

# Wargrave Big Local Plan 2018 – 2019



More people see Wargrave as a place  
of safety, wellbeing and possibility



## Our Vision

More people see Wargrave  
as a place of safety, wellbeing  
and possibility

We move forward in our third plan with three aspirational new themes:

### Community

Residents of Wargrave  
feeling safe and part of  
their neighbourhood

### Employability

To raise the aspirations of local  
people of all ages by providing  
opportunities and removing  
barriers to work and welfare

### Wellbeing

To provide access and support  
enabling residents to make  
good choices in terms of health  
and happiness



## 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.

The Partnership is made up of local residents with support from Helena Partnerships as our Local Trusted Organisation which looks after our funding and any obligations we have. 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. Following this our second plan ran from September 2016.

To find out more about the plans go to our website: [www.wargravebiglocal.co.uk](http://www.wargravebiglocal.co.uk)



This is our third plan that will support the investment of £1 million in Wargrave. The Partnership Board decides how the money is to be 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.

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





## Meet the partnership board



**Louise Forshaw - Chair**

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



**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.



**Sarah Percival**

I would like to make a difference in Wargrave and engage people to participate in our projects, especially through social media.



**Charles Hay**

I simply want to make improvements to my area.



**Mark Jory**

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



**Collette McIntyre**

I would like to do my part to help the community in Wargrave.



**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.



**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.



## What we've learned about our Partnership

Every time we write a new plan we review the progress we've made with our last one. You can find the full document on our website but we've included what we've learned about ourselves here:

- Wargrave Big Local Partnership members have diverse knowledge and talents and respect one another's points of view even if we don't always agree. Since the last plan, we have had a change of Chair, some Partnership members have moved on, and we have recruited three new members.
- Appreciating that we can't all be involved in everything, we have developed sub-groups, allowing us to focus properly on our themes and the projects that underpin them.
- The Partnership has worked hard at raising awareness and is getting a good reputation locally. But we know that there's more to do here.
- We're quite a diverse group - there is a good age range within the Partnership and a reasonable gender balance. But we've nobody with a BME background even though data suggests that Wargrave has a larger BME population compared with the St Helens average.
- Our Youth Group is working well – there's an opportunity to develop this and start to use the talents of our young people more in developing our plans and ideas.
- We have been good at listening to others and working with partners, in sub groups and other meetings, and this has improved the quality of our projects. This is one of our strengths – members are comfortable with asking the 'experts' and feel that they have earned respect.
- We've learned that small successes can make a big difference, with small but significant outcomes.
- We are proud of ourselves. We are becoming skilled in areas such as managing meetings, public speaking, arranging events, report writing and having the confidence to deal with professionals.
- We appreciate that we need to do more to get the message out and celebrate our achievements
- The stand that we have taken on local issues St Helens Council's Local Plan and the closure of the Job Centre has made us want to do more work like this.





## Our Local Trusted Organisation and Coordinator

**We as a Partnership can use our Local Trust Rep, Local Trusted Organisation and Coordinator for support. When we are considering ideas for projects we need to be mindful of the Big Local rules. We get to make the decisions and we are keen to learn how to spend the money in the most responsible way - our LTO is there to help us with this.**

We interviewed Helena Partnerships, our Local Trusted Organisation, for our plan review. They told us that:

“Helena has been acting as the Local Trusted Organisation for Wargrave Big Local. It’s a positive relationship and it has been great to see the Partnership grow, develop their plans and commission 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.”

As the largest social landlord in the area, Helena Partnerships understands the impact of the rollout of Universal Credit. This means that tenants will be responsible for their own rent payments and may need help with money management skills. This will be a major focus within this plan as we feel it will affect a lot of Wargrave residents – the support of our LTO in developing this project will be very valuable.



Our Coordinator Graham Ellis is based with Helena Partnerships. Graham currently works 3 days per week for Wargrave Big Local but we will need to consider whether we need to increase the number of co-ordinator hours available to us given the growth in workload over the course of our third plan.

We need to bear in mind that as projects increase in number and complexity, so does the workload for our co-ordinator.





