

JANUARY 2015

Gm<sup>2</sup>Lf  
a formula for change

# Changing Times

LAUNCH EDITION

## Big Local is Here

BIG  
LOCAL  
WORKING  
FOR YOU.

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**Over the next 10 years £1m has been allocated to residents** living in the area of Grace Mary and Lion Farm (GM2LF). The lottery money is being given out by Local Trust, a charity which delivers Big Local.

Big Local is about bringing together all the local talent, ambitions, skills and energy from individuals, groups and organisations, who want to make their area an even better place to live

Unlike many other money pots this one puts us the residents in charge. It is basically the shout of local people!

### **The Journey so far**

Since 2011, GM2LF Big Local has achieved the first four steps in what is called the Getting Started Phase of the Big Local journey. This includes:

**Getting People Involved** by consulting and talking with over 4000 local residents, groups and organisations to build on what is already good about the area and the needs and aspirations of those to make a change in the local community. Part of this stage involved awarding small grants to local groups to deliver activities.

**Developing a shared Vision** - Our formula for change is local people working together for a better life – sustaining a community that is resilient, confident and enjoyable

**Forming a big local partnership** that are responsible for driving GM2LF Big Local forward, making sure it remains resident led and enables local people to improve the area and achieve the long term vision. The Partnership members are local residents, and people who work or volunteer in the area. Representatives from key organisations in the area include Lion Farm Action Centre, St James Church, Holy Cross Church and Oakham Church.

**Creating a Big Local Plan** which from the consultation reflects the needs, aspirations and priorities of change of local residents as they seek to use the money to make a difference within the local community.

The Big Local Plan was endorsed in October 2014 and GM2LF is now up and running. As of October 2014, Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) was chosen by the partnership as the new 'Local Trusted Organisation' for GM2LF. SCVO will act as the accountable body administering the money on behalf of the partnership and ensuring proper financial controls are in place. SCVO are also providing development support to the partnership to drive the plan forward.

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Local Trust





The Big Local consultations and events held over the last 3 years has identified five themes to deliver our overall vision.

The themes are:

**Community**  
**Environment**  
**Learning**  
**Health & Wellbeing**  
**Investment**

All themes have to think about the impact that activities will have on enhancing family, supporting youth and the over 50's and bringing the whole community together.

Residents agreed that the £million will be split into three areas:

social investment	£420,000
project spending	£380,000
capacity support	£200,000

The capacity support will be required to bring in an additional £200,000 of project spending.

In this first year there is £93000 to be spent projects, activities, Social Investment and support to ensure everything that is in the plan for the first year is done.

The Activities and projects that will be undertaken during the first year of funding will include, Promoting & supporting activities already happening in the area. Signposting services for local advice, Clubs to get people together including lunch, indoor games & activities, Community Gardening competition to make the area look better by planting flowers and tidying up gardens, opportunities to Eat Well and Cook well. Smart Water marking on equipment and properties.

Debt and Benefits advice surgeries, Money Management

guidance, Computer classes Run Job Fairs, Helping people find work, and developing the chance for people to volunteer in the area.

These and other activities are our key focus for Big Local in our area for the next two years. GM2LF Big Local really is about bringing together all the local talent, ambitions, skills and energy from individuals, groups and organisations, who want to make the area an even better place to live..

SCVO will be responsible for looking after the money and providing developing support to the partnership in driving the plan forward.

## Next Steps

The first pot of money for year one is now available to be spent. The partnership is now working towards making the priorities within the Big Local Plan a reality. What is in the Plan? What is happening in year 1?

From talking to people five main themes were identified and within each theme a range of activities to be supported and developed through GM2LF Big Local. The focus of 'Family' was also identified as a priority and this will be imbedded naturally within all five themes. The themes and activities are detailed

further within the Big Local Plan and for the first year they include:

### **Our Community**

More events and gatherings, developing churches as community hubs, clubs for people of all ages to get together of all ages and in particular children and young people

### **Our Environment**

Gardens in Bloom competition, community clean up days, home safety road shows and developing environment champions.

