



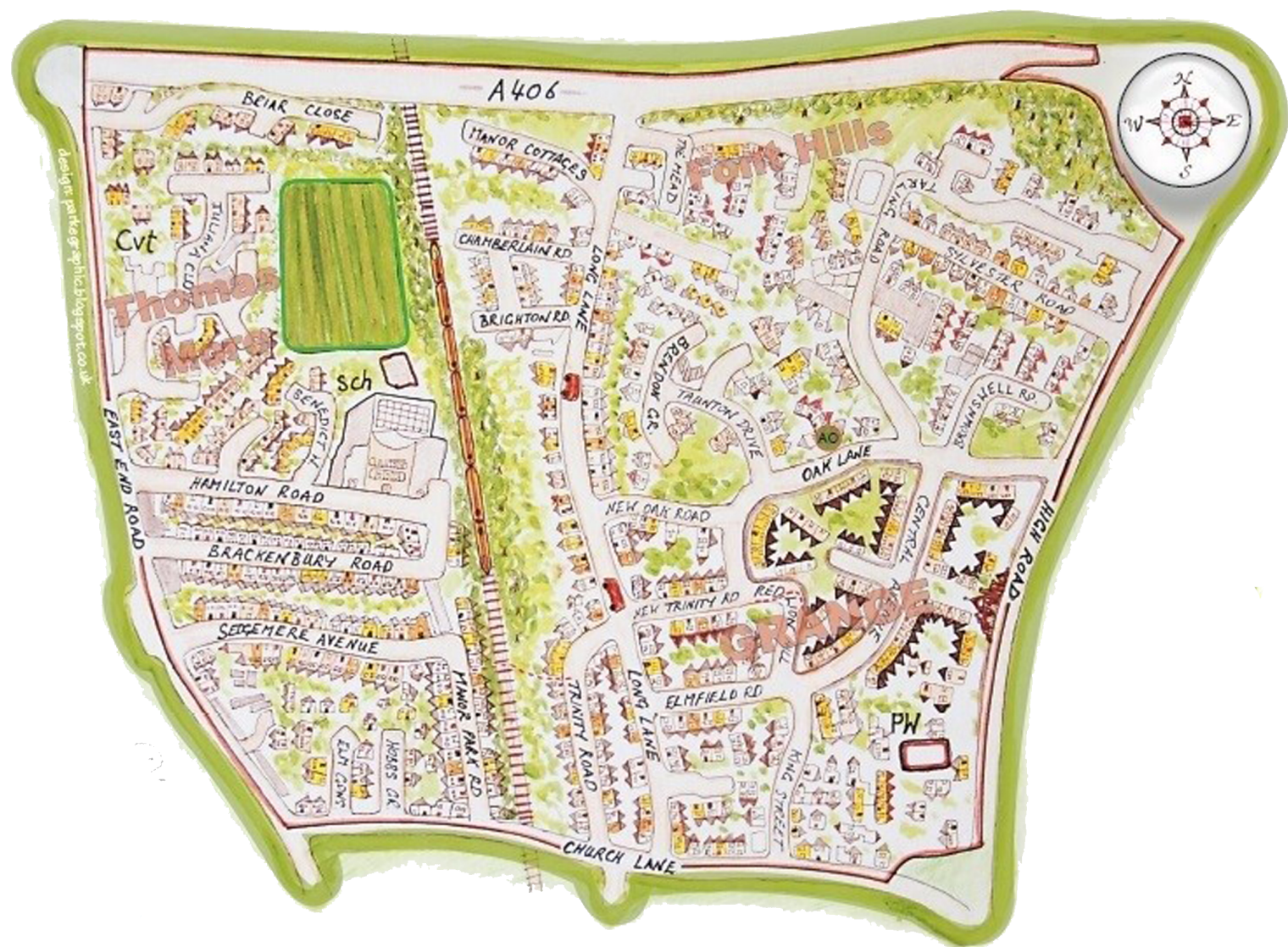
GRANGE
BIG LOCAL

Annual Report

2018-2019

Local Trust | Big Local





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Foreword from the Chair

Welcome to the Grange Big Local Annual Report, outlining our work and development over 2018-2019. We want you to know how we are making a difference, and using the money given to our community by the National Lottery. We would love to hear your thoughts on our progress.

I'd like to thank my predecessor, Pat Murphy, for all her incredible work over the last three years and steering Grange Big Local into the direction it has taken today. Equally as important, the work done by volunteers of the Grange Big Local partnership has been crucial in all our successes thus far. With every step forward, residents, volunteers, and members of Grange Big Local have successfully strived to improve the community we live in, work in, and share together. Notably, this year saw the Willow House fire, but instant support of local residents and organisations highlighted the collective sense of unity we value so highly in East Finchley.

