



North Meets South Big Local
Bridging our Communities

Big Local Plan 2018 -2019

We would like to thank everyone who took part in consultation events and activities during the year. Your feedback has been vital in shaping the plan for the next 2 years and the areas we can invest in, in order to create lasting and sustainable change in our community. There will be lots of opportunities to get involved in Big Local in the coming years, so please do join us!

Our Vision

Together we work to strengthen and grow our community through partnership and sharing of aspirations and innovations

Priorities for 2018-19

Green and Open Spaces Improve the green spaces, local outdoor environment and facilities available in the area so that more people can benefit from them and want to use them for a variety of social, health related and other activities.

Strengthening Communities Provide support and activities for people of all ages living within the Big Local area. Young people have been identified across all engagement as a focal point for both aspiration and challenge.

Community Economic Development Access to information and services, affordable finance, training, employment and enterprise opportunities.

Community Engagement and Partnership Support Ensure that the community continues to identify and refine its needs and take action to meet these. Provide a Voice to enable local people to access information and influence service delivery.

Find out about more about these priorities below, or visit the North Meets South website on www.nmsbl.org.uk

Want to get involved? Please contact Ola on 07419 285839 or nmsworker17@gmail.com

North Meets South Priorities

Green and Open Spaces

The community identified Green and Open spaces as a priority area. In particular, you told us:

- There was a need for more places for children and young people of all ages to play safely
- That some of our existing green spaces need to be developed

We commissioned Wynne Williams Associates to audit and review the green and open spaces within the North Meets South Area, and to consult with local residents and stakeholders further on the current and potential use of these spaces. The full report can be found here

<http://nmsbl.org.uk/a/25516076-27424131>

We then commissioned Design with Nature to produce design options and suggestions for potential play equipment based on our previous consultations with you. These were shared at the 2017 Dragon's Den event, and your views have helped inform a Veolia Environmental Trust grant application to help Big Local funding go further and create an amazing park for all to enjoy. We will know if it has been successful in March 2018. During event the next 2 years we plan to prioritise the activities detailed below:

- **Improved play facilities at Tantony Green**
- **Outdoor Gym at Tantony Green**
- **Community gardening and food growing activities**
- **Benches – tree benches and independent benches along popular routes**
- **Establishment of "Friends of" groups, in particular for Tantony green and Padnall Lake**
- **Activity equipment for use in green spaces**
- **Work with the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham to discuss the maintenance of existing spaces, such as Padnall Lake, and on littering and recycling in the area**

Strengthening Communities

For 2018-19 we have brought together Children, Families & Young People and Older People under Strengthening Communities, similar to our first plan. We feel this better represents the cross-cutting needs of our community and the desired end result.

Through previous engagement with families and young people in the area, feedback highlighted:

- A lack of affordable activities and provision for children, particularly during the school holiday period, and the need for a menu of provision;
- A lack of awareness of services available locally for young people (including personal development, support and leisure opportunities) causing barriers to participation.

We commissioned The Kaizen Partnership to consult with children and young people on the type of provision they would like to see in the area and identify any gaps. The full report can be read here:

<http://nmsbl.org.uk/a/25516091-27424464>

During the next 2 years we plan to prioritise the activities detailed below:

- **Sports and arts activities for children and young people of all ages, including holiday provision and youth work**
- **Help with schoolwork or homework**
- **New – life skills and opportunities, including interactive engagement and learning for 12 to 19 year olds**
- **New - Training Bursary Fund aimed at 16 to 25 year olds and possibly others**
- **Activities for older people and other adults, including arts & crafts, fitness and socials to help build friendships and combat isolation**
- **Digital inclusion projects, supporting people of all ages to access online facilities and services – for example, job searching for people who are unemployed, or access to services for older isolated members of the community**

Community Economic Development

Previously identified as “Social Investment” in our first plan, we have expanded this priority heading to “Community Economic Development”; we feel this better describes the process of economic development within the North meets South Area, led by the community, for the community. We recognise that many of the social and economic issues in our community are interconnected, and we want to build on the existing skills, knowledge and resources in the area to make North Meets South a better place to live, work and play.

