

Grange Big Local Annual Report 2016 to 2017



www.grangebiglocal.org



Local Trust | Big Local

Foreword

*By Pat Murphy, Chair,
Grange Big Local Partnership Board*



We have reached the end of the first year spending the £1 million. We achieved a lot but not everything we hoped to do. We have succeeded in using our funding to start drawing more resources into the area. There is lots of work going on behind the scenes, which we are confident will come to fruition in time.

Hopefully you've seen the video - Grange Big Local's festival last September was sensational! A big thank you to Bishop Douglass School for allowing the use of their grounds again; also to Julia, Leo, the rest of the GBL Partnership Board and all the associates they engaged to come and make it so successful. Thanks to Saj as treasurer, Yair as Vice Chair as well as to Jon and Jan (she has been fabulous and we will miss her).

This time the activities and stalls were around those covered wooden tables with connecting benches so anyone could enjoy the spicy jerk chicken, flame cooked, hot and ready to eat, with hot drinks from that kitchen. There was a constant turnover of performances throughout the day in the stage area just to the front: Idit's community choir, bands, children singing, guitars, Dinah's cello and Mary's group too; she had originally opened the festival. Jan, our Rep from Local Trust, manned the GBL stall and recruited new members. There was face painting, cupcakes, ice cream, and information about the school.

There was also table tennis, hula-hoops and juggling equipment – did you know that if you swap hands you won't be able to use more than two balls – some feat! Little ones enjoyed the bouncy castle, while on the field the football matches were being played.

At the last Annual General Meeting the Grange Big Local Plan had been passed by Local Trust and we moved into the next phase where projects that had been in the pipeline could be looked at realistically in order to work with organisations to deliver priorities that were included in the Plan. People were employed to support us, draw up ideas and give costings, and the Board has then voted on spend.

Thanks to all the volunteers who have given their time over the past year, including board members and task group members past and present.

We hope you find this report interesting – it tells you more about what Grange Big Local has been doing! This money belongs to our community. We want you to know how we are spending it and we want to know what you think.

2016/17 highlights

This report highlights the activities and milestones of Grange Big Local in the year from April 2016 to March 2017.



April 2016

Began developing contracting arrangements to ensure effective delivery against the Grange Big Local Plan under the auspices of Locally Trusted Organisation CommUNITY Barnet

June 2016

The first Grange Big Local annual general meeting was held
A workshop was held in the Grange Big Local area on 'Working together and making great decisions as a group'

July 2016

The new East Finchley advice service was established, funded by Grange Big Local, and is now running weekly at St. Mary's Parish Centre

August 2016

RaRa completed its feasibility study on the underpass between Manor Park Road and Trinity Road

September 2016

The fourth Grange Big Local Community Festival was held at Bishop Douglass School

November 2016



Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee awarded Grange Big Local £9,999 towards its underpass project; a tree was planted in the open space between Taunton Drive, Oak Lane and New Oak Road to mark the start of delivery on the Plan

January 2017

A workshop was held at RaRa's Clapton office with Grange Big Local task group members and other residents and groups to discuss the practicalities of developing the Manor Park Road-Trinity Road underpass project



March 2017

Grange Big Local took on the services of Community Land Use to explore options regarding the Tarling Road community centre; Space and Place Design by Avra Ploumi-Archer were taken on by Grange Big Local to develop an open spaces strategy

What we have done

The four programme outcomes for Big Local are:

- Communities will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them.
- People will have increased skills and confidence, so that they continue to identify and respond to needs in the future.
- The community will make a difference to the needs it prioritises.
- People will feel that their area is an even better place to live.

Grange Big Local has a vision of a thriving community in our pocket of East Finchley, where people can meet, talk, and play. We want to make our area even more friendly and caring and to engage our diverse population in activities that will increase opportunities and enhance our surroundings.

Further details of our outcome measures and guiding principles can be found in the Grange Big Local Plan 2016.

Community hubs

We want the community to feel connected and for there to be public spaces for people to meet up and take part.

