations. The Support Worker has also worked really hard to promote and publicise Big Local at every opportunity.

We are of the opinion that we have only been able to achieve so much in the first year through the work of the Support Worker in co-ordinating work and enlisting volunteers to assist us. We now need to build on this work and continue to get more volunteers and residents involved. It is recognised by the Partnership Board and volunteers that the role of Support Worker is integral to the success of making Big Local happen and keeping projects on track for completion. The Support Worker role needs to be kept to ensure continuing success.

Newsletter and 'What's on Guide'

Initially a budget was included in the Plan for the production of a Newsletter, however, it soon became apparent that it would need effort and enthusiasm and plenty of material to put in one. It has not progressed as well as expected, due in the main, to the amount of work involved. We were also invited to put some articles in the Dearne News Magazine that is distributed twice a year by the council. We decided to take this offer up and we did get a full page in the magazine to promote Big Local and the work we have been doing. We are now of the opinion that the time is right to have a newsletter of our own produced and the Partnership Board members and Support Worker are going to be making this one of the priorities for Year 2.

The results of the review survey have made us realise that not everyone has heard of Big Local and do not understand what it is and we feel that a newsletter at this stage would be very beneficial to our community.

Goldthorpe and Bolton on Dearne Big Local Website

It was recognised early on that a website would be a very useful way of communicating with some members of our community and would help with community engagement. However, it has been quite a difficult thing to achieve due to the amount of work involved. We did receive some advice from other groups about setting up your own free website but we did not feel we had the expertise for this and we wanted our website to be more professional looking. With the work of one of the Partnership Board members and the Support Worker we enlisted the help of a web design company and our website was finally launched at the end of September 2015. We are now working hard at ensuring that the website is kept up to date and to make it a good information point to find out about what is happening both in Big Local and in our community. We have taken on board comments relating to the ease of finding documents on the site and have developed a separate page for this purpose. We do find it time consuming but having a couple of dedicated administrators and the continued support and back-up of the web designer is paying dividends and the website is continually developing.

Developing our Big Local Partnership

We recognise that in order to make Big Local happen the only way to do this is by building partnerships including forming a strong Partnership Board but also enlisting the help of external partnerships. Our Partnership Board have been very lucky in having great external partners/volunteers that have delivered many of the projects in the Plan. Many of our projects have been delivered in partnership with other agencies, groups and organisations and we continually look for new partnerships.

Part of our work has also included finding appropriate support for groups and assisting in facilitating events which have all helped to raise the profile of Big Local. We feel we have had some great successes in this area and that developing partnerships has in general been very effective.

We do feel that we now need to ensure we make more impact with promoting Big Local to ensure it is more widely understood and feel the newsletter will assist in doing this. We will actively work to recruit new Partnership Board members with the relevant skills and enthusiasm which provide a wide representation of our community.

Unfortunately despite all best efforts to maintain relationships the Partnership Board have learnt that we can be challenged by our community and a recent complaint about our work resulted in a disruptive investigation. However, following completion of a review of the complaint we have learnt not be despondent if relationships fail but instead to take heart from our achievements and strengths as a Partnership Board. We know we have made a positive impact in our area with the community taking full benefit of what the whole ethos of Big Local entails.

We will continue to strive to build lasting relationships with a whole range of partners as we recognise that this will ensure projects are delivered. We continually try to spread the word about Big Local and look for people that can bring relevant skills to enhance project delivery and community cohesion.

We fully value all the support we have received from our Partners and all Big Local members/volunteers who have helped Big Local happen and helped to achieve so much in our first year. **We would like to say a special thank you to all of you**, and below are some of our major partners who have worked hard with us this year this list is not exhaustive and we apologise if we have missed anyone off;

- Dearne Advance Learning Centre
- Bolton on Dearne Voluntary Action Group
- Goldthorpe Development Group
- Safer Stronger Neighbourhood Team
- hOurbank (DIAL Barnsley)
- Coalfields Regeneration Trust
- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Barnsley Community Build
- Voluntary Action Barnsley
- Phoenix Futures
- Stayfit Goldthorpe
- Memories of Growing up in Goldthorpe
- South Yorkshire Credit Union
- Local businesses
- Dearne District Junior Football Club
- Dearne Playhouse
- Big Local Thurnscoe
- Forestry Commission
- Sheffield University
- Local Trust
- AT Print
- Salvation Army

During Year 1 we have decided to end our contract with our current Local Trusted Organisation Partner, Voluntary Action Barnsley and would like to say a big thank you to all the staff there that have helped and supported us. We look forward to forming a good working Partnership with Barnsley Community Build, our new Local Trusted Organisation, who we feel sure will help us to meet our changing needs as we progress with delivery of our Big Local Plan.

