

A Successful Launch Day Event

On Saturday 3rd May the community came together to celebrate and enjoy the launch of Birchfield Big Local. Residents of all ages enjoyed the activities and entertainment at Holy Trinity Primary Academy. The all important message was given that Birchfield Big Local is now up and running.

People running projects supported by Big Local spoke about what they are doing and Vice-Chair, Dorrette Hanson invited all to get involved. Feed back on the day was very positive.

“We need an event like this every year”

“This is the biggest event there’s been in Birchfield for years”

Entertainment was provided by musician Milton Godfrey and children from Birchfield Dance Centre. A variety of dances were performed reflecting the cultural diversity at the dance studio.

A Young People’s Event on Saturday 17th May was also well supported. Held at Grosvenor Road Studios, the event included a DJ workshop, free studio recording and an art workshop. A total of 19 young people offered feedback and completed a short questionnaire. The aim is to set up a Youth Forum for the Birchfield Big Local area.



At both events Tina was the caterer and she did a brilliant job in feeding the guests. Well done Tina and her helpers.

We would also like to thank the following for supporting the launch event: Nash Dom; Birchfield Children’s Centre; Healthwatch; Asda; Frances Dawson & Birchfield Dance Centre; Birchfield Residents Action Group Allotment Project; John Shannon & Sunrise Community Solutions; Milton Godfrey; Mikey Godfrey & Paul Snook of Grosvenor Road Studios. Thanks also to Tesco for a donation towards refreshments for the day.



Big Local Opportunities!

Exciting opportunities to help make a positive difference in Birchfield—see next page.

EDITOR'S comments CHAIR'S Comments



Welcome to the second edition of the Birchfield Big Local Newsletter. My name is Dorrette Hanson and I have been involved with Big Local since summer last year. Currently I volunteer as the Vice Chair. However we will be holding elections in July and are looking to encourage individuals to join Big Local as we strive to improve, encourage, and develop the area.

What do you think should be included in the newsletter? Are there regular features you would like to see? I look forward to your input on how we as a community can develop the newsletter and the community further.

If you feel we are doing a good job tell us. If there's things you feel we should be addressing ..tell us. I got involved and just take a look what I'm doing now! This is proof that your skills are needed and can be put to good use to enrich the community.

Currently we are trying to develop a group of volunteers to help distribute the newsletter. Can you be a street champion? Can you and some of your neighbours volunteer together?

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the many volunteers who helped at the Launch event and Young People's Event for doing such a good job.

Thanks Dorrette



Originally as chair of the Neighbourhood Forum I was privileged to lead the Steering group that had responsibility to find partners and devise a Plan for the benefit of our diverse community. The Plan has been devised by local residents who have recognised under-represented groups, such as disabled children, the unemployed, but to my mind we have a long way to go before we serve the whole community. I hope that over the remaining 10 years we will be wise in our social investment. I would suggest a Community Centre where all would be welcome as a valuable target.

We want people to stay in Birchfield, knowing that they can contribute something of lasting value to the area. I urge you to come forward with new ideas, hopes and plans for the future that will leave a lasting legacy.

I hope my few words are an encouragement, as we learn to listen more carefully to those in our community who find it hard to tell us what is needed to make their lives happier. The Partnership members are always ready to hear your views and act on them where possible. Our team will need new voices over the next 10 years, so we invite you to join us and make a difference to Birchfield.

Mike Tye

Big Local Opportunities

Volunteer Co-ordinator

(£9,600 pa, 20 hours per week)

Birchfield Big Local are looking for someone to take on the part-time paid role of Volunteer Co-ordinator. This will involve recruiting volunteers and matching them to volunteer opportunities in the local area as well as motivating and supporting volunteers. The person appointed will be employed by BVSC who act as the Local Trusted Organisation for Birchfield Big Local. For an informal discussion about the role please contact Andrew Simons on 07429838699. For an application pack please contact the BVSC Recruitment Team on 0121 678 8899 or recruitment@bvsc.org

Community Assets Feasibility Study

Birchfield Big Local is looking for someone to carry out a survey in the area to identify underused or vacant land and buildings that might be used for community benefit such as a community centre or children's play area. The partnership has allocated £2000 towards this study and would be interested to hear from local residents interested in taking this project on. For further information please contact Andrew – 0121 448 5594 or 07429838699.

Website design

Birchfield Big Local are looking for a local resident with experience of website design to help us create a new website. We are inviting proposals including costs by Monday 4th August. To find out more please contact Andrew as above.

Birchfield Big Local Partnership

Birchfield Big Local partnership is a year old. Most partnership members are local residents and they take decisions in line with the Big Local Plan which was agreed after extensive consultations with local people. Another key role for partnership members is building relationships with the diverse community groups, organisations and businesses in the area. The partnership has a Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. The role of Secretary is currently vacant. The Chair is elected annually and we are soon to have elections for a new Chair.

