

## Summary report of the Goldthorpe and Bolton on Dearne Big Local Plan Review – December 2017

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## **Introduction**

This review will cover the period from 19<sup>th</sup> June 2016 to 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and is carried out in line with Local Trust requirement to review our progress with delivering the projects in our Plan. This review will focus on what has been achieved, what has changed since our last review, highlight our successes and our failures and set the scene for what we hope to achieve in the next 2 years.

We are one of five Big Local areas that have almost spent (or committed to spend) our original 1 million and have taken part in the Local Trust Legacy research so this review will also cover what we think our Big Local legacy might look like for our area.

During the last 18 months we have worked really hard to bring about some real and lasting changes for our community and as a result these are the projects that we have funded and supported and this report will look at these projects in more depth;

- Small Grants
- Dearne Community Housing
- Dearne Community Arts Festival
- Community Transport
- Dearne Playhouse Presents
- Snaptin Community Café
- BODY Carnegie Community Café
- Community Skills and Learning Centre
- CCTV mobile cameras
- Website
- Newsletter/Big Local short film
- Support Worker
- South Yorkshire Credit Union
- Duke of Edinburgh Award

All these projects still fit within our original priorities in our Plan and have not been subject to changes and these are;

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

Our Review Plan meetings were held on the 1<sup>st</sup> November and 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017 and took into consideration the views of our community, partners and key stakeholders in shaping the budget for the next 2 years. We have used various methods of consultation including our extensive mailing list, online survey, meetings and our website.

Again this review has helped us to identify what we have done well and what lessons we have learnt along the way. We looked at all the projects and assessed whether they needed to be kept in the Plan, kept in but changed or dropped from the Plan. We also identified the projects that most meet our priorities that will shape the long lasting legacy for our area.

Photos of some of the amazing projects will be included in this report to help the reader gain a real sense of how much we have achieved and the difference that has been made directly because of our funding and our hard working volunteers and partners.

The main focus of the review will look at answering the nine questions set by Local Trust and this will shape the main body of the review.

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

We feel that we have achieved everything we set out to but with different levels of success and Big Local is making a difference to lots of different people in our community. Some of the projects were planned specifically and included in the budget but other projects have occurred throughout the last 18 months due to our community working with Big Local to make Goldthorpe and Bolton on Dearne a better place to live and work.

#### Small Grants

During the first part of our review period we gave out funding to different groups for different amounts but we found that we were getting more and more request for funding and recognised the need for a more consistent approach to distributing the grants. We wanted to ensure that everyone could access some money when they needed it so we developed and launched the small grants scheme in June 2017. A short application form was developed and a pot of money allocated to a maximum of 10 separate grants of up to £500.00 (with a small amount of discretion built in). We managed to pay out 5 small grants to the following groups from June to September 2017.

Group	Activity	Amount of Grant
Dearne ALC	Student Presentation Evening	<b>£320.00</b>
Bolton on Dearne Voluntary Action Group	Two large marquees	<b>£294.48</b>
Dearne Valley Care Home	Summer Fayre	<b>£550.00</b>
Dearne Valley Bulldogs	Trophies for the annual presentation	<b>£500.00</b>
Goldthorpe Pentecostal Church	Dearne Community Arts Festival	<b>£357.00</b>

In addition to the grant given to the Pentecostal Church we funded lots of other things for the festival including competition prizes, production costs for the programme and promotional leaflets and posters. Including the small grant the Arts Festival cost under £1000.00 and represented great value for money for a really fantastic two day event.

This project was led by Julie Turner from the Goldthorpe Pentecostal Church and supported by our Support Worker and other people in our community. The feedback received from the Arts Festival was very positive and therefore a small group of people (with representation from Big Local) have formed a Constituted group to look at obtaining funding to put on the festival next year. The Dearne ALC has kindly offered to host and support the event in 2018 and external funding will be applied for to make the event even bigger and try and get it to be sustainable. Our website contains lots of information, photos and videos from the event and some photos can be found in **Appendix 1**.

There are currently two small grant applications in the process of being submitted these are from organisations Be Well Barnsley and the Alzheimer's Society for small projects they would like to carry out. Feedback received from recipients of the small grants has been good and overall we feel the scheme has been well received and will be rolled out again in 2018. The scheme is an ideal way for groups in our community to access a small pot of money fairly easily but which make a real impact on the work the groups carry out.

### **Other Grants and activities**

Funding has been given to other projects that fit within our themes and vision for the area with some projects delivered by Big Local members and others by different groups and organisations within our community. These projects have all helped to strengthen community spirit and bring people together to achieve some amazing things. These include;

**Spotlight on the Dearne Community CD** – This project was delivered by a recording studio based in Bolton on Dearne. Big Local funding was used to produce a CD of songs by local singers and groups (including two tracks from our current Chair, Ernie Gadsby).

The art work on the CD promoted Big Local and the work we do and the CDs were distributed throughout the community with all donations received going to one of our most active community groups, Bolton on Dearne Voluntary Action Group (BODVAG). Funding was also given to Sight and Sound for help with the rent of the premises for 2016.

