

Big Local CONNECTS

EVENT PROGRAMME

2 DAYS OF ACTIVITY & INSPIRATION

5 themes

The overarching theme for Connects 2021 is 'Looking to the future: what do we want our community to be like in 2026 and beyond?' Within that, each session is linked to one of these sub themes:

Environment

The role of the environment, the climate crisis, and the area around us in our communities

Society

How do we relate to each other, and how do our communities function?

Economy

From skills and employment to local business or lending schemes, how does the local economy impact on our plans?

Power

Formal power structures and informal leaders can shape our communities in different ways, so it's important to understand how to work with power to make positive change

Future

Re-energising and planning for the future

Session types

Check the type when deciding which session you're in the mood for:

- **Listen and learn:** listen, think and explore ideas
- **Do:** do a practical activity together
- **Interactive:** contribute and share experiences at a workshop

Ideas Hub

Ideas Hub drop-in

Concourse by Suites 1 and 2

Friday 1.30-6.30pm /
Sat 9am-3.30pm

In the Ideas Hub you'll find a selection of organisations ready to offer advice and talk through your ideas.

Communications health check

Oliver Hickson (Media Trust)

Want to tell your story in the best way possible? If you are looking to engage new groups and partners or overcome a frustrating communication roadblock, then come along and have a chat!

The power of sport

Harvey Morgan and Amie Brown (StreetGames)

Healthy, active communities are safer, stronger communities. Speak to StreetGames about how a community-led sports programme can create positive change in your community.

Land-based community projects

Mark Walton (Shared Assets)

Have you identified land locally or have ideas but don't know where to start? Have you started an initiative but are facing challenges? Get inspiration and discuss your ideas with Shared Assets.

Inventive ways to respond to transport issues

Silviya Barrett (Campaign for Better Transport)

Can't get where you want to go? Poor transport makes places difficult to live in. Come and discuss what's wrong with your buses, bike lanes and roads, and how to make them better (Friday only)

Engaging your community into taking action

Nick Gardham and Steve Smith (Community Organisers)

Chat to members of the Community Organisers' team and get tips on how to mobilise your networks and energise your community into taking action.

Business for everyone

Paul Funnell (Enterprise Cube)

Many people have the ideas and talent to start a business but don't know where to begin. The team enable people from all walks of life to unlock their potential to get the most out of the world of enterprise.

Working with the community for the benefit of people, trees and woods

Michael Peacock (The Woodland Trust)

Come and discuss the positive role trees and woods can play in your community for the benefit of people, nature and the climate and find out how you could access free trees for your area.

Community, Collaboration and Change

Aitch Nicol (Blue Chula)

Passionate about helping to make better places, better organisations or better partnerships. We can help you gain power and influence in regeneration and development, engage with local communities, plan a project or develop a campaign.

Community Hubs, funding, incorporation and food projects

Friday: Mick McGrath (Locality), Alpa Patel (Sport England), Marc Lupson (National Lottery Community Fund)

Saturday: Jeff Scales (Locality), Sue Morris and Clare Hackney-Ring (Devonshire West Big Local)

Drop in for a chat about community hubs and funding (Friday) and setting up legal bodies and food projects (Saturday).

Community Wealth Fund Alliance

Rayhan Haque (Local Trust)

A coalition involving over 435 civil society, public and private sector organisations supporting the call for a Community Wealth Fund. Inspired by the success of the Big Local programme, the proposed new fund would rebuild the social infrastructure and neighbourhood fabric of 'left behind' places around the country.

Communities in Control Study

Hear more about the long term research study focussed on Big Local to build evidence about approaches that empower local people to have more control over decisions about the places where they live (Saturday only).

Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE)

Harriet Sansom

Come and chat to the team at CSE and find out all about Local Trust's newest support partner offer. Get hints and tips on how to climate proof your Big Local plan and get involved in community-led climate action. (Saturday only)

Meet Local Trust staff and trustees

A designated point where you can find Local Trust staff and trustees all day. Drop by and ask questions about Big Local.

