



WARGRAVE
BIG LOCAL

Wargrave Big Local Plan 2016 – 2018



Raising the ambition and aspirations
of the people of Wargrave





Introduction

Wargrave is a district of Newton-le-Willows to the east of the Metropolitan Borough of St Helens. Wargrave Big Local is a Lottery funded project covering 3000 households – it is one of 150 Big Local projects across England, supported by Local Trust, awarded with £1m to spend over ten years.

The Wargrave Partnership began its work in February 2015 – before this, a steering group of local residents worked together for more than 18 months talking to local people and organisations. They brought together evidence, views and opinion on what Wargrave needed to become an even better place to live. You can find a report on this on our website - Wargrave Big Local Profile.

Wargrave Partnership is made up of local residents with support from Helena Homes and St Helens Council. We value the help and advice we have from our partners but all the decisions we make about how the £1m is allocated are made by residents alone.

In July 2015, the Wargrave Partnership had its first plan endorsed by Local Trust. To find out more about the plan go to our website - Wargrave Big Local First Year Plan.

This is our second plan that will support the investment of £1m in Wargrave. The Partnership Board is guiding how the money is being spent by listening to the views of Wargrave residents, seeking advice from local experts and, as residents, using our own local knowledge of the area.

Our growing Big Local vision: Residents, Businesses, Organisations





Meet the partnership board



David Hartley - Chair

As Chair of Big Local, I want Wargrave to be a clean, safe, energised area where all residents are proud to live and grow.



Louise Forshaw

I have the best interests of Wargrave residents at heart and would like everyone to have access to a full package of health and wellbeing related support.



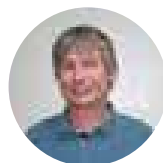
Mark Jory

I want to support the people of Wargrave to hopefully live healthy and fulfilled lives.



Fiona Ruddy

As Chair and Trustee of Newton Community Centre I am working in partnership with Wargrave Big Local to ensure that the investment reaches those who need it the most in our community.



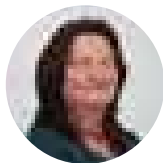
Charles Hay

I simply want to make improvements to my area.



Mavis Litherland

A lot of people round my area asked me to get involved – they want to see something happen for older people and children.



Marie Ablitt

I think it's important that we inspire the youth of Wargrave to reach their full potential.



Margaret Howlett

Having lived on Wargrave Road all my life I can see how the community spirit has now gone and I would like to help bring it back by improving the area.



Peter Mallett

I enjoy being involved with nice people who try hard. The community needs to stand up for itself and sometimes it needs help and advice – I hope that my knowledge of partnership working will help.



Jeanne Dentith

I want Wargrave residents to be able to participate fairly and fully in everyday life, regardless of their income.



Val Hughes

It's an opportunity to work with all kinds of local people for the benefit of all the residents of Wargrave.



Damien O'Connor

I think we should give something back and inspire each other to reach our full potential, It's great to see some lottery money coming back to the people who play it.



Meet our co-ordinator

Helena Partnerships, our Local Trusted Organisation says “Helena has been acting as the Local Trusted Organisation for Wargrave Big Local. It has been great to see the Partnership grow, develop their plans and start commissioning some very good projects. We at Helena look forward to continue working with everyone and seeing how the good work the Partnership are doing evolves.”

Wargrave Big Local Partnership members respect one another and over time the membership has changed for the better. We are no longer pulling in different directions. We have diverse knowledge and talents and have learned from one another.

We have a democratically elected chair and, appreciating that we can't all be involved in everything, we have formed five sub-groups, allowing us to focus properly on our themes and the projects that underpin them.

We all took part in a survey from which we established that we enjoy meetings, feel happy with our level of involvement and believe that our views are listened to. We agree that we have the interests of Wargrave at heart and up to now we have been effective in making Big Local happen.

The survey helped us to identify areas in which we need support, including confidence building, improving our consultation methods and interpreting data. We will work on these as part of this plan.



“I’m involved in Wargrave Big local because I believe that this is a great opportunity for the people of Wargrave to get involved and shape the future of their area.”

Graham Ellis - Co-ordinator



Successes and learning points of our first plan

We have supported projects that ensure the money is used in the most efficient way and continues to benefit the residents of Wargrave.

We have been very encouraged by the local organisations that have come forward to help run our projects.