**Children's Christmas Trip to Sundown Theme Park** - Lily Dorritt, our Vice Chair works hard raising funds to help different charities and disadvantaged people in our community and she organised and facilitated the trip. Big Local gave some match funding for this trip to take some of our most disadvantaged families for a fun day out and we received a thank you from grateful attendees as some of the families would not have been able to afford this type of trip without the funding.

**Friends of Broadwater** – This newly formed Community Group was formed to clean the area of Broadwater which is located in Bolton on Dearne. They approached Big Local for support and funding and were awarded £1000.00. They used this money to carry out several litter picks, environmental clean ups on green spaces and promotional literature.

**Big Local Fund Raising Fun Day** – Lily Dorritt and Partnership Board Members worked with a local Charity, Briony's Gift, to put on a big fun day for the community. Funding was provided for promotional literature, fun fair rides, the venue (Dearne Playhouse) and entertainment. £1,500 was raised and donated to Briony's Gift who supports children with Cancer. Over 600 people attended and we gave out competition leaflets to people asking them for feedback about what they liked best about their Big Local area and what improvements they would like to see. We received 238 responses and three lucky winners received prizes including a day pass to a Theme Park and High Street vouchers. This feedback helped us to reaffirm that we are concentrating funding where people would most like to see changes.

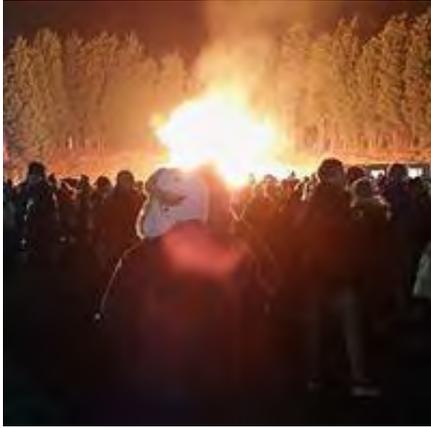


### **Big Local Community Fund Raising day**

**Dearne Community Allotment** – This allotment works with people with learning difficulties and disabilities and they provide fresh fruit and vegetables for a number of different groups in the community including Salvation Army, Snaptin Café and local Community Groups. They approached Big Local for funds to purchase a rotovator to make work easier on the allotment and for seeds and were awarded £700.00. Two members of the Partnership Board, Janet Fletcher and Ray Stables also gave them some valuable advice about installing a suitable water sprinkler system.

**Community Shop Slimming Club** – This newly formed club run two sessions within Goldthorpe and encourage people to join as people can learn about healthy eating and losing weight at their own pace. The club required two sets of weighing scales so that attendees could accurately record their weight and were given a grant of £406.00.

**BODVAG** – This group were given funding for a Bonfire Bonanza and a Christmas Fayre with both events been very well attended and successful and our local MP John Healey attended and joined Santa and his Elf for a photo. The Bonfire Bonanza made enough money to repay the Big Local grant (£4,750) as the group decided they did not want to repeat the event in 2017 but would rather use the money for other events. The group also had funding to purchase a storage container and a trailer to help them with their many community clean-ups.



**Bonfire Bonanza**



**Christmas Fayre**

**Dearne ALC** – were given a £500.00 grant for students to put on their own Christmas Fayre at the school. Students were able to promote the event and make items to sell at the Fayre to help them gain some entrepreneurial skills. The event was very well attended and helped students to raise some funds for activities in the school.

**Alzheimer's Society** – Over the last 12 months our Support Worker and Partnership member, Kevin Davies has worked with the Society to help raise awareness of Dementia and to make Goldthorpe and Bolton on Dearne Dementia Friendly. They have helped to set up a community group, The Dearne Delivering on Dementia and this group has helped to get local businesses signed up to the Dementia Friendly scheme (so far 19 local businesses have signed up). The group is a local port of call for people who need to access information and support. The group is also registered with the Dearne Dementia Alliance and attends their regular meetings.

There were several Dementia Friends sessions held over the summer 2016 with everyone attending been awarded a badge and recognised as Dementia Friends. The Alzheimer's Society received a grant of £1,022.50 from Big Local which was match-funded by the Dearne Ward Alliance to put on two Dementia Carers Information Sessions (CrISP) in Goldthorpe. These sessions are designed to help and support carers who look after people who are diagnosed with the disease.

One session has already been held the next session is to be held over a six week period between February and March 2018. The Alzheimer’s Society provided us with some extensive feedback which was very positive and gave us an idea of just how much the programme has helped people. The feedback was useful to gain an understanding of just how much support people need and what a difference early intervention makes to people who are affected by Dementia.

When asked if the programme has made your life better in any way the following comments were received from attendees;

Comments
Yes I can put things into place.
I now understand more about dementia and feel better prepared to deal with issues that may arise in the future.
Made me more knowledgeable, gave me strategies.
Lots of information.
Gave me answers to problems.
I think I am more prepared and understand where I can get help from in the future.
This course has provided a lot of useful information that I wish I had available to me several years ago when my mum was first given the diagnosis.
It has made me more aware of help that’s out there and that other people care about your situation.
Yes because its’ given us more of a look into things.



