



# Big Warsop

## Review of 2016 – 2018 plan

[www.bigwarsop.com](http://www.bigwarsop.com)

This review was undertaken over 4 partnership meetings from January to April 2018, drawing on regular reports on investment and activity, narratives of change and impact from residents, insights and reflections from partnership members, the March 2017 review and new statistical data to supplement and update our original profile.

# 1. Our vision and approach

## 1.1 Our vision refreshed: March 2017

Our vision is to help make Warsop Parish an even better place to live, restoring some vibrancy and pride through being a catalyst to individuals and local groups, increasing capacity and helping residents achieve potential.

Our initial vision was reviewed at a special partnership meeting in March 2017 and found to be overstating our reach and likely impact. The revised version seeks to hold to the heart of the original but phrase it in a way that makes it more achievable.

The heart of our vision arises from early community consultation, profile and film we undertook in the Getting People Involved phase. The research and consultation visited all corners of the Parish and listened to residents and stakeholders of all ages and varying circumstances. It has been supplemented by community consultation events and partnership reviews.

## 1.2 Identifying and overcoming the obstacles to achieving the vision

Over the life of the [2016 -18 plan](#), the partnership has undertaken two reviews. [The first in March 2017](#) refreshed the vision, considered the obstacles to achieving the vision and how to overcome them and reviewed all activities and their impact. Second, over four partnership meetings in early 2018, the partnership reviewed all the activities, considered the latest profile or background data and scoped potential significant opportunities for the new plan.

Strong progress has been made since the launch of the first plan in September 2013. [In March 2017](#) the partnership set out some of the obstacles obstructing progress, grouped into local context, awareness and attitudes and capacity or administrative matters.

Local context	Relationships and attitude	Capacity
Worsening local landscape	The partnership's relationships with other bodies	Lack of local delivery capacity
Cut backs for example to the local environment – flower tubs and flower beds	A closer working relationship with the Parish Council would be beneficial	Not enough time in the partnership to debate major issues and therefore resolve and progress
Limited opportunity for paid employment in Warsop which restricts the ability to build capacity	Limited awareness locally of the Big Warsop project	Only a small pot of money for a large vision
	Getting enough people involved – challenging apathy	Insufficient co-ordination of activities
	Warsop people noticing poor headlines even if not actually true rather than local successes: no supermarket, no swimming baths, no police station, no fire station	Confusion regarding funding
	Lack of awareness and understanding in the community	Lack of capacity to lever in alternative funding
		Difficulty in developing projects when the plan and budget are nailed down

## Reflections from the partnership

The obstacles of a worsening landscape, cut backs and lack of significant employment, are essentially beyond Big Warsop's ability to redress in any significant way. They remind the partnership of the need for an effective and realistic vision within this difficult and challenging backdrop. But obstacles that are about relationships, attitude and capacity have been in part addressed by the partnership and can continue to be.

### 1.3 Our approach

The partnership has representation from most of Warsop Parish's main settlements and is well supported by independent members from the Community and Voluntary sector and the local statutory sector. Our partnership's focus is on getting others involved, commissioning, enabling, supporting and funding others. We seek to remain an unincorporated partnership, supported by our Local Trusted Organisation and accountable body, Mansfield CVS. At this juncture, we do not see it as right or relevant to set up as a separate legal entity.

Big Warsop has worked in a way that makes the most of key features of Big Local:

- Resident-led
- Inspired at community level
- Drawing in other support and money
- Thinking big
- Encouraging connections
- Looking beyond 10 years
- Involving lots of different people.

In reviewing the 2016 -18 plan, we were pleased to note that most developmental aspects of the plan had been acted on and led to funded activity and change. This indicates progress for us, as in previous reviews we noted occasional lack of capacity to take some things forward.

We remain strongly committed to realising our vision through investment in activity we fund and harnessing:

- Local people's involvement, energy and ideas
- Voluntary and paid for resources and skills
- Engagement, trade and collaboration with existing community groups
- The collective priorities for the Warsop Parish residents
- Hold existing statutory bodies to account for the Warsop parish.

We also retain our belief that at the heart of Big Warsop is enabling community collaboration and providing capacity to support change in Warsop. Our investments will continue to support projects which deliver some or all of our social and enterprise principles.

These middle years are focusing on building a wider web of partners, investing in community capacity, consolidating delivery in key areas with a track record and scoping new developments.

