

Minutes BLC Partnership Meeting 7th December 2021, by Zoom from 7pm

Present:

Partner Members Jimmy Zamek (Chair) Jackie Worby, Mohan Ahad

Stakeholders Leigha Britnell (Community Fridge Coordinator), Max Smith (MK Dons SET)

Associates James Butler (Treasurer) Robbie Macpherson (Secretary)

Others - Julia Burkin (LT Rep) Chris Allen (LT Advisor), Leigha Britnell (CF Coordinator), Andrea Dokhan

Apologies: Henrietta Haines, Sid Burgess, Emma Adamson

Absent Carole Devine, Beki Dujardin

1. **Welcome and Apologies** – JZ welcomed people and thanked them for their attendance. He said the Xmas Cards had been ordered and the cost is £600 for printing and delivery. 100 gold cards too.
2. **Conflict of Interest** – None
3. **Minutes of last meeting** – Agreed.
4. **Matters Arising** – JZ said Sid's quiz had gone very well with two teams of three taking part. Four volunteers helped. It was very safe because there was lots of space with a number of people.

There is a choir already in Conniburrow. JZ had met them at the SA last week. He will forward details. BLC's keyboard and stand will be returned to the Hub.

The Payback group will spend two days clearing on Conniburrow; Their Organiser will get them to work on the Orchard. EA said they had not turned up today. JZ said he'd get in touch with the Organiser.

Eng Off post is still open. Peter Bakare got a more attractive offer (longer term).

The Policy documents still need to be reviewed. JuB said their fitness for purpose needs to be assessed and then amended as needed, and agreed by the Partnership. She and JZ offered to complete an audit early in January.

Andrea Dokhan, who JZ had asked, is willing to take over as Secretary if no Conniburrow resident is available. RM said he was willing to support her in the handover.

5. **Hub / Community Fridge Report** – JW
JW said things were still working well - about 200 visitors per week. The Fridge will be closed 25 December and 1 January.

There are 25 Xmas hampers ready to be delivered.

The Xmas gift delivery was agreed for December 18. JZ, JW and possibly EA will do this. Others are welcome to help.

Tins of sweets will be given to volunteers and Partners as a thank you for all their work and help.

JZ said we need to make sure Fridge users stay back from the window, given current Covid numbers.

LB said she could not continue to dispose of the cardboard after December. JZ thanked her for all her help with this.

6. **SMG** nothing to report.

7. **Treasurer's Report** – JB reported that there was no significant change. We are still 62% underspent versus budget. LT has given go-ahead for the spend. JB has reconciled the invoices and changed the bank mandate to needing only one signature. There is £305 in petty cash. There are some expenses which need to be paid.

LB said the Fridge needs a racking system, probably costing £4-500 per rack. She will talk with Helen Innes (Community Fridge Network) and make a recommendation. JZ suggested they visit the Wolverton Fridge together to see what they have in place.

8. **BLC Plan Priority Area Reports**

a. **Staff Recruitment** - MA suggested we hire two people and accelerate the plan. JZ said we could go for three people working 15 hours each. CA said the issue about who their employer would be. He had followed up with the BL rep and the other applicant who had worked and a London Big Local was not appropriate/recommended because there had been some issues.

JZ asked why BLC could not employ people themselves? CA pointed out that BLC is not a legal entity and JuB is not able to support employees. The only way it could happen with employment is if they were self-employed contractors. JZ said we should go for legal status. CA agreed that this was a longer term solution, but, in the short term we could issue a tender. MA agreed this was a good idea and wondered if university departments could help. CA said that approach was usually high fees but with students doing the work. Maybe organisations like Groundwork or Nacro would be interested. JuB and Ca will do some research and report back. We could put a tender on LT's Workplace.

b. **Social Activity Programme - Quiz** - see above.

MS said two work colleagues were very ill with the new variant. JW said she thought we should run no events at the moment. LB offered to do something for the Queen's Jubilee later in the year. She will form a COmmittee and plan - most likely street party with roads closed. JZ said JW, MS, JB and he will help.

c. **Orchard** Nothing to report

- d. **Website** EA said there was nothing to report. JuB said she was not involved at the moment but still willing to help. No other Partners are able to help with this at the moment.
- 9. **LT updates** CA has a framework for assessing potential new LTOs. It covers ethos and financial competence. He has approached the Dons SET and written to the CEO, Marilyn Smith outlining the needs. She has suggested a virtual meeting and CA has given some dates.

JuB said there was no training available before Xmas. The Partnership Review still needs some more responses. She will call SB, CD and JZ to get it done.

CA reminded us that LT do not need quorum to be residents only. BLC as historically not given voting rights to non-residents.

- 10. **Community Artist** – We need someone to work with Tina from AHA and MA volunteered.
- 11. **WEuros** - JuB has sent BD an email but not heard back. RM will send JuB BD's number. RM will ask if Community Information event is planned.

12. A.O.B

Andrea's induction will start immediately.

MA said he prefers Zoom Meetings. JuB said some BLs are using Zoom over the winter months to keep people safe and warm. There is no pressure from LT to return to F2F meetings.

Date and Time of Next Meetings

SMG – Tuesday December 21st at 7pm by Zoom

Partnership – Tuesday January 4th, 7pm by Zoom

Robbie Macpherson, 3rd January 2022