Tarling Road Centre

In April 2016 planning permission was granted for new community centre both to replace the Old Barn and to re-provide a home for the Somali Bravanese Welfare Association. We made representations on the layout of the building, which has resulted in some changes that we think improve the way it will work.

We have continued to work with Barnet Council, local councillors, and to reach out to the SBWA to make sure that we have an asset that works for everyone. We are members of the user group, putting forward our views on how the centre can succeed.

We have commissioned Lorraine Hart from Community Land Use to provide expertise and support in these discussions. We are very grateful for her help; she has been brilliant and we look forward to working with her in the coming year.

£5,200 has been allocated to this.

2016 Grange Big Local community festival

Our fourth annual festival was held at Bishop Douglass School; we want to thank them for their help and support. We hold the festival partly to bring the community

together and partly to find tell you what our plans are, check you agree, and hear people's ideas.

It was a lovely afternoon; we think that up to 400 people dropped in and took part, in activities ranging from football, circus skills, tennis, and Muay Thai, to mehndi and art activities.

We had a budget of £2,500, but thanks to the generosity of both volunteers and companies and individuals that gave us their support we pulled off a festival with free activities that would have cost £5,000, within budget. Many thanks to Filmyard Ltd, East Finchley Combat Academy, Chandos Lawn Tennis Club, EFAB, Good Gym Barnet, Airborne Circus, Monday Club, Rolling Base, Suberbos Soccer School, Saima, all our music performers, and Finchley Fire Station, as well as all the volunteers who helped on the day, for their generosity. We also want to thank Haven Estate Agents and Mulberry Estate Agents for their kind sponsorship.

Here are some facts and figures from the festival:

- Three charities had the opportunity to raise £276 between them.
- 14 charities and organisations had the chance to reach out to the community and explain what they do
- 15 local businesses had the chance to showcase what they do or make sales
- The main issue raised in consultation was playgrounds, but homelessness was also raised

And here is some of the feedback we got on the day:

"We loved it. We've been here all afternoon, listening to the music and we loved it, loved it. We thought they were all great."

Visitors to festival from St Mary's Church (over 65)

"Nee-Naa, Nee-Naa"

16 month old who liked the fire engine

"The tennis and the outdoor gym were awesome!"

Boy, 10

Plans are already underway for next year's festival, which will be a Fun Palace, at the Ann Owens Centre and nearby on Sunday 8 October 12-4pm.

St Mary's Parish Centre

The hall at St Mary's is a local community hub, which houses both our information and advice service, Finchley Foodbank, youth groups and other activities, as well as being a space that the community can hire for birthday parties, funeral wakes and other community uses.

We have allocated a sum of up to £10,000 for a new floor, which will be paid out once they have raised match-funding.

Children and young people

Better facilities for children and young people have been consistently supported in all our consultations. We want to support projects for local children and young people.

Studio N2

At the end of the year we agreed a grant of £39,343 for local charity Art Against Knives for the coming year, to work with children and young people at risk of knife crime and gang violence. We know this is an issue in the area and we are very keen to support early intervention.

Of this £24,343 will come out of the children and young people's budget allocation. There are three elements to this project:

- 1) Community outreach: delivered by local role models, who will engage with young people who need support the most, and who have little access to opportunity
- 2) Activities: award-winning creative projects, designed by young people. These include a nail bar for young people, a pop-up music studio, and weekly martial arts and fitness training, to be delivered by East Finchley Combat Academy.
- 3) Bespoke mentoring programme: delivered by highly experienced staff, who have a unique ability to engage with young people involved in serious youth violence. They will work with young people to address the challenges they face and support them in accessing specialist support.

Barnet Homes are also providing funding for this project, and we expect our support for core costs will help Art Against Knives to draw in more financial support without having to delay this important work.

One of the innovative elements of this project is that we are paying for local people, who work or volunteer with children and young people, to receive training in safeguarding, mental health issues affecting young people and conflict resolution. This will increase the level of skills in the local community and improve the referrals of those children and young people most in need.