# Plan Contents

Facts about Wargrave and how we found these out	<b>Page 9</b>
Our Big Local Vision	<b>Page 12</b>
How we build on our learning to achieve the Vision	<b>Page 13</b>
Third plan themes and budget estimates	<b>Page 15</b>
Cash flow estimates	<b>Page 17</b>
How we will make a lasting and sustainable change in Wargrave	<b>Page 18</b>
How to get involved	<b>Page 20</b>





## Facts about Wargrave and how we have found these out

We have been pleased to have been granted access to the Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI) Local Insight profile for Wargrave. This contains a vast amount of data about the area that has helped us formulate the themes and goals in this plan – the areas we feel we need to concentrate on.

Headline data about our population includes:

- There are 6 765 people living in Wargrave.
- 28% of the population live in rented accommodation compared to 10.6% across the NW.
- Wargrave has less pensioner households than the NW average, less one-person households but much higher numbers of lone parents with dependent children (36.4% in Wargrave, 28% NW average).
- It has lower number of married households than the NW average and higher cohabiting households.
- The population is 96.3% White British (compared with 87.1% across NW) with 3.7% BME.
- 51.3% of the population are women, 20.8% are aged 15 or below and 15.9% are aged 65 and above.

- Wargrave has more young people and less older people than the NW average.
- 73.9% identify as Christian and 19.2% as having no religion.

Our Partnership used a range of data in writing this plan:

- Consultation with residents across the last 18 months including a specific event in July
- Feedback from our project holders at an event in September
- Review of our social media activity including who has responded to our posts and which subjects they are most interested in
- Feedback from our themed sub groups
- An evaluation of our Community Chest awards
- Interviews with key partners

From this, we agreed a number of outcomes we felt were important for Wargrave – we then matched these with the headings and data from Local Insight i.e. Vulnerable Groups, Housing, Crime & Safety, Health & Wellbeing, Education & Skills, Economy, Access & Transport and Communities & Environment.

This led to the formulation of our three new themes (see page one) with a set of outcomes for each. We see this as a new and exciting way of working and we are excited to see it progress over the course of this plan.



**We have consulted with residents by holding two Open Days at Newton Community Centre, delivering four newsletters per year to every household and by asking residents to complete a survey over the past eighteen months in different settings.**

We have also used our website, Facebook and Twitter to engage with people.

This is what some of our residents have told us:

- Some are struggling to make ends meet and have debt that they worry will overwhelm them
- Some find job search difficult and need help to become more confident
- Some have long term illnesses and conditions that stop them from being active citizens
- Some residents are concerned about how Wargrave looks and their quality of life
- A lot of Wargrave residents feel that they lack the skills to progress in life or contribute anything useful
- Some residents are worried about crime and anti-social behaviour in Wargrave

### **Projects Event – September 2017**

We ran more projects in our second plan and the quality of project delivery has improved. So, how could the organisations that deliver our projects add value to developing our new plan? We decided to invite all our project leads to come together and share what they have learned about Wargrave and to discuss what they might contribute to our planning in the future.

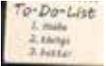
At the start of this event we screened a short but thought-provoking film we had commissioned showing the impact that projects had had on the residents that had taken part. We also wanted to know how working with us had felt.

They also told us what they had learned about Wargrave – this included:

- People feel ignored; Wargrave is perceived to be the first area to lose services
- People feel that the heritage of the area has been lost

- People look after each other but are isolated from the “rest of the world”
- There is fear of failure; social isolation
- Importance of knowing the area; bringing experts to people
- Default position is “I can’t”; important to layer projects so people can move between them when ready
- Word of mouth builds credibility and trust
- Helping people to make first step there and then is important
- Travel links are poor; people don’t like going out of Wargrave for help

If you’d like to know more about what we found out at our projects event, our consultations or our evaluation of our Community Chest fund please check out our review of our second plan (and the first one too) on our website: [www.wargravebiglocal.co.uk](http://www.wargravebiglocal.co.uk)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>We get a gold star for:</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>We could do better on:</b></p> 
Having an easy process for applying for funding - simple forms	Having enough rooms to run projects effectively
Regularly reviewing our projects	The project process – focusing on outcomes. Sub-groups taking greater responsibility for the quality of applications
Having quarterly monitoring reports that are simple to complete	Introducing E bulletin/E newsletters for projects to communicate with each other
Transparency - funding recipients sit on outcome panels	Bringing projects together at yearly network events
Good governance	Getting projects to work together better - some projects may be providing similar services - is this good value for money?
Involvement of partnership members in project development	
We are easy to work with and are good partners!	
How we make referrals into services	





## Our Big Local Vision

As described above, we have taken a fresh approach for this in our third plan – starting with the outcomes we would like to see and working these back to goals, themes and a new vision.