One Shared Vision for the Future of the Dearne

We feel we have made good progress with this initiative and recognise the importance we have played in helping to raise peoples morale and spirit. We have been keen to utilise every opportunity to work with others and support common goals whilst avoiding duplication. We are now going to concentrate more effort on continuing to network and improve communication links whilst promoting Big Local and looking for more volunteers.

We have learnt that there is so much going on in our area and that by sharing one vision greater and better things can be achieved.

Additional activity achieved

Whilst trying to adhere to what we prioritised in Year 1 & 2 of the Plan we have also managed to achieve some additional projects mainly by forging a partnership with our local credit union and the hard work of one of our volunteers and Support Worker.

South Yorkshire Credit Union

It is well recognised that a credit union can bring a big difference to areas like ours that suffers some deprivation. We have worked really hard with our credit union and helped to shape the services of it to meet more with our community needs.

Our area has suffered greatly with the loss of our two banks in the last 12 months and one of our volunteers felt strongly that this needed to be addressed. She approached the South Yorkshire Credit Union and over the space of 6 months managed to achieve the following;

- Establish the Big Local Bank Local project ensuring our community found out about what alternative banking facilities were available through the local post office and credit union
- Instrumental in helping the credit union to find bigger premises to purchase therefore allowing them to extend the services
- Look into the offer of a Community Hub to operate from the new Credit Union premises
- Promoted Credit Union and helped them to engage more with the community to raise their profile.
- Increase membership in the Big Local area
- GB Big Local are in the process of looking to invest a sum of £20,000 in a newly opened credit union account which incurs a 5% interest rate for a 12 month investment

Phoenix Park Underpass

Some of our volunteers and Support Worker have worked in partnership with the Forestry Commission to improve an underpass which gives entry to the park from both Goldthorpe and Thurnscoe. A local artist has been commissioned to carry out a number of workshops in the community to get everyone involved in coming up with ideas for the murals that will be painted during the week commencing 25th July 2016. Once the murals are painted an anti-graffiti coating will be applied to protect them against vandalism.

Train Learn and Earn in the Dearne Event

This event was held to promote what the Dearne has to offer in terms of training and employability and had a strong emphasis on business start-up. It brought together a number of agencies and organisations for a full day event at the Dearne Playhouse. The project was successful in terms of providing really good networking opportunities but it could have been better attended. A number of factors resulted in not attracting the numbers we thought would attend mainly, lack of support with some other agencies not fully promoting the event, clashing with another event that was planned after publication of our event and lack of interest from local employers.

Despite this we think it was a worthwhile project and should be carried out next year but take more time to research and plan the event.

Christmas Market – Goldthorpe

We gave a large amount of funding and support to the GDG to purchase lighting for the market that allowed them to put on a Christmas market for the first time in 7 years. The funding also paid for all entertainment and food outlets and 500 selection boxes for the Santa's Grotto. This market was a huge success and attracted over 3,000 visitors which made a very vibrant evening of food and entertainment with a wide range of goods on sale at over 60 stalls.

Question 2 – What money have you spent?

In the main we have spent fairly well against most of our projects. There has been some underspend on the Skills and Training Centre but with agreement of Local Trust we have used money from its allocation to fund many of the events throughout the year so this will need to be reflected in an amended budget sheet. We massively under budgeted for the amount of grants and events that have been held this year but we feel that this is a good investment as it has helped to get people involved and keep them involved. We now also have five major events that will be held annually in our area due to funding from Big Local. The housing budget has almost been spent in full and the renovation of the four properties will need more funding due to buying four houses instead of three and the amount of work to the worst of the properties. See our budget sheet for more information.

Question 3 – What impact have you had?

We think that the sheer amount of work we have achieved in year 1 has started to make a real impact and difference to our community. We have delivered on most of the projects in the Plan and will ensure that we continue to deliver into year 2 after making some slight adjustments.

We are reaching out to our community with different methods of communication and are always seeking to expand our communication links at every opportunity. We have had extensive coverage in the press and local radio stations and have also attracted national press coverage for some of the work we have done.

We have managed to pull together two major projects and investment in the shape of Dearne Community Housing and the CCTV cameras. Both these projects are quite ground breaking and will provide not only a safer better place to live but also provide skills, training opportunities, volunteer opportunities and eventually paid employment. Both these projects will also have an impact on local business that will be able to benefit from the cameras and the extra business for services to the renovated properties.

The funding given to local groups has helped our area to benefit from a cleaner environment and some really good annual events to look forward to each year.

We have actively sought new volunteers to help with our work and provided them with the confidence to work in the community to develop their skills and knowledge of the community they are living in. This work has also been enhanced by the partnerships we have built with other organisations who have given us great support including BMDC, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, local police and tasking officers, Salvation Army, local educational bodies to name but a few.

Question 4 – What have you learnt?

As we approach our first anniversary we have reflected a great deal on what we have learnt over the last 12 months. We have learnt that there is much more work involved in ensuring Big Local happens and that it is a very steep learning curve but we take heart from our many great achievements. We have learnt how to handle conflict and manage criticism whilst remaining strong and still delivering projects.