We need individuals within our Big Local area to get involved by joining the partnership or volunteering on a project. Whether you have years of community experience or you are just starting out, being a member of the partnership can mean meeting new friends, developing new skills and making a difference in your area.

As we near the end of the current funding plan, we will be consulting again with you - the residents - to build our next one. Please do get in contact with your thoughts to help Grange Big Local make a difference, have an impact and create a legacy.



James Masters
Chair

Grange Big Local



The Big Local Outcomes

- ★ Communities will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them
- ★ People will have increased skills and confidence, so that they continue to identify and respond to needs in the future
- ★ The community will make a difference to the needs it prioritises
- ★ People will feel that their area is an even better place to live



Our Shared Vision:

Promoting a thriving and caring community



Overview of the Year



April 2018

- Funding continues for youth projects with Art Against Knives and Basketball is Education
- Funding continues for our local weekly Citizens Advice sessions at St Mary's Parish Centre



June 2018

- Training day for residents: Negotiation skills
- Community meeting: Playgrounds



July 2018

- Funding starts for Wild About Woods youth project



August 2018

- Community picnic and Field Studies Council workshop (on Brownswell Green and Barnwood)



September 2018

- Community engagement manager comes on board



October 2018

- Annual General Meeting at St Mary's Parish Centre
- James Masters takes over as Chair of Grange Big Local
- Fun Palace community festival at East Finchley Library
- Grange Big Local offers funding for the Foodbank



November 2018

- Community gardening event at Barnwood open space
- Grange Big Local supports residents affected by the Grange fire, raising over £8,000 from the community to help local families
- Grange Big Local provides funds for the Restart project with Archer Academy



December 2018

- Volunteers' social event and training session



February 2019

- First community drop-in at East Finchley library



March 2019

- Board agrees to offer a community grants programme
- Board agrees to fund a community youth group on the Estate
- Facilitates set-up of management for Barnwood

Supporting our Community:

The Grange Estate Fire



In November 2018 a fire broke out in the roof of Willow House, on the Grange Estate in East Finchley. 15 fire engines and around 100 firefighters arrived to find a fire in the roof of the building. Thankfully, everyone got out safely. 25 adults and 6 children from 13 flats were directly impacted. Many were unable to immediately return to their properties due to the damage to the block, and they were rehoused. The affected residents also lost their possessions in the fire.

Grange Big Local and Locally Trusted Organisation CommUNITY Barnet set up a GoFundMe page to help those affected by the fire start to rebuild their lives. We also worked with several local retailers, community and faith organisations, who helped replace household and personal items. Hope North London worked with local residents on at the scene to co-ordinate immediate and practical support such as food, clothes, phone calls, friendship and assistance. The residents affected described this support as amazing!

More than £8,000 was raised and it was all distributed to those affected by the fire: some in the format of vouchers to support them with buying the items they needed to replace. We want to thank Tesco, Marks and Spencer, Boots and Finchley Charities, which were amongst the organisations that made donations.

Our Community Projects



1. Underpass

An underpass connecting Trinity Road with Manor Park Road in East Finchley is significant to Grange Big Local as it provides pedestrian access to two parts of the area dissected by the underground line.

The purpose of the project is to create a safe and fun space for residents to use. However, this has been much more complex and expensive than we anticipated. We made some progress in negotiations with Barnet Council about refreshing the underpass. We believe that we have a good plan to improve the underpass but will be checking back with residents to make sure that it is still a priority and will continue to explore the feasibility of this project over the next year.



2. Tarling Road Community Centre Negotiations

Grange Big Local has been involved in discussions about the new Tarling Road community centre, as we seek to make a positive difference. In the current circumstances, mainly due to cost implications, Grange Big Local will not be leasing space within the centre and will not be making a capital contribution to it. The Grange Big Local partnership has expressed a wish to maintain a dialogue about this project, as there is still significant interest from local people to use the centre for community activities.



3. Playgrounds

Delivering new playground equipment in our area is a popular request from our residents. Developing a project to make this happen is a big task, requiring coordination with land owners, Barnet Council and the energy and enthusiasm of the local community. We have gathered information from the community about how to approach this and we will continue to work on it.

4. Grange Big Local Fun Palace

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Each year we hold a big community festival. In 2018 it was another Fun Palace – part of an international programme held each October where people share their skills with the community. It took place at East Finchley Library and Martin School. In celebration of the 80th anniversary of East Finchley Library there was a stall about the library, its history and the archives.