Local people are welcome to join the partnership. There is a simple expression of interest form to complete. Partnership members are expected to sign up to a code of conduct and an agreement with the Local Trust who manage the Big Local programme nationally. We also have an accountable body—Birmingham Voluntary Service Council—who administer the funding on behalf of the partnership and ensure that the proper financial controls are in place.

If you are interested in joining the partnership or would like to find out more about what's involved please contact us at: 16 Grosvenor Road, Birchfield B20 3NP or telephone: 0121 448 5594 - Mobile: 07429838699



Birchfield Children's Centre

Birchfield Children's Centre offers a wide range of services to families with children 0 – 5years. This includes Stay and Play; Baby Group (0-1yrs); Terrific Twos—providing support for parents in toilet training, healthy eating and home safety. This summer the Centre will be delivering Transition Workshops for children starting nursery or school in September. Registration will be on Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July, 10.00am—4.00pm at Birchfield Children's Centre.

To find out more, please contact Birchfield Children's Centre Tel: 0121 675 0967

Seventh Day Adventist Church — Hutton Road B20 3RD

Playscheme - 4th to 14th August. Please contact Karen Larman on 07727140602

Fitness and self defence classes held at The Seventh-day Adventist church hall on Sundays 4-6pm

Community Health Expo - Sunday 31st August 11am - 3pm

Blood pressure and blood glucose checks by trained nurses; healthy food preparation demonstration; hand massage; natural face and body toiletries; and much more. Lots of fun for all the family.

Birchfield Big Local Partnership is keen to work with all local groups and organisations active in the area. Please send us information about events and we will be happy to help promote them.

Wise Up to Digital

The internet allows you to do so much more in life and it's easy to get online. If you need a little support, Midland Heart is running a free programme every Friday morning at Birchfield Library during September.

Friday 5th Sept 2014 – How to get set up a email account/ send and receive emails.

Friday 12th Sept – Search engines and how to find the information you want – from bin collections to finding a bargain!

Friday 19th Sept – How to access services on line to support your daily life, from benefits to job searches.

Friday 26th Sept – Free style – what do you want from using the internet?

All courses will run 11- 1pm . Please book your place by popping into the Birchfield Library, Trinity Road, Birchfield, B6 6AH. Tel 0121 464 4202 or call Ashok 0121 666 5295/ text 07824695259.

Birchfield Big Local Calendar



BRAG Allotment Project – Meets every Wednesday (by prior arrangement) at the BRAG Community Allotment, Livingstone Road. Please contact Rob Hewitt for further details on 07528575344 or email bragallotment@gmail.com

Playschemes

21st July to 1st August at Holy Trinity Primary Academy, Havelock Road. Please contact Dorothy Dixon on 07788831874

Play Streets pilot

This event will involve closing one or more streets for a day or half-day to encourage children to play outdoors and neighbours to meet. If you would like to nominate your street please contact Andrew on 0121 448 5594 or 07429838699.

Activities for senior citizens

Every Monday at Seventh Day Adventist Church Community Hall — 12 till 3pm

- Fortnightly keep fit—next session 21st July
- Fortnightly trips out— next trip 28th July
- Outreach to isolated vulnerable seniors and community groups

For more information contact Carol on 0797788013

Activities for families with disabled children and young people

- Monthly Family Activity Session at Birchfield Children's Centre and family trips
- Weekly family support and home visits to families of disabled children
- Children and young people art enterprise workshops – every Friday 6-8pm for children 8 and upwards (mainly siblings and young people with a disability)

For more information contact Carol on 0797788013

Women's walking group - Open to all local women. Every Wednesday (*Will recommence in September*). Contact Carol on 0797788013

Hope Community Acupuncture Health Centre - A low-cost, multi-bed clinic set up with the aim of supporting local residents living with chronic illness. Every Thursday 9.30 – 1.30pm at United Reform Church, 13 Wilton Road, B20 3RX. Contact Dr Rhonda Lee on 07810024687

Personal Skills Training

Are you interested in improving your communications skills, interview skills, or CV writing then please come along to our informal taster session on 7th August ,10 – 12noon, at Grosvenor Road Studios.

Social Enterprise Hub

Business skills – workshops with Justice Williams, BCC Enterprise Catalyst Team. 10.00—12.30pm, Tuesday 22nd & 29th at Grosvenor Road Studios, 16 Grosvenor Road, Birchfield B20 3NP. The enterprise hub will be having a break over August but will reconvene on Tuesday 9th September 10.00 – 12.00noon, venue to be confirmed.