**WELCOME** to the Thurcroft Big Local Newsletter

If you’ve lived in the village for at least the last six years you’ll no doubt be aware that Thurcroft was selected by the Local Trust in 2011, as part of their Big Local initiative, and received £1 million. The aim of this money is for the local community to get involved in making their community a better place to live, now and in the future. Where and how this money is spent is entirely up to the local community and is guided by a Partnership Board which is comprised entirely of local residents and people who are passionate about Thurcroft.

Six years on, lots of exciting things have taken place in the village which local residents originally voted for. We have now have approximately £300,000 left to spend and would like your feedback on how you think we can best use the money left to make the future a better one. Please enter our free prize draw on the back of this newsletter, give us your ideas and be in with the chance of winning a £100 Meadowhall Gift Card.

**How We are Spending the £1 million**

The chart above is a summary of how much we have spent between August 2014 and July 2017. Funding has been spent on projects and priorities identified in the Thurcroft Big Local Plan. Before interest, we still have a minimum of £283,495 left in our funding pot and can still access this anytime over the next 7 years.

**Community Pride**: We have provided skips, arranged litter picks and organised numerous community events including the Summer Gala each year. We have raised £7960 which we can use for community events when the funding ends.

**Regeneration**: We spent £526,624 on our biggest project which has been the building of Thurcroft Hub on New Orchard Lane delivering sports and social activities to the local community. We have also provided advice services to residents.

**Children and Young People**: We have run regular youth clubs through Youth Work Works, summer playschemes and contributed funding to the new playground near Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall.

**Infrastructure**: We employ a member of staff for 2 days a week, we have produced newsletters, rented a shop and provided £8720 in small grants to groups in the village.
HEALTH AND WELLBEING

In May 2017 Thurcroft Miners Institute received two grants, one from Coalfields Regeneration Trust and the other from the Local Trust, to deliver a series of 50+ Health and Wellbeing activities within The Thurcroft Hub for Thurcroft Residents.

The grants are being used for a number of activities including:-
Weekly swimming sessions to Malby Leisure Centre to take part in their Active Always aqua fit class. A five week craft course has been delivered to encourage mindfulness and mental wellbeing. Everyone enjoyed it and people learnt new skills & rediscovered old ones too.

A weekly Active Always class for over 50’s runs every Tuesday from 2pm until 3pm at The Hub. These sessions are aimed at people with all different needs and capabilities.

A healthy eating over 50’s club on a Wednesday for up to 40 people. This has now been running for over 12 weeks. Each week there is a Guest Speaker or a sport activity.

We are currently working on a brochure with information of the activities in Thurcroft, healthy eating etc. If you have the time and want to contribute or would like to learn new skills, please contact us.

We are looking to provide new sports activities, talks etc. within the Thurcroft Hub and that will be happening over the next few months. If there are any activities you are interested in that we haven’t run yet, please get in touch. Please note the activities will have to fit into the conditions of the grant.

DAY TRIPS

The day trips Big Local provide, continue to be very popular with the local residents. Last year we provided three day trips. The children enjoyed a trip to Lightwater Valley in July and the pensioners enjoyed their trip to sunny Skegness in August. The Christmas market trip went to Nottingham in November. Watch out for details on this year’s trips later in the year.

LITTER PICKS AND SKIPS

Back in 2012, Thurcroft residents told us they would like to see a cleaner and tidier Thurcroft. Monthly litter picks have now been taking place for the last 4 years and we hope you agree that Thurcroft has become cleaner over this time. The litter picks take place on the last Saturday of every month and we meet at the Gordon Bennett at 10am, the next one is Saturday 24 February 2018 so please come along and join us.

Anne Barrass, Thurcroft Big Local Partnership Member would like to thank the volunteers who have attended the litter picks during the last year, especially the children.

We also continue to provide 40 tonne skips for the community, free of charge. We currently have 4 skips a year.

SMALL GRANTS

Since the Small Grants started in 2014, a total of £8720 has been given away to local people and groups.

One of the groups which has benefited from the Small Grants is the Bowling Club. They have purchased fertilizer, sprinklers, plants, tape measures etc. and are now starting to get positive feedback from other bowling clubs on how the green is running and how good it looks. All this work is done by unpaid volunteers. Raymond Barrass said “Without the Small Grants from Big Local we would have struggled to purchase these items which have given us a great green to bowl on. Therefore, on behalf of the Bowling Club, a massive thank you Big Local”.

THURCROFT HUB INFORMATION SERVICE

Do you need signposting in the right direction for general help and information with housing, SMBC, Councils, Police etc. If so, come along to one of our sessions, free use of the internet and computers is available at these sessions.

1pm - 3pm
Every Wednesday
at Thurcroft Hub, 566 9AE

Local Trust | Big Local | NHS | Health Check | T:01170 954943 | E:info@thurcroftbiglocal.org.uk | www.thurcroftbiglocal.org.uk
THURCROFT HUB – OFFICIAL OPENING

March 2017 saw the opening of the long awaited new Thurcroft Hub. Over 100 people attended the official opening on Friday 10 March. Mark Arthur, Yorkshire County Cricket Club Chief Executive cut the ribbon. Cath McCartan, Thurcroft Big Local Partnership Member said: “I’m ecstatic! To see this place filled today is brilliant. I’m so proud of everyone who has come here today and who’s got involved.”

Since the opening it has been a busy 11 months working towards the Hub growing into the legacy we know it is going to be. The youth clubs continue at the Hub, allowing our young people to enjoy the building and surrounding land. We also have lots of other activities/groups using the Hub and these include Soccer School, Keepie, Active Always, Luncheon Club, Ladies Boxes, Craft workshops, Zumba etc. We are well on our way to making this project successful in sports and community activities using the Thurcroft Hub in the way you voted it to be.

As well as our own football teams, other teams (i.e. Wickersley) are now also starting to use the fields and it is a pleasure on match days to hear the positive comments from referees and players that Thurcroft is the envy of local football teams for the facilities and sports fields. Hot sandwiches and drinks are sold at matches which helps towards the sustainability of the Hub. Meetings have been held with Youdan Trophy Tours and Tournaments and a girls football tournament has been booked for a full weekend in July 2018.

We have received numerous grants for the Hub already and these have come from various companies including Thurcroft Miners Institute, Gainsberg, Sheffield Hallamshire FA, Coalleries Regeneration Trust, Thurcroft Charity Shop, Local Trust, Power to Change etc.

Cath McCartan said “None of this would have been possible without the investment of £1 million in our village and community so a big thank you to Local Trust, I would also like to thank Royce Hall (Thurcroft Miners Institute) and Rachel Cole (Rothered) for the support of this fantastic and worth while project. We could not continue without our most valued volunteers so again a great big thank you from Thurcroft Community”.

SUMMER 2017 GALA

This was the Big Local’s 7th Gala and as always it was a fantastic day enjoyed by everyone. Hundreds of people from the village and surrounding areas attended and enjoyed the fairground rides, stalls, Punch and Judy show, laser quest, jungle bus, African drumming, food, refreshments and much more. This year’s Gala will be held on Saturday 28th July 2018. Anyone wanting a stall or to get involved, please contact Diane on 07983 624459.

TINY EXPLORERS PRE-SCHOOL

Thurcroft Big Local have supported Tiny Explorers Pre-School by giving them funding to purchase a canopy and make a staff/intervention room. The canopy, with adjustable walls, has enabled them to extend the indoor provision into the canopy by using the extra much needed space to provide extra curriculum activities for the children. It has also enabled them to let the children play outside in all weathers.

The staff/intervention room has also enabled them to take key children out of the main room and do more intensive work, assessment and monitoring. It has also provided a much needed space where staff can have their lunch and complete their work. The room is also a good asset for meetings. On behalf of Tiny Explorers, Rebecca Jarvis said “We are very grateful to Big Local for allowing us to make these changes within the pre-school, they have made a massive difference to the staff and children of Thurcroft”.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Since March 2017 when the new Thurcroft Hub opened and the young people moved into there, the youth group has gone from strength to strength with new members joining regularly. They now have 420 young people on their register.

The young people have been involved in a range of activities with the community including the local gala, litter picks and skip days, they have also attended Big Local meetings.

They took part in a conference ‘Different but Equal’ at Carlton Park Hotel in Rotherham, with other young people from across the Borough.

The young people were also invited and attended a Local Trust conference in Lambourne near London during September 2017 where they ran a workshop on ways to engage young people in Big Local areas. Whilst there, they did learn that Thurcroft are one of the few Big Local areas where the Big Local actively work with young people and ask young people their opinions. They also give them a voice in the community.

The youth group offers sports and dance coaches who attend the sessions working with young people. They offer a range of activities including sports, arts and crafts, baking, music, pool and table tennis and the young people enjoy participating in all activities; they also have an X Box and a PS3.

The Youth Group now has 3 part-time workers supporting the youth provision and two of these workers have completed their Level 2 in Youth Work Training.

The young people represent Thurcroft at many conferences and events and it is always noted what a credit they are to the village. Thurcroft should be very proud of this.

If you would like to find out more about the Youth Club, please contact Shaz Biggin on 07369 977294.
COMMUNITY PRIDE

"Restoration of Community Pride, to make Thurcroft a better, nicer place to live" (Please rate 1-6, 1 being your priority)

1. THURCROFT BIG LOCAL GALA – Big Annual Gala for Thurcroft Community.
2. OTHER SOCIAL EVENTS – Halloween, Bonfire/Fireworks, Christmas, Seasonal Events etc.
3. LITTERPICKS/SKIPS – More opportunities to bring the community together e.g. themed events.
4. GREENER THURCROFT – Flower Displays i.e. hanging baskets on lamp posts etc.
5. LUNCHEON CLUB – Weekly luncheon club for over 50’s.
6. DISABILITY AUDIT – Looking at accessibility in the village for disabled people.

