

## **Introduction and overview**

Fratton Big Local (FBL), now in its fifth year of operation, continues to make a real and lasting difference to the Fratton area and its residents. Over the course of the 3-5 year plan FBL has provided local people with opportunities to identify and communicate areas for continued improvement, facilitated forums that enable proactive decision making, and encouraged positive action in response to the issues they have raised.

## **Working towards the Big Local Outcomes**

FBL have taken significant steps towards successfully achieving the Big Local Outcomes. However, there is still much that can be achieved during the next FBL plan, which will be detailed in this document.

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

FBL has continued to collaborate and consult with the residents of Fratton, creating opportunities for their views to be heard. Throughout 2018 consultations were held at several events. People were asked to vote for the projects that they felt FBL should be involved with in order to tackle the issues that matter to them most. The results of this consultation process (shown in Appendix A) were used to inform the strategic priorities for FBL moving forwards.

Over the past year a concerted effort has been made to use social media more effectively which has resulted in a 400% increase in traffic to the FBL Facebook page, and individual post reach has grown to an average of 3000 people. As a result of this 2-way dialogue with residents, the lines of communication are stronger than ever, and residents can contact FBL easily to communicate their concerns and suggestions. An example of this occurred following the opening of the newly developed Kingston Recreation ground. Residents who had witnessed littering and vandalism of the new play area contacted FBL with these concerns and offered to help find a solution to the problem, resulting in the newly formed Friends of Kingston Rec Group. This group have taken responsibility for looking after the Rec area and FBL will continue to provide them with the support they need to enable their continued efforts to keep the Rec a pleasant place for residents to enjoy.

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

By supporting groups such as the Fratton Federation, FBL enables representatives from various bodies including voluntary groups, public sector organisations and individuals to come together, share information, network and discuss ways to resolve local issues in a constructive and controlled environment. One of FBL's newest partners became involved with FBL through her active participation at the Fratton Federation meetings. Roshni, who runs a local supermarket identified that she had much to offer FBL as a local resident business owner and member of our minority ethnic community. By joining the Partnership Board Roshni hopes to share her knowledge and help FBL to improve the integration of minority ethnic communities in to the projects and services delivered in Fratton. This is an area that has so far proved challenging for FBL.

FBL has also continued to work with local schools to run the writing competition, in 2018 Ali Sparks, a local children's author was commissioned to deliver writing workshops with pupils. Due to the success of these workshops they will run again in 2019. In addition, FBL are working with Senior Management at the local Primary school to develop a Mosaic project. This came as a response to a need they had identified to better engage pupils in meaningful activities that celebrate life in Fratton. These form just a couple of the many ways FBL hope to raise the aspirations of young people in Fratton.

Going forward FBL will strive to build upon the work that has already begun to provide local people with enhanced volunteering opportunities. Currently, FBL events are supported by local volunteers and there have been opportunities to volunteer in the Global Garden which will soon be passed over to the newly constituted Parents of Manor Infant School (POMS) group. In February 2019 Parkletics equipment will be installed and volunteers will be offered training on the use of this equipment so they will encourage its use by the community.

In years 6-8 FBL will embark upon a volunteering strategy that provides opportunities for volunteers to be trained in areas such as Fire Safety, Manual Handling, event stewarding and management. Routes to progression will be created for volunteers so that they receive something meaningful in exchange for the time that has been given by them, in turn it is hoped that these qualified volunteers will contribute to the sustainability of FBL events and projects.

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

FBL consulted and engaged local people throughout the design and delivery of the new playground at Kingston Rec, including design workshops with local schools. £360,000 investment was secured, with funding from Veolia Environmental Trust, Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, Portsmouth City Council and FBL.

The completion of the Rec and the subsequent setting up of the Friends of Kingston Rec group will enable community members to take a leading role in what happens next in the park. The ideas generated by this group will influence future initiatives and projects in the park, such as a 'play local' scheme that will take place in the school holidays, providing free activities to local children.

In addition, FBL has reviewed its under-utilised Community Chest budget and intends to replace it with a Community Enablement Fund. This new fund, with its reduced eligibility criteria, will be accessible to a wider range of individuals and groups. It will allow local people a chance to apply for the funds they need to get their ideas off the ground, enabling them to create their own solutions to issues identified.

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

The FBL calendar of events creates a 'buzz' in Fratton and have become part and parcel of life in Fratton. The consultation results demonstrate that celebrating life in Fratton is important for the residents. Moving forwards in to the next plan, FBL aspire to find ways in which these events can continue as a legacy of the project.

The Fratton Family Festival has been running for the past 5 years and is the flagship event for Fratton Big Local. Held in September, it brings together local traders, musicians, community performers and around 10,000 members of the public to celebrate the end of the summer.

The Festival of Lights is held at the beginning of December and is the culmination of several weeks' worth of lantern making workshops. In 2018, 187 lanterns were made by 297 individuals at 15 workshops. The lantern parade is held along Fratton Road, local schools and community groups display their lanterns, and performances and refreshments are hosted at St Mary's Church.

The May Fayre is held on the Bank Holiday Monday in May at St Mary's Church and is a well-established tradition in Fratton. FBL support this event and have information stalls to promote FBL, local community groups and projects.