**eCloud receiving their Dementia Friendly Certificate**



**Goldthorpe Dementia Friends**

**Sheffield University** – We were invited to put forward some projects for the Architecture Students at the university that would fit in with their ‘Live Projects’ initiative. We were lucky that one of our projects was chosen and we were allocated 12 students who worked closely in our community for 6 weeks. The chosen project was the ‘Railway Embankment’ and our idea was to get the students to consult with our community to find out what they would like the unused and abandoned railway cutting to be.

There were a number of consultation events held and a pop up street café and at the end of the six weeks we were presented with a project proposal that showed how the site could be turned into a recreational community space. This idea was then adopted by the community who set up the Railway Embankment Working Group who have obtained substantial funding to start work on the plan.

It is hoped that by early spring 2018 the funding will enable a safe access ramp to be constructed to the site so people can start to utilise the space and organise projects and events. Our Support Worker and the Dearne Area Team Manager attended the graduation ceremony for the students involved in the project and were able to give a short presentation about how well the students worked in our area.

This project really showcased how Big Local can embrace opportunities to work with the universities and the 'Live Project' scheme is really good as it resulted in a tangible scheme to improve the area.



Promotional Leaflet



Model produced by the students



Ideas voting box



Pop up Fair – Goldthorpe Library

The cost of this project to Big Local was a mere £500 which represented brilliant value for money and some great partnerships formed. Our support worker also supported one of the students with his dissertation which was based around community led housing and he made reference to Big Local and Dearne Community Housing in his finished dissertation which he got a 2-1 degree.

**Phoenix Park Underpass Mural** – We submitted an application, with the assistance of local artist Pete Deakin, to the National Citizenship Service run by the Barnsley Reds Football Club. Our application was about getting assistance from young people signed onto the service to help us paint a mural on the Phoenix Park underpass. Our Support Worker and Pete tendered to the people involved in the service and one group picked our project to get involved in. We consulted with the community and it was decided to theme the mural around mining and environment as this was the past and present use of the park.

Several workshops were held in schools and other venues in the community for people to attend and submit artwork to be included in the mural. The Goldthorpe Scouts let us use their premises located next to the underpass and during one week in July 2016 the mural was painted with the help of over 60 people in the community alongside the National Citizens Service, Twiggs Environmental Service, Paul Nunns the Park Ranger, Tesco and Big Local volunteers (including Big Local Thurnscoe).



**National Citizenship Service volunteers**

Once painted the mural was protected with an anti-graffiti coating which was supplied by a local company, Urban Hygiene at a reduced rate.

The company provided training for several people on how to apply the coating and issued certificates for everyone who had the training.

The project brought lots of different people together and the finished mural looked fabulous. One resident contacted us to say that since its completion her little girl wanted to visit every day to see the rabbits painted on the mural.



**Volunteers hard at work**



**Exit from the park**



**Entrance to the Park**

We were invited to the graduation ceremony for the groups of young people who completed the programme and it was very inspiring to see so many young people had worked really hard in communities across the Dearne.

Overall this project represented great value for money and it would not have been possible without the dedication of our artist and all the wonderful volunteers that helped to complete a lovely mural.

## **Dearne Community Housing (DCH)**

This project has gone from strength to strength and has far exceeded what we realistically thought could be achieved. The project still continues to work with lots of different partners and is addressing the problem of poor housing in the area, providing skills, training and job opportunities, improving the environment and boosting the local economy.

The first house was completed and tenanted in January 2017 with the second house completed in April and that is now tenanted. The last two houses are currently being refurbished simultaneously and will be completed by March 2018. The houses have been refurbished to a high standard and are rented through our partners Berneslai Homes at just below market rents.

The Guardian visited the DCH launch event for the opening of 4 Wellington Street and ran an article which raised the profile of the project and led to a local company, Royston Glass contacting us to offer support and help. They provided additional training free of charge to the apprentices in glass making and donated splash backs and shower screens for the first property.

DCH won a national award from NESTA and was one to the 50 New Radicals 2016 which recognises groups that have innovative ideas that make a lasting change to their community. We have also managed to attract external funding from Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) and Efficiency North (£45,000.00 from BMBC and £7,500 from Efficiency North) to help with refurbishment costs.

Efficiency North nominated our project for its award of 'Most innovative Project 2017' and DCH came second securing a prize of £2,500. We have also been nominated for and shortlisted for the Duke of York Award for the best community initiative winner to be announced early in 2018.