Enterprise and employment

We want to support local enterprise. We want to help people to get jobs and gain skills.

Studio N2

£12,000 of the total £39,343 will come from the enterprise and employment budget, in recognition of the early focus on exit from support, including support with personal plans and CVs; and the training provided to people in the community, improving local skills.

Other plans

We are very aware that the current closure, and reduction in size, of East Finchley Library, and the planned closure of Finchley Job Centre, will provide real challenges for the area in the future.

For that reason we have focussed on employment rather than enterprise. We are planning a drop in CV clinic and a coding club. We have volunteers with the requisite expertise in line and are currently working on other practical aspects. We are also exploring a car mechanics course, focussed on young people.

Open spaces and environment

We want people to be proud of the place where they live and to feel a sense of ownership.

Underpass

Rara Cooperative worked with Grange Big Local to develop a feasibility study with recommendations for the Manor Park Road – Trinity Road underpass. This enabled Grange Big Local to seek further funding and had success, with support from local councillors, in applying for an area grant of £9,999 towards a project to improve the underpass. There is currently a total of £20,000 budgeted for this.

The plans within the two-part project include practical improvements, such as making the drainage better, combined with an associated art project with a local school. The project has been more complicated than initially realised and involves negotiations with both TfL and Barnet Council.

Open spaces strategy

Grange Big Local appointed Space and Place Design in March 2017 to work with board members to develop an open spaces strategy. We know that people are keen for playgrounds in the area and environment improvements but we want to find out more about what people want and where they want it.

A sum of up to £5,000 has been allocated for this piece of work.

Tree planting

Grange Big Local board member planted a tree in November 2016 to mark the beginning of plan implementation. The variety of the oak tree is *Quercus robur* and it was planted in the Oak Lane Open Space on the corner with Tarling Road with a number of volunteers present.

A plaque affixed to the cage reads: "This tree was planted in 2016 to mark the start of our ten year plan, which aims to make our pocket of East Finchley an even better place to live".

£738 was approved for this project.

Inclusion

We want everyone to feel included in the community and to support each other. We recognise that we live in an area of great diversity, including a significant number of older and disabled people, and carers.

Studio N2

£3,000 of the total grant for this project will come from the Inclusion budget allocation because of the focus mental health training and support, and the fact the work is with young people who feel, for a variety of reasons, excluded from our community.

Other plans

Work has been done on providing support for exercise opportunities for older people in the area, and social activities through the music appreciation group, in collaboration with Age UK Barnet.

£2,850 has been allocated to this project.

Work has also been done exploring touch-typing classes for children with dyslexia, as a result of representations from parents.

