



Welcome

Welcome to the second newsletter from Big Local North Cleethorpes.

There's a chance you've never seen issue 1 because distribution of copies around Cleethorpes came to a halt as lockdown began, (but you can still read it on our website). But we felt it was still time for another update about what Big Local has been up to. If you're seeing this newsletter please let others know about it and remind them to visit our website where you can read a copy and keep up to date with our news.

Big Local North Cleethorpes has had to shut the doors to our Community Hub at 82 Grimsby Road for now, but in the background, our team have been continuing to move our projects forward and come up with new ways of working and new initiatives to help our community. You can read about many of these in this newsletter.

We're publishing this issue in June soon after the conclusion of *National Volunteers' Week* and *National Neighbourhood Watch Week* - two themes very important to our communities. So there a focus on both in this edition.

We hope you and your families are staying safe and well and we hope you find something of interest to read here. Please visit our website (www.biglocalnorthcleethorpes.org.uk) to keep up to date with all our news and announcements.

Enjoy this newsletter. Keep safe.
Darren, Chair of Big Local North Cleethorpes Committee

Community Caravan
for local holidays

Watch for very different planters
along North Prom this year!



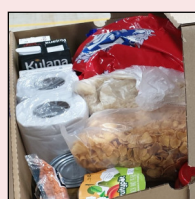
Empty yard
at 82
awaiting a
Super Shed!

Much more news and information on our website
www.biglocalnorthcleethorpes.org.uk

Reacting to the crisis

A number of initiatives helping people in North Cleethorpes have arisen over the past couple of months, and **Big Local North Cleethorpes has been able to provide some small, quick emergency grants to support them.**

The **Blue Lights Brigade** was supported during 2019 by Big Local to help set up a volunteer led emergency response team for Cleethorpes and to also carry out vital home safety checks (alongside Humberside Fire and Rescue). During lockdown their team and their volunteers started using their vans to deliver social shielding packages in conjunction with NELC and Sector Support NEL, so Big Local was happy to provide some funding to help contribute to the running costs for the vans to keep them on the road. Read more inside this issue.



Working with others, St Francis Church in Cleethorpes opened a **Food Larder** to help feed local people in Cleethorpes during the crisis.

Big Local provided a donation to help support the provisioning of the food larder service whilst it was getting underway,

Local volunteers are on a mission to make fabric **face masks** and provide them to more at risk people in North Cleethorpes. Big Local is supporting the programme to help recruit volunteers and to provide the fabric and materials and then to work with Blue Lights Brigade, local Neighbourhood Watch Groups and other local organisations to get them delivered.



It has been clear how important the internet and technology has been to keep people connecting over the past few months. But not everyone has internet, wifi or even a computer or a mobile phone. These people are very **'digitally disconnected'** and hugely disadvantaged as a result.

Big Local is starting up a programme to try and provide technology advice and refurbished equipment to people identified locally as being in need. The project is just getting underway and will run for the next few months.

Big Local North Cleethorpes Lockdown update

Our Community Hub at 82 Grimsby Road, Cleethorpes remains closed. We will not be reopening publicly until it is safe to do so. But although the doors are shut, we're not closed for business.

Staff and committee are still remotely working and moving ahead on projects as much as we can. You can still email us via hello@biglocalnorthcleethorpes.org.uk or phone 01472 897337. If you're already in contact with John or Karl then you can still contact them. Our committee of local volunteers are not meeting face to face, but are still having digital conversations and making decisions. So we're still investing effort to make sure that we can support various projects and are working for the good of our community.

Visit our website at www.biglocalnorthcleethorpes.org.uk for more regular updates or follow us on Twitter at @BLNCleethorpes. If you want to subscribe to the electronic version of this newsletter, go to www.biglocalnorthcleethorpes.org.uk/newsletter

Blue Lights Brigade has been supporting your community

Big Local North Cleethorpes has invested in the **Blue Lights Brigade** (BLB) programme before. A grant in 2019 provided equipment for volunteers going through their CERT training (Community Emergency Response Team) so that Cleethorpes had volunteers that could be called upon should a crisis or emergency arise. And as coronavirus started locking down our communities, the Blue Lights Brigade CIC team and it's volunteers all sprang into action to start providing some of that response. The BLB vans, driven by volunteers were out and about on a daily basis running errands for people and, crucially, delivering the official food/supply boxes to socially shielded people.

As the programme got underway and BLB connected with NELC and Sector Support NEL, volunteers were coming forward to sign up to help. In total, over 700 volunteers came forward and many of them were put into action around Cleethorpes.