Wargrave people respond to locally held projects

Some of our highlights are:

- The weekly held Job Club, attended by 48 local people. So far, 9 have found jobs.
- A Jobs Fair, following which a further 8 people moved into work and 8 gained access to training.
- A pioneering Recruitment Day which secured new jobs for 18 local people at the newly opened Wetherspoons public house in Earlestown.
- Over 100 children took part in Fit4Life sessions held at local schools.
- Four Cook & Taste courses have been delivered.
- Fifteen outreach sessions with young people.



Over 100 children took part in Fit4Life sessions held at local schools. The Chair of the Health sub-group recently visited a session.

The children were really enjoying learning about healthy foods and taking part in a physical activity session, when asked they talked about how much they had enjoyed trying out healthy foods and some had discovered they enjoyed eating healthily, one boy commented “I had never tried tomatoes before, but when I tasted it I really liked them, that night I went home and asked my mum could we have salad wraps for tea.”

Delivering projects in schools is effective

We set up a fund of £10,000 – Community Chest - to engage local people in resident led initiatives. To date we have received 13 applications from groups such as Vulcan Juniors, (the local football team), the local amateur dramatic group, and the local history group.

We have awarded more than £6000 so far and following its success we will continue to invite applications in our second and third years.



“The grant has allowed us to put one of our volunteers through an FA Coaching qualification.”

Paul from Vulcan Juniors

We have also funded Roomoo - a youth led initiative which features a bus touring Wargrave offering young people employment advice and help with creating a CV. In just five weeks nearly 140 young people have got involved. One user told us that he found Roomoo “A new and easy to use website for creating CV’s and personal profiles. Roomoo has made job searching easier and fun for me because it allows me to upload pictures I have taken of my certificates and achievements making it easier for employers to see my skills.”

The Partnership has also recently agreed to create a Community Events Fund with a £5000 budget. We hope to encourage local groups to apply for funding for local events which they will then run themselves.

We held a workshop as part of our Year 1 review. As well as celebrating our successes we learned that:

- We shouldn’t make assumptions about what local people want and need.
- Projects take longer to get established than we anticipated, and finding the right groups to run them is a challenge. We also need to offer encouragement to, and be a “critical friend” to our projects as well as undertaking monitoring.
- We need to make sure that our sub-groups don’t work in isolation and communicate with each other.
- We need to promote ourselves better by ensuring that the Wargrave Big Local branding is showcased by the organisations that run our projects.
- Getting other local service providers to work with us isn’t always easy.





What we are discovering about Wargrave

We have a bank of statistical information about Wargrave, and as residents we have our local knowledge too, we know that:

- Over 60% of households are experiencing deprivation.
- At the time of the last census, 10% of households have no adults in employment and have dependent children.
- Youth unemployment (age 16-24) accounts for 32% of all unemployed. Long term unemployment is also an issue accounting for 41% of all unemployed.
- 30% of people over 16 have no qualifications.
- 16% of people say that their health is fair and 9% say that it is bad or very bad.

However, in our recent survey local residents told us:

- 89% are happy living in Wargrave and 81% feel part of the community.
- 82% would recommend living in Wargrave.
- 80% believe that Wargrave people help one another and the same number feel that they can make Wargrave a better place to live.
- The local Community Centre is a very important and valued resource. When threatened with closure due to a funding shortage, a large group of residents joined forces to raise the shortfall in a matter of a few weeks. Thus the people of Wargrave demonstrated how they can pull together when the need arises.
- The Big Local Partnership saw an opportunity to establish a base at the Centre, and gain access to its bank of volunteers in return for committed financial support. A real win-win situation that demonstrates Big Local in action.





How we found this out

We think that communication is vital, we have discussed with our local residents what they feel is important.

We have done this by:

- Holding an Open Consultation Day at our local Community Centre.
- Speaking to Wargrave residents at the local “Picnic in the Park”
- Delivering a newsletter to every household in Wargrave.
- Asking local residents to complete a questionnaire that focussed on issues around health, employment, finance, the environment and crime.
- Working with organisations that deliver services in Wargrave, for example Helena Partnerships, St Helens Council and Groundwork.
- Using our website, Facebook and Twitter.

Having 4 themes within our original plan and the development of a sub-group for each theme allowed us to focus more intently on each area of need.

We feel that the young people of Wargrave need a voice, so to involve them in our decision making we are working on a **Youth Engagement project** with Helena Partnerships, our local trusted organisation.





