**Community & Belonging Forum – Summary and Progress Report**

Attendees[[1]](#footnote-1): Lisa Idrisu, Donna Barham, Delrita Tester, Daren McCoy, Hadas Hagos, Polly Newall, Paddy Keane, Augusta Chandler, Sarah Goodall, Diane Hardman, Richard Trout, Aaron Barbour, Tessa Strickland, Mario DeSouza, Jennie Fortune, Felli Ubrette, Katherine Stock, Sarah Rackham, Roger Black, Uma Arshad, Sandra Evangelista, Wendy Speck, Jane Eades, Eleanor Downer, David Stone

The Community & Belonging Forum (CBF) held its first meeting on the 17th December 2020 and became operational (after agreeing terms of reference and ways of working) in January 2021; it has been meeting every two weeks.

CBF sees its role as an outward looking, enabler, seeking to work with others to develop or strengthen partnership work that addresses Isolation, Loneliness and Mental Health issues in our communities, testing ideas, funding new initiatives and trying to identify sustainable responses.

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| **Projects** | **Summary** | **Outcome** |
| Action Research | Aware of the many front line organisations that have been working to support local people in Battersea, particularly in response to Covid-19, CBF wants to work with others on pooling information to develop a deeper understanding of community needs | Observational survey agreed to form part of CBF funding support; £3k allocated to cover costs of collection, analysis and dissemination. |
| Guy’s Room | Creation of a ‘safe space’ for men to meet and discuss issues that might otherwise go unregarded; a pilot project that aims to develop organically (trial and error) with focus on mental health and well-being. | £5k allocated, to be reviewed after 6 months |
| FERA Estate | Building on the Residents Associations support for vulnerable people on the Estate the CBF agreed to fund a community engagement project that aims to broaden the impact, involve other partners and provide Action Research feedback. | £5k Allocated with an agreement to work with others |
| Mental Health | A core objective of CBF, how best to raise awareness of mental health has been considered with training and online support programmes reviewed. | No definite plan but to be looked at again in light of Alliance work in this area |
| Platform One | CBF submitted a discussion paper looking at the potential of the former Platform One building as a community hub, with a recommendation that a detailed feasibility be undertaken with possible CBF funding support. | Postponed in light of a WnWn proposal |
| Community Voices | With the aim of engaging with parts of our community that have been less well served by BLSW1, CBF includes participation from Jane (Plough Road), Eleanor (Maysoule Road), Gus Chandler (Shellwood Road) Polly and Paddy (Battersea High Street). Eleanor and Felli are working on a plan for a street party (September); Paddy has submitted a plan for a permanent street art (mosaic). | CBF has agreed to support the Maysoule Road street party with funds, project planning, logistics and partnership working; budget to be confirmed. Battersea High Street art installation approved with an initial £10k allocated against a £25k estimate. |
| Battersea Befriending | During Covid CBF became aware of a range of organisations that were delivering one-to-one befriending support to people in Battersea (Battersea Befrienders, Battersea Angels, Age UK, Altimeters Society, Battersea Elders, etc) and other organisation that were doing similar things but using different approaches (JCT, Kambala Care, WnWn, etc). In discussion with Battersea Alliance it was agreed that an umbrella coordinating function could produce significant benefits in sharing knowledge, pooling resources and building capacity. | KLS’s “Befriending across Battersea” proposal has been endorsed by CBF with an initial £10k contribution |
| Summer Events | CBF has discussed a range of ideas for post-covid community events. From picnics in the park, a film show, outdoor history walks, to mini festival type activities. CBF is in talks with delivery partners (Enable, Riverside Radio, JCT) to look at options. | A very provisional £5 has been allocated to support viable proposals, |
| Women’s Group | Felli is working up a proposal to run a woman’s group (mainly for parents) along the lines of Guy’s Room (safe, non-judgemental, supportive) to be launched in June 2021. | £5k earmarked to fund activities, cover expenses and produce materials |
| SpaceMax | CBF wants to pilot a SpaceMax project on the patch to look at longer term implications and possible links with Befriending | CBF networks to identify appropriate opportunities and a provisional sum of £10k has been allocated |
| Community Needs Assessment | As part of its Plan Review BLSW11 is undertaking a new Community Needs Assessment. CBF is supporting this via its Action Research but also in collaborating with Partners (Battersea Elders have undertaken a survey which they have shared; Battersea Youth Voice is working on a youth engagement programme and Providence House is undertaking its own research). Kate and Paddy have signposted LB Wandsworth data sources and Local Trust is regularly updating the Local Insights service. | BLSW11 and Battersea Profile and Community Needs Assessment expected before the end of July 2021 |
| **Other Actions** |  |  |
| CBF Web Page | Hosted as party of the BLSW11 web site, the CBF page provides access to all discussion papers and progress reports | Continuous development |
| Alliance Match Funding | Battersea Alliance has allocated £30,000 to match fund the CBF budget | Funding linked to our shared objectives |
| Alliance Joint Actions | Battersea Alliance has attended CBF meetings and the CBF Chair will attend Alliance meetings | Ongoing |
| Community Voices | Invitations to Shuttleworth Road, Sheepcote Lane residents to get involved with CBF | To be implemented |
| Networking | The CBF has liaised with Wandsworth Care Alliance (WCA), Wandsworth Community Empowerment Network (WCEN), Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) – Social Prescribing | Mental health, tackling taboos, prevention measures; BME issues, all under consideration |
| Battersea Together Event | On the 8th October 2021 Marsha De Cordova MP will chair the fourth Battersea Together event: Post Covid Learning and Opportunities for the Community Voluntary Sector (provisional title). | Potential launch of a longer term Battersea Together Community Voluntary Sector Strategy |
| BLSW11 Plan Review | BLSW11 Planning for next budget period is underway and a consultant is being commissioned to help manage the process – CBF members will want to be part of the consultations |  |

**Summary of Budget Commitments (C) and Provisional’s (P)\***

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| **Item** | **Budget (£)** | **Follow Up** |
| Guys Room | 5,000 (C) | Review after 6 months |
| FERA Estate | 5,000 (C) | Review on completion |
| Action Research | 3,000 (C) | Ongoing |
| Community Voices | 10,000 (C) | Further proposals invited |
| Battersea Befrienders | 10,000 (C) | Work with coordinator |
| Mental Health Awareness | 2,000 (C) | Joint Alliance programme (?) |
| Women’s Group | 5,000 (C) | ToR to be produced |
| **Sub Total** | **40,000 (C)** |  |
| SpaceMax | 10,000 (P) | Needs to be identified |
| Platform One | 10,000 (P) | Postponed |
| Summer Events | 5,000 (P) | Ongoing consultations |
| Community Voices | 10,000 (P) | Ongoing – to be developed |
| **Sub Total** | **35,000 (P)** |  |

\*Provisional items are those that have been discussed and allocated an indicative budget without a firm commitment at this stage.

1. All those that have attended at some point; average attendance = 12 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)