

Littlemoor ward to receive £1m of Big Lottery funding

It has just been announced that Littlemoor ward, Weymouth, will receive at least £1 million to fund community projects and give people in the area a helping hand as part of the Big Lottery Fund's the Big Local Trust programme.

The programme aims to help people in disadvantaged communities to meet their needs and make their communities better places to live in, now and in the future.

There will now be a period of careful consideration to determine how best to spend the money, which will be awarded in stages over the next ten years.

The money will be held by an independent Charitable Trust, set up by the Big Lottery Fund that will work closely with local people to decide how best to use the funding. It is anticipated that funding will be awarded from around January 2012 onwards, possibly earlier. A range of activities will be developed in order to establish how the funding will be used, including detailed information gathering, outreach work, and funding surgeries.

The funding will be used to set up long term, sustainable projects in order to bring about long term, positive change to the area.

Mark Cotton, Big Lottery Fund Head of the South West region, said: "The Big Local Trust is a dedicated Lottery funding stream to help people in neighbourhoods such as Littlemoor to identify local issues and to develop the skills and confidence necessary to change things for the better.

"We hope that by securing funding for the long-term and by offering a commitment to providing dedicated local support, the Big Local Trust will bring lasting positive changes to Littlemoor and its residents."

Cllr Kate Wheller, Brief Holder for Equality and Diversity, said: "This is fantastic news for Littlemoor. The area will really benefit and flourish with this funding, which I am sure will provide a real boost to the community and bring about positive change. Ward councillors and residents of Littlemoor have worked so hard in recent years, and it is terrific that they are getting the financial support they need to further this commitment.

"I recognise that there are other areas in Weymouth & Portland who also deserve help, and now that Littlemoor is to benefit from this funding, it will allow other streams to focus efforts elsewhere."

Cllr Simon Bowkett, Ward Councillor for Littlemoor, said: "The next year will be one of the most important in recent times for Littlemoor, as it will help decide how best to spend the funding in order for the whole community to benefit. I am sure all involved will pull

together in order to make this process effective and help get the maximum potential from these funds. There will soon be a period of consultation in order for the Trust to decide how these funds should be allocated; I would like to urge residents with bright ideas for the future of their local area to pull together and help make that dream a reality”.

Cllr Mark Tewkesbury, Ward Councillor for Littlemoor, said: “I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all involved in making this funding possible for the Littlemoor ward, and look forward to seeing real benefit from the area. The funding will be of huge benefit to residents over the next decade and beyond. I look forward to seeing the results of this fantastic boost in the not-too-distant future.”

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For further information please contact Cllr Kate Wheller, brief holder for Equality and Diversity

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