The outcomes for the project make some impressive statistics and we are really proud of what we have achieved with the partnership and support of our LTO Barnsley Community Build. With the completion of the first property it has supported the following and it is expected that these figures will increase as each property is completed:

- 23 apprentices going into full time employment in the construction industry
- 45 on site NVQ assessments
- 730 apprenticeship training and skills development days on site
- Created two full time construction supervisor jobs
- Provided 22 work experience places for traineeship learners
- Improved the environment
- Given new custom to local businesses for the provision of carpets, blinds and ironwork

BMBC used a Social Value Calculator to work out that each £17,500 (we receive £15,000 after fees are deducted) grant that is spent on our project generates a social investment of £176,000 and our project has been praised for this great achievement. DCH are liaising with the staff at BMBC to see how we can build on this success together and where the future will lay for DCH.

It is hoped that through further funding we will be able to add to the portfolio of properties and grow the company to keep on providing training and good affordable quality homes by bringing long term empty properties back into use or looking at other schemes. In addition we are looking at the long term future of the company and exploring avenues to develop other types of community led housing initiatives which will see the company continue after Big Local and beyond. **See Appendix 2 for photos of the project.**

### **Community Transport**

During our last review it was recognised that the Community mini bus project would be removed from the plan as it was unfeasible to implement. In its place we included in the budget a small amount of money for community transport. This funding is available for groups or organisations to obtain money to help get the most vulnerable and needy in our community out and about. To date the Dearne Valley Care Home has accessed some of this funding to pay for a mini bus to take residents with dementia to the events and cafes and some residents were taken to a restaurant for a fish and chip supper.

### **Dearne Playhouse Presents**

The Playhouse approached Big Local to ask for some funding to help put on productions that would appeal to the wider audience in our community and would encourage more people in the community to get involved with the theatre. Funding was agreed to put on up to 12 productions in a 12 month period of different genres. During this period a number of shows were put on including Motown Story, Christmas Carol, Wizard of Oz and special productions by local dance schools. These were all very well attended with some good feedback received via the theatres Facebook page.

### **Snaptin Community Café**

In November 2016 we were approached by two local ladies who came with an idea to bring a community café to Goldthorpe. Their business plan included projects to work with the most disadvantaged people in our community and those with learning difficulties. After discussions it was agreed to fund this project as it fitted in with so many our themes and priorities. It was agreed that the café would also be open to the general public who would be able to access good meals at really affordable prices and also act as a drop in centre for our Support Worker. Since it opened the café has gone from strength to strength and with additional funding from Big Local it now has contracts with several different organisations to put on a number of learning and recreational activities.

They work with the Salvation Army, Community Shop, hOurbank and the community allotment to provide workshops and social activities for all members of our community. The café is really well used as a café but is increasing in popularity as a place that groups can meet and have social events. These events include ukulele classes, craft sessions, Dementia Café, bingo sessions, book reading club with book exchange, seed to fork for young hOurbank members and lots more. We are all very proud of what the café is bringing to our community and it was recently nominated and shortlisted to the final three for the Proud of Barnsley award for best new start up business. Unfortunately they did not win but it was great that they did so well and have been recognised for the great work they are carrying out which they have achieved in such a short time. **See Appendix 3 for photos.**

### **BODY Carnegie Community Café**

The final instalment of the grant for this café which is situated in Bolton on Dearne was made during our review period. The group are progressing with the work but it has been slow to complete due to the reliance of volunteers and good will of people who have been helping to transform the building. It is hoped that this will be completed soon and feedback provided.

### **Community Skills and Learning Centre – Our Shed**

Our Shed is part of The Skills and Training Centre and is funded by Goldthorpe and Bolton on Dearne Big Local. Workshops are based at The Renaissance Centre on Priory Road, Bolton on Dearne. The project offers classes in Sewing, Woodworking, Archaeology, DIY Skills, Metalworking, Electronics and Computer Skills. It is planned that short Courses in Archaeological Human Skeletal Studies and Electronics will also be available with each course lasting 6 weeks.

Our Shed offers everyone the opportunity to learn for interest and for fun. Classes can be structured for attendees to bring along a project and work on it in our equipped workshops with expert support.

The first person to use our workshop was 11 year old Callem who asked for help to bring to life a Salvador Dali painting 'Ship with Butterfly Sails' for a school project and his model gained him an A\*.



**Callem's Ship**

In addition to the workshops volunteers' and workers get involved in lots of different activities within the community including giving talks and presentations in schools on a range of subjects. The ladies who attend Pins and Needles produced several items of clothing which they then modelled themselves at the fashion show as part of the Arts Festival. It is hoped that in 2018 further funding will allow the skills and training centre to put on a number of courses that will offer accreditation and lead to qualifications in a range of subjects. A more detailed report and budget has been developed for this project and will be attached as an appendix to the report.

### **Community CCTV cameras**

In order to try and tackle some issues around fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour we have deployed the cameras to different locations within the community. We have had some good successes with the cameras including reducing rubbish at one very bad fly-tipping hotspot.

We have developed a really good working partnership with the enforcement officers and the police who really helpful in monitoring and deploying the cameras. One of the cameras was also instrumental in resulting in a custodial sentence for a fatal hit and run accident, if the camera had not caught the footage the case would not have progressed. We have loaned a camera to Big Local Thurnscoe as they have had vandalism problems to some properties that they are renovating. We are confident that the cameras are helping to tackle some issues that our community feel are a priority especially fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour and they are a very valuable asset to the police as it has increased the amount of cameras that are now available for Goldthorpe and Bolton on Dearne.



