

## Update on Big Local

This is a summary of Big Local activities since July 2014:

- Two Vice-chairs have been elected to lead on different initiatives. They are Suzy Lawrence-Strachan, leading on Projects and Gary Storer, leading on Community Development work.
- Big Local has made grants of £44,000 for learning opportunities, events, activities and supporting community centres across the area which includes 17 small grants amounting to £7,983 to 11 different groups.
- The Bridge, Ore, Broomgrove and Downs Farm Community Centres have formed the 4Centres CIC to work together with support from Big Local and Sussex Community Foundation.
- The first edition of the Big Local magazine was published before Christmas, and the next edition, focusing on learning and skills will be published in the summer. The Big Local Partnership publishes a newsletter every two months and a blog about the resident-led partnership meetings every month.
- The Partnership has approved a registration process and a procurement policy for organisations wanting to work with in the area. This will be rolled out in the next few weeks in preparation for commissioning new projects.
- Staff and students from the University of Brighton will be helping the Partnership to track its progress and evaluate the impact of the 10-year programme.
- The Partnership has approved a residents' expenses policy.

## Updates on Hastings Pier and White Rock

The work to repair the substructure and rebuild the deck of Hastings Pier is well underway. As reported on the Hastings Pier website, by the time the structural work is completed there will be approximately 72,000 metres of new timber and 11 new piles, and 500 deck beams and 350 lattice girders will have been replaced. An announcement about the opening is anticipated shortly.

Hastings Borough Council has successfully assembled a £1.17m funding package to secure an exciting new future for the White Rock Baths. The building, which is owned by the Hastings and St Leonards Foreshore Charitable Trust, has lain largely derelict for many years. Investment by the Council and the Trust has helped to secure a grant from the Regional Growth Fund through East Sussex County Council and a further grant from the Council's recently successful bid for Coastal Communities Fund. This package of funding will enable essential repairs and basic renovation works prior to be completed prior to occupation by The Source who will fit out the premises as a world class BMX and skateboard facility, opening next winter. Preliminary work began on 27<sup>th</sup> March and the main works are due to commence in spring.

## Update on Coastal Space Project – St Leonards

The first Coastal Space programme in the 7 streets area of St Leonards has been successfully completed, as of March 2015, with the acquisition and renovation of 38

homes by AmicusHorizon. This includes former long term derelict properties including the former nursing home on the corner of Carisbrooke Rd. Other key achievements include the inspection of over 650 privately rented properties in the area resulting in the improvement of close to 100 tenanted homes. Local employment has been boosted with 77% of the workforce involved in the building works living within a 10 mile radius of Hastings. This figure includes the employment of 10 apprentices specifically taken on as a result of the initiative. More than 465 local residents have benefited from the provision of skills and learning projects supported by the programme. All those taking up residence in the new homes have either been employed for more than 16 hours per week or in receipt of full time training. The scheme has received national recognition having been nominated for two national awards including winning a prestigious place shaping award as the best regeneration scheme 2015.

In February the Council approved further capital funding for phase 2 of the programme, which with the support of the Homes & Community Agency again, will deliver another 30 fully renovated homes by Amicus Horizon. As with the previous programme the project will be accompanied by a proactive enforcement programme and wider community engagement aimed at promoting good citizenship, employment, training and community safety. The Council has also successfully bid, with other coastal partners in Thanet (Margate & Ramsgate in Kent) and Tendring (Jaywick in Essex) for a share of just over 2 million pounds of investment through the South East Local Enterprise Partnership. Subject to the approval of the business case by BIS it is anticipated that this will allow the Coastal Space programme to be further expanded in 2016/17. The Council is also exploring with AmicusHorizon and Energise Sussex Coast proposals to attract European funding for energy efficiency and other environmental enhancements within the programme. Two outline bids have been submitted through Intereg programmes under the North West Europe and 2 seas funding streams. The results of these bids are likely to be known later in the year.