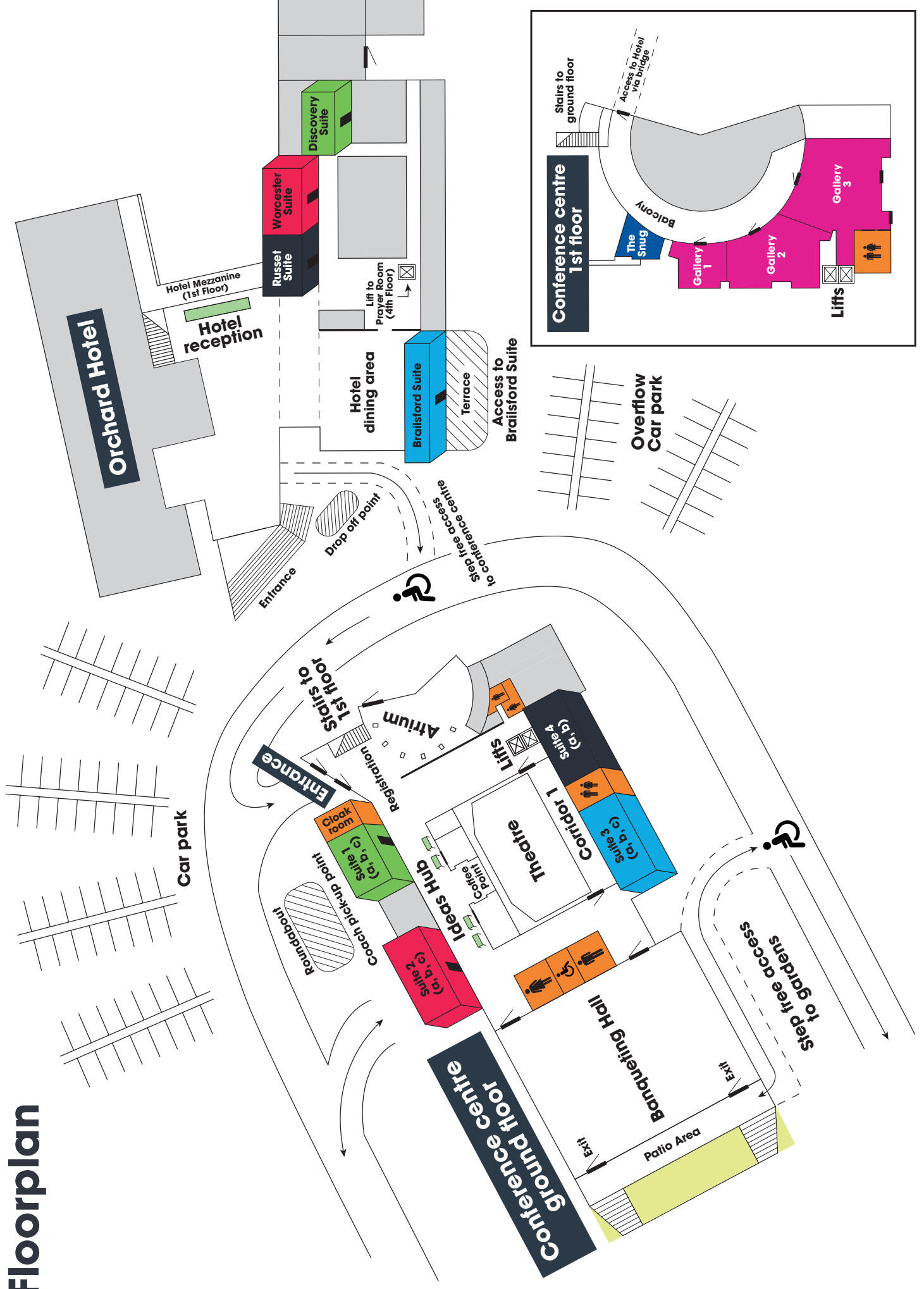
Big Local Postbox

Fancy winning
1000 bulbs
to plant in your
community?

Fill in the postcard in your
bag and pop it in the postbox!



Floorplan



Friday

Refreshments and registration Atrium

1.30–3.00pm

Register for Connects and receive your welcome bag. A cloakroom is available nearby where you can store your coat and bag. If you arrive early, feel free to drop in to the Atrium where the Handmade Parade community artists will be getting started on a collective art installation. Meet and grab a hot drink with people from other Big Local areas.

Connects Radio (tune in)

All day

Radio producer: Chris Allen



5.00–6.00pm Drivetime –

get the latest news and find out what to expect live from the first day at Connects

Tune into the Connects radio show by scanning the QR code (tip: hover the camera on your smartphone over the code and follow the weblink). Listen live or come back later for the recording.

9.00–10.00pm Evening show – wind down and listen to attendees reflect on the day's highlights.

Luggage storage Conference Suite 1a

All day

The Long Lost Year (drop in) Gallery 1

All day

Type: Do

Speakers: Steph Turner (The Loss Project), Asma Istwani (RIOT Soup)

Come and be a part of an exhibition celebrating Big Local community artwork. Hosted in a relaxed space, take the opportunity to add to the art to honour any experiences of loss you've encountered over the pandemic or take a moment to connect with others about life, loss and everything in between over biscuits and a brew.