## 2. Review of activity

We have made good progress across all the five themes in the [2016 -18 plan](#). In March 2017 we took each activity line and used a traffic light system to gauge action and impact. We developed and implemented an action plan to redress any areas where progress was not sufficient. In early 2018, we used the same approach, but this time measuring how sustainable an activity might be and what was the emerging legacy. So, for example, on this occasion a project might be running well but yet be marked amber because it was not yet clear how sustainable it was beyond Big Warsop investment. The legacy column was added to indicate continuing and enduring impact.

### 2.1 Strengthening the community

To achieve the outcomes intended to [strengthen the community](#), we have invested in:

- a) The [community chest](#) (RoLo) in partnership with Rotary, supporting local groups through small grants. A celebration was held by the Rotary in February 2018. (Green)
- b) The good ideas pot to fund:
  - The [community minibus](#) in the previous plan. Longer term sustainability is needed – Amber.)
  - [Defibrillators](#) in the previous plan. (The defibrillators proved difficult to implement and manage but the project has been rescued by the East Midlands Ambulance Service, ensuring continuing benefit to the Parish – Amber.)
  - Vibrant in order to undertake [Phase two development of the Shed](#). This is a once off payment, with the option of further funding in the new plan. A cleaner is now employed and the post of caretaker is being explored. Operational governance is now in place, including an employee handbook.
- c) The [Carnival](#) which continues to attract huge crowds, support many local groups and raise the profile and popularity of the town. (Discussions with the Parish Council are needed to explore sustainability - Amber.)
- d) [Vibrant](#), supporting a programme of capacity building among local groups and organisations, which has included bringing in £54k of additional funding. (Green)

Big Warsop has also investing in The Shed, formally the Adam Eastwood Building, since the beginning in 2013. The Eastwood Foundation had approached a local group, Shine, to take on the building which passed on the opportunity to Big Warsop which in turn negotiated with Warsop Youth Club to be the legal body and vehicle to take on the building for the wider community. £18k was granted to undertake the initial feasibility and options study. £100k was then identified in [the first phase](#) in the second plan to get the building open, up and running and in use, generating a small income stream. £40k was also given for early developmental work on governance and running costs and overheads including insurance, legal advice and repairs. (The Shed is being used but requires further investment to extend its functionality. Its financial viability is not yet assured. The cost of a second phase of building development is estimated at £300k. The partnership rated the sustainability of the project as a whole as Amber.)

## 2.2 Empowering people

To achieve the outcomes intended to [empower people](#), we have invested in:

- a) A range of education and training initiatives which have been well received and beneficial to local residents, including:
  - The [security training through SIA](#) has been a front runner. (There are more opportunities available if there was the capacity and infrastructure to respond; other funding options need exploring - Amber.)
  - [Creative Warsop](#) was slow to get going but has now linked with other groups and is working better. (Amber)
  - [Care Trainers](#) uptake has been good and the group is looking at funding outside of Big Warsop to develop. (Green)
  - [1<sup>st</sup> Aid training](#).

Trowel Trades was a project aiming to give a facelift to aspects of Warsop through using and developing local skills and talent, but no lead partner has been able to get this going and so it has been withdrawn from the plan – at least for the time being. (Red)

## 2.3 Supporting people

To achieve the outcomes intended to [support people](#), we have invested in:

- a) Supporting CAB sessions in partnership with the Parish Council. (The success of CAB activity is green, but longer term viability is red and discussions are needed with the Parish Council.)

In March 2017, the partnership reviewed areas of development outlined in the 2016 -18 plan for supporting people, recognising that no further action was needed regarding food banks as two operate successfully in the Parish. However, it was recognised that greater co-ordination was needed regarding health related issues and this has since been taken up by Vibrant.

## 2.4 Improving the environment

To achieve the outcomes intended to [improve the environment](#), we have invested in:

- a) [Future Greens](#) which arose out of ideas for development identified in the last plan. (The project progresses well but will need to look at longer term sustainability – Amber.)

Other areas for development in the plan include outdoor gym and play park equipment. These are currently subject of an outstanding bid for £7k which, if successful, would help progress these considerably. Also from within this theme, funding was made available to Warsop Youth Club for ground clearance around the Shed - Green.

## 2.5 Having things to do

To achieve the outcomes intended to [have things to do](#), we have invested in:

- a) [Children's Centre](#) projects and activities with good effect and results. (A review with Big Warsop is needed to consider future needs and the challenges of on-going funding – Amber.)