Theme	Goal
Community	Residents of Wargrave feeling safe and part of their neighbourhood
Employability	To raise the aspirations of local people of all ages by providing opportunities and removing barriers to work and welfare
Wellbeing	To provide access and support enabling residents to make good choices in terms of health and happiness

We will work with a sub group for each of these themes - a reduced number (from five to three) will make duplication of services less likely, getting value for money more likely and will help us decide which organisations we will need to work with in the future.

In respect of our vision, we as a Partnership agreed that we needed to change this so that the vision reflects our new themes and goals and represents what we would like Big Local to achieve in Wargrave.

At our October 2017 Partnership Meeting we discussed this in depth and after much debate agreed on our new vision:

**More people see  
Wargrave as a place  
of safety, wellbeing  
and possibility**





# How we will build on our learning to achieve the Vision

## The Budget

We have looked at where we are up to with the budget – we don't want to stick strictly to a spending timetable, but it was useful to look at where we are in the ten year plan. We decided that we would start with a budget of £225k for this next plan and run it over an 18-month period. Importantly, because we want to concentrate on outcomes as we develop this next plan, we decided to build in a three month 'reflection' period with no new projects starting before 1st April 2018. We need to know what we want to achieve and develop project ideas that will get us there. This will mean a big change in our thinking and we are considering using GROW to do this:

- G - what is our **Goal**
- R - what is the **Reality**, what's it like now
- O - what are the **Options**
- W - what's the **Way forward**



## Working on Outcomes

We have learned more about outcomes during this plan – many 'outcome' targets set by projects were in fact outputs, things that were done rather than the difference this had made. We have revised our project plan twice in the past year and this had included asking for stories and case studies that showed the difference being made to beneficiaries. Next time around, we will ask for some form of customer satisfaction measure from projects too.



## New ways of Commissioning Projects

We will build on the successful method of commissioning that we used for the Ways to Work and Employers in Partnership projects in our last plan. We learned a lot through developing project briefs, tender comparison and interviewing applicant organisations. We discovered how difficult these decisions can be and as the projects have developed we have learned things that we can use next time we have a commissioning process.



### Use of data and local knowledge

- We will use the Local Insight profile at every opportunity and work with partners to develop our knowledge of locally based services.
- We will build on our base of community surveys and will look at developing more on-line forms to encourage participation.
- We will continue to monitor our social media to make the most of Facebook, Twitter and the Big Local website.
- We will continue to liaise with Newton Community Centre staff to reduce the potential for overlap of services and build on our good working relationship.

### Formation of new sub-groups based on the three themes in the plan

At the final sub-group meetings of the second plan, we asked existing members whether the group could benefit from having any other organisations around the table. Their suggestions will be considered when the new sub-groups are formed. We will also look at addressing the issues raised by sub group members and project leads including making sure that projects and sub groups have more opportunities to compare thoughts and plans.



### Investing in personal development for the Partnership

We are planning for the day that we will be without the support of the LTO and our Local Trust Rep. Whilst we don't want this to happen for a while yet, we need to begin to develop skills within the Partnership that will help us work independently.

We have identified a number of areas where we need learn more – two of the key skills we need are governance and financial management. We have asked our LTO to work more closely with us when preparing financial reports and to provide us with training on how to use them.

When it became clear that we would run out of funding before the planned end of our 2nd plan (August 2018) we looked at different options to address this. We decided to write a new plan but we also looked at the opportunity to bid for funding to match our Lottery funding. We will look to develop fundraising skills, and partnerships with local organisations that are eligible to bid, during this next plan period.



## Our third plan themes and budget estimates

Wargrave Big Local Theme and Budget Table January 2018 to June 2019			
Theme	Goal	Budget	Outcomes
Community	Residents of Wargrave feel safe and part of their neighbourhood	£40k (includes the Loco Project)	Improved communication with social landlords
			More people of all ages engaged through arts and heritage activities
			People of all ages have raised awareness of our carbon footprint, the need to be energy efficient and recycle more
			More people from under-represented groups are engaged
			More residents feel positive about how their neighbourhood looks.
			Reduced incidences of drugs and alcohol related crime by supporting local agencies
			Improved home safety for vulnerable residents
			Encourage the establishment of neighbourhood watch groups
			Reduced anti-social behaviour through positive engagement
			Reduce the potential for traffic accidents through awareness and partnership working
Employability	To raise the aspirations of local people of all ages by providing opportunities and removing barriers to work and welfare	£37.9k	People have improved or increased work skills
			Local groups and organisations are supported in their bids for match funding
			Barriers preventing young people achieving better qualifications are removed
			Build better relationships with primary schools to better understand local need
			Improved transport links to job opportunities
			More local people are supported to start their own business
			More advice to young families around money management
			Residents are more resilient to changes in welfare benefits
Increase our online presence through the use of social media and our website			