This area covers a range of issues from skill building, employment and enterprise, to financial resilience. We’ve held initial conversations with the Credit Union and Citizens Advice Bureau to identify demand for financial support services and debt advice in the area. We’ve also explored options to encourage social enterprise, supporting local people to develop their skills and employment opportunities, whilst also resulting in a range of services benefitting the whole community. During the next 2 years we plan to prioritise the activities detailed below.

- **Financial advice and support in collaboration with organisations such as Citizens Advice Bureau and Credit Union**
- **Social enterprise training and support for local people, including start-up funding or grants for new enterprise, and exploring the possibility of dedicated enterprise space in the area**
- **Training, confidence building and mentoring for people of all ages, supporting their progression to education, employment and enterprise**
- **Explore the potential for partnerships with local businesses/tradespeople to develop and encourage training opportunities and apprenticeships**
- **Explore the potential for a Big Local Community Hub from which a range of community services and activities can take place**

Community Engagement and Partnership Support

For 2018-19 we have broadened Community Engagement Projects to Community Engagement and Partnership Support, reflecting our commitment to the vision for our community. We will continue our programme of community engagement across all of the above priorities, whilst also remaining responsive to community needs as they change. Our Community Coordinator will be driving forward many of the areas identified in the Plan, whilst also developing partnerships with existing and new

community groups, stakeholders and service providers, and supporting the development of community organisations and projects in the area.

The successful Dragons Den community grant will continue, offering local people the opportunity to test new ideas as well as developing existing projects benefitting the community. Through Dragon's Den we will be looking for projects and activities that respond to the priorities identified in the Plan, as well as projects that respond to other identified needs. We will also provide training and development opportunities for Big Local Volunteers – Community Heroes, supporting people to develop their skills as they give their time to community projects.

- **Enabling residents and groups to develop projects that will benefit the community, through Dragon's Den grants**
- **Engaging residents in community activities and services in the Big Local area, and encouraging people to get involved in Big Local activities**
- **Supporting the development of community groups and projects in the area, including help with governance, fundraising, project planning and delivery**
- **Encouraging partnership working between local organisations and projects to maximise community benefit**

Proposed Budget

NORTH MEETS SOUTH PRIORITIES	2018	2019	TOTAL
Green and Open Spaces: Improved play facilities at Tantony Green Outdoor Gym Equipment, pitch repair and benches Community Gardening and food growing activities Activities on green spaces in the area	£149,000	£5,000	£154,000
Strengthening Communities: (Children, families, young people and older people) Sports and arts activities Life skills and opportunities Training Bursary Fund Older people's activities	£75,000	£75,000	£150,000
Community Economic Development: Financial advice and advocacy Social enterprise and skills training and support Feasibility study for enterprise space and NMS hub	£55,000	£35,000	£90,000
Community Engagement and Partnership Support: Big Local Community Coordinator Dragon's Den Grants Community events Support for commissioning	£98,050	£93,850	£191,900
TOTAL BUDGET	£377,050	£208,850	£585,900

How we are achieving the Big Local outcomes

Communities will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them: Our community is actively involved in identifying, prioritising and decision-making in relation to the Big Local investment through consultation events targeted at different sections of our community.

People will have increased skills and confidence, so that they continue to identify and respond to needs in the future: Through Dragon's Den and our new personal development and social enterprise project, local people are identifying gaps or needs in the community and developing their own solutions.

The community will make a difference to the needs it prioritises: In consultation with the wider community, we will continue to prioritise what is most important to local people and work towards achieving beneficial outcomes. For example, as consultation showed that improved play and an outdoor gym were the top priority for our community, we are investing Big Local funding to make this a reality.

People will feel that their area is an even better place to live: We still have a long way to go, but we are actively working towards this through community-run activities, encouraging social enterprise and improvements to our local park.