Prayer room Executive Suite, Fourth floor in Orchard Hotel

1.30–10pm

Big Local storytellers (drop in) Theatre

All day

Type: Listen and learn

From 2019 to 2021 Big Local residents from across the country were helped to tell their stories in their own words. Working with Hamlett Films, people shared thoughts, feelings and experiences through different media about the things that matter to them in their community. Want to know their stories? Head to Corridor 1 to see a selection of their photographs or visit the theatre and settle in and enjoy a film or two.

Wellbeing space (drop in) Gallery 3

All day

Type: Do

Come and switch off with us in our projection cave of mindfulness, a beautiful calming space where you can create water themed arts and crafts using translucent materials, all ready for you to unleash your imagination.

Handmade Parade (drop in) Atrium

All day

Type: Do

Speaker: Handmade Parade

Come aboard and set sail into the future that you dream of for your community while contributing to an exciting collective art installation.

Welcome, opening plenary and warm up Theatre

3.00–4.05pm

Speakers: Matt Leach (Local Trust), Mark Stevenson (Futurist), Beeston Tuneless Choir and West Bridgford Choir

Opening remarks by Local Trust CEO Matt, followed by a keynote speech on what the next 30 years holds, and why localism is the key to addressing many grand challenges.

Rounded up by a sing-along with Beeston Tuneless Choir and West Bridgford Choir, to get Big Local Connects started on a high note

4:15–5:15pm

Who do you think you are? Building an identity for your community Conference Suite 2

Type: Listen and learn

Theme: Society

Speakers: Ryan Tym (Lantern Agency) Charlie Fox and Cara Thorpe (Newington Big Local)

Join Newington Big Local and branding agency Lantern to learn how they challenged local perceptions through reimagining, reframing and taking control of their story, and how you could do the same in your neighbourhood.

This session will be repeated at 5.25pm.

Meet the funders: National Lottery Community Fund and Sport England Brailsford Suite

Type: Listen and learn

Theme: Future

Speakers: Marc Lupson (National Lottery Community Fund) and Alpa Patel (Sport England)

What makes a successful funding application? Join the National Lottery Community Fund and Sport England as they delve into what you need to know about the application process and how to meet a funder's priorities.

Engaging your community into taking action Conference Suite 4

Type: Listen and learn

Theme: Power

Speaker: Nick Gardham (Community Organisers)

Community engagement and participation is at the heart of Big Local, but springing the community into action can be hard to achieve sometimes. Come along and explore innovative approaches to networking and learn practical tools on how to energise your community.

Thinking – and acting – beyond 2026 Discovery Suite

Type: Interactive

Theme: Future

Speaker: Graham Leicester (International Futures Forum)

Struggling to connect your long term aspirations with what you're doing and planning in your partnership today? Join Graham in this interactive session to help boost your ability to think and talk about the future.

Talking Tent – making the most of local assets in your community Conference Suite 1b/c

Type: Interactive

Theme: Future

The term 'assets' doesn't just mean bricks and mortar, it can refer to green spaces or even local people and their skills. Join us in the talking tent to network and learn from other Big Local areas who also have a passion for making the most of the assets in their community. This session will be hosted by a facilitator so come along with an open mind, ready to listen and talk!

Equality, diversity and inclusion in Big Locals Worcester Suite

Type: Interactive

Theme: Power

Speakers: Asif Afridi (brap) and Imrana Niazi (Palfrey Big Local)

Interested in progressing equality, diversity and inclusion in your area? We'll be sharing new brap research findings on how Big Local areas have been doing just that. With special guests Palfrey Big Local who will be revealing details of their project addressing child sexual exploitation in their area.

To hub or not to hub? – Top tips and tools for setting up a community hub Gallery 2

Type: Interactive
Theme: Future

Speakers: Mick McGrath (Locality), Annie Willett and Kareen Boyd (Toothill Big Local) and Julie-Anne Loftus and Lucy Eyles (Brinnington Big Local)

To hub or not to hub? That is the question. If it's one that your partnership is pondering then this session is for you. You will come away with practical tips, tools and ideas to consider before developing your community hub plans.

What are communities doing with food? Conference Suite 3

Type: Listen and learn
Theme: Environment

Speakers: Anna Hunter (Tang Hall Big Local), Jo Scott and Charlotte Jones (Selby Town Big Local), and Bob Bowen (Clubmoor Big Local)

Three Big Local partnerships reveal how they successfully set up their neighbourhood food projects, including a community fridge, cookery classes and healthy meals delivery.