**Taking delivery of the cameras form WCCTV**

### **Website**

During some community consultation and feedback we found that our website was not fit for purpose and users found it confusing and difficult to navigate. It was agreed to close the site down and employ the services of a local businessman to develop a new site. The site was launched in September 2016 and now it is easy to find information and make contact with Big Local. Our Support Worker maintains the site and ensures that it is current and up to date and showcases all the work that is being done. The new website address is [www.goldthorpeboltonbiglocal.org.uk](http://www.goldthorpeboltonbiglocal.org.uk)

### **Newsletter/Big Local short film**

Our Support Worker spent quite a bit of time and energy in producing material for a Newsletter and a local printer designed and produced 8,000 newsletters for us to distribute locally. We entered a contract with Royal Mail Door to Door service to ensure that every domestic property in our Big Local area received a copy of the Newsletter. Unfortunately Royal Mail lost 6,000 copies and stated they delivered the other 2,000 to addresses in Bolton on Dearne. They reimbursed some of our money but not enough to have the missing copies printed and delivered again. We had little feedback from people and one commented that he thinks he remembered seeing the newsletter but he put it straight in the bin as he thought it was junk mail. This was very disappointing and the whole process was a very time intensive exercise and was not cheap to undertake and made us question whether a newsletter is the best use of resources in letting our community know what is going on.

During the summer of 2016 we commissioned a local resident who owns his own Production Company to produce a short film highlighting some of the major Big Local projects. This has been put on our website and distributed via Facebook, You Tube and our own mailing list. We have received some positive feedback to the film and a local reporter rang to ask if he could promote the film in the next edition of the paper. During the next 18 months consideration will be given to look at the benefit of producing a number of short film (subject based) to distribute in a similar way. The film can be viewed by clicking this link <https://youtu.be/MxGp40sjXAg>

### **Support Worker**

The value of the Support Worker role was highlighted during this review and felt that this post was still needed to guide the projects through the next two years and into the legacy for Big Local. During the review some members stated that the role of the Support Worker was vital as without that support it would be harder to make Big Local a success as the job is too big for just volunteers to deliver. Our Support Worker has brought £58,000 in external funding to our projects and has offered expertise and help to numerous individuals and groups in the community from helping with events to obtaining external funding for them.

The Support Officer role whilst has been a big help, it can't be underestimated just how much hard work the Partnership Board members put in to continue meeting our vision and priorities and this is all done in a volunteering capacity.

### **South Yorkshire Credit Union**

In June 2016 we managed to invest savings of £20,000 for a 12 month period with an interest rate of 1.5%. We have close links with a dedicated credit union volunteer and during the period June 2016 to May 2017 progress was made to promote the SYCU and increase membership and services in the Big Local area. After Christmas we will be meeting with the Credit Union to decide what we would like to do next with options including taking back the money, reinvesting it or using the money for projects in the community.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award**

We have recognised that it is really important to not only engage with young people but to try and offer them some life skills and experiences that will hopefully stand them in good stead for the future. When we were approached by the Dearne ALC regarding funding to deliver the Duke of Edinburgh Award in our area we thought it would be a really good opportunity to give some students the chance to go through the award programme. This has proved to be a great link with the school but also has been really successful in meeting both Big Local and the programme outcomes. Simon Balk from Dearne ALC has been instrumental in programme delivery and he has stated the following;

**“The Big Local Fund provided an opportunity for the Dearne ALC to launch a remarkable new outdoor initiative, Dearne Adventure, aimed at developing the resilience and team working skills of our Goldthorpe students, many of whom would be normally deprived of these experiences. In the past year, we have used the funds to support the launch of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, which has become one of the largest providers of the award in South Yorkshire. Our first cohort of Bronze participants consists of 89 Year 9 and Year 10 students.**

We have an extremely active staff body and the school has been fully supportive in launching the award, including significant investment in staff time and resources. The funds provided by the Big Local have allowed us to build and care for an outdoor equipment store, allowing all students to access the award. We now have sufficient equipment to fully support 30 students on expeditions and have managed to secure deals to provide students with a high standard and quality of outdoor equipment. We have also used the funds to support staff in gaining National Governing Body awards for outdoor leadership and first aid. This has included the Mountain Training Lowland Leader Award, which has been awarded to 8 members of school staff. We have also been able to support the Duke of Edinburgh Award charity in delivering training from the school to other centres, broadening our impact. This places Dearne Adventure in an exceptionally strong position and many consider us to be a 'Best Practice Hub' for the Duke of Edinburgh Award in the area. Very little of this could be achieved without the generous investment by the Big Local Fund and we are extraordinarily grateful for the opportunity this has provided for the school and the Goldthorpe community that we serve."