### **Our Finance**

Debt and benefit surgeries, helping people open bank accounts, money management

programmes and developing local enterprises.

### **Our Learning**

Computer classes, job fairs, children and young people clubs and developing volunteer opportunities.

### **Our Wellbeing**

Classes to help people eat well, health advice for all ages and health walks.

In addition to the above themes and within the plan money has been designated to be used for Social Investment purposes. The funding that has been set aside will look to achieve a number of outcomes.

Continued on page 3

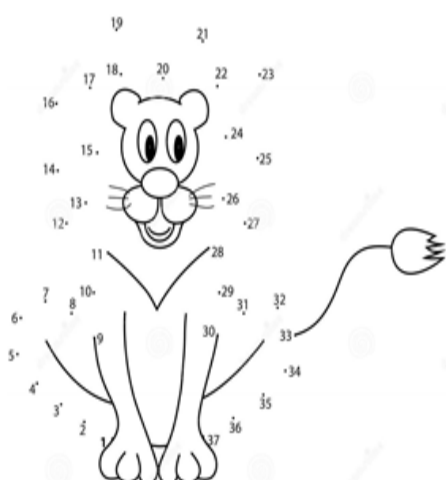
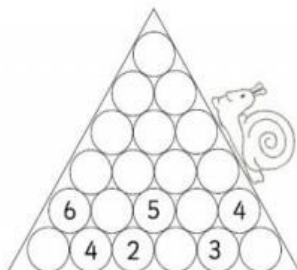


## Spring Flowers word Search Puzzle



### Pyramid Puzzles

Can you fill in the pyramids with the missing numbers? The number in each space is the total of the two numbers below it.



H F M H R U M I N O H M R J M H A L L T  
W A G E R A N I U M A A V L A Y I S I W  
U Q W I J O P P M R O R P I E A S I D H  
P Q X T K A A O I M H B N L N C E R O S  
I V R J H N S G R A C E J A O I R I F M  
L X Y B S O O M I D D C Y C M N F J F B  
N L R Y A L R N I R W L G M E T C Z A V  
R I E H D E O N A N I O X W N H D J D N  
P T K B G G P G C L E K N J A Y P P O P  
S I M E E E G X E C O Z M S P I R E A J  
O U L B T U Q W O Z H S O W D R O S E D  
U T C U A S L R J L I H A I L O N G A M  
F A N O T Y N B O S O N H Q R B B P O L  
C I G O R F U R N S M C N J O J D S W X  
A P J A L C I U Q J R N N I J R B R Q Y  
H I D O N P K Z U O U N T W A P B Q Z A  
L S W N M A C C I Y P W P J T N K O O E  
O E E Q I K A E L N K M Q W G I G B E S  
R A E L A Z A A G L D O G W O O D N Y T  
S N E I T A P M I J T M M E L H Y O M A

Azalea  
Anemone  
Begonia  
Bluebell  
Cornflower  
Crocus

Daffodil  
Dogwood  
Freesia  
Gardenia  
Geranium  
Hawthorn

Hyacinth  
Impatiens  
Iris  
Jasmine  
Jonquil  
Lilac

Lily  
Marigold  
Magnolia  
Orchid  
Pansy  
Petunia

Poppy  
Rose  
Snowdrop  
Spirea  
Tulip  
Zinnia

	4			2		1	9	
			3	5	1		8	6
3	1			9	4	7		
	9	4						7
2						8	9	
		9	5	2			4	1
4	2		1	6	9			
1	6		8				7	

				3	7	6		
			6				9	
		8						4
	9							1
6								9
3						4		
7						8		
	1				9			
		2	5	4				

			1		5		6	8
						7		1
9		1					3	
		7		2	6			
5								3
			8	7		4		
	3					8		5
1		5						
7	9		4		1			

### Next Steps Continued.

To find out more about what social investment means in the Big Local area, please read the article on Social Investment on page 6

Get involved and stay informed  
GM2LF Big Local needs local people to help make these

improvements and drive the long term change forward..

