

## **Supplementary information for Fratton Big Local's Plan 2016-2018**

*Note: much of this information already appeared in our recently submitted Year 2 Monitoring report.*

### **Community involvement and buy-in**

We consult with our community at every event we deliver ourselves or attend. We take publicity material about us, our plan, and our activities to every event, and distribute this material throughout the area. Our stall at the May Fayre – a local annual community event which attracts approximately 10,000 people – is one such annual event that we attend to engage with our community and seek feedback on our activities.

Attendance at our community events is growing; of the two events that we ran last year for the second time (the Big Lunch and Fratton Festival of Light) attendance increased by about 50%. We anticipate that these events will continue to grow – for example already we have people and organisations asking about this year's lantern-making workshops for our Fratton Festival of Light (which will take place on 8 December).

The majority of our events and projects are delivered with the assistance of a small but dedicated team of volunteers. These volunteers are supplemented where necessary by volunteers from other local community and voluntary groups who support our activities. Local traders also donate goods or provide volunteers for our events - Co-operative Funeralcare and A G Stapleford and Sons in particular have supported us throughout last year and plan to continue to do so this year.

We recognise that we need to maximise the opportunity from future community events to collect hard evidence from the community and partners with plan delivery and future priorities and plans. These community events provide a great opportunity to get hard data in the form of survey responses, sticker voting, vox pops, etc, and we aim to make this evidence gathering a key activity in 2016. This will ensure that we can remain confident – and evidence better – that we're delivering a programme of activity that is still supported by the local community.

We publicise our activities on social media and via our newsletter, and respond to all contacts from members of the public or community groups or organisations. Our posts on Facebook are regularly seen by hundreds of people and are often shared. We have attracted positive comments on social media and coverage by the local press has been favourable. We have received little criticism – to our face or on social media – about our activities.

Any feedback is discussed at monthly Partnership Board meetings.

Many members of the community took part in our open space consultation process, making suggestions about the areas being reviewed and about Fratton in general.

All were supportive of our efforts in trying to improve the area. (Details of the consultation process can be provided.) This project is ongoing.

Local traders, agencies, and community groups are increasingly willing to work with us; some pro-actively seek our support or engagement in their projects. We were instrumental in establishing the Fratton Road Traders Association (FRTA) and we continue to support this by hosting and facilitating their meetings. We are working with the FRTA in planning for the second Fratton Family Festival which will take place on Sunday 18 September. We already have local traders and community organisations wanting to book stalls at this event.

We are currently working with Asda and Portsmouth City Council's new Wellbeing Team on a proposal to establish a small community hub in the Bridge Centre (a local shopping mall).

### **Community need and opportunities**

Our vision and priorities were created following research on local community needs and opportunities. These were discussed at our Partnership Development Day in September 2015. It was agreed that we had made good progress on all of these but that there was still work to be done in achieving them. We are confident that all project work that we do, and all grants that we give, directly support the achievement of at least one of our stated aims.

Research carried out at the end of last year by Portsmouth City Council's new Wellbeing Team indicates that many of the health and wellbeing issues that we identified in the research for our initial plan remain current.

### **How your plan relates to Big Local outcomes**

We have worked to try to enhance a sense of community in Fratton and make people feel that Fratton is an even better place to live.

Our initial research found that many people in the electoral ward of Fratton do not identify themselves as being 'in Fratton', so one of our first tasks was to pay for and maintain banners from one end of the ward to the other to help define the area in people's minds.

We have delivered several community events (Big Lunch Community picnic, Fratton Family Festival and the Festival of Light) which have been well attended and have generated positive reviews in the press and on social media. Approximately 10,000 people attended our first Fratton Family Festival in 2015; it attracted people from other parts of Portsmouth and from outside the city. We plan to continue to deliver and grow these events.

Our continued support for the Fratton Road Traders Association and the joint working we did with it on the Fratton Family Festival demonstrates our commitment to helping local traders to grow and the effectiveness of our joint relationship.