**Staff completing Lowland Leader Training**



**Students at the top of Loose Hill, the Peak District**



**The second DofE training event in Edale.**

### **Other Activities**

Several of our members and volunteers have got involved in lots of different initiatives to help others in the community to complete projects. These have all had a good impact on what we are doing and have helped to raise our profile massively.

### **New Release community cinema**

We did take the community cinema out of our plan at our last review as it was to be run by the Dearne Playhouse as part of their day to day business. It transpired that the cinema was not successful at the Dearne Playhouse and unfortunately no longer exists. Our Support Worker thought it was worth one last try after she gained funding to trial a new release cinema from the Dearne ALC. She got the backing and support of Film Mobile that have a track record of assisting communities to bring film to their communities. Two film weekends were held in October and November 2016 with 9 new release films been shown over each weekend. Some of these were very well attended and the support from volunteers and Big Local members was brilliant and it managed to bring a cinema experience to local families who would be unable to afford to attend one of the mainstream cinemas.

it is now planned that other groups will look at cinema clubs as the way forward and The Dearne Delivering on Dementia is looking at arranging its' first film experience for people affected by Dementia early in the new year.

### **The Dearne Delivering on Dementia**

This group was formed in 2016 from members of the public, Snaptin Cafe and Big Local members. They work really hard with partner organisations, Alzheimer's Society, Dementia Action Alliance and Dearne Ward Alliance Team to give local support and information to people affected by Dementia. This group is particularly tackling social isolation by putting on a number of events to bring people together and is part of the work Big Local has undertaken by its partnership with the Alzheimer's Society.

### **The Great Get Together**

Our Support worker and members worked very hard with members of Big Local Thurnscoe, local councillors and Coalfields Regeneration Trust to put on a community event to celebrate the life of MP Jo Cox on the first anniversary of her tragic death. We had a fabulous day in Thurnscoe Memorial Park with over 300 people attending and entertainment from a local dance school and male voice choir. Our local MP John Healey attended and gave a very moving speech about Jo and how much it means to keep bringing communities together. We raised £150 to donate to Jo Cox's charities.

### **Community Engagement**

We are constantly striving to engage with our community as we feel this is a really important aspect of our work as if the people are going to get involved we need to let them know how they can do so. Our Support Worker attends lots of different meetings and this has greatly helped in raising our profile and the work that has been carried out. This has also been instrumental in the forming of partnerships, enlisting the help of volunteers and the delivery of our projects. We have really increased the ways in which we communicate with people and we feel that we are as inclusive as possible to reach as many parts of the community as we can.

Our attendance and presence at lots of different community meetings and events have been one of the best ways of spreading the word and is resulting in strengthening and increasing partners and volunteers and letting people know more about Big Local. Our Support Worker also holds a weekly hour long drop in session at the Snaptin which is widely advertised and is an opportunity for people to find out more about Big Local and to get involved over.

## **Question 2 – What have you spent the money on?**

As in the previous review period we have underspent on some budgets and overspent of others but this is due to the flexibility of the programme and community need that is forever changing.

The Skills and Training Centre has underspent and a reduced allocation has been put forward for the budget. The organisers of the project are to produce a business plan to show how the project will progress over the year and what funding will be needed to deliver the full project idea.

Again there has been a substantial amount of money given in grants to some of the projects mentioned in this review but the board feel that without spending the money people will not get involved and no difference will be made. Almost £130,000.00 has been spent on grants for various community projects that have been delivered by many different volunteers and community groups/organisations. This has helped us to achieve our aims of strengthening the community spirit, improving the environment and providing more leisure activities.

One of the biggest investments has again been the housing project and now the 4 properties are all nearing completion meetings are to be held with BCB to determine how the budget has been spent and total cost of the project. The project will continue to apply for external match funding to ensure there is a lasting legacy for the community and a viable community led housing scheme.

The Snaptin is another project that has had grants over the 18 month period to set up the premises, buy all equipment, pay the rent for the first year and pay for salaries and sessional workers. This investment has had a big impact on strengthening community spirit whilst providing training and opportunities to learn new skills and meet new people. It is also a useful community hub and meeting place for many groups and individuals (including our Support Worker) and has forged lots of useful partnerships for Big Local and produced some brilliant outcomes.

During the review the overall budget was looked at and as a result a revised budget for the next 2 years was proposed taking into account that there is less money to allocate to projects, the budget is attached with this review.

### **Question 3 – What impact have you had?**

We have worked hard to ensure that everything that has been achieved over the last 18 months has had the maximum impact. The provision of Skills, Training and Job Opportunities provided by DCH, The Snaptin and Our Shed has had the biggest impact and has resulted in some really moving ‘Human Stories’ that we are all very proud of. The housing project has given opportunities for young people to move into full time employment in the construction trade which has changed their lives and we received the following quote from one apprentice from Bolton on Dearne.



**Apprentices working on the housing project**

‘without the opportunity to work on the housing project and the funding available from Big Local for my apprenticeship I would not be earning good money which has allowed me to settle down in the community I grew up in’.

