



**North meets South Big Local**  
**Bridging our Communities**

**Big Local Plan 2017 -2019**

## Introduction

The last year of North Meets South Big Local has seen a great variety of activity, from our successful Dragon's Den funding event in the summer, to events and commissioned reports that have helped to provide a clearer picture of projects and resources the community would like to see in the area.

We're also really pleased to have launched our website which will enable everyone to keep up to date with activities, events and services in the area, as well as Big Local Plans. Please do get in touch with any events or activities you are planning.

This document outlines the key areas we will prioritise over the next 3 years and follows on from our first plan in 2015. Some of the activities detailed in our plan are reliant on establishing partnerships and ways of working with other providers that may take time to develop, and so whilst we hope that many of the activities will take place in the next 2 to 3 years, we expect some may take longer and be included in a later plan. We will also continue to review our activities as we know that community needs and priorities can change.

We'd like to thank everyone that has taken part in consultation events and activities during the year. Your feedback has been vital in shaping the plan for the next 3 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 year, so please do join us!

## Our Vision

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

## Our Priorities

**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;

**Children and Young People and Older People** Provide support and activities for people of all ages living within the Big Local area. Young people have been identified across all engagement as the focal point for both aspiration and challenge;

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

**Community Engagement Projects** 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;

## 1. Green and Open Spaces

In 2015, 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>

During the next 3 years we plan to prioritise the activities detailed below. All of these activities will need further consultation regarding location and design, and for proposals such as the splash pool, we will need to investigate options further to decide if this is viable and sustainable in the long-term. We will also aim to secure match funding for some of these initiatives where we can. You will see that some of these priorities cross over with Children and Young People priorities too.

- **Improved play facilities at Tantony Green**
- **Outdoor Gym at Tantony Green**
- **Activity equipment for use in green spaces, including a game bench/chess board**
- **Community gardening and food growing activities**
- **Benches – tree benches and independent benches along popular routes**
- **Painting the pitch**
- **Establishment of “Friends of” groups, in particular for Tantony green and Padnall Lake**
- **Investigate the potential for a splash pool**
- **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.**

## 2. Children and Young People

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 then 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 3 years we plan to prioritise the activities detailed below. As with green and open spaces activities, many of the activities will need further consultation regarding their design.

- **Sports and arts activities for children and young people of all ages, including holiday provision and youth work**
- **Gym and play facilities at Tantony Green (see also green and open spaces)**
- **Help with schoolwork or homework**
- **Mentoring, confidence building and job preparation (see also enterprise and training under Community Economic Development)**

### 3. Older People

Through our work over the last year we have identified the need for activities for older people, and so we are creating a new heading in our plan. As with other areas, this priority area overlaps with other priorities – in particular green and open spaces, and community economic development, where the maintenance of open spaces, provision of benches, planting, financial support and digital inclusion will be available to the whole community. There will also be opportunities for older people's projects to be supported through the Dragon's Den community fund.

In addition, we will commission a consultation with older people to identify any other services or activities needed in the area.

- **Provision of an outdoor gym and maintenance of existing green spaces such as Padnall Lake in partnership with London Borough of Barking & Dagenham (see also Green and Open Spaces)**
- **Community gardening and food growing activities**
- **Benches – tree benches and independent benches along popular routes**
- **Financial advice and support in collaboration with organisations such as Citizens Advice Bureau and Credit Union (see also Community Economic Development)**
- **Digital inclusion projects, supporting people of all ages to access online facilities and services (see also Community Economic Development)**
- **Enabling residents and groups to develop projects that will benefit the community through the Dragon's Den community project fund**
- **Commissioning a consultation with older residents to identify further priorities**

### 4. 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 3 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. We will also explore an enterprise training and support partnership with UnLtd.**
- **Explore the potential for a Big Local Community Hub from which a range of community services and activities can take place**
- **Explore the potential for partnerships with local businesses/ tradespeople to develop and encourage training opportunities and apprenticeships.**

- Training, confidence building and mentoring for people of all ages, supporting their progression to education, employment and enterprise.
- 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.

## 5. Community Engagement Projects

We will continue our programme of community engagement across all of the above themes, whilst also remaining responsive to community priorities as they change. Our Community Co-ordinator 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. They will also support the development of community organisations and projects in the area.

The successful Dragons Den community project fund will continue, offering local projects the opportunity to test new ideas as well as developing existing projects benefitting the community. Through this project 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, supporting people to develop their skills as they give their time to community projects.

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

## Budget

Priority	Approved	Proposal			
	2016-17	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
Green and Open Spaces		£35,000	£82,000	£3,000	£120,000
Children and Young People		£10,000	£7,500	£7,500	£25,000
Older People		£10,000	£5,000	£5,000	£20,000
Community Economic Development		£40,000	£55,000	£35,000	£130,000
Community Engagement Projects		£51,400	£51,300	£51,300	£154,000
Community Engagement and Partnership Support	£64,611	£0	£64,000	£64,000	£128,000
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>		<b>£146,400</b>	<b>£264,800</b>	<b>£165,800</b>	<b>£577,000</b>