The review process has helped us to recognise the following;

- The value of forging and maintaining good relationships with a variety of different partners/volunteers
- The importance of having a strong active Partnership Board
- The need for support from our Local Trust Representative
- The value of a Support Worker
- Some things can take longer to achieve and take more money

- How to work well as a team and keep a shared vision burning
- It is OK to make mistakes as long as you learn from them
- The importance of making sure the Plan remains flexible and can be adapted to suit moving priorities
- The value of match funding
- The value of working with others
- Even though people might say they want something it does not mean they will get involved
- The importance of keeping people involved
- Keep looking for volunteers and help
- Have some robust code of conducts and rules and stick to them
- Never give up

Several members of our Big Local group have attended many workshops and events organised by Local Trust including the Spring Event in York, Plan delivery in Sheffield and Social Enterprise in Big Local at South Bermondsey. We understand the importance of attending these events to continue to learn about what other Big Local areas are doing. They are a great way to network and share ideas and to give and receive support from each other. As a group we also participate in local networking events and several of our members attended an event at Cresswell Craggs and we have agreed to host one of these events in Goldthorpe.

Question 5 - How have you progressed on your vision and priorities?

All our projects have helped to achieve our vision and priorities that we listed in our Plan with some great successes. We have found that the review process has been really helpful in making sure we remain focussed on continuing and prioritising projects. We realise that some of the projects will not or can't be achieved and we will strive to ensure that what we deliver is what the community wants.

Question 6 - Do you need to refresh your vision and priorities?

In the main we do feel that our vision and priorities are still current and needed and there is not much adjustment needed at this stage. However, the review process has highlighted that we do need to continually check with the community that priorities have not shifted greatly. As we hold regular meetings and communicate widely with residents and other stakeholders we do not feel a need to drastically make changes to the Plan over the next 18 months. We see that until the next review the Plan will involve continuing to work with groups and organisations to put on events and activities and projects that will have a great visual impact on our area. It is hoped that we can make progress with the Skills and Training Centre (including 'Our Shed') and perhaps expand the housing and CCTV projects.

Question 7 - How does your progress relate to the achievement of the 4 Big Local outcomes?

We strongly feel that the work we have carried out all contribute to the Big Local outcomes to lesser or greater degree. We are also confident that the work we have planned over the next 18 months will continue to achieve the outcomes. The consultation we carry out and the extent of communication does help the community to identify local needs and they are becoming more involved in Big Local and can see how it can help them achieve these needs. Many of our projects are increasing skills and confidence in people who are living in our community. This is best demonstrated by the housing project and the recruitment of a Support Worker. Our community are benefiting from being empowered to make decisions on what they would like the money spent on and this is making our area an even better place to live and work in.

Question 8 – Do you need a new or revised plan, or will you carry on with your existing plan?

As we are still in the process of learning and delivering some of our major projects we do not see the need for a new plan at this stage and envisage that we will continue with our existing Plan after making a few minor amendment's as follows;

- The Dearne Community Cinema is now established in the Dearne Playhouse as a social enterprise and therefore it is not envisaged that further input will be required from Big Local. However, our Support Worker is now a trustee of the Playhouse and will assist them in ensuring the success of the cinema. This project will be removed from the Plan
- The Dearne District Junior Football Club have now formed a sound base from initial funding from Big Local to deliver the Football tournament/Fun Day and the Tour de Dearne as annual events. This group no longer wishes to have funding for the Quick Feet project. These projects will be removed from the Plan
- The Bounce into Summer Day is run annually by the GDG and therefore this will be removed from the Plan. However, provision will be made to assist with other major events as and when required.
- Some changes will be required to make provision for some of the new projects/activities that have been identified in this review.
- There may need to be some expansion of our major projects including the Skills and Training Centre, Housing Project and the CCTV cameras
- Removal of the mini bus project

Question 9 – How do you know this is what your community wants?

We are confident that we are delivering what the community wants as this is what has come out of consultation. We do not feel that priorities have changed over the last 12 months and as we are engaging with more members of the public who are coming to Big Local with their ideas/ needs we know that is what they want as that is what they are asking for. We promote a open door policy and openly strive to involve the community and give them opportunities to express themselves and to get involved.

We have received much feedback and testimonials from groups, individuals and organisations who feel that Big Local is making a real and lasting difference to the area.

We are also actively seeking out people to either join the Partnership Board or just volunteer with anything that they have a particular interest in. We have several active volunteers who help with events, Big Local Bank Local and the cinema to name but a few. We also feel that our Board members represent a good balance from both Goldthorpe and Bolton on Dearne to ensure inclusion for all our community.

Through continued and improved communication as we go into year 2 we feel that the community will have ample opportunity to get involved and say what they would like to see happen in our area.

April Fisher

Goldthorpe and Bolton on Dearne Big Local Support Worker