A lady who attended sewing classes put on by Our Shed said she was grateful to the club for building her confidence which has led her to gain new friends and gain full time employment. She added that without the life line that Our Shed provided her she doubted that she would ever have gained enough confidence to secure a job.

The Snaptin is working with lots of different groups of people who have learning or mobility difficulties providing opportunities for them to learn new skills and gain qualifications in the catering sector. The adult art craft that is run for some of these people has resulted in some amazing art work which we hope to exhibit at the Dearne Arts Festival next year.

The Environment has improved as a result of community clean-ups and working with our Ward Alliance team to improve the Railway Embankment. The biggest impact here has been the improvement in several streets due to renovating long-term empty properties that have blighted our community for years.

One of the biggest impacts that Big Local has achieved is in strengthening community spirit and bringing so many people together whilst building some long lasting partnerships and creating lots of volunteering opportunities. Many people, who all have the same vision of making Goldthorpe and Bolton on Dearne a better place to live and work really have built a strong community spirit which is hoped will be a lasting legacy in the area for years to come.

#### **Question 4 – What have you learnt?**

The last 18 months have been very challenging and some of the lessons we learnt during the last plan review have really come in useful. Despite attacks from other individuals and groups that were prolonged and stressful the Partnership still managed to remain strong and focussed and delivered in almost everything that was planned. It is felt that the Big Local journey is a learning curve and we recognise that it is OK to get things wrong as long as we learn from it. We were fortunate enough, during this period, to have the brilliant support of our Local Trust Rep (Alister Shaw) and our Local Trusted Organisation (Barnsley Community Build).

In particular we have learnt the following;

- to have the confidence to make decisions
- to say 'no' if needed
- to continue to grow opportunities for engaging with the community
- communication is key to ensure transparency and that the community are kept informed
- to use the most effective communication which suits the needs of the community
- it can be difficult to recruit and retain volunteers
- feedback is useful but sometimes difficult to obtain and can be time consuming
- make sure any feedback received is fully assessed and changes made if necessary
- to be resilient
- to fully utilise opportunities to get external match funding
- we can't please everyone all the time
- we can't be everything to everyone
- to remain positive
- that partners play an important role
- never give up

We have also learnt that the responsibility of ensuring grant money is spent as it should and suitable monitoring is in place has proved particularly challenging over the last few months. We have had groups of people that have not been forthcoming with showing how the grant has been used and has had to be escalated to our Local Trusted Organisation to take it up. Fortunately these groups are in the minority and almost everyone understands the requirement to account for their grant spends and for us to know how it has made a difference.

During the last 12 months we have learnt that the unexpected can have an impact on the work we are trying to do and over which we have not control but we have managed to adapt some projects to make sure they still deliver what they set out to.

One example of this is the project brief for the CCTV cameras was affected due to legislative changes and council policy changes which have left some members of the community not very happy. It has been extremely difficult to get these people to understand that this is out of our control and we are not willing to step outside the law, however one local councillor has been really helpful to us in dealing with this issue and the matter is now resolved.

We have also learnt that no matter how hard we try to let people know what is going on and how to get involved some state they have never heard of Big Local but we expect this is generic to most Big Local areas.

We have also learnt that we need to constantly strive to engage with the community and partner's and try to;

- listen and understand our community
- keep information current and easily accessible
- to be inclusive and act with purpose
- to make the most of what already exists in communities and where possible increase community capacity
- Don't get bogged down by negative attacks and criticism just focus on the work ahead and the great community partners that are involved in delivering Big Local

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

##### **Our Vision**

**Goldthorpe and Bolton-upon-Deerne vision for the future is one where good education and training prospects coupled with quality and affordable homes to live in, improved local facilities and supportive communities will promote active involvement in making our area a great place to live and work.**

We feel that over the last 18 months we have continued to progress with our vision and priorities (listed in the introduction of this report) which have remained predominately community led. The projects highlighted in this review report demonstrate that we are making a difference by aiming them to fit within the criteria of the priorities. To date most of the work has been around housing, employment, skills and training as these areas were the top two priorities in our Plan (based on extensive community consultation). There is now even more need than ever keep tackling these priorities as there is still a high percentage of poor housing in our area and the job centre in Goldthorpe will be shutting in January 2018 which will be a big blow for our community. We have tried to combat this by investing more into the housing project and funding a small job club that is run from the Snaptin Café, however, it may be that our community will need more support in these areas over the coming years.

It is our aim that over the next two years Big Local will provide some of this support as well as supporting our community in encouraging their active involvement to overcome some of these issues that may affect them long-term.

There are several active community groups in our area that constantly work to increase community spirit and improve the environment and this is starting to pay dividends by people getting more involved. We work with most of these groups and as a result we have made a start at helping to improve the environment (by supporting litter picks and the work on the Railway Embankment) and providing more leisure activities.

There are five major community events that were given a boost to make a good start at being sustainable and these events are now held annually and looked forward to many in our community. These are;

- Bounce into Summer
- Yorkshire Day
- 2 Christmas markets on in Goldthorpe and one in Bolton on Dearne
- Dearne Community Arts Festival

It is recognised though that lots of the priorities in our area are much bigger than one organisation can tackle and the great thing that Big Local has brought is that it is great at reaching members of the community and bringing partners together that can make the necessary changes.

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

It is felt that visions and priorities are still very current and that there is still a great need to improve opportunities for people in our community whilst trying to strengthen community spirit.

Several other organisations are also concentrating resources and support in areas around jobs, skills and training and better more affordable housing and by working in partnership we feel we are starting to make a good impact.

During the review meetings there was an opinion that, as we are now entering into the legacy period resources need to still be targeting around forming stronger communities and investing remaining funding into long term sustainable projects that are most strongly helping us to meet our vision.

Whilst we will now be submitting our next plan review in December 2019 we will be look again at our priorities and project delivery in 12 months to ensure we are still progressing with our vision and that we are still delivering what the community wants.

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

**Outcome 1**

**Communities will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them**

The communities of Goldthorpe and Bolton on Dearne are very strong and resilient and do voice their needs and take action to meet them.

There are so many groups all working together with the same common goals and Big Local has responded to some of these needs from different groups including giving start-up money for lots of activities and events and funding projects that have improved the quality of life for many people. We are working together to overcome added problems with the imminent closure of the Job Centre and helping people in difficulty as a result of the Universal Credit. We recognise that we are unable to respond to all local needs but we feel we offer a really good signposting and support service to help people to take appropriate action to fulfil those needs. We are able to achieve this due to the amount of networking and partnerships that we have forged over the last two and a half years.

## **Outcome 2**

**People will have increased skills and confidence, so that they continue to identify and respond to needs in the future.**

Much of our work has centred round increasing skills and confidence which have helped people to gain jobs and find fulfilling volunteering roles. We have recognised the importance of engaging with the younger members of our community and we feel that by supporting the Duke of Edinburgh Award this will nurture a sense of community spirit and involvement from a young age. Through this work students have engaged with the community more and have helped to implement some of the projects.

Lots of people have attended training and workshops to help improve their skills and confidence to take ownership of responding to needs and priorities. The Partnership Board and Support Worker have attended networking events and workshops and delivered presentations to help share knowledge and skills.

In 2018 we aim to set up a local Youth Council by working in partnership with the Dearne Alliance Team, Be Well Barnsley and young hOurbank. Young people are the future in any community and we feel they have a lot to offer and may be able to ensure the Big Local legacy continues.

### **Outcome 3**

**The community will make a difference to the needs it prioritises.**

As a very active community we know that we are making a difference to the needs and priorities that are important to us. Throughout the last 18 months we have engaged with lots of different people who have come to Big Local with an idea and we have helped them to achieve some of these priorities. We have received feedback from lots of people to say that they feel the area is improving and community spirit is increasing.

### **Outcome 4**

**People will feel that their area is an even better place to live.**

We do firmly believe that not only the work we are doing but also the work of all groups and individuals are really making our area a better place to live and work. The amount of activities and projects that have been implemented and completed since Big Local is testament to this. We have received lots of appreciation for the support and work that we have carried out and feedback is positive and people do feel we are striving towards making an even better place to live. We believe that this outcome is particularly important to our legacy and our focus moving forward will be firmly aimed at projects that will maximise this outcome.

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

The plan review meetings did not identify that a new plan will be needed as we still feel that the priorities are still relevant, however it was recognised that we do need to place most resources where there will be sustainability and long term legacy. In order to do this the budget will need to be reviewed at a later stage as there is a shortfall showing presently so decisions will have to be made as to what stays and what goes.

During the review process consideration was given to our legacy and what it may look like in two years' time. This is an area that the Partnership Board will be looking at and consulting further with the community to find out what peoples' views and opinions are and hopefully achieve the best possible outcome for our area.

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

We are confident that this is what our community wants as we have received feedback from the online survey and most of the projects are delivered by the community and stem from ideas they have come to Big Local with.

These are some of the comments we received from the review process and our online survey;

I feel that Big Local is very resident led

We feel we are supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our community

We are proud of how we are bringing the community together

I am most proud of the sheer amount of hard work the smaller groups are doing

I am most proud of how much great work the Snaptin has achieved in a short time and helping us to meet our priorities

Helping linking in other formed community groups for example I run a monthly memory café called Gareth' Gang and is held at the snap tin cafe ....April Fishers help has been awesome

The mural under the bypass to Phoenix has created a more pleasant route to the park

I believe this resident led approach is the best opportunity for us to make a lasting difference in our community

I feel proud of how strong the Partnership is

The renovation of properties has given homes to people, provided training and improved the aesthetic of the area.

Statistical evidence from other organisations also shows that our priorities are still very much the focus for improvement, particularly skills, training and job opportunities. We are extensively engaging with the community and have lots of different ways that people can find out information or get involved and we have seen a greater percentage of people doing just this over the last 18 months.

## Appendix 1 – Photos of the Arts Festival



## Appendix 2 – Photos of the Housing Project



## Appendix 3 – Photos of Snaptin Community Café

