

Our Vision

Goldthorpe, Bolton-upon-Dearne and Highgate's (GBH) vision for the future is one where good education and training prospects coupled with quality and affordable homes to live in, improved local facilities and supportive communities will promote active involvement in making our area a great place to live and work.

Priorities

(These are not necessarily in priority order, and there may not be 8 priorities to work on within the first 2/3 years)

- 1) Community Cinema
- 2) Housing Renovation Project
- 3) Community Café
- 4) Community Mini Bus
- 5) Environmental Improvements
- 6) Social Events for All Ages
- 7) Community Newsletter
- 8) Community Farm

We Want:

- **Community Cinema**
To provide affordable current films for the whole community . Developing community spirit offering a safe venue for children and families to spend quality time together. The possibility of more than one Social Enterprise. Eg the cinema and the snack bar.

This comes in under the theme 'More leisure activities'

We Will:

Provide affordable current films suitable for the whole community. Obtain a licence; liaise with the relevant suitable venue. In the first instance the community school, looking for other venues to ensure this is available to the whole of the Dearne area. Look to develop a cinema group to take this project forward. Charge a reasonable ticket price for individuals and families. Promote through local schools, newspapers, radio, websites, social media and word of mouth. Profits to be ploughed back into the cinema to ensure continuity.

In the longer term this has the potential to become a self-sustaining Social Enterprise leading to employment and possibly apprenticeships in the field of cinema production.

WE Want:

- **Housing Renovation Project**

To develop a more stable community, with people who want to remain in the area and develop their community. The area will look more attractive, thus bringing new people to live in the area.

This comes in under the theme of, 'environmental Improvements.'

We will:

We will identify suitable stock, decide on a scheme – renovate and rent/renovate and sell. Possibility of giving cheap home improvement loans, and a landlord accreditation scheme. It would be managed by a project partnership, possible in conjunction with Thurnscoe Big Local and a Community Social Enterprise. Barnsley Community Build (BCB) might be able to provide expertise and apprentices in the short term to help the project get off the ground, and Sheffield University have expressed an interest in giving support in the planning stages and with student support. May need a Project Manager to oversee the scheme.

In the longer term the area will be improved with houses increasing in value instead of decreasing as is the situation at the moment. Skills will be developed and jobs will be created. It will be an income generator for the Partnership which could then be reinvested in the project. There may be opportunities to look for match funding to extend the life of the project making it more sustainable.

We Want:

- **Community Café**

To bring people together, to provide a comfortable meeting place with good food and drinks at reasonable prices. To develop a Social Enterprise providing much needed work into the area and a space to promote Big Local initiatives and information.

This comes in under the theme 'More leisure activities'

We Will:

The plan for the Community Café is to open it up in a building which has been refurbished to use as a Boxing Club, a gym and a centre with rooms to rent for sports groups to occupy. The plan for a Big Local café will mean that there is a space for parents and young people using the facilities to wait in comfort for their classes and to gain a better understanding of what the Big Local is all about, thus generating enthusiasm for supporting this and other ventures. The building has been identified; it just needs money for refurbishment. There is a group of experienced tradesmen who are willing to do the refurbishment in their own time. In the longer term the café again could become its own community enterprise, with profits going back into the café and the building. There is also a possibility of renting space for small local enterprises, again building links within the community in order to develop further. This again will increase skills in the area and could lead to employment and apprenticeships in the buildings and renovation trade and the cafe.

We Want:

- **Community Mini Bus**

For the use of all in the community. To increase community links within the area. This will help prevent isolation, will be a cheaper way for people to rent transport. It will provide transport for individuals and groups. It could provide jobs and training/skills for people in the community. The bus could be branded the Big Local Bus thus advertising Big Local throughout the community .

This comes in under the theme ‘More leisure activities’

We Will:

This would be a Community Bus for the use of all the community; the bus would be on lease for community groups, churches, schools, Nursing Homes and individuals, to name but a few, to make use of. It could lead to driver training enhancing skills in the area. It would have disability access ensuring everyone has access. It would need secure parking. Maintenance would be covered by the lease. It could be painted up to advertise the Big Local as it travels around. It will help prevent isolation and increase links in the community, leading to a better social life for people and improving their quality of life. It could also earn money by renting it out and looking for sponsorship.

In the longer term it would help communities be better equipped to identify local needs and take action to respond to these needs. It will bring people together, and could link to other projects eg the Community Café, and the cinema.

We Want:

- **Environmental Improvements**

To make the area a more pleasing place to live, building community cohesion by working together for the benefit of all. This could be individuals and groups working together on a project, sponsoring litter bins to offering grants and loans for people to improve their housing and immediate environment. Businesses could also be included in developing and improving the environment and possibly sponsoring events etc.

This comes in under the theme of, ‘environmental Improvements’.

We Will:

Make GBH a better place to live in by sponsoring litter bins, offering small loans or grants to tidy up their immediate area. Working with Community Groups to promote and develop cleaner spaces, encouraging the community to care for their environment. The community will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to personal and community requests.

In the longer term the area will be cleaner and brighter the community will be better educated to care for the place they live in. The area will be more a more inviting place to live in and invest in. All age groups will benefit as will businesses.

We Want:

- **Social Events for All Ages**

To organise events for the community in order to bring people together. Possibly setting up a calendar of events through the year asking local people what they would like to see and do. Involving the community, schools, police local authority, youth clubs pubs. This could be organised monthly (not to coincide with other events taking place), and could be themed throughout the year.

This comes in under the theme of, 'Increasing Community Spirit'.

We Will:

The plan for this will be to bring people together through enjoyable community events proposed and catered for by the community for the community. There could be a calendar of events throughout the year possibly on a monthly basis sometimes with a themed event. This could be planned and projected by a Social Events group who will be willing to organise this and engage other members of the community at different stages. For some things for example a Car Boot/Table top sale there is an opportunity to generate income to invest in other events.

In the longer term this will be something the whole community can get involved in. It will generate community spirit and may generate outside interest. Giving people a chance to see what the area has to offer, and bring money in to the area.

We Want:

- **Community Newsletter**

To promote Big Local especially to people who have no knowledge of the work Big Local are doing in the area and how people can get involved. This could include promoting events on a regular basis. The newsletter could be placed in strategic spots for people to pick up e.g. shops, Post Office pubs and clubs, church halls and schools. There could be links with other groups and projects to write and produce the newsletter thus strengthening community bonds.

This comes in under the theme 'informing the community about Big Local'.

We Will:

Promote the Big Local through a newsletter in order to engage the many people who do not know anything about the project and its plans for the future. There could be a flyer summarising events which could be distributed on a regular basis. Through pubs, clubs, shops schools etc.

This will raise community awareness, promote individual projects in the area and increase involvement in activities which will in turn improve the environment and progress community cohesion.

We Want:

- **Community Farm**

To renovate and make use of, for the whole community the last family owned farm in Bolton. This could comprise of a Community shop to sell produce grown on local allotments, and be a place for local people to sell their wares craft objects etc.). There could be a small workshop for people to train others in particular skills, further developing the workforce in the area. There could be a livery yard and a riding school. Caravan storage at certain times of the year could bring in an income to support other ventures. There is a house in need of renovation which could be renovated by local contractors with apprentices building up new skills. As this is a large project there could be opportunities for a project development worker to develop and oversee this.

This comes in under the theme 'Employment and Training'.

We Will:

Plan to look at the last farm in Bolton - Upon - Dearne to see if there is a possibility of buying or renting space at the farm to develop a Livery yard for horse riding and lessons, a community shop to sell locally grown produce from community allotments. The possibility of caravan storage to generate income. This also could become a social enterprise with a project worker to develop and oversee the project. The farmhouse could be renovated and converted using local tradespeople and apprentices.

Over the longer term this project could grow and develop into a thriving community enterprise with access for local people to engage in recreational activities, and develop new skills. There would be possibilities to gain new skills become healthier with exercise and outdoor pursuits. There is also the Adwick Washlands on the doorstep and places of historical interest. It would generate income through leisure interests, the community shop and possibly land rental.