Over 30 volunteers came forward from North Cleethorpes area to help, and we estimate that nearly 100 local people were assisted over the past few months. Big Local provided



some emergency funding to help towards running costs for the BLB vans as our contribution, which was then matched with other donations and discounts provided to BLB by local businesses and groups.

Blue Lights Brigade volunteers have shown how valuable volunteering can be, and the service they've been providing has been absolutely essential. Thank you to the BLB team and their volunteers from Big Local and from our communities.



Volunteers in the lead

Big Local North Cleethorpes has team members to deliver our programme, but the committee itself - those who form the vision, put the planning together, make the funding decisions - are all residents and volunteers. **Big Local is essentially a volunteer led initiative.** That's true of Big Local groups across the country. Local volunteers commit their time and efforts to helping to improve the communities where they live. The first week in June was National Volunteers' Week and it was a chance for organisations everywhere to say a big thank you to their volunteers. We too said thank you to our Cleethorpes volunteers. North Cleethorpes as a community benefits from their volunteering commitment.

Our committee members give up their time for regular meetings, but there is always something else going on too. They might go to conferences on our behalf around the country, attend external meetings, or – as recently – spend time in workshops trying to get our plans for the next few years thought through. The committee members attend events, campaign for North Cleethorpes and act as advocates and champions for the area and for individual projects. Many committee members have their own projects they push forward. All this activity and time is voluntarily given.

A special thank you too to Darren our Chair and especially to Alan who has tirelessly worked on the refurbishment of 82 Grimsby Road over the past year to help resurrect it and get it brought into use as our community hub. Alan has invested more than 1000 hours of his time on this project as a volunteer and we're very grateful to him.

Thank you too to other part-time volunteers who have helped Big Local with events or other projects over the years or providing support with our community building.

Over the past few months, across the country, we've been relying on the efforts of volunteers to help keep our communities running. **Thank you to volunteers everywhere.**

Some upcoming Big Local projects

We're working on a couple of new specific projects.

Firstly, planning permission has now been submitted for a '**Super Shed**' to be erected at the rear of 82 Grimsby Road. This will provide a workshop space for local people to make or fix things, get involved in crafting, their own DIY projects and more. Once the shed is in place we'll be equipping it and encouraging people to tell us what they want to do with it.

We also now own a **static caravan at Thorpe Park**. Eventually this will be available in an affordable way for local people who might otherwise not be able to get away for holidays or breaks. Clearly at the moment this is on hold whilst Thorpe Park remains closed, but slowly this year we'll work out how to make access to the caravan possible.

You can find out more about each of these projects on our website and we'll keep you updated on their status.

Generally the Big Local Plan for the next few years will be focusing on several **themes**:

Younger People

Older People

Arts, Leisure and Culture

The Environment

BIG LOCAL

We'll be creating projects and programmes that help work in these general areas of support for our community. During lockdown we've been building online discussion spaces for organisations and people involved with these themes in Cleethorpes so that conversations can continue and projects can be planned.

If you're interested in any of the projects you see that Big Local is doing or in contributing to any of our theme areas then we'd be happy to have conversations. Just contact John Mooney john@vanel.org.uk

A Forum for North Cleethorpes

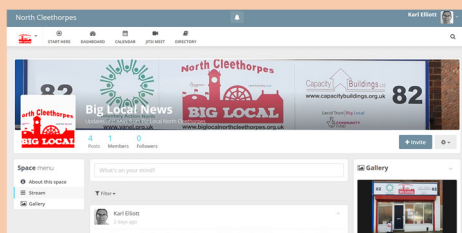
North Cleethorpes residents currently don't have an easy way to discuss the issues that affect their area and help drive forward change. Although there have previously been forums such as Clee Lincs that have met at locally and gave people an opportunity to discuss ways to develop their area, these no longer exist. Big Local committee members have discussed this and would like to try and establish a way for residents to 'have their say' and 'get involved', particularly within North Cleethorpes.

Eventually we might be able to hold face-to-face community meetings, but for the moment Big Local has created an online

equivalent of a community forum through a discussion forum website at

www.biglocalnorthcleethorpes.org.uk/northclee

and we would like local residents to get involved.



The forum will be private to people in the area who want to have a say and get involved and it works much like a simple social network, allowing you to post ideas, thoughts and information and get involved with online groups that will be talking about specific issues.

We already have groups set up to discuss: *covid-19 response and recovery; housing; families and households; the environment - especially green routes and green spaces, the north beach, chapmans pond and other areas; local businesses; and health and wellbeing.*

We have also set up groups around the theme areas that are of interest to Big Local North Cleethorpes: *younger people; older people; arts, leisure and culture and the environment.*

We have also created groups to provide some *IT and technology support* and advice and specific *advice around scams*.