There are a number of ways you can get involved:

Join the GM2LF Big Local Partnership Board

Register your interest in volunteering for driving GM2LF Big Local forward

Join the GM2LF Big Local mailing list and keep up to date with what is happening

For a copy of the Big Local plan or to register to get involved please contact the Partnership on

0121 5443094



# What's on each week in and

## Monday

Oakham Library 10:15-11am Story and Rhyme Time . For under 5's a morning story and rhyme time

St James Church 1-3pm Indoor Carpet bowls  
Open to all within the Big Local area, competitive fun for all

Lion Farm Action Centre 1-3pm Art Group  
Open to all within the Big Local area, Art Tuition for both the beginners and experts

Lion Farm Action Centre 3:30-5pm After School Club Dance session also held on a Friday and midweek activities

Oakham Library 3:30-4:30pm Art Club.  
Children can come and be creative with a variety of materials

Oakham Library from 4pm Family Film Club  
Families and Children invited to come and watch our family films

Holy Cross Church 6-7:30pm Karate  
Keep fit and safe with this Martial Art all levels welcome

St James Church 6—8pm Slimming World  
A friendly group for those that want to lose weight or feel better about themselves

## Tuesday

Lion Farm Action Centre 9-12am Job Club  
Providing support to find employment, help with CV writing and advice and guidance

Oakham Evangelical Church 9:15am Carer and Toddlers. Preschoolers play, make new friends and Carers get a chance to meet

Holy Cross Church 9:30am Craft Group  
A great time to be creative and produce some crafty art.

Lion Farm Action Centre 10:30 Health Walk  
Meet at the Centre and walk around the hidden beauty of our Big Local Area and beyond.

Lion Farm Action Centre 1—3pm Over 50s Friendship Club  
Quizzes, craft and chat and fun

Holy Cross Church 5-7pm Youth Club  
A great place to meet up with friends to take part in a range of activities

Wallace Youth Cub Tuesdays 5.30-7.30pm  
8-16 years old . Great opportunities and activities for young people

Oakham Evangelical Church 7pm Tuesday Crew Activities include Pool, table tennis, games, arts and crafts tuck shop for Key stage 2 children

## Wednesday

Lion Farm Action Centre  
Providing support to find employment, help with CV writing and advice and guidance

St James Church 9-12pm  
A free cuppa and something to eat welcome

St James Church 9-11am  
A play and stay toddler group  
Farm Action Centre at St James Church

Rounds Green Library 9:30-11am  
Advice Surgery. A great opportunity to get help with problems and get help

Holy Cross Church 10:30-12pm  
Council Surgery.  
Get help with problems and get help

Rounds Green Library 10:30-12pm  
Natter  
A great opportunity to keep up to date with local news

Oakham Library 11-12:30pm  
and Go Citizen. Drop in to get help with driving and British Citizen

Holy Cross Church 6-7:30pm  
Keep fit and safe with this Martial Art all levels welcome

## Saturday

Rounds Green Library 10-12pm  
Councillor Surgeries Bring your ideas and concerns to your local councillors

Portway lifestyle Centre 10.30-2:30pm Eminence Dance Works  
Creative Dance Group for all

Oakham Library 10:30-12pm  
Breakfast Club for Children 8 and over. Free Toast and drinks

Rounds Green Library 11-11:45am  
Colouring and Craft Club  
Colouring sheets and puzzles

Oakham Library 12-1pm Colouring Club  
Colour your favourite pictures

Rounds Green Library All Day  
Homework Help, get support and time to complete all your homework

## Sunday

Oakham Evangelical Church 10am  
Communion Service a time to stop , reflect and refresh  
6:15pm Evening Family Celebration, A lively family friendly service.

St James CofE Church 10-11am  
Morning Worship and Sunday School  
A friendly traditional Church, sharing God's love to all



## Wednesday

9-12am Job Club  
Providing support to find employment, help  
with CV writing and advice and guidance

Place of Welcome  
Meeting to eat, everyone

Parent and Toddlers  
Group run by Lion  
James Church

30-1pm Housing  
place to report

11-11:30am Sandwell  
and repairs

9-12pm Knit and  
chat and have a chat

10pm Theory test Pro  
to practice your  
in tests for free

10pm Karate  
is Martial Art all

Holy Cross CofE Church  
6pm Evening Worship  
A friendly group meeting for worship  
and prayer

Newbury Lane Methodist Church  
10:45am Morning Service and Junior  
Church  
6pm Sunday Evening Service every  
4th Sunday

## Thursday

Lion Farm Action Centre 9-12am Job Club  
Providing support to find employment, help  
with CV writing and advice and guidance

Oakham Evangelical Church 10.30am. TLC  
Club for senior citizens, meet up, chat and  
take part in activities. Lunch provided

Hope Church 10:30-12:30pm Indoor Bowling  
for over 50s. Great activity for unwinding and  
getting rid of stress

Lion Farm Action Centre 11:30-1:30pm Online  
Computer Training

From the basics to advanced IT Skills

Lion Farm Action Centre 1-3pm Art Group  
Open to all within the Big Local area, Art  
Tuition for both the beginners and experts

Portway Lifestyle 6:30-7:30pm Tae Kwon Do  
age 5-55 combines combat and self-defense  
techniques with sport and exercise

Portway Lifestyle 7-8pm Karate Beginners  
8-9pm Karate for those 18 plus unless  
accompanied by an adult

St James Church 7-9pm RE:Act Youth Club  
Offering a range of craft, sports and a place  
relax and meet up with friends

## Friday

Lion Farm Action Centre 9-12am Job Club  
Providing support to find employment, help  
with CV writing and advice and guidance

Holy Cross Church 10am Over 60's exercise  
with Bingo and a cuppa

St James Church 1-3pm Bingo  
A locally run social group for all residents, join  
the fun of an afternoon of Bingo

Lion Farm Action Centre 1:30-3:30pm Multi  
Crafts

Try your hand at something a little crafty.

Holy Cross Church 1:30pm Bingo  
A great get together for all residents

Holy Cross Church 2:30pm Cards and  
Dominos  
A social gathering for all

Holy Cross Church 5-7pm Youth Club  
A great place to meet friends and take part in  
a range of activities

Oakham Evangelical Church 7pm Friday Youth  
Club. Activities and chance to meet friends.  
For young people aged 11 plus



**Portway Lifestyle Centre**  
Newbury Lane, Oldbury, B69 1HE  
**Climbing • Football • Badminton**

### Disability Doorstep Club

Lots of different sports for young people  
with disabilities and their family and  
friends.