Any other ideas you have…

REGENERATION

"Regeneration of the whole community with support to families, unemployed people and those in debt or poverty" (Please rate 1-6, 1 being your priority)

1. PIT TOP AND SURROUNDING AREAS – Look into possibilities to transform the pit top area into community facilities & attractions such as Walking Tracks, Fishing Pond, Country Park, Cycle Tracks.
2. FOOTBALL PITCHES – Improvement to the existing football pitches.
3. MONEY TOWARDS OTHER BUILDINGS IN THE VILLAGE – Internal and external projects on other village buildings.
4. FOOD BANK - Set up a food bank for Thurcroft.
5. INFORMATION SESSIONS - To provide varied information for Thurcroft residents.
6. TRAINING/JOBS CLUDBS/ FULL APPRENTICESHIPS - Local people given the skills to get work.

Any other ideas you have…

BIG LOCAL PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at 6:30pm at the Hub. The meetings are open to everyone and we would love you to come along and join us, share your ideas/ aspirations for the village or just listen to our monthly updates.

We are always looking for new members/volunteers to join the Big Local team, if this is something you are interested in, please contact us on 01709 549433.

The next meeting will be on Monday 5 March 2018, we hope to see you there!

SMALL GRANTS SPRING 2018

Community groups can apply for small grants of up to £200 for projects that benefit the residents of Thurcroft. To be funded, your proposed project needs to support one of the three themes in the Thurcroft Big Local Plan – Community Pride, Regeneration or Children and Young People. Applications are open to all but anyone under 16 will need an adult guarantor to support their project.

Application forms are available from and can be returned to the Thurcroft Hub, New Orchard Lane, Thurcroft S66 9AE or email your completed form to grants@thurcroftbiglocal.org.uk by 5pm on Friday 2 March 2018.

BOOK FOLDING

Come and join in our book folding sessions at the Hub, Monday 19 and 26 February and Monday 5 March 2018, 11am until 1pm.

Cost is £2.00 per person and this will include a hot drink and biscuit. All adults welcome.

Please contact the Hub on 01709 549433 for more information and to book your place.

FREE PRIZE DRAW

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT WHAT HAPPEN NEXT IN THURCROFT.

In 2011 Thurcroft was awarded £1 million from the Big Lottery. At this time we asked the community what they would like to see the money spent on. We listened and since then we have done lots of things in the village including:- Building a brand new Thurcroft Hub, Youth Clubs, Small Community Grants, Litter Picks and Skips, yearly Gaia and other events, Advice Sessions, Playground, Tiny Explorers Nursery canopy, Day Trips for younger and older people, Newsletters, School Holiday activities etc.

We are now 6 years on and have approximately £300,000 left to spend. We now want to know how you think we can best use the money left to make the future a better one. Have your priorities changed since 2011 or remained the same? Please let us know your thoughts, opinions and ideas; we’d love to hear them.

COMMUNITY PRIDE “Restoration of Community Pride, to make Thurcroft a better, nicer place to live”

(1) THURCROFT BIG LOCAL GALA – Big Annual Gala for Thurcroft Community.
(2) OTHER SOCIAL EVENTS – Halloween, Bonfire/Fireworks, Christmas, Seasonal Events etc.
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Any other ideas you have…

REGENERATION “Regeneration of the whole community with support to families, unemployed people and those in debt or poverty”

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(5) INFORMATION SESSIONS - To provide varied information for Thurcroft residents.
(6) TRAINING/JOBS CLUDBS/ FULL APPRENTICESHIPS - Local people given the skills to get work.

Any other ideas you have…
**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**  “Greater involvement of children and young people in the creation and development of services and activities” (Please rate 1 -4, 1 being your priority)

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<td>1. <strong>CONTINUED YOUTH WORK</strong> – Youth Clubs, activities, training etc.</td>
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<td>2. <strong>HOLIDAY PLAY SCHEME/ACTIVITIES</strong> – During School Holidays.</td>
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<td>3. <strong>OUTDOOR PLAY AREAS</strong> – Additional play areas.</td>
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<td>4. <strong>DAY TRIPS</strong> – Day trips to Coast, Theme Parks etc.</td>
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**INFRASTRUCTURE** (Please rate 1 -4, 1 being your priority)

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<td>1. <strong>NEWSLETTERS</strong> – Newsletters to be deliver four times a year.</td>
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<td>2. <strong>SMALL GRANTS</strong> – Small Grants up to £200.</td>
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<td>3. <strong>MEDIUM GRANTS</strong> – Medium Grants up to £1000.</td>
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<td>4. <strong>LARGER GRANTS</strong> - Larger grants from £1000 upwards.</td>
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**FREE PRIZE DRAW TICKET**

**YOUR ENTRY DETAILS**

Complete your choices and entry details for a chance to win a £100 Meadowhall Gift Card. Closing date is Friday 16 February 2018. Please return to Thurcroft Charity Shop or the Hub.

**Name:**

**Address & Postcode:**

**Email:**

**Phone/Mobile:**

**Date of Birth:** Male / Female:

Would you like to get more involved in making Thurcroft a better place to live  **Yes/No**

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**WHAT HAPPENS NOW?**

Once local people have decided which ideas they want to vote for, the projects with the most votes will be written into Big Local’s next year plan. The new plan will be available from April 2018 onwards.

T:01709 549433 | E:info@thurcroftbiglocal.org.uk | www.thurcroftbiglocal.org.uk