We want local people to be involved. You can access the website on your computer, tablet or even mobile phone. All you need is an email address and an account that we will create for you. Just visit the website where you can register yourself. During the registration process we'll ask that you explain why you want to get involved. This is so that we can ensure all participants have a connection to North Cleethorpes and an interest in its development.

Don't feel that joining up means you have to have something specific to contribute - if you just want to find out what's going on then that's fine. But if you can bring positive ideas too then that would be valuable. Please feel free to raise genuine concerns but we don't want the forum to become a place to moan without having a positive feel too.

So if you are local to North Cleethorpes we really want to have you get involved. Visit the website now.

Any questions speak to Karl or John.
john@vanel.org.uk karl@vanel.org.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

There are over fifty Neighbourhood Watch Groups (NWG) across North East Lincolnshire, and a number of these are within North Cleethorpes and nearby. In each NWG street or area, neighbours look out for each other and try to make their part of the community a bit better and a bit safer.

Big Local North Cleethorpes is very supportive of Neighbourhood Watch and we're keen to support our local groups. Big Local works with partners including Humberside Police, VANEL, Trading Standards, Safer Communities NEL and others to look at ways to keep our community safe. Neighbourhood Watch Groups are a great way of making a positive impact on an area, so if you're part of a local NWG in Cleethorpes and want support to grow or improve your local impact then we're keen to support this.

All NWG's across the borough are connected as part of the **North East Lincolnshire Neighbourhood Watch Area Network** with Glyn Atkinson being the Network Coordinator. Big Local supports Glyn and the Network and has been helping to provide meeting space at 82 for Glyn and we provide hosting for the new web discussion space.

The Network has a dedicated website at www.nelwatch.org.uk and all coordinators and members of networks can also access a private, online discussion space to get support, advice and more (at www.biglocalnorthcleethorpes.org.uk/nelwatchnetwork)

If you're part of a Cleethorpes based NWG, please contact Glyn (www.nelwatch.org.uk/getintouch) or Karl Elliott at Big Local. If you're thinking of starting a group or would like one to be considered in your street(s) then please also get in touch.

Early June was *National Neighbourhood Watch Week*, so it seemed an appropriate time to remind our local residents in North Cleethorpes about the importance of Neighbourhood Watch. Locally groups help report flytipping and anti-social behaviour; they liaise with Police; they secure alleyways and tidy up their streets and more. There's also plenty of advice available at the moment about Scams and doorstep fraud as well as help with technology available to NWG members.

If you are interested, please contact Glyn or Karl.



Beating Scams Together

When people are at their most vulnerable, the scammers appear. So disappointingly, **there are a lot of scams going around at the moment**. You might see emails, get phone calls, letters or even knocks at the door, and you need to be able to decide what is a scam (a crime) and what is real. So Big Local North Cleethorpes and other local partners are trying hard to make sure everyone knows to be on the lookout for scams, know how to avoid them, know how to report them and can help others to avoid being scammed too. At the moment there are specific scams pretending that they can help you with issues around Covid-19, even pretending to offer help you might need or pretending to be part of the official NHW Test and Trace call service. So everyone needs to be on their guard.

The North East Lincolnshire Neighbourhood Watch Network (www.nelwatch.org.uk) is building up a useful page of resources on their website about Scams. A weekly Scams news bulletin has now started up too. It appears first on the NELwatch blog and then will be published weekly on the Big Local website blog.

If you want to really help make a difference against scammers and want to learn enough to start protecting yourself and others, then we recommend going through the free, online training as a Friend Against Scams (www.friendsagainstsams.org.uk). It won't take long and you'll learn plenty. At the end of it you become a Friend Against Scams and hopefully then you can watch out for others (family, friends, neighbours) too. We all need to take a stand if we're to beat the scammers.

If you want to talk to someone about Scams please contact Glyn Atkinson (NEL Watch) or Karl at Big Local (karl@vanel.org.uk).



Wash your hands of coronavirus scams!

Friends Against Scams aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams.