Portway Lifestyle Centre  
Saturdays 11.30 – 13.00  
Ages 11-25, £1.50

### Gym Opening Hours

#### Portway Lifestyle Centre

Monday - Friday 07.00 - 22.00  
Saturday & Sunday 07.00 - 18.00

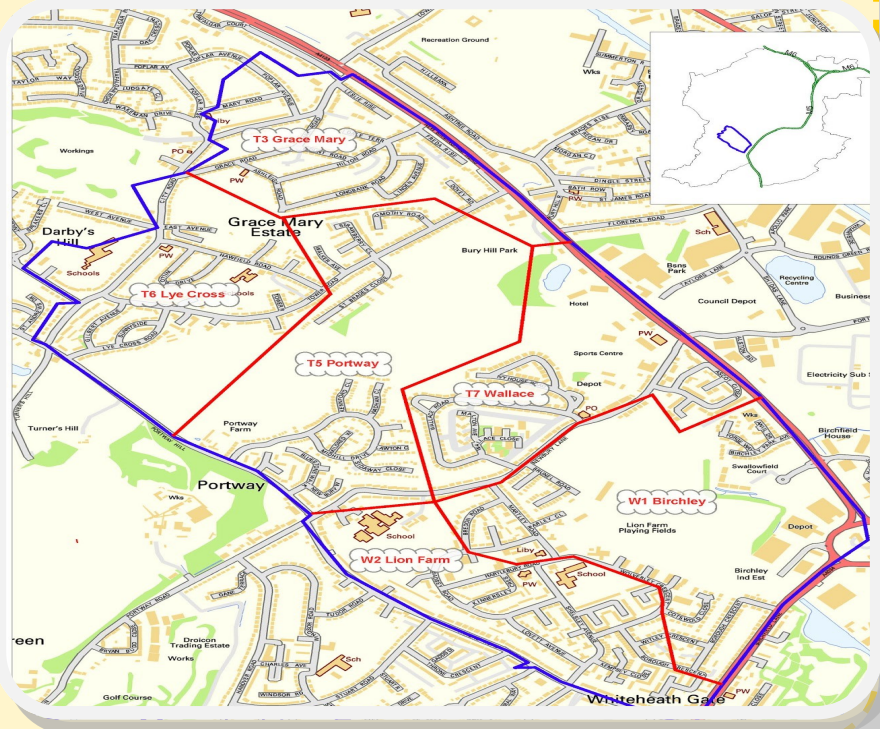


# Your Big Local Area

**Big Local**

The Big local Area extends from Birchley Lane up Portway Hill to City Road. It includes the Grace Mary Estate, Parts of Oakham, Portway Hill, Lion Farm Estate, Tower Road and the Wallace Road Estate. The area is served by 9 councilors and 2 MPs. With 4 Churches and 2 Libraries as well as the Portway Lifestyle Centre.

Portway Hill is home to the exotic Bee Orchid and Hare's Foot clover, and one of the few colonies of Marbled White Butterflies in Birmingham and the Black Country.



## Social Investment

Grace Mary to Lion Farm (GM2LF) Big local has designated funding within the Big Local Plan to be used for Social Investment purposes.

Social investment money is lent, not given, and then repaid. This means that Big Local funds used for social investment can be circulated within the Grace Mary to Lion Farm area, and there will still be the money to use at the end of the 10 year programme

**What is social investment?**

Social investment is a loan or other financial investment that aims to make a positive economic, social or environmental impact in a community.

The Social Investment activities included in the GM2LF Big Local Plan are:

Personal lending, to people who are at risk of paying high interest rates to doorstep lenders

Microfinance, loans to help set up or grow local businesses

Developing assets (facilities/buildings) rather than giving grants to develop local facilities, encouraging an enterprising approach through providing loans or a mixture of grants and loans.

For more information please see the GM2IF Big Local Plan. If you would like a copy of the plan please contact Kate Cross on 0121 544 3094

**Big Local**



# Blooming Fun for Green Fingers

The Environment is a very important area in the Big Local Plan. There was a lot of interest in using some of the money to make where we live better.

Turn your garden into a show winner or make your balcony blaze with colour

The Grace Mary to Lion Farm Big Local Partnership are holding a Big Local in bloom competition. Prizes will be awarded for the most improved gardens and balconies in the Big Local area. 'Before and after' Photographs will be taken of all gardens and balconies belonging to people that have entered the competition and all entrants will have a free seed starter kit to help them on their way. The closing dates for entering the competition is Wednesday 11th February, judging of the competition will be in June, and an award ceremony will be held in July.

The Grace Mary to Lion Farm Big Local Area consists of four separate 'zones'.

These are Oakham, Grace Mary, Wallace/Portway and Lion Farm.

In each of the 'zones' there will be a first prize of £100 for gardens and £50 for balconies, a second prize of £50 for gardens and £25 for balconies. There will also be mystery prize for the overall winner 'best in show'. So join in the blooming fun this Summer. Don't be shy, get growing!

To enter the Big Local in Bloom competition or find out more please contact Kate Cross at Lion Farm Action Centre, Harry Price House, Hartlebury Road, Oldbury, B69 1EQ or call 0121 544 3094 .

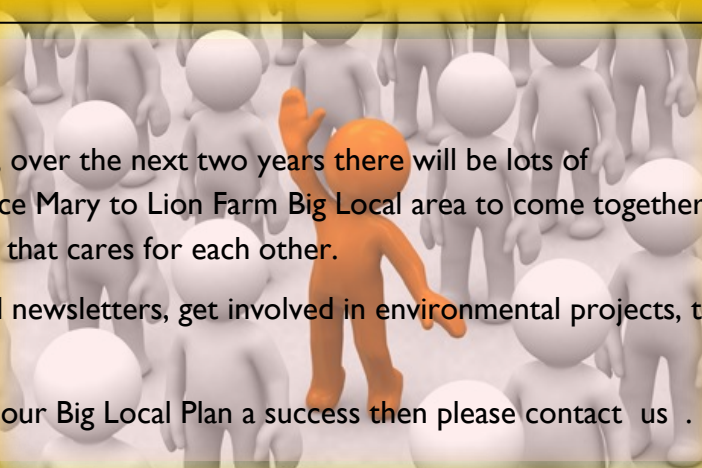


## Volunteers Required

Our Big local plan need you to make it a success, over the next two years there will be lots of opportunities for residents from within our Grace Mary to Lion Farm Big Local area to come together to make an impact and help create a community that cares for each other.

We will require volunteers to deliver leaflets and newsletters, get involved in environmental projects, to help run events and activities,

If you would like to get involved in helping make our Big Local Plan a success then please contact us .





## Tasty Healthy Treats

Health and Wellbeing is one of our Themes, so what better way to relax than with have a healthy mid morning break ...

### Chewy Oat Biscuits.

Makes 12 biscuits

10 minutes prep.

12-15 min cooking time

#### Ingredients.

40g/1 ½ oz plain white flour

40g/1 ½ oz plain wholemeal flour

50g/2 oz brown sugar

75g/3 oz porridge oats

75g/3 oz margarine

75g/3 oz dried fruit

½ teaspoon cinnamon

½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda

1 heaped tablespoon golden syrup

#### Method

Preheat oven gas mark 3 / 170o C

Mix together the flour and bicarb. in a large bowl.

Add sugar, oats, dried fruit and cinnamon and mix well.

Over a low heat melt together the margarine and syrup in a saucepan.

Add to the flour mixture and mix well.

Place dessert spoonful's of the oat mixture on a greased baking sheet. Leave spaces between biscuits.

Flatten slightly into rounded biscuit shapes.

Bake for about 12-15 mins until golden brown.

Leave to cool.



## Big Local 'Community' Small Grants

GM2LF Big Local 'Community' small grants are available for not-for-profit, voluntary or community groups, active and delivering services in the Grace Mary to Lion Farm area. Grants range from £150 to £700 and priority will be given to projects which support the outcomes within the Big Local Plan and benefit the residents of the area.

The current round of funding is available for 'Community' projects with a particular focus on:

Community gatherings and events

Activities which develop local churches as community hubs

Clubs to get people together, in particular but not exclusively children and young people activities.

To find out more, see if your project is eligible and express an interest in applying, please contact Kate Cross, Lion Farm Action Centre on 0121 544 3094.

## Getting Involved

**Big Local** is about **local people** getting **involved in changing** their **community**. If you would like to become part of a **theme group**, help in **planning** and **organising** events or get involved with one of the groups featured in this newsletter, then please contact us.

Tel: 0121 544 3094

Email: gm2lf.office@gmail.com

www.biglocalmillionshare.com



Local Trust | Big Local