- b) The [Youth Roadshow](#). (The activities have been well received but winter venues are an issue, leading to a temporary reduction in numbers. Future funding needs to be secured, but the funding to date has enabled the scoping of additional support – Green.)
- c) Warsop Youth Club [summer activities](#) which were well received and enabled young people to move onto other activities.
- d) The [Inflatable](#) which is being used well and is very popular, enabling the probable purchase of a further item of equipment, enabling the business to grow. (Green)
- e) [Jigsaw](#) supporting older residents. (The sessions are going well, but longer term funding is of some concern, needing a review of the best sustainable ways to meet the needs of older residents in the future – Red.)

## 2.6 Running Big Warsop

In addition to the five main themes of the plan, running Big Warsop includes:

- a) Communications through print, web and social media. We have made great strides in telling the story of action and change and increasing contacts through social media. (This element has been rated as Green, but with us needing to replace our communications lead Amber may best describe the current position.)
- b) Community and partner events, such as run at the [Hostess in February 2016](#) and with the Rotary regarding the community chest in February 2017. The annual [Warsop Carnival](#) is also important to us in sharing activity and hearing of success.
- c) [Running the partnership](#) and funding the plan co-ordinator. The partnership meets each month and is led by a majority of residents of the Big Local area.

## 2.7 Money invested

Here is a breakdown of key financial information:

### Income

During the initial setting up phase 2011-2013 a total of **£50,000** was invested in Warsop Parish. (This was additional funding and not from the £1 million allocation):

- Getting People Involved Round 1 **£20,000**
- Getting People Involved Round 2 **£10,000**
- Pathway and Plan Development Support **£20,000**

In addition, total funding allocated to BIG Warsop for project delivery as of March 2018 is **£1,105,000**. This includes the initial £1m and a return on investment of **£105,000**, to be made available on approval of this plan.

### Investment through the delivery plans

Total funds drawn down as of March 2018 are **£504,423.00**.

- Spend in the first plan from summer 2013 to spring 2015 (Year 1) was **£84,680.00**.
- Spend in the second plan to spring 2016 (Year 2) was **£200,845.00**.
- Funding to deliver the third plan to summer 2018 is (Years 3 &4) **£218,898.00**.

The amount remaining as of March 2018 is **£600,577.00**.

### 3. Review of learning

Having reflected on the above, the partnership added these further reflections.

#### 3.1 What impact have we had?

- Big Warsop has enabled Vibrant to give support and build capacity among a range of groups.
- We see momentum building at the Shed, with activities every night and most weekends.
- The Shed as an indoor space and the work of dedicated volunteers have enabled the Christmas event to take place which is helping strengthen the community.
- Our partnership working is bringing in additional inward investment into the community.

#### 3.2 What have we learned?

- We have seen more of the community's hopes and ideas turn into practical action through the right partnerships and backing.
- We have learnt that Big Warsop's legacy is here now, seen in activity taking place impacting on people, partnership working, places for events to happen and enduring projects.
- We have learnt for ourselves and through visiting other Big Local areas that significant resources are needed for our community hub to develop and become embedded.
- We have seen that the Shed is helping us, as we had hoped, to achieve a range of Big Warsop outcomes including strengthening our community, there being things to do and places to go for children, young people and older residents and promoting the health and wellbeing of residents.
- Our investment in excellent communications has been vital for Big Warsop in telling its story and helpful in supporting the work of other groups and organisations through Vibrant.
- Through this review, we have considered residents' access to activity and support and we want to explore further barriers to taking part and how these may be overcome.

The partnership undertakes reviews of its work and activity and has produced [annual reports](#) since 2014. The Big Local Rep writes a [quarterly blog](#) posted to the website, reflecting on progress and learning.

#### 3.3 How does our refreshed vision and priorities relate to the achievements?

The vision, priorities, intended wider impacts and specific outcomes work toward the four outcomes in line with the Big Local programme:

- The community agrees needs and priorities in the area and takes action on them
- People gain confidence and skills for now and the future
- The community makes a real difference to the needs it has given priority to
- People feel this area is an even better place to live.

The initial community consultation and community profile are refreshed through continuing conversation, feedback from delivery partners and residents taking part in activities. These reports show the confidence and skills gained and these are written up in reports and news stories, shared on the website, through social media and through local news outlets.

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### 3.4 How do we know this is what our community wants?

Our only integrity is through residents telling us what we have invested in has helped make Warsop Parish an even better place to live. We have strong evidence of this through big events such as the Carnival, comments from local people on projects and feedback from specific activity and courses.

This review also draws on specific stories told by residents through targeted interviews, comments arising from a celebration of the community chest put on by our partners the Rotary and our use of data to cross reference with people's perceptions and feedback.

Our partnership meetings are open to the public and our annual general meetings gain good attendance. Our reports are posted on line. Information about what we do and how to contact us is widespread across the Parish and on social media. We gain feedback on specific activity large and small and use this to review the community profile and needs. Occasionally, we take part in or run events to bring people together to share and celebrate what is happening and reflect on what needs to happen next. This in turn feeds into the next plan which is available for community comment and influence.

## 4. Profile of Warsop Parish and local needs

The original Big Warsop profile was created in three parts:

- A qualitative summary on core profile data giving insight into factors affecting everyday life
- Statistical information summarising at ward and postcode level for the parish as a whole
- Full statistical ward summaries.

The profile and the vision of the Big Warsop Partnership were combined on a DVD which was widely distributed in Warsop. A film created by Shine Media captured residents' issues, concerns and priorities and this complimented the profile and has been shown widely.

The landscape was reviewed in February 2015 and again in early 2018 and a short update is included below. The 2018 review was based on the Local Insight profile for Warsop Parish created in May 2017 and a short summary prepared by Local Trust. Both of these source documents can be found on the [Big Warsop website in the plan section](#).

### 4.1 Summary of the original profile

Warsop is a semi-rural parish with a population of approximately 12,000, divided between five separate communities. The pleasant environment and recent up lifts in the quality of housing stock somewhat mask the underlying problems demonstrated in statistical evidence of adverse health, education and employment - issues that affect the entire parish.

Like many communities, improvements in the quality of life that flow from basic needs, such as employment being readily available, are slow in the present recession and more difficult because of the access problems inherent in semi-rural life.

Surveys, conversations and engagement with the residents however demonstrate resilient communities with common interests, concerns and hopes.

So, although the five communities rightly value their own identity there are unifying issues that are evident and can be further explored which will be of common benefit and, when addressed positively, significantly add to the quality of life for all.

Across all of the communities there are numerous examples of how volunteering has benefitted society. With a background of facility provision through Miners' Welfares and a range of community buildings local people have a history of "pitching in" to provide services to meet local needs in addition to those provided by statutory bodies. Although modern day life does not foster volunteerism as much as in former times, there is still a huge contribution to local life in Warsop.

The business audit shows that, as a small town, Warsop does not have capacity to support large business or industry especially in the retail sector. It does however have a significant number of local businesses meeting local needs offering a wide tapestry of expertise which may be a valuable resource when looking at how to address training and enterprise needs in the future.

Through a variety of engagement mechanisms these key themes emerged.

- Meeting the needs of young people, wherever they live within the parish and across all age groups is the most commonly cited theme.
- Following this, the need for training opportunities, for all age groups in the present economy is identified as an urgent priority, enabling residents to be as work ready as possible.
- Quality of life for older residents is also recognised and the needs of this group are seen to be met from both the statutory and local voluntary sectors.
- Issues also recognised through the findings were good healthcare for all (especially older people) protecting the local environment, and supporting where possible, local businesses.

## 4.2 Review and reflections: local trends to consider in the new plan

In early 2018, the partnership used the Local Insight and Local Trust updated profile information to review the statistical backdrop to life in the Parish. Key trends are summarised below.

- **Unemployment** remains a key challenge and supports the attention in the plan to training and skills development.
- **Older Residents** may experience loneliness and isolation and indicates the importance of continuing support for this strand of activity in the new plan. Further exploration is required about whether a community bus service is needed.
- **Mental health** concerns feature significantly in the Parish. This may indicate that Big Warsop can do more to fund projects working in this area.
- **Access to health services** is a concern, with some residents being told they can only book an appointment on-line. Health engagement events and activities need to be more local and accessible to people in Warsop Parish.
- **Children and young people** have always been a priority for Big Warsop and the profile continues to raise concerns regarding the number of children living in poverty and the impact of this especially in the school holidays when external support is reduced.

**The partnership group**  
**April 2018**