**Minutes of the Community CVS Network Meeting**

**Thursday 26th August 2021**

**Attendees:**

Donna Talbot – Community CVS - donna.talbot@communitycvs.org.uk

Jason Cothliff – The Mall - Jason.Cothliff@themall.co.uk

Amanda Fletcher – Nightsafe - amanda.fletcher@nightsafe.org

Christina Spencer – BwD BC - christina.spencer@blackburn.gov.uk

Rachel Simm – Gamcare - Rachel.Simm@gamcare.org.uk

Sheralee Turner- Birchall – Blackburn Foodbank - sheralee@blackburn.foodbank.org.uk

Nudrat Mughal–Building Bridges - nudrat.buildingbridgesburnley.nn@gmail.com

Gail Barton – Our Lancashire - Gail.Barton@lancashire.police.uk

Joel Henderson – Prospects Hyndburn - joel.henderson@prospectsfoundation.org.uk

**Apologies:** Shen Mulla -Humraaz, Natalie White – Princes Trust, Alexandra White – Shelter Bev Marsden – Lancashire Women, Tracy Davies – Bwd Borough Council, Tayyibah Masood – Positive Smiles, Lisa Rawcliffe – NWAA,

**Presentation Jason Cothliff from The Mall**

* The reason I have come along today is to link in with charities to see how we can work together for the benefit of our customers
* You guys have great services to offer and we have a lot of shoppers who would benefit from your support
* The Mall is yes all about the shops and retail and making money – however we at Blackburn want to help our community in any way we can
* We are here to help you guys anyway we can – we are all of to the Foodbank today to help paint their building as they were struggling to find anyone who could help
* If you have any projects that you need help promoting - email me – I am responsible for the social media and we have a large number of followers who we can reach
* Primarily Im here to talk about the new Volunteer Wall which is dedicated to just volunteering opportunities
* We have holders for A5 and A4 leaflets so please get them to me – if you drop them off at the Ask Me point I will do the rest
* I have seen ladies looking at the wall and already taking the leaflets
* If you are struggling to print them off email them to me and I will print them off
* Also if you have anything you want sharing on The Mall’s Facebook page (Twitter) – please just email to me
* We also can look at promotional stands – where you guys can set up and hand leaflets and talk to the general public
* We also allow charities to come in with their buckets and we limit this to one day to make it fair
* We also have promotional banners near the Ask Me Point – all the space is free of charge
* We will do what we can to help you guys

GB – Our Lancashire - this is fab and I will be going out to other shopping centres in Lancashire and see if we can replicate the fab work you guys are doing here

<https://www.themall.co.uk/blackburn>

**Presentation Nudrat Mughal from Building Bridges Burnley**

* Hi Im Nudrat and Im from Building Bridges – Near Neighbours Fund
* Near Neighbours brings people together in communities that are religiously and ethnically diverse, so that they can get to know each other better, build relationships of trust, and collaborate together on initiatives that improve the local community they live in.
* There are 11 hubs around the country
* A coordinator is based at each hub connecting with local projects and developing the work of the programme.
* Grants have offered funding to a broad range of work; environmental, social, cultural, artistic, and sporting, that furthers the programme’s aims of encouraging social interaction and social action.
* We are offering small grants from £250 to £3,000
* We can run workshops for fundraising, we can help you plan your project
* If you know of any small community groups that need our support with their idea we can help

[Near Neighbours (near-neighbours.org.uk)](https://www.near-neighbours.org.uk/)

**Presentation Joel Henderson from Prospects Hyndburn**

* I work at Prospects in Hyndburn
* The PROSPECTS Foundation is Hyndburn’s community owned environmental charity. We were established by local residents as a company limited by guarantee in 1998 and became a registered charity in 1999.
* Our aim is to improve people’s quality of life through positive environmental action.
* By working with a diverse range of groups in Hyndburn we aim to inspire young people; improve health and wellbeing; support communities; improve the environment; and encourage sustainable living.
* All our projects fit under one of our six themes of sustainability
* Biodiversity
* Energy Conservation
* Local Food Growing
* Environmental Awarness
* Sustainable Transport
* Recycling
* My role is predominantly Education – I work with 10 – 14year olds, you could say Im looking for the next Greta Thunberg
* We work with the young people to educate them about climate change – what are the challenges locally and nationally, hoping that they will take the reigns and campaign
* We have done a number of projects with the young people – litter picks, Beach cleaning, we have made bags out of fabric destined for landfill, we have also done a number of growing projects
* The main reason I have come along today is because we are desperate for volunteers we need anyone who is looking to work in an educational setting and looking for experience to come along and help us
* We do work predominantly in Hyndburn however we have crossed over into Blackburn as part of our remit is to work with disadvantaged families

[Prospects – Hyndburn's Community-Owned Environmental Charity (prospectsfoundation.org.uk)](https://prospectsfoundation.org.uk/)

**AOB**

**The Blackburn with Darwen Community Fund**

* We're still accepting applications for the BwD Community Fund. The Blackburn with Darwen Community Fund is a small grants fund is being run by Community CVS on behalf of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, the Brian Mercer Trust and the Eric Wright Charitable Trust. It forms part of the Community Pledge, which focuses on getting communities to volunteer and develop solutions that make a difference within their local neighbourhoods.
* Groups may apply for £500 funding to run the proposed activities and/or £500 to purchase equipment to help your group deliver its activities.
* Closing date is 12 noon on Monday 13th September.
* You can find more information, including how to apply, on our website.

[Community CVS](http://www.communitycvs.org.uk/)

**Free Fund Work Shop for**

**The Blackburn with Darwen Community Fund** and T**he Near Neighbours Fund**

Garth Hodgkinson and Nudrat Mughal will be running a free fund work shop on Tuesday 1st September in person at The Community Hub (you can also attend via zoom)

It is due to last from 10am to 12 noon.

Please let Clair Bloomfield know if you'd like to be there 01254 583957 clair.bloomfield@communitycvs.org.uk

**Updates Donna Talbot**

**Community Volunteer Awards – Only 2 days left to nominate**

* Community Volunteer Awards 2021 have now been launched
* We are looking for Volunteer nominations – does your organisation have an amazing team of volunteers that deserve recognition?
* Good Neighbour nominations –If you know of anyone deserving acknowledgment for their wonderful deeds
* Community Involvement – If you know of any business that have gone above and beyond for your organisation, your local area?
* If so please nominate them today 😊
* Please find attached a nomination form – simply complete and email back to me, please note that the deadline for nominations is 5:00pm Friday 27th August 2021
* All winners will be announced at a special evening of celebration On Wednesday 3rd November 2021 @ King Georges Hall (main Hall) from 6pm onwards. (invitation only)
* Everyone nominated will receive a signed certificate, all shortlisted nominees will receive an invitation to the ceremony, and all winners will receive a trophy.
* If you need any more info please do not hesitate to contact me on 01254 593857 or email me donna.talbot@communitycvs.org.uk

**Next Meeting**

**Thursday 23rd September**

**9:00am – 11:00am**

**Venue to be confirmed**

**For more info please contact Donna Talbot 01254 583957**

**Donna.talbot@communitycvs.org.uk**