When researching our original plan we found that there was a need to improve and make the best use of the green space available. We have just completed a comprehensive public consultation process regarding proposed improvements to two of the main open space in Fratton – St Mary’s Churchyard and Kingston Recreation Ground. The consultation process targeted both users and current non-users of these spaces. In 2016 we intend to progress this project by applying for planning permission and raising the necessary finance. It is planned to involve members of the community in helping with the construction of elements of the proposed changes to these spaces. This will increase their engagement with these spaces and each other, whilst giving people the opportunity to gain new skills.

We have also worked to try to improve the public spaces in Fratton by supporting a wide range of activities e.g. a mural on the wall of a local building, a planter at Fratton train station, Christmas lights along Fratton Road, banners on lamp posts, etc. We are planning to establish a community garden this year, and a group of volunteers to maintain this and other sites within Fratton e.g the train station planter. We are planning to wrap the windows of a few empty shops in Fratton Road to improve the appearance of the main shopping area.

We are working to break down barriers in the community by supporting with grants groups that work with people who are socially isolated and by delivering projects that target specific issues (e.g. our ESOL pilot programme). We try to make our work as inclusive as possible e.g. when we ran a series of lantern making workshops for our Festival of Lights we made sure that we held these in a range of venues, including the local Muslim school, Fratton Live at Home, and a local infant school, to encourage all sectors of the community to join in the Festival.

We are delivering projects that increase the skills and confidence of people. For example, our World War 1 project has attracted a core group of about 15 people who are researching the war dead listed on a local memorial. Some of these people weren’t used to working on computers and/or had never been involved in researching a subject before. We also held lantern-making workshops in preparation for our Fratton Festival of Light and we trained 7 local volunteers to help the artist in charge deliver the workshops. Further workshops will be held this year in preparation for this year’s Festival.

We have supported the creation of an arts development social enterprise (Shake Culture Works) which is working with Portsmouth University on a Pop-Up University project. This has helped to develop the university’s relationship with some of the local community groups and individuals, whilst letting the local community know about some of the university’s activities and research which directly relate to their own lives e.g. music and memory research and a music workshop for carers and

people with dementia. We plan to continue to work with Shake on future projects, such as the Play Local activities.

### **Contribution your plan makes to lasting/sustainable change in your area.**

Our relationship with local traders has grown stronger and this has been mutually beneficial. For example we delivered the Fratton Family Festival with the Traders Association which enabled local traders to have stalls along Fratton Road on a Sunday in September last year and which was attended by approximately 10,000 people; the local Bengali supermarket promoted our English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) project, thus enabling us to reach a community that we had struggled to engage with previously. Working with local traders on community projects is one of our key priorities.

We have delivered several community events (Big Lunch Community picnic, Fratton Family Festival and the Festival of Light) which have been well supported by the public as well as local community groups and organisations and local traders. We intend these to be annual events, and we plan to further encourage local residents and traders to get involved with the planning and delivery of these.

We have developed - and are continuing to develop - good working relationships with many agencies, schools, churches, and community groups that operate in our area. Representatives from a range of such organisations took part in our Community Hub and Asset Review project. Many of these have also taken part in our Green Space consultation project, along with representatives from other organisations with an environmental or listed buildings remit e.g. English Heritage. The local authority is supportive of our activities and aims and has provided a representative to our Board (in addition to one of our local councillors). Many agencies, organisations and groups working in our area now pro-actively contact us to propose joint-working initiatives, to ask about grant applications, and to ask our support in promoting their activities e.g. a joint bid with Groundwork enabled us to gain funding to provide a local fuel poverty project. Other community groups provide us with volunteers to help us deliver our events and projects. These complement the volunteers that we attract and help to involve 'our' volunteers with other community groups.

We are starting to look at ways to ensuring the long-term sustainability of some of our projects. For example, we are considering establishing a solar panels project that will continue to generate revenue for the next 25 years. This revenue may be used to ensure community development activities continue in Fratton beyond the Fratton Big Local project. In 2018 we will investigate the possibility of setting up a social enterprise to manage this.

We hope to increase the income generated from traders at the Fratton Family Festival to help to further offset some of the costs of this event. We hope that the event may at a later date become economically viable for the Traders Association to continue to deliver it after the Fratton Big Local projects ceases.