

Issue no.1  
20/05/2018



# Big Local Eastern Sheppey

This booklet is to inform you about what Big Local Eastern Sheppey is doing in your local community

# What is **Big Local**?

Big Local is an exciting opportunity for residents in 150 areas around England to use at least £1,000,000 each to make a massive and lasting positive difference to their communities. Big Local brings together all the local talent, ambitions, skills and energy individuals, groups and organisations who want to make their area an even better place to live.



## Big Local Outcomes

- 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.

## Its not about...

Its NOT about local authorities, the government or a national organisation telling people what to do. It's NOT about individual groups fixing their favourite problem without talking to a wide range of different people who live, socialise and work in the community. It's NOT about short-term thinking- Big Local areas have 10 years or more to plan and deliver the best options for their area.



## How do you know what I want?

Throughout every year Big Local Eastern Sheppey engages with local residents and finds out exactly what we can do to make the areas of Eastchurch, Leysdown and Warden an EVEN better place to live!

## What have you achieved so far?

Big Local Eastern Sheppey has successfully been delivering projects for over 3 years now. Some of the projects we have already delivered include:

### Play Schemes for local Eastern Sheppey Children

We have discovered that there isn't a lot for local children to do during the Summer Holidays so Big Local Eastern Sheppey delivers 2 play schemes throughout the Easter and summer break at a highly subsidised cost to ensure no one misses out! So far we have had over **3000 children attend**.

### Community Chest

Each year we host at least 4 Community Chest rounds and this gives local community groups an opportunity to apply for funding to help their organisation purchase materials and deliver projects. So far we have awarded over **£40,000**.

### Working with the Elderly Community

We have allocated **£30,000** this year to work with the Elderly Community and we have been working out exactly how we can benefit them. We have set up free weekly shopping trips, line dancing classes, quiz night and days out. More to come!

### Getting back to work

In Partnership with the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust and Swale Leisure Centre we managed to run a course which helped **16 unemployed people get back into employment** by working with professional athletes. We are planning on delivering a similar programme this year!

### Supporting the Local School

Working with the local Eastchurch Primary School has always been a high priority. So Far we have donated **30 Laptops** for extra curriculum activities and recently awarded **£7,000** for external sheltering and nursery equipment.

## DofE

We have established a Duke Of Edinburgh Award Centre and are working on achieving the first **gold award for the whole of Sheppey!**  
Sea Defences Project

Working in Partnership with a local organisation we are producing a report to bring back the beautiful beaches that Eastchurch, Leysdown and Warden use to have! The plan will kick start the regeneration of the seaside! **£14,000 has been allocated** to begin this development.

## Big Local Activity Club

It's fair to say that the Eastern Sheppey area is a seasonal area, therefore during the winter months there is barely anything to do for the local teenagers. We have established a subsidised Activity Club based at Warden every Wednesday (term time only) for local teenagers to attend to give them something to do! (11-16 yrs)

## Training

During early consultation the local community told us that they had ambitions to improve their current qualifications. We have delivered Health & Safety and Food Hygiene courses for local residents, over **100 people have benefited so far!** Do you need basic computer skills? get in touch because that's our next course.

## Environmental Improvements

Residents constantly mention to us that they require more additional village seating in the area. So far we have purchased and installed **12 additional benches** throughout Eastern Sheppey. As well as this we have installed Street Games in each of the three areas, if you haven't seen them yet give us a call and we will let you know where they are! We are also looking into the possibility of creating a Dog Walking area in Leysdown. This space will be completely safe and secure for everyone to visit and take in the beauty of Leysdown, the area will be surrounded by a fence which will allow dog owners to walk their dog knowing that they cannot escape. Dog waste bins/bags and a grounds-person will also be provided to keep up with any maintenance and waste issues.

## Bus Turning Circle

Currently Arriva buses are being forced to use Wing Road as means of turning around. We are concerned that if there is an accident then Arriva may completely withdraw their service as they are entitled to do. There is no legal obligation for them to continue this service. We are keen to ensure this doesn't happen so we are looking at purchasing

the site and allowing the busses to continue to use it and ultimately saving the service. Swale Borough Council have informed us that this land has been identified for building 10 homes, therefore, we wish to develop these **10 homes** but at a **affordable rate for local people!**

### Speech & Language Course

After having several meetings with the local Children Centre, Beaches, we were informed that there was an increase in local children not being 'school ready' in terms of Speech and Language. Working in Partnership with Beaches Children Centre we have supported two courses so far.

### Big Local Eastern Sheppey dog walking park

We have been consulting with the local community about this project for the last 24 months and will continue to consult with local residents that will be directly affected. Currently on the corner of Wing Road and Seaview Avenue there is a piece of land that is overgrown. The vision we have in place is that we would like to adopt this piece of land, remove any debris /rubbish and restore the land to a better condition by creating a safe and secure environment that the local community will be proud of, whilst maintaining the wildlife. This park will be open to all and will have a variety of fruit trees scattered across it, this will all be secured with a 5ft fence surrounding the perimeter.