Our festival was a rich combination of science, music and arts and craft, with lots of people from across our community taking part, despite the poor weather! All the activities were free and offered people opportunities to learn new skills. The event brought the community together with hundreds of people attending.

A video of the event can be found online at:
www.grangebiglocal.org/community-hubs



5. Green Space for the Community at Barnwood

Grange Big Local has had a long-term commitment to supporting the development of Barnwood on Tarling Road. We want to safeguard our green spaces and Barnwood, adjacent to the community centre, is a key area that we want to ensure is available to the community. We contributed £6,000 of funding to Barnet Council to complement £12,000 of area committee funding for fences and paths for the Barnwood open space. Grange Big Local arranged with Barnet Council for the space to be adopted under its 'Adopt A Place' scheme. It also brought together a group of volunteers; supported, advised them on how to run a charity. They now run events and activities in the space and have applied for charity status.

Our Funded Projects

1. Forest School with Wild About Our Woods

Grange Big Local and John Lyons Trust funded local organisation Wild About Our Woods to run twelve days of free forest school for primary school-aged children, between July 2018 and April 2019. The sessions took place in the woodland of Martin School, with the aim of creating a safe and supportive environment for children to explore the great outdoors. Children were offered the chance to play outside, learn about nature, cook their own food from scratch over an open fire, learn new skills and develop their understanding of healthy lifestyles.

Children who attended connected with nature and developed a more positive attitude towards vegetables and the food they ate. Children became braver, more confident, and behavioural improvements were noticed by parents and workers. The project also ensured that every child received meals over the holiday period.

One parent explained that she had returned to Coldfall Woods with her children to explore it further as a family. Another mentioned that although her son came home filthy each day, she really didn't mind because he had enjoyed himself so much!

2. Studio N2 with Art Against Knives

Studio N2 is a combination of Vales Nails, the LAB music project, community outreach work on local estates and the Combat Academy. Run by Art Against Knives, the Studio N2 project goals for the year were to support 80 young people in the N2 area. The aim is to reduce serious youth violence, safeguard young people and increase the quality of support available to them.

A community outreach officer worked across Prospect Ring, the Grange and Thomas More Estates. The LAB music project in North Finchley teaches participants how to use music equipment. Vales Nails, also in North Finchley, is set up as a nail salon and Combat Academy sessions provided weekly touch points for young people to drop in.

The Grange Big Local Satellite Club was coordinated by Art Against Knives in partnership with the East Finchley Combat Academy. It offered high quality, consistent fitness activities for young people at risk of being victims of, or perpetrators of violent crime.

There were more than 50 attendees, with the ages ranging from 13-20, and the majority of members had not taken part in regular exercise before. This project, funded by Grange Big Local and London Sport, included work across the estates.

Case Study:

A young woman with a history of drug and alcohol use was referred to an AAK worker for mentoring support. The worker supported the young person to create a personal development plan and continued to work with young woman regularly. These consistent meetings meant that the young person was able to follow her plan and use local services to create the life she wants. The young woman attended Combat Academy sessions. Regular exercise helped her to manage her anxiety and feelings of overwhelm. She was able to stay sober, so could take start her driving lessons and was able to give a purpose and set goals for her college course. She continues to make progress.

3. Basketball is Education with Barnet Bulldogs

Basketball Is Education used basketball training, mentoring and team building to help prepare primary school pupils successfully adapt to the new environment and demands of secondary school. Children were chosen after taster sessions ran at local primary schools: they were free to attend and were targeted at children who were less likely to achieve academically, take part in sport or engage with other children.

This project involved almost 400 students from five local junior and senior schools and others living in the area. Students from Christ's College Sixth Form Basketball Academy supported participants with sports skills training and mentoring.

Feedback received from the children demonstrated that 39 out of 42 students thought that the programme helped them to feel safe and become more settled in their new school.

Case Study:

One boy stood out to the basketball coaches as a very withdrawn, had difficulty making friends and lacked confidence. The coaches took him to one side and after being reassured he was in a safe environment, the boy explained he was being bullied at school and was very nervous about going to secondary school. He also opened up about incidences of domestic violence he was witnessing. With support from the head coach and mentor, he was able to make significant changes. In three months he had become more Confident, self-assured, and looking forward to his life in secondary school.

4. Restart Project with the Archer Academy

The Restart Project is a people-powered social enterprise that aims to fix our relationship with electronics. The project taught Archer Academy students the practical skills needed to fix electronic items at a time when these very items are seen as expendable. It also created a greater awareness around sustainability in our community and involved intergenerational support.

This project was funded by The Childhood Trust, Tatlers Estate Agents, Grange Big Local and individual donations made through the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2017. Two enrichment courses of weekly one-hour sessions ran over the summer 2017 term and autumn 2018 term with 20 Archer Academy students being trained to identify and fix electrical items.

Three workshops were delivered by Ecoactive, 'I Save Electronics', 'Ecoactive Designers', and a Bright Ideas lecture by the CEO of Restart, involving 70 students. A 'Restart Party' was held in November 2018, where attendees were invited to bring in their broken electrical items. Ten students, under the supervision of Restart volunteers and local business East Finchley Electrical identified and either fixed those items or were able to advise on the next steps to fixing them.

“

This brilliant initiative is completely free. What better way to tackle our ever-growing refuse and recycling crisis than to re-use and repair and give those items another lease of life!

”

5. Residents' Training Course: Learning to Negotiate

Grange Big Local organised a negotiation skills training course for residents in June 2018. The one-day course empowered ten residents to negotiate more skilfully. The day gave residents the opportunity to practice negotiation skills, discuss passive, aggressive and assertive communication and identify their interests and needs.

“

Comments from training course participants...

"Learned about my own tone"

"Learned lots not only from 'the front' but also from peers in the room"

"The role play was fun and good learning"

"Well organised"

"Will be very helpful at home and at work!"

”

6. Food Bank, St Mary's Church

Finchley Food bank is based at St Mary's Parish Centre and provides food for between 20 and 40 families each week. The project concentrated on buying essential food items to meet increasing demand. Grange Big Local provided £4,000 of funding to support the work of the food bank.

In the six weeks since it began to draw on food stocks purchased with Grange Big Local help, Finchley Food Bank had distributed food aid for 207 adults and 58 children. The demand for food banks in the Grange Big Local area is increasing and our funding helped the foodbank to manage their low stocks over the Summer and to plan ahead.

Food supplies bought included...

Tinned meat, fish, fruit, soup and vegetables;
also tea, coffee, sugar, UHT milk and cereal

7. Advice service with Citizens Advice Barnet

Grange Big Local funded a specific, local advice service for residents of the Grange Big Local area based at St Mary's Church Hall in East Finchley. It was run by Citizens Advice Barnet who reported an average of 20 people attended the weekly advice service each quarter. A massive 83% of the people using this service were from the Grange Big Local area. A large number of the appointments given were double-length because of their complexity (benefits appeals, for example). In the period from April to December 2018, almost £45,000 in benefits and council tax savings had been directly put back into local people's pockets.

Case Study:

A client came to the advice service for help with debt, in particular a Council Tax debt of £1,600. His arrears had accrued over several years due to his poor mental health, and he had not been able to manage the regular payments. His bills were investigated, and it was discovered that he had not been awarded the Single Person Discount or Council Tax support he was entitled to. The Advice Service contacted the local authorities who applied these discounts to his bill and recalled the debt from bailiffs. Now he is being supported to ensure a reasonable payment arrangement is in place, and he has been assisted in applying for Personal Independence Payments. This will not only give him additional income, but his stress is reduced, his bill has been minimized and now he is in a much better position to not fall into arrears in the future.

2018/2019 Partnership Board Members

NAME	STATUS	MORE INFORMATION
James Masters	Volunteer	Chair (since Oct 2018)
Julia Hines	Volunteer	Treasurer (since Oct 2018)
Eric Albani	Resident	Board Member
Sandy Barker	Resident	Board Member
Spencer Birsinger	Resident	Board Member
Dinah Beamish	Resident	Board Member
Dennis Evans	Resident	Stood down, March 2019
Elizabeth James	Resident	Board Member
Semir Johar	Resident	Board Member
Pat Murphy	Resident	Board Member
Leo Smith	Resident	Task Group Chair
James Watson	Resident	Task Group Chair
Cllr Alison Moore	Volunteer	Non-Voting Member



Our Locally Trusted Organisation: CommUNITY Barnet

CommUNITY Barnet has continued to play a key role in supporting Grange Big Local as its Locally Trusted Organisation. CommUNITY Barnet is the umbrella organisation for the local voluntary and community sector in Barnet; supporting and representing voluntary and community groups, charities and faith groups across the borough. CommUNITY Barnet's mission is to help ensure Barnet has a thriving, sustainable and vibrant third sector.

Grange Big Local is extremely grateful for the support of CommUNITY Barnet's Chief Executive, Julie Pal and Jeni Osbourne, Head of Community Services who have worked with Grange Big Local's Jon Woolfson, Community Partnership Manager, and Claire Meade, Community Engagement Manager, to support the partnership board in its plan delivery.



Volunteering

The success of Grange Big Local depends on residents coming forward and ensuring that our funding is making a real difference to our area. We invite residents to volunteer within your local community. You might be interested in working with a particular project, applying for a grant, or becoming a board member. These positions do not require a full-time commitment and can fit in around your own individual schedule. Volunteering not only helps those in need, but it has been shown to help reduce stress, keep us mentally stimulated and happy, and provide us with a sense of purpose.

If you would like to hear more about becoming a volunteer with Grange Big Local,
email: Claire.Meade@grangebiglocal.org



Accounts

Local Trust Grant Income

Bal B/Fwd Local Trust Funding	128,512
Local Trust Funding	<u>138,000</u>
Balance Remaining	£266,512

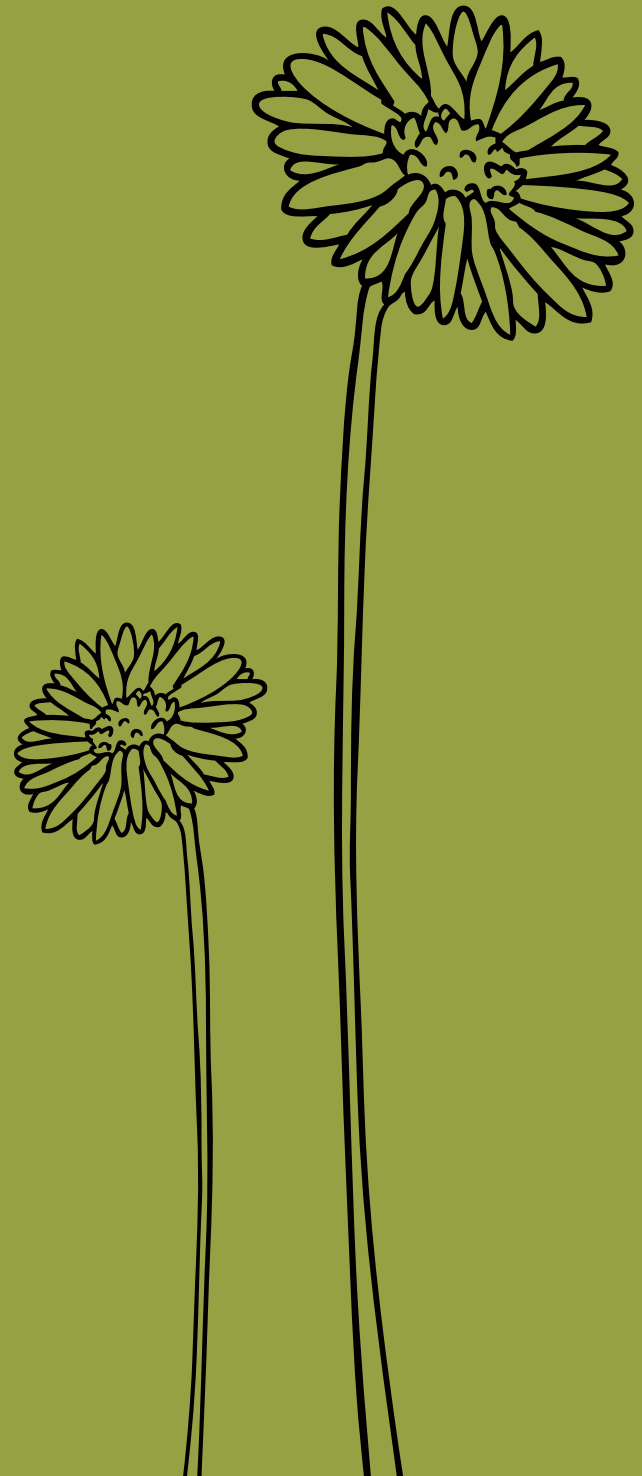
Other Income

Area Committee (Underpass)	9,999
Waitrose (Community Festival)	111
London Sport (Satellite Club)	<u>75</u>
Total Income	£276,697

Expenditure

Partnership Support	(46,446)
Community Hubs	(5,524)
Children and Young People	(38,207)
Enterprise and Employment	(1,358)
Open Spaces and Environment	(6,587)
Inclusion	(180)
Information and Advice	<u>(14,780)</u>
Total Expenditure	(113,082)

This section outlines what money Grange Big Local had by category at the end of March 2018. The accounts show that Grange Big Local has underspent in relation to its plan.



We want your involvement...



get in contact



info@grangebiglocal.org



020 8364 8400



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newsletter to keep in touch:
www.grangebiglocal.org

Promoting a thriving and caring community in **East Finchley**