Our Big Local Vision

In our first plan we chose a vision that is simple and direct and would make a long term difference to the people of Wargrave.

This remains unchanged as:

“To raise the ambition and aspirations of the people of Wargrave” as it reflects what we are ultimately trying to achieve.

In last year’s plan we developed 4 themes in response to the information we had gathered. These remain the same in this plan, but over the course of the year as a result of involvement with other Big Local partnerships on Merseyside and support from St Helens Council and other partners, it became apparent that there was the need for a fifth.

Our themes, and the goals that we have set ourselves within each theme are:

Community Safety

To help people to feel safer and to take action to reduce risks in their community

Health

To help people take action to improve their own health and to support others with health issues

Environment

To improve how our neighbourhood looks and create more opportunities for people to enjoy their environment

Employment

To connect people with the support and opportunities they need to reach their goals in life by understanding and tackling the barriers they face

Financial Inclusion

To ensure that Wargrave residents can access appropriate financial services, products and advice and have the skills, knowledge and confidence to deal with money effectively so that they can participate fairly and fully in everyday life



How we will use what we have learned to do things differently

Through one of our health projects that is taking place at Hope Academy and the local Boys and Girls Club, we are working towards the creation of a health ambassador role, young people who will promote health and well-being amongst their peer group. We think this role can be expanded to include volunteers from the Community Centre and other local people from the Wargrave area to promote Big Local in general.

We are looking to work with a professional company that delivers surveys and gathering data by using IT rather than the more traditional paper method. This will make surveys easier for the user to complete and will give us more meaningful and specific data. It will also give us more access to reporting and we think more people are likely to participate.

We want to be creative in engaging our young people in Wargrave so that we get a young person's perspective in our decision making. As such we are funding a youth engagement project that will see the development of a Wargrave Youth Group, offering activities and incentives that will attract young people. This would be a good project for a young person to be involved with as the experience gained would be a positive addition to their CV.

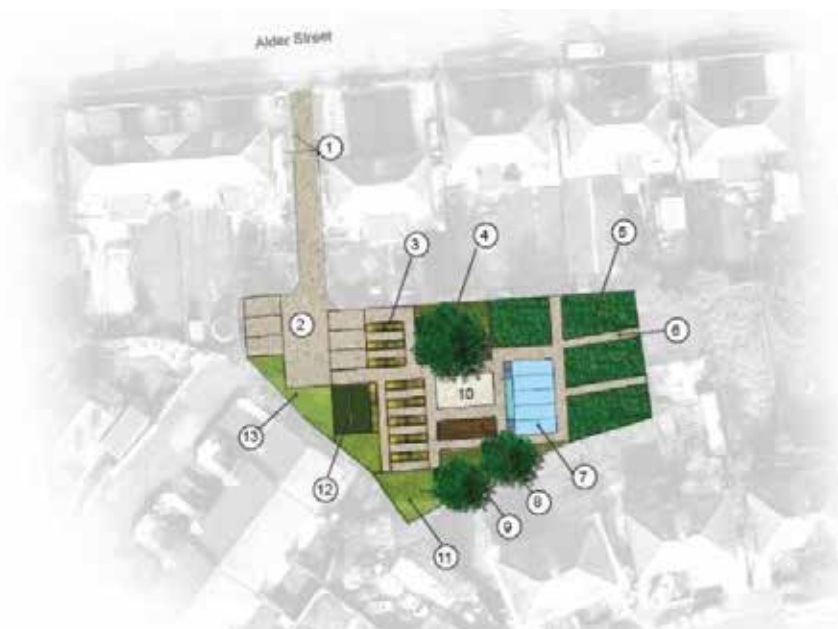
As projects develop we are beginning to appreciate that our sub-groups need to communicate better to avoid the risk of duplication and to make the best use of our time. To do this we propose that sub-group chairs meet on a more frequent basis to discuss their plans and the progress of existing projects.



As we approach the end of our first year we are learning that some things work better than others in Wargrave and some things take more time to get established. We are beginning to appreciate what is a reasonable expectation for a project and what is a little over ambitious. It takes time for people in Wargrave to respond to provision of support as they are not used to assistance held locally.

The Community garden is a long term project, and we appreciate that there is a risk that support in the long term may not continue; we will try to alleviate this by encouraging local schools and community groups to have an interest in the garden. We will also try to offer allotment spaces to local residents that have expressed an interest with the Council. At the time of writing the consultation process is about to start and we're willing to give it a go if the idea is popular with the community.

Some of our early projects did not promote Wargrave Big local as the funding provider in the way we would have preferred. We have addressed this by changing project plan applications to include a request for the organisation to state how they will promote Wargrave Big Local to their participants.



- ① Replace existing timber double gate
- ② Compacted stone car park for 6 cars and delivery space
- ③ Timber raised beds
- ④ Existing willow tree cut back and surrounding area to be wildflowers/ logs/ biodiversity area
- ⑤ Allotment plots
- ⑥ Compacted stone pathways throughout garden
- ⑦ Polytunnel with coldframe and 4 water bowisers to store water
- ⑧ Open soil for ornamental plants with central planting of fan trained fruit trees
- ⑨ Existing trees coppiced or crown lifted, circular bench around one tree
- ⑩ Central communal patio area
- ⑪ Grass area/ wildflower/ biodiversity area
- ⑫ 2 x 20ft containers, painted green and installed with green roof
- ⑬ Dropping off area for materials, compost etc



Our years 2 and 3 projects and budget estimates

Wargrave Big Local Budget September 2016 – August 2018*				
Theme	Goal	Budget	Projects	Outcomes
Community Safety	To help and support people to feel safer and to take action to reduce risks in their community	24k	Neighbourhood Watch – a project that encourages more schemes and that provides co-ordination and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation event with partners and residents • Establishment of Wargrave Watch and co-ordinator identified • Residents trained in running neighbourhood schemes and in constituting a community organisation • Promotion of crime prevention messages • Collection of informal data on crime in the area
			Domestic Abuse – drop in support group, confidence building and home safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 women attending supported drop in weekly • 10 women receiving advice and support (e.g. legal, financial) monthly • Improved home safety through lock changing, forensic safety surveys • Reduction in feelings of isolation • Improved sense of wellbeing and self-esteem • Victims feeling safer in their homes • Victims feeling supported by their community
			Community policing – practical support to PCSOs	The detail of this project is currently on hold – community policing locally is under review and the results are awaiting before confirming project. Original idea was to provide bicycles for use by PCSOs.
			Anti-social activity – diversionary support for young people and reducing the reporting of ASB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach support to engage with young people to understand needs and opportunities in ASB hotspot areas • Views and needs of young people understood better and fed through to Big Local planning • Youth group formed if this is supported • Young people accessing training opportunities • Young people with enhanced confidence • Young people involved in decision-making • Young people feeling supported by their community
Health	To help people take action to improve their own health and to support others with health problems	25k	Working with young people out of school – on, perhaps, drug and alcohol misuse Wellbeing – a focus on mental health Older people – particularly those on low income and perhaps extending to those vulnerable in other ways Healthy eating and physical activity New mums and young families Men's health Self-harm - a local support group	These ideas for health projects have come out of our review of the projects we have run in year one and our discussions with a range of health partners. We have deliberately not yet agreed our focus as we are taking part in a national health research project with IVAR (Institute for Voluntary Action Research) at the moment and they helping us evaluate our approach for this new plan.

Environment	To improve how our neighbourhood looks and increase opportunities for people to enjoy the environment	45.5k	<p>Community Garden – following the design and consultation work we funded in our first plan, this allows for the construction of our community garden</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 allotments created for local residents • 3 schools engaged • 30 volunteers identified and trained • 1 apprentice secured • 1 new public space developed • An increase in biodiversity in the area • Increased interest in natural world and horticulture • Greater access to fresh vegetables • Increase in participation and community cohesion
			<p>Environmental Audit – this will allow us to identify the green spaces that can be enhanced as assets to the area and help us to tackle the issues that impact negatively on our environment such as litter, dog fouling etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • capture local opinions and perceptions of greenspaces • current users and uses of sites identified • a prioritised list of sites in most need of improvement • identification of where environmental projects can support and contribute towards other plan themes • an action plan for the implementation of new environmental projects
Financial Inclusion	To ensure that residents can access appropriate financial services, products and advice and have the skills, knowledge and confidence to deal with money effectively	27k	<p>Money awareness in schools – a self-sustaining project that trains volunteers to run money awareness sessions in school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 pupils participating • 4 trainers trained • 30% of pupils taking part opening savings accounts • 3 schools opening volunteer banks
			<p>Money and welfare advice - quality assured advice, support and guidance to ensure people receive access to specialist welfare benefits and money advice services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150 advice sessions pa • £ benefit gained • £ debt managed • Residents with improved confidence and independence • Improved debt awareness • Improved financial inclusion
			<p>Fuel Poverty – this project is still under development and will look at ways of helping residents to reduce their fuel bills and making their homes fuel efficient</p>	
			<p>Affordable Credit – this project is still under development and will look at how residents can be encouraged to use credit unions and other affordable credit options</p>	

Employment	To connect people to the support and opportunities they need to reach their goals in life by understanding and tackling the barriers they face.	52.5k	Job Club – a continuation of our successful Job Club linking local residents to job opportunities and supporting their applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • residents gaining employment • residents benefiting from employment support • residents trained • Improved community confidence • Improved local connections with employment services
			Sector based – a programme of sector based training opportunities linked to the specific needs of employers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 events held • residents gaining employment • residents benefiting from employment support • residents trained • Improved community confidence • Improved local connections with employment services
			Breathe – a continuation of our successful programme developed to support those with mild to moderate mental health issues looking to re-enter employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32 learners receiving support • 24 learners achieving accreditation • Increased self confidence • Improved social integration and engagement
			Kick Start – support to NEET young people to help them engage with mainstream support e.g. traineeships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people engaged • Activities completed • Events held • Jobs gained
			Citizenship/Youth Engagement – this project is still under development. It will identify the talents that young people have and connect them to volunteering opportunities and to a range of partners.	
Community Fund		15k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Chest • Bright Ideas • Community Events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community organisations supported • New projects started • Community events supported • Local residents taking part • New volunteers • Increased levels of participation • Increase in community cohesion
Management		40k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to Newton Community Centre (12 months) • Administration (24 months) • Engagement including 8 editions of the newsletter and 4 events (24 months) • Partnership Development (24 months) • Co-ordinator (12 months) 	
TOTAL		229k		
* Wargrave Big Local Partnership will undertake a mid-term review of this plan in order to determine whether projects should be extended (where appropriate) and to consider whether to extend its commitment to Newton Community Centre and to its current Co-ordinator arrangements. If the review identifies a need for further funding, a new proposal will be submitted at this point – current costings are approximate and experience has shown the Partnership that expenditure will inevitably slip behind schedule.				



Cash flow projection

Theme	Q1 Sept 16 Nov 16	Q2 Dec 16 Feb 17	Q3 March 17 May 17	Q4 June 17 Aug 17	Total
Community Safety	5000	7000	7000	5000	24 000
Health	6250	6250	6250	6250	25 000
Environment	17500	19600	4200	4200	45 500
Financial inclusion	3900	9600	7600	5900	27 000
Employment	15825	22050	8300	6325	52 500
Community Fund	3750	3750	3750	3750	15 000
Management	19400	9350	5650	5600	40 000
Total	71625	77600	42750	37025	229000



How we will make a lasting and sustainable change in Wargrave

After a promising start, Wargrave Big Local is starting to explore its legacy. How can we make our money go further? How can we get more for the Big Local pound?

We are going to explore ways to create revenue while also doing good work. We can make money that can then be spent in Wargrave.

We're talking to organisations that can help us with this, watch this space!





How you can get involved

Apply for a Community Chest or Community Events grant

Tell us about your idea for an event or activity in Wargrave using our Community Events Form and we can help you to make it a reality. Grants are also available of around £500 for projects and groups from the Community Chest Fund – if you are not part of a group don't worry, residents can apply for support from our Bright Ideas Fund.

Volunteer with us

You might want to join our Partnership or one of our sub groups if there is an issue you are particularly interested in. Or you might want to be a Wargrave Big Local Ambassador and help us out at events and activities.

Visit us on Facebook and Twitter

We regularly add to our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Like our page – **Wargrave Big Local** - and follow us **@blwargrave** to get updates on what is happening locally.



@BLWargrave



Wargrave Big Local

Email or phone our Co-ordinator Graham Ellis

Our e mail address is **wgbiglocal@outlook.com** or ring us on **01744 417663**.

Write to us

Letters can be left at the office at **Newton Community Centre, Park Road South**, marked Wargrave Big Local.

Checkout our website

You can find out what we are doing, see our plans, send us your ideas via our website at:

www.wargravebiglocal.co.uk



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