The Great Get Together began with The Big Celebration Event for the opening of the play area in Kingston Rec in 2018. This initial event was to coincide with the Get Together weekend, in memory of Jo Cox MP, and will continue in future years based around Fratton Community Centre.

Moving forwards, the intention is to explore ways of confirming that these are events meet the needs identified by the Fratton public in line with our strategic aim to celebrate life in Fratton. Once certain we are meeting that need, we will strive towards making these events more sustainable, by expanding our volunteer base and through income generation activity.

### **The FBL Plan Years 6-8**

In November 2018, at the Partnership Away Day the FBL Partners undertook a review of the FBL themes:

**Making Fratton an attractive destination**

**Improving and making the best use of the green space available**

**Developing and Improving Community Life**

**Working with people to think about what they want, hope and need**

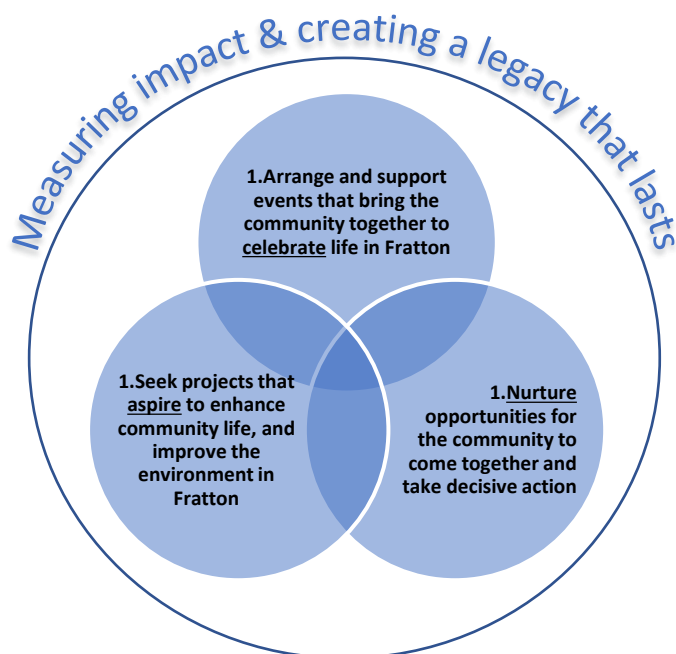
**Breaking down barriers and involving the whole community**

In order to build upon what has already been achieved, and to ensure continual progress is made in addressing the needs of the community, Partners reviewed the results of the consultation against the work undertaken so far and refreshed the FBL Vision and Mission to reflect the change that is happening in the area. 4 Strategic Aims were developed, which incorporate the themes.

**Vision:** Working together making Fratton a better place to live, work and play.

**Mission:** To support projects and initiatives that improve the environment and enhance community life for the residents of Fratton.

We will deliver this mission by working against the following strategic aims



The acronym 'Fratton CAN' conveys a positive message to empower and unite residents, stakeholders and the Partnership Board.

Along with 3 'public' strategic aims that will be communicated outwards in order to create a sense of shared direction, the FBL Partnership Board will continuously strive toward a 4<sup>th</sup> Overarching strategic aim which is: **Measuring Impact and creating a legacy that lasts.**

### **FBL Strategic Aims explained**

#### **Measuring Impact and creating a legacy that lasts**

During the delivery of the next FBL plan a conscious and determined effort will be made to explore ways of measuring the impact of existing projects. This will be achieved in several ways. Firstly, additional development activity will be provided to Partners by Action Hampshire (LTO). In addition, Partners will take advantage of Local Trust training in this subject area and gain a better understanding of ways to build capability and capacity and learn methodologies that can be applied to measure lasting change as a result of FBL's presence in Fratton. Operationally, outputs and outcomes will be demonstrated wherever possible by implementing project management processes that ensure resources are allocated appropriately and the greatest impact is achieved on a project by project basis, particularly where delivery staff resource is utilised.

In order to achieve the ambition to leave a legacy, FBL will create an income generation strategy to offset the costs of some of the existing projects. The events, in particular the Fratton Family Festival, will be reviewed so that appropriate funding streams can be identified to future-proof them. Sponsorship will also be sought to keep costs at a minimum and the community will be supported to become more involved in the running of these events. The desire to make events sustainable is reflected in the decreasing budget that has been allocated for them year on year.

In addition, the Partnership are committed to becoming more strategically focused, with an emphasis on exploring alternative models of working that reduce core costs and build sustainable stakeholder relationships. As the current phase of the plan comes to an end a scoping document has been introduced as a tool for Partners. The completion of this document and the resulting conversations enable a clear line of sight from delivery work to the FBL strategic aims, it confirms the intended outcomes and requires Partners to consider the resource requirements including the potential to seek alternative funding.

The long-term aspirations of the community will be considered when making plans to leave a legacy in Fratton. Amongst other activity, the potential for a closer relationship with Fratton Community Association will be proactively explored as a possible way of achieving a legacy for Fratton.

