



your £1 million

Your Area
Your Money
Your Choice

WeBigLocal

Profile and Vision - 2014

Wecock has been awarded £1 million to improve our area. It's not a local Government, or other local agencies project. Together, we the community, decide what happens with the money.

What is **Big Local** all about?

Big Local is an exciting opportunity for residents in 150 areas across England to make a massive, lasting and positive difference to their communities.

Big Local is run by Local Trust, who are working with £200 million from the Big Lottery Fund. With the help from a range of partners, Local Trust are providing expert advice and support for residents in the selected areas.



What is **WeBigLocal**?

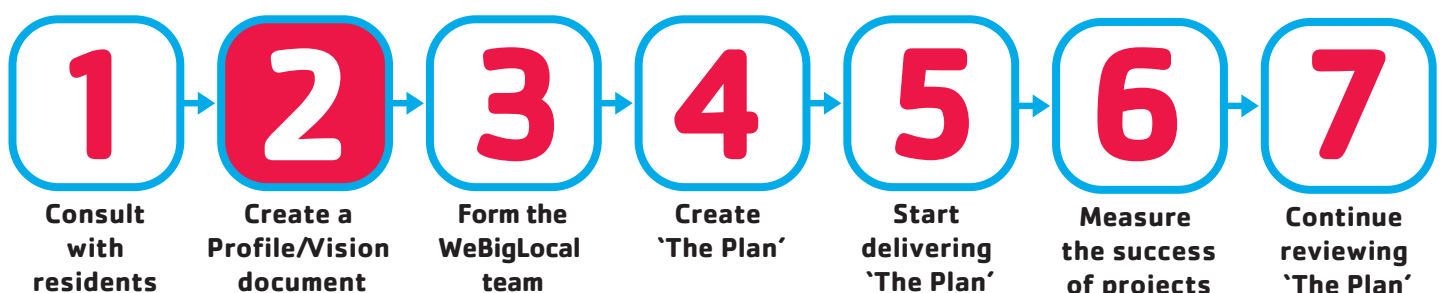
WeBigLocal is our name for the Wecock Farm Big Local area, which has been awarded **£1 million** over ten years to help us, the residents, work together in partnership with other agencies to make a positive and lasting difference to our community.



It's about bringing everyone together, using all our local talent, skills and energy to make the area an even better place to live not only now but in the future by helping to improve the **health and well-being** of all residents.

The **WeBigLocal** Pathway

There are 7 steps to the Big Local initiative. We are currently at step 2. You are reading it now! Hopefully with your help during the next two months we will be at step 4, and then a short step to 5 to start using the funds to put our community's plan into action!



A bit of History about Wecock

Wecock can be traced back to the 16th century and is described as 'a place called Wycock' in 1591.

Wecock Common was once part of the much larger Forest of Bere which from the 16th century produced Oak trees for warship building in Portsmouth.

The Common is now a haven for wildlife, woodland plants and trees, some of which are over 150 years old.

The housing development of Wecock Farm, which was built on part of the Woodcroft Farm, was started in 1975 by Portsmouth City Council to meet the needs of the ever increasing population.



The previous Community Centre - circa 2000

**"I came to the area for a weekend...
That was 35 years ago!"**



Woodcroft Primary School was built in the early 1970's on the land of the old farmhouse and neighbouring land which historically housed an abattoir.

The village centre was redeveloped in 2003 with new housing and new buildings for community facilities.

Wecock Farm Today

Wecock Farm is a housing estate that has managed to maintain a beautiful sense of the outdoors and nature. It sits on the edge of the countryside, with a Common, play areas and a recently leased 10 acre plot of local land with a pond, known as Billy's Lake.



“20 years ago nobody wanted to live in Wecock, today people are choosing to move here.”



The estate is two miles from the local town, Waterlooville, and has excellent bus services which are needed for many residents to access the larger shops as there is only one convenience store and one take-away in the centre of the estate.

The regular bus services that run to Portsmouth and Havant are also important in terms of employment as there are very few work opportunities directly on the estate.



At the heart of the estate, there is a Links Children Centre, Portsmouth Housing Office, Living Waters Church (which runs a food bank) and a Community Centre with adjoining Motiv8 Youth Hub and Squirrels PreSchool.

These facilities and agencies provide various activities and support to residents, working together in partnership to look at how they can best serve the community.



Wecock Farm Today

The majority of housing on Wecock Farm is owned by Portsmouth City Council along with a number of housing agencies and privately owned properties including some sheltered housing accommodation. Although there is a mix of property types there is a high proportion of single dwelling flats.



Unusually Wecock Farm is served by three local authorities; Hampshire County Council, Havant Borough Council and Portsmouth City Council.

When the original Wecock Estate was built Portsmouth City Council owned all of the properties and although the current count is 34% they still have a presence in the area with their local Housing Office. Land ownership and responsibilities for grounds maintenance and play areas is shared and can be very confusing for residents.

There are very few health services provided on the estate, with a doctor's surgery placed on the outskirts. Whilst there are a number of fitness groups available, there is a lack of services for mental health issues, substance abuse and family welfare issues.



Some residents feel there are issues with safety due to substance misuse in pockets around the estate. This can lead to individuals feeling vulnerable, isolated and unable to voice their concerns.

Wecock has one main road running through it. Passing through this route, the estate looks built up and grey but is in fact surrounded and intertwined with plenty of woodland and open spaces.

The disadvantage of having just one main artery is that residents have no reason to go to other areas that branch off this, and therefore, know little about the estate other than where they live.



The Way Forward

WeBigLocal have had hundreds of suggestions of how to improve the **Health and Well-Being** of residents on the estate.

The next phase of the project is to create **The Plan** which will identify the challenges facing WeBigLocal and how we, as a community, can best use the **£1 million** to improve the facilities, opportunities and environment.



Below are some of the key points identified by residents that require the projects focus.

Children and Young People

- Develop a greater range of recreational activities
- Support education and learning
- Develop volunteering and placement opportunities
- Guidance for healthy eating and healthy living

Building the Wecock Community

- More clubs and activities at times to suit residents
- Community activities over the weekend
- Support and advice on social, educational and financial issues
- Guidance for tackling isolation
- Ongoing involvement in decision making
- Develop research to better understand all aspects of the area



The Way Forward



Environment and Facilities

- Work with local government and organisations to improve facilities
- Develop the use of open spaces
- Understand and support the transport needs of residents

Opportunities for Residents

- Provide direction for healthy living education
- Offer opportunities for learning new skills and training
- Support social enterprise projects
- Build relationships with local businesses

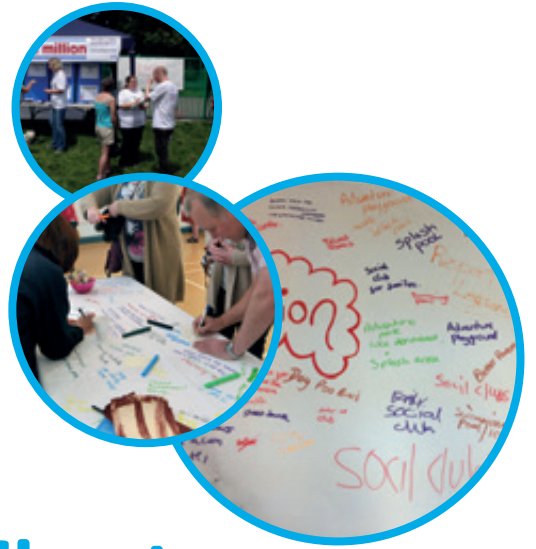
Older People

- Activities to help the needs of the elderly
- Research and support transport issues
- Provide intergenerational activities and events



Talking to Residents

Since April 2013 **WeBigLocal** has held events, attended many community activities, visited schools and chatted with residents. Opinions have been gathered from the community of how to enhance the quality of health and well-being in the area.



WeBigLocal Community Chest



WeBigLocal decided to hold three Community Chest events offering a total of £4,000 to individuals and groups who had ideas which would benefit Wecock residents, with a maximum of £300 for single projects.

WeBigLocal have...

- Created a website and Facebook page.
- Kept the local newspaper and other publications updated.
- Created posters and flyers to promote activities.
- Delivered requested information by hand to individual residents.
- Undertaken 'door to door' leafleting.

- Get involved to help decide how the money is spent.
- Use your skills and join one of the working groups.
- Come along to any of the public meetings.

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