Wargrave Big Local Theme and Budget Table January 2018 to June 2019 (continued)			
Theme	Goal	Budget	Outcomes
Wellbeing	To provide access and support enabling residents to make good choices in terms of health and happiness	£45k (Youth Project included)	Better access to health and screening services locally
			More support for young families to access wellbeing related services.
			Engage with lonely and isolated residents.
			Residents are supported to make good lifestyle choices
			Encourage neighbourliness and promote acts of kindness across Wargrave.
Young people have a safe space to feel comfortable, have their say and have opportunities to develop			
Community Funds	Community Chest Bright Ideas	£15k	Local groups get funding to expand their activities and ideas and to grow their skills
Management	Engagement (Newsletters, Events, Media)	£12.7k	
	Coordinator	£36k*	* provision for increase to full time equivalent
	Accommodation	£11.5k	
	Training	£3k	
	Admin/ running costs	£6k	
	Research	£2.5k	
Committed funding for current projects		£15.4k	
Total		£225k	



## Cash flow projection

Theme	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Total
Community	12 500	6 250	6 250	6 250	6 250	2 500	40 000
Employability	3 150	7 900	7 900	7 900	7 900	3 150	37 900
Wellbeing	3 750	9 375	9 375	9 375	9 375	3 750	45 000
Community Funds	2 500	2 500	2 500	2 500	2 500	2 500	15 000
Management	11 950	11 950	11 950	11 950	11 950	11 950	71 700
Committed	12 110	3 290					15 400
Totals	45 960	41 265	37 975	37 975	37 975	23 850	225 000



# How we will make a lasting and sustainable change in Wargrave

## We have had a few ideas how the lasting legacy of our million pounds might look.

Following an inspirational presentation by the School for Social Entrepreneurs we commissioned a Feasibility Study into the establishment of a self-sustainable Training and Skills Social Enterprise. The study included provision of a detailed business plan that is full of valuable information. Although we haven't pursued this any further as yet it will be a useful tool in future planning. To learn more we met with a successful training and skills social enterprise based in Liverpool, Transform Lives, who told us what such an undertaking feels like in practice.



During the Ways to Work project commissioning process we were introduced to Rotunda, a charity based in North Liverpool. From their base in Kirkdale they provide alternative education for young people and adults, counselling, legal advice, advocacy, community activities, a café that's also a history resource, a nursery, a garden and a space for events. As they describe themselves, they are generally doing their bit to help make life even better in their area.

We invited them to talk to us, and visited them at their premises. This was stimulating and encouraging and it improved our understanding of how a thriving social organisation works and the impact this has on the local community.

We want to know more about community hubs and will be following this up as part of this plan.



**We also asked the organisations that delivered our year two projects – how can we work together to make sure your project has a life outside of Big Local?**

They said:

- Make sure knowledge and experience is shared
- Work on lasting referral routes to partners
- Partnership work with appropriate agencies in St Helens
- Pool resources and look for match funding
- Develop volunteers and skill up, encourage employers to support volunteering
- Invest in social enterprise to apply for contracts that can create a re-investable revenue fund
- Ensure local residents remain actively involved
- Develop the skill of local groups so they can continue the work in the future
- Change mind sets, raise ambitions, help people access services outside Wargrave
- Using data/evidence from projects to show the need
- Support the building of sustainable transport links

We are addressing some of these thoughts in this plan – for example we have included an outcome around transport links, we will organise sub groups differently with more partners involved and we're using data more to influence our decisions.





## How you can get involved

If this plan inspires you to find out more, you can contact us through Facebook, Twitter, our Website or by ringing our Coordinator Graham.

We want to hear from anyone who lives or works in Wargrave and has an idea, an opinion or a question for the Big Local Partnership.

There are lots of ways to get involved:



### Apply for a Community Chest or Bright Ideas 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](mailto: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](http://www.wargravebiglocal.co.uk)**







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**Building a better  
Wargrave together.**

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