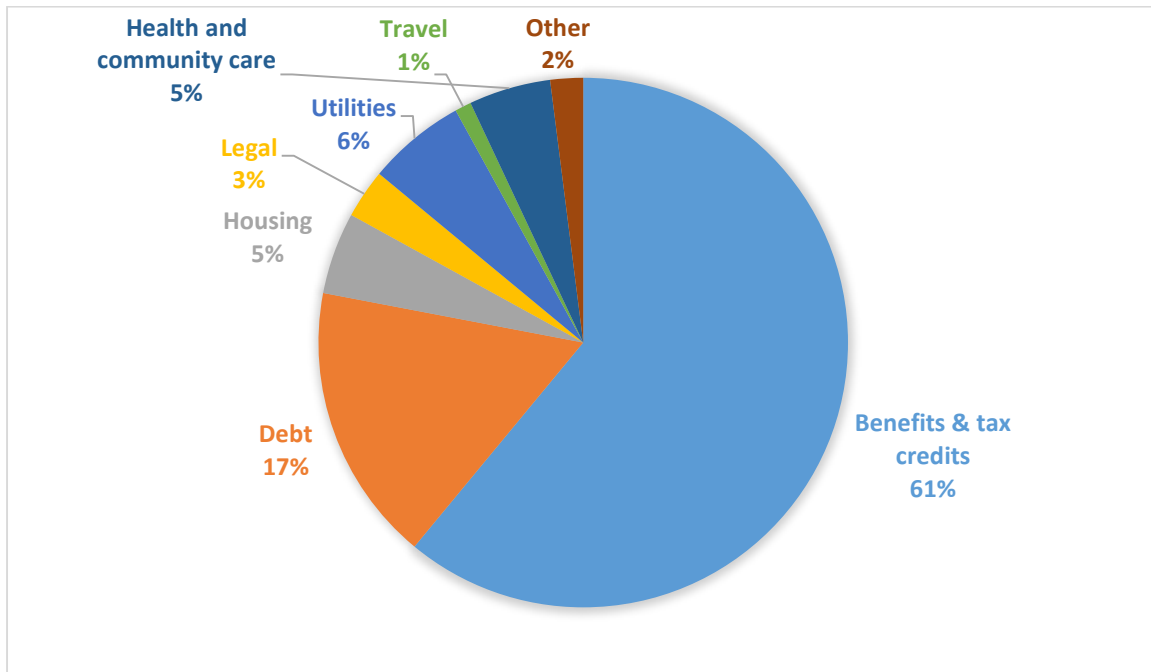
Information and advice

We want to support access to information and advice, including advice on benefits, debt management, housing and consumer rights.

We recognise that worries about money, benefits and housing are a real source of stress and one that it is difficult for people to discuss. We want everyone to have access to help locally. The East Finchley advice service that Grange Big Local has funded has been operation since July 2016. Over its first nine months, over 80 appointments have been provided. Our investment in the advice service of £18,142,

including room hire, has already put more than this amount into the pockets of local people in terms of savings.

People who attended outreach sessions at St. Mary's Parish Centre had the following breakdown of issues:



Citizens Advice Barnet have recruited a volunteer solicitor from the Grange Big Local area, who has started to attend the pro bono clinic, offering family law advice.

One client visited the advice service for help with council tax arrears. She is married but has been separated from her husband since he suffered a mental breakdown. He was admitted into hospital but has since been moved indefinitely into a mental health institution, where he remains to date. Around the same time her husband was hospitalized, the client also fell ill and was admitted to hospital. She suffers from various health problems and has become depressed. She had been financially reliant on her husband until he fell ill.

Due to her husband's admission into hospital, the client missed two months of council tax repayments, and was subsequently contacted by Barnet Council who had demanded payment. She contacted the council tax office to ask for more time to pay, but could not keep pace with the relentless demands, and soon the debt was passed on to bailiffs for collection. At this point she contacted Citizens Advice for help.

The client's primary issue was dealing with these council tax demands, but she also needed wider support on how to manage bills and budgeting. Barnet CAB contacted Barnet Council and successfully stopped the bailiff action, removing the fees they had added and passing the debt back to the Council for collection. The client's liability is being recalculated, as well as any benefits she might be able to claim as a single person to further reduce her Council Tax. Barnet CAB were also able to offer her one to one budgeting support to help her deal with future bills and liabilities. The client was much less stressed after the intervention, and financially better off as well as having the skills to avoid future debt.

We would like to thank Daniel Bamford and Sophie Nzegwu at Citizens Advice Barnet, for working with us on this. Congratulations to Daniel on his new role as chief executive. Many thanks also to Father Terry Tastard who has let us use St Mary's Parish Centre at a very low cost, in recognition of the importance of the project. We look forward to continuing to work with them in the future.

Other plans

In light of Brexit, we have become aware of EU residents who are concerned about their rights to remain after 2019. We are planning a group advice session to help people understand where they stand and what they can do.

Partnership support and development

Thanks to COMMUNITY Barnet, particularly Julie Pal and Selina Rodrigues for all their support.

Thanks to Jon, our community partnership manager who has been supporting the partnership in implementing the plan. We acknowledge that this is one of our biggest investments, which has been critical in arranging contracts, supporting board meetings, sending out newsletters and other communications.

