

Neighbourhood Development Plan Committee and the Big Lunch

Position statement.

1. Since starting in 2009, thousands of Big Lunches have taken place in all types of communities, with millions of people taking to their streets, gardens and community spaces for lunch. The date for 2017 is 18th June.
2. Some residents had been holding small-scale Big Lunch events for several years.
3. In 2017 the Great Get Together was launched to celebrate the life and work of Jo COX. “This summer, on 16 – 18 June, we’re organising the biggest neighbourhood celebrations since the Jubilee street parties. It’s called The Great Get Together and we’d love you to be a part of it.”
4. In February 2017 the NDP saw the many benefits of having a parish-wide Big Lunch and considered organising the event with a view to using it to promote further engagement between ourselves and the community. “It was agreed that we should hold an event in June along the lines of the “big lunch” initiative – perhaps on the recreational field” NDP minutes 13th Feb 2017.
5. After due consideration it was felt that it would not be appropriate for us to organize such an event. “It was agreed that we would like to have an event on 17th/18th June. However, following some discussion, it was felt that planning this sort of event was outside of our remit. Accordingly, whilst we were happy to be associated with it, it would be better if a separate committee pursued this.” NDP minutes 27 Feb 2017
6. The NDP sought the opinion of residents who were involved in previous events and discovered that there was enthusiasm for a parish wide Big Lunch. “We will be “the catalyst” for the Neighbourhood Event. We will not accept devolved responsibility for anything which is not directly related to the Plan.” NDP minutes 13th March 2017.
7. Between then and the present individual members of the NDP committee have provided support and guidance to the Big Lunch steering group. While using insight and experience gained during the NDP process, they were acting as individual parishioners for the purpose of contributing to the overall plan. The presence and activities of the NDP committee at the event have been discussed at separate meetings of the NDP committee.
8. The NDP hold funds earmarked for funding consultation events. The committee will be contributing £300 to the event. This is equivalent to the sum spent on previous consultation events.
9. On 17 May 2017 BF Parish Council adopted the plan and it became PC sponsored event.

Cllr Trevor Aughey
May 2017