There are more projects and ideas that Big Local Eastern Sheppey is working on and our next Partnership meeting is Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 7pm, anyone is welcome to attend and find out more about what we are currently working on! Venue: 5<sup>th</sup> Sheppey Scout Hut, Dicksons Field Eastchurch

## Q&A Time

Big Local Eastern Sheppey is constantly challenged throughout the community about what it does with the money that has been awarded. Please find below some questions and the answers to these questions:

### **Q1) I've heard Big Local Eastern Sheppey spends £47,000 on administration, is that true?**

We can confirm that we do not spend this amount on administration. However over the past 12 months we have spent £30,000 on two members of staff. You may ask **why do you employ people instead of using volunteers?** This is because the workload is incredibly high, unfortunately the Partnership (who are **ALL** volunteers) do not have the time to deliver every single project on their own and therefore require the use of staff, just like any organisation including the local Parish Councils.

### **Q2) Did you have anything to do with that Bandstand in Leysdown?**

We can confirm that we did not have anything to do with that project.

### **Q3) You mention the 'Partnership' a lot, who are these people? What do they do and how do I become one, or is it a 'closed shop?'**

The Partnership is made up of local people just like you, they all live in the three areas of Eastern Sheppey and meet on a monthly basis to make decisions about the projects we are currently working on. If you wish to become a Partnership member all you have to do is attend three consecutive meetings (second Monday of every month, unless stated otherwise) sign the code of conduct and the memorandum of understanding and then the current members will all take a vote.

### **Q4) Someone on the Partnership doesn't like me and wouldn't vote me on though...**

Every Partnership member is entitled to **ONLY** a single vote, unless tied then the Chair would get the casting vote. Therefore, the chances are very slim to not be accepted on a majority basis.

**Q5) The street games you have installed are never used!**

We understand that Eastern Sheppey is a seasonal town and therefore street markings are less likely to be used in the winter months.

However, we have spoken with local people that work in the vicinity of each of our street games and they have stated that they are used on a regular basis during the winter months and EVERY single day during high season.



**Q6) What happens after your 10 years, what legacy are you leaving behind?**

We are constantly looking at becoming more self-sustainable, this can be seen from the increase in costs at our various clubs and events, we have also created our own bank account which allows us to store any generated income separate from the £1,000,000 to ensure these projects continue after the 10 years is over. Legacy is always something we are looking at, we understand that some of our smaller investments are not very long term, therefore in our next plan we are looking at least 2 or 3 longer lasting projects over the coming years which will have a massive impact!

**Q7) What political party do you support?**

Big Local Eastern Sheppey does not follow or support any political party, we are completely neutral. However, if a local councillor that lives in the local area is interested in becoming a Partnership member then they are more than welcome.

**Q8) Are your accounts/expenditure transparent for anyone to see?**

Big Local Eastern Sheppey meets every month (on the second Monday/venue is announced on social media/ or the previous meeting as we like to move locations) and Transparency is vital for our success, this is why we always have a financial report presented and then these are uploaded to our social media/website

([www.BigLocalEasternSheppey.com](http://www.BigLocalEasternSheppey.com)) for the entire community to see.

## Save the date!

- Partnership meeting 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018, at the 5<sup>th</sup> Sheppey Scout Hut 7pm
  - Community Chest round closes 29<sup>th</sup> May 12pm
  - Big Local Activity Club – Every Wednesday (term time only) at Warden Village Hall 6:30 – 8:30pm £1 per person
  - Big Local Line Dancing Classes – Every Wednesday at Leysdown Village Hall 7-8pm.
  - Monthly Coach Trips for the elderly– Get in touch
  - Weekly Shopping trips for those that struggle to commute – Get in touch
  - Eastchurch Parish Council Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 7pm
  - Leysdown Parish Council Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday ,7pm
  - Warden Parish Council Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, 7:30pm
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Sheppey Scouts
    - Beavers – ages 5¾ to 8, Thursday 5pm til 6:30pm
    - Cubs – ages 8 to 11, Wednesday 6pm til 7:30pm
    - Scouts ages 10½/11 to 13½/14, Thursday 7pm til 8:45pm
- Contact Ceri Gough for further information: 01795 880206

**We are still consulting and want to hear your views! Please visit our website to complete our 5 minute survey. These views and ideas will help shape our next plan. Closing date 5<sup>th</sup> June**



If you would like any further information about anything in this issue then please visit our website [www.BigLocalEasternSheppey.com](http://www.BigLocalEasternSheppey.com) If you need to speak to someone then give our Project Co-ordinator Sean Leacock a call on 07870645342 or 01795 880627



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**If you would like to feature in the next issue of this booklet please email Sean at [Sean@BigLocalEasternSheppey.com](mailto:Sean@BigLocalEasternSheppey.com)**