As Grange Big Local doesn't have a dedicated base in the area, we incur expenses because we use cafes, which are cheaper and easier than hiring a room. We also spent some money on a board social at Christmas. It is important that no-one is out of pocket as a result of helping Grange Big Local; we don't want people to be put off because they can't buy a cup of tea or afford a babysitter.

Board members have been on training courses, including on chairing skills, because developing board members' skills is important. Local Trust run courses, some of which are in London, and we encourage board members and volunteers to attend.

Accounts

The table below gives a breakdown of Grange Big Local income and expenditure, managed through CommUNITY Barnet, in the year to the end of March 2017.

Grange Big Local finances for year ending March 2017

<u>Local Trust income</u>	<u>£</u>
Big Lottery grant - April 2016	63,000.00
Big Lottery grant - March 2017	63,000.00
<u>Other income</u>	
Area Committee grant (for underpass)	9,999.00
Haven Estate Agent sponsorship	350.00
Mulberry Estate Agent sponsorship	100.00
Community festival 2016 stall payments	94.50
Pathway funding	2,720.54
Total	139,264.04

<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>£</u>
Partnership support	26,985.88
Community hubs	4,898.81
Children and young people	0.00
Enterprise and employment	0.00
Open spaces and environment	2,159.00
Inclusion	0.00
Information and advice	6,750.00
Return of pathway funding (recoverable)	2,720.54
Total	43,514.23

<u>GBL Plan budget - Year 1</u>	
	<u>£</u>
Partnership support	30,000.00
Community hubs	20,000.00
Children and young people	20,000.00
Enterprise and employment	15,000.00
Open spaces and environment	19,000.00
Inclusion	9,000.00
Information and advice	13,000.00
Total	126,000.00

Surplus (Income minus expenditure) 95,749.81

2016 / 2017 Grange Big Local Partnership Board Members

Name	Status (resident/ volunteer)	Details
Pat Murphy	Resident	
Dinah Beamish	Resident	
Yair Shifman	Resident	
Sandy Barker	Resident	
Aisha Kenz	Resident	
Louise Fincham	Resident	
Leo Smith	Resident	
Mary Otumahana	Resident	
Dipak Jashapara	Resident	
Jo Kamanu	Resident	(Stood down in August 2016)
James Watson	Resident	
Elizabeth James	Resident	(Co-opted back as a board member in January 2017)
Richard Mansi	Volunteer	(Stood down in August 2016)
Julia Hines	Volunteer	Formerly Trustee at Age UK Barnet
Idit Gold	Volunteer	Founder of Singing in London
Sajeda Meghji	Volunteer	Volunteer with Age UK Barnet and EFAB; (Stood down in March 2017)
Fred Smith	Volunteer	(Stood down in August 2016)
Emily Burnham	Volunteer	Originally non-voting member (co-opted as a full board member in February 2017)
Councillor Alison Moore	Volunteer	Non-voting member

Our Locally Trusted Organisation - CommUNITY Barnet

www.communitybarnet.org.uk

CommUNITY Barnet has continued to play a crucial role in supporting Grange Big Local as its Locally Trusted Organisation.

CommUNITY Barnet are the umbrella organisation for the local voluntary and community sector in Barnet, supporting and representing voluntary and community groups, charities and faith groups across the borough.

CommUNITY Barnet's mission is to help ensure Barnet has a thriving, sustainable and vibrant third sector.

Grange Big Local is grateful for the support of CommUNITY Barnet's chief executive, Julie Pal, and its former Head of Strategic Development, Selina Rodrigues, who have worked with Jon Woolfson, Grange Big Local community partnership manager, to support the Grange Big Local partnership board as it moved into delivery phase.

This has included developing new contracts specific to the needs of the Big Local programme and working to roll out practical solutions on matters relating to the blossoming programme.



www.grangebiglocal.org

Funding source



LOTTERY FUNDED

Programme managed by

Local Trust | **Big Local**

Supported by our Locally Trusted Organisation