#### **Strategic Aim One: Arrange and support events that bring the community together to celebrate life in Fratton.**

Attendance levels at events remain high and the feedback gathered from the public and stallholders shows that FBL is perceived well and recognised as making a positive impact, which is encouraging. As a result, Community events and creating opportunities to come together will continue to play an important part in the achievement of FBL's strategic aims.

FBL will continue to work to improve the management of events and will explore the idea of supporting the community to become more involved with event planning and management to enable continued success for many years to come.

#### **Strategic Aim Two: Seek projects that aspire to enhance community life and improve the environment in Fratton**

This aim was developed in response to a workshop hosted by FBL in partnership with the local MP that was set up to consider the barriers experienced by young people in the community. Fratton CAN is a project under development to look at how root issues can be addressed, including lack of confidence and aspiration. This project will be delivered with key partners across the community.

This has also influenced Partner thinking in drafting this next phase of the FBL plan and will now be applied to all ages and sections of the community.

Fratton CAN, the acronym explained:

- Celebrate – Identified as a priority through consultation with residents, FBL will work with the community to promote and celebrate the achievements of local Fratton people.
- Aspire – FBL will seek ways to raise aspirations. To include the provisions for young people in Fratton. Building on the work started by the FBL youth project which is due to end in August 2019, FBL will measure impact so far and coordinate a project to map funded provision in the area before commissioning any further services for young people. This approach will ensure that there is no duplication of effort or financial resources in the area and that the young people most in need are supported by any future FBL provision. It is the intention to collaborate with partner organisations to offer enterprise initiatives as an alternative career path for young people in the area.
- Nurture – Again, mental Health and wellbeing has been communicated as being important to local people. Existing services will be mapped and further consultation will take place to explore ways in which FBL can nurture the community. Mentoring of young people on a more pastoral level, using partner organisations, will also be explored

The effectiveness of our ESOL project will be reviewed by the Partnership Board. It has been identified that, despite experiencing a reasonable uptake of ESOL classes, FBL have not achieved a way of ensuring all projects are accessible by all sections of the community. Therefore, when scoping and managing future projects consideration will be given to ways in which the whole community can be encouraged to become involved. FBL will continue to seek and support initiatives that break down barriers within the community.

In addition, residents have requested a community meals project. Together, this idea will be properly scoped and the potential to run a community meals programme in partnership with other organisations in the area shall be considered or influenced.

The existing FBL projects for the Parkletics athletics system in Kingston Recreation Ground, the Good Gym volunteer runners, the Global Garden and Parents of Manor School (POMS) will continue to be delivered, with FBL providing these groups with the support they need to function independently moving forwards.

FBL will explore the community use of the green space at St Mary's Church, the only other large open space within the area (aside from Kingston Rec). Other small green areas in Fratton will also be considered for improvement. External funding sources will be sought to support this activity.

### **Strategic Aim Three: Nurture opportunities for the community to come together and take decisive action**

FBL will support and empower residents to get together. The Friends of Kingston Rec group have many ideas for projects starting in 2019 which include a Fratton Sports Day, a Nature Trail pop-up and an Easter Egg trail. FBL will continue to encourage these types of groups along with making a commitment to enhance volunteering opportunities and provide routes for progression under this strategic aim.

The Fratton Federation will continue to be supported by FBL and will meet on a bi-monthly basis. This is a great opportunity for stakeholders to exchange information, it is therefore important that this is kept going.

FBL will consider ways to better engage with the Fratton Traders Association, as this will increase the scope for Fratton to become a more vibrant area of the city. Enabling the traders to access training

and volunteering opportunities is one method which might be adopted. The traders have proved challenging to engage to this point.

### The longer term

By working in a more strategically focussed way, and by making the best use of resources it is the aim of the Partnership Board to define the long-term future legacy of FBL over years 6-8 of the project. This approach will enable a concrete legacy plan to be formed for execution in the final 1-2 years of the project. It is anticipated that the plan for years 9-10 will contain the steps required to create a legacy organisation in Fratton that will continue to serve the needs of the community after the Local Trust funding has been spent.

### **Appendix 1: Consultation results table**

<b>Appendix B: CONSULTATION RESULTS</b>													
Each person was given three votes. The 11 ideas were agreed at the Partners' Meeting in September 2018													
Event	Mental Health / Wellbeing	Reminiscence Project	Performance / Films	Choir / Music Group	Creating Objects	Community Meals	Exercise / Sports Groups	Games / Quiz Nights	Gardens / Allotments	Celebrating Achievements	Art / photography	Total people	Total votes
Fratton Family Festival 16.09.2018	55	5	9	18	14	46	30	25	30	47	6	285	515
Volunteering Events Sept/Oct 2018	12	5	1	1	3	11	0	4	2	11	4	54	96
Play Local October 2018	17	1	0	4	12	11	6	5	6	9	4	75	133
Journeys Festival 27 and 28.10.2018	11	1	3	5	5	9	5	2	3	5	5	54	97
Facebook Consultation (Nov 2018)	7	2	7	7	9	5	7	4	9	1	2	60	113
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>954</b>

The top three results, as voted for by Fratton residents, are: Mental Health and Wellbeing; Community Meals and Celebrating Fratton Achievements.