Be aware of people offering or selling: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Virus testing kits - these are only offered by NHS.■ Vaccines or miracle cures - there is currently no vaccine or cure.■ Overpriced or fake goods to protect yourself from coronavirus such as anti-bacterial products.■ Shopping or medication collection services.■ Home decontamination services.	Protect yourself and others: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Don't be rushed into making a decision. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.■ Only purchase goods and services from legitimate retailers and take a moment to think before parting with money or personal information.■ Don't assume everyone is genuine. It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.■ If someone claims to represent a charity, ask them for ID. Be suspicious of requests for money up front. If someone attempts to pressure you into accepting a service they are unlikely to be genuine. Check with family and friends before accepting offers of help if you are unsure.	Be a good friend, help to protect your family, friends and neighbours from scams. <p>Read it. Share it. Prevent it.</p> <p>#Coronavirus #ScamAware</p>
Contact <p>For advice on scams call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0800 223 11 33 To report a scam call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 Contact your bank if you think you have been scammed.</p>		NATIONAL TRADING STANDARDS <p>Scams Team</p>

To learn more about the different types of scams visit www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk

Get involved

If you live or work in North Cleethorpes* then Big Local is all about you. We want to support you but we also want you to get involved. At the very least please keep following our website and social media for local news, information and updates, or even subscribe to our newsletter mailing list so we can send you electronic copies of these newsletters whenever they are published. (Subscribe via our website)

Do you sew? Are you into crafts? We've got volunteers making facemasks which will be made available to more at risk people in the area. Could you spare some time to sew some? We can help provide materials, instructions and more and will be organising distribution. Or maybe you're already doing this for your neighbourhood? Contact Liz to discuss. (liz@vanel.org.uk 01472 231123)

Do you like fixing and repairing things? The Repairing to Go project wants to get 'fixers' together to support each other in making 'stuff' last longer! This is the sort of activity that will take place in our Super Shed once it's in place, but for now we want to talk to people interested in learning about fixing, sharing ideas and supporting each other. Talk to Karl or Peter about this. (karl@vanel.org.uk / peter@vanel.org.uk)

We are investigating ideas around creating a **Green Route** through Cleethorpes. We would like to get local people to tell us what they know or think about the parks and open spaces around Cleethorpes. Can you spare a few minutes to complete our survey at www.biglocalnorthcleethorpes.org.uk/surveys.

Thanks

Are you aged under 30 and struggling to get into/**back into employment or education**? There are programmes running which may be able to give you 1:1 guided support to get you going again. Talk to Jenny to see if you are eligible and whether one of these programmes could help you. jenny@vanel.org.uk

Whilst everyone is using the internet and technology to keep in touch, do their banking, or online shopping or more, are you feeling cut off because you either don't have internet, the technology or the skills to get online? We might be able to help. We're trying to help

some people to **get online** with a combination of loaned old equipment and a bit of training and support. But we need to chat to you about what is possible. If you or someone you know needs support - talk to us. Give Karl a call. karl@vanel.org.uk / 01472 897337

Do you want to actively discuss improvements to North Cleethorpes and help out? Why not sign up for the **North Clee Forum** described earlier? Ask to register to get your account and then join in one of the online discussions to help come up with practical ways forward for the area. If you'd have previously turned up to a community forum meeting if it had been available then this new North Clee Forum is our alternative.

Think about your neighbours. We've recently finished Neighbourhood Watch Week where the theme was "Celebrate your Neighbours". Why not just get more active in your community? Or join your local **Neighbourhood Watch Group** or if there isn't one why not talk to others and think about setting one up? Lots more information at www.nelwatch.org.uk or speak to Glyn or Karl. glyn@nelwatch.org.uk

* By **North Cleethorpes** we generally are meaning **Sidney Sussex** and **Croft Baker** wards and the postcodes **DN35 7xx** and **DN35 8xx**. This is the area that our activities and support are aiming to reach. But if you're just outside this area - perhaps in DN35 9xx or 0xx then please keep in touch too as we may still be able to work with you. Maps are on our website.

Are you an artist, musician, writer or crafter? As part of Big Local's **Arts, Leisure and Culture** theme we want to find more local creative people, connect them, generate ideas and increase arts and culture participation in the area. We have created a new online discussion space for Arts and Culture, so if you would like to get logged in and get discussing this then please talk to John or Karl.

Have you got a practical idea for a **local social action project** that will directly help people living in North Cleethorpes? If you know what you want to happen and need some help or perhaps some funding, then start a conversation with John at Big Local to see what options there might be for taking your ideas forward. john@vanel.org.uk

Over to you...

Be Loyal to Local Businesses

As more and more businesses reopen, Big Local would like to encourage you to start making the most of your local retailers and businesses. Many local businesses have been extremely supportive to their community during lockdown, but many are struggling financially. Loyal to Local is a new campaign from North East Lincolnshire Council and E-factor and encourages you to support your local businesses in the months ahead. Local businesses have been supportive of Big Local North Cleethorpes over the past few years too, so we'd encourage you to find out more about www.loyaltolocal.co.uk or simply shop locally (and safely) as soon as you get the chance.

Get in Touch

by phone - **01472 897337** or email hello@biglocalnorthcleethorpes.org.uk
by post to 82 Grimsby Road, Cleethorpes, DN35 7DP

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