5.25–6.25pm

Evaluating the Future Worcester Suite

Type: Interactive
Theme: Future

Speaker: Anousheh Haghdadi (Beatbreaks)

How do we imagine our communities in 100 years' time? That's the question we'll be creatively exploring. By the end of the session you will have learned the benefits of evaluating creatively, new evaluation methods, and how to access support with your own evaluations through the Measuring Change programme.

Community Power Panel Conference Suite 2

Type: Listen and learn
Theme: Power

Speakers: Anna Francis (Portland Inn Project), Angela Fell (Movement for Neighbourhood Democracy), Mercedes Sharpe Zayas (Parkdale People's Economy Project and Power Lab, Canada)

Across the globe, there is growing momentum behind the idea that power and decision-making should be shifted to the communities that know their local areas best. Come along and hear the stories of community-led groups and organisations in the UK, US and Canada who are building power in their neighbourhoods.

Who do you think you are? Building an identity for your community Brailsford Suite

Type: Listen and learn
Theme: Society

Speakers: Ryan Tym (Lantern Agency) Charlie Fox and Cara Thorpe (Newington Big Local)

Join Newington Big Local and branding agency Lantern to learn how they challenged local perceptions through reimagining, reframing and taking control of their story, and how you could do the same in your neighbourhood.

This is a repeat of the session at 4:15–5:15pm.

Extraordinary, ordinary spaces Gallery 2

Type: Interactive
Theme: Society

Speaker: John Hannan (Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation)

Come along to this session to hear how to make your 'ordinary' shared space 'extraordinary'. Discover how these spaces can help connect different people and build community resilience.

Legacy: Promoting Your Place Conference Suite 3

Type: Interactive
Theme: Society

Speakers: Richard Tory, Jody Raggo and Katy Roberts (Boston Big Local)

Ever wondered where your street would sit on a Monopoly board? Well now you'll have the chance to find out. Pass 'Go' and head straight to this session to hear from Boston Big Local about how they promoted the unique heritage of their area by creating a locally themed card game and Monopoly set and get the opportunity to create one yourself.

My vision for the future with Local Trust trustees Discovery Suite

Type: Listen and learn
Theme: Future

Speakers: David Warner (chair) and other trustees (Local Trust)

An opportunity for you to get to know some of the Local Trust Trustees. Get your questions answered, hear about their plans for the Big Local programme and get an insight into their thoughts on the past year and a half.

'The Day After Tomorrow' Conference Suite 4

Type: Listen and learn
Theme: Future

Speakers: A Big Local representative from each region

It's 2026 – Do you think it will be 'job done' and all community needs will be met? Do you want to continue your resident-led improvements? The Day After Tomorrow's aim is to ensure a living legacy after the Big Local programme. Join to hear about our post 2026 Network of Experience.

Talking Tent – connecting with your community Conference Suite 1b/c

Type: Interactive
Theme: Society

How do we make sure we're connecting with all of our community? Come and network with like-minded people who have a shared interest in engaging new community members and be inspired by those who have succeeded. This session will be hosted by a facilitator so come along with an open mind, ready to listen and talk!

Day 1 reflections and inspirational talk Banqueting Hall

6.40–7.10pm

Type: Listen and learn

Speakers: Rachel Rowney (Local Trust) and Anji Barker (Newbigin Community Trust)

Come along to hear how a Birmingham charity uses their asset-based approach to provide a place of welcome, inclusion and social cohesion for their neighbours. Local Trust's Chief Operating Officer Rachel Rowney will also be sharing her reflections.

Buffet dinner Banqueting Hall

7.10pm onwards

Musical bingo Banqueting Hall

8.40–9.45pm

Type: Do

Dinner will be followed by Indeedy Musical bingo from 8:40pm – like bingo but better! Here, songs replace numbers. Mark songs off your bingo card as you hear them and compete to win hilarious and exciting prizes.

**Coaches to offsite
hotels at 10pm**

Saturday

Registration
(for new arrivals only)
Atrium
8.45–9.50am

Connects Radio
(tune in)
All day



Radio producer: Chris Allen

Tune into the Connects radio show by scanning the QR code (tip: hover the camera on your smartphone over the code and follow the weblink). Listen live or come back later for the recording.

7-9am The Breakfast Show – ease yourself into the second day and find out what's coming up on today's programme.

4-5.30pm Drivetime – kick back on your journey home, hear others' experiences and relive Connects 2021.

The Long Lost Year (drop in)
Gallery 1

All day

Type: Do

Speakers: Steph Turner (The Loss Project), Asma Istwani (RIOT Soup)

Come and be a part of an exhibition celebrating Big Local community artwork. Hosted in a relaxed space, take the opportunity to add to the art to honour any experiences of loss you've encountered over the pandemic or take a moment to connect with others about life, loss and everything in between over biscuits and a brew.

Prayer room
Executive Suite,
Fourth floor in Orchard Hotel
8.45am–3.30pm

Big Local storytellers (drop in)
Theatre
All day

Type: Listen and learn

From 2019 to 2021 Big Local residents from across the country were helped to tell their stories in their own words. Working with Hamlett Films, people shared thoughts, feelings and experiences through different media about the things that matter to them in their community. Want to know their stories? Head to Corridor 1 to see a selection of their photographs or visit the theatre and settle in and enjoy a film or two.

Wellbeing space (drop in)
Gallery 3
All day

Type: Do

Come and switch off with us in our projection cave of mindfulness, a beautiful calming space where you can create water themed arts and crafts using translucent materials, all ready for you to unleash your imagination.

Handmade Parade (drop in)
Atrium

All day

Type: Do

Speaker: Handmade Parade

Get aboard and set sail into the future that you dream of for your community. Contribute to a collective art installation.

Welcome plenary
Theatre

10.00–10.20am

Type: Listen and learn

Speakers: Rachel Rowney (Local Trust) and Jamala Osman (social entrepreneur and former bank manager)

Welcome to day two of Connects! Hear upcoming highlights to help you plan your day, followed by Jamala's incredible story on how she gave up her successful banking career to return to her East London roots to help grow opportunities for young people.

10.30–11.30am

Youth Forum
Conference Suite 2

Type: Listen and learn

Theme: Future

Chair: Luci Burescu, (Marsh and Micklefield)

Panel members: Layba Nisar and Sharanjit Kaur, (Heston West) Lewis Jones and Chloe Adams (Grace Mary to Lion Farm)

The Youth Forum is back by popular demand! Young people from Big Local areas discuss their hopes for the future and what change they'd like to see, locally and globally. You'll have a chance to quiz the panel and they'll be turning the tables on you too to ignite a lively debate.

The impact of green spaces on mental health
Hotel Mezzanine

Type: Interactive

Theme: Environment

Speakers: Hazel Thompson and Julia Babbitt (Get Out More CIC)

Come along to this interactive session to try out some creative ways to engage with your local green space and feel the positive impact being outside can have on your mental health.

Cycling to Success
Conference Suite 4

Type: Listen and learn

Theme: Environment

Speakers: Chris Folwell, Lawrence O'Halleron and Barry Coffell (Gateshead Big Local)

A community bike club can be a tool for community action, engaging new people, and attracting volunteers from all walks (or rides) of life! Find out how Gateshead Big Local's simple community bike club ended up empowering residents and recruiting new community members.

A Kreative Kickstart to your Big Local issue
Conference Suite 3

Type: Interactive

Theme: Future

Speakers: Jake Liken, (Community Objectives) and Danni Woods (Latch Ford Big Local)

This session will be fun, fast-paced, creative and interactive, providing you with a selection of resources and activities to help you tackle any challenges you may be having within your Big Local area. This session aims to galvanize innovative ideas as you start creating your community's legacy and inspire you to think 'outside of the box'.

Community rather than loan sharks – how can Big Local provide alternatives to illegal money lending?
Brailsford Suite

Type: Listen and learn

Theme: Society

Speakers: Steve Ward (England Illegal Money Lending Team), Rodger Read (Withernsea Big Local)

Cracking down on loan sharks is no easy task. The England Illegal Money Lending Team will be revealing how their work is helping communities to do just that. They'll be joined by Withernsea Big Local who will tell us about their successful partnership with their Credit Union.

This session will be repeated at 11.40am.

Need more funds? Now what?
Worcester Suite

Type: Interactive

Theme: Future

Speaker: Andrew Blakely (Riverside Big Local)

Thinking about finding funding from outside Big Local for a big project or because your area's funding is running out? Here's an opportunity to hear from areas about their experiences – and a chance to share your own. 'How to prepare?' 'What to expect along the way?' and 'Are there alternatives to grant applications and fundraising?' are just some of the questions we'll be answering today.

This session will be repeated at 11.40am.

Shifting power – is the relationship between local government and communities changing?

Conference Suite 1b/c

Type: Listen and learn
Theme: Power

Speakers: Jonathon Werran (Localis), Simon Kaye (New Local), Kim Ayling (SO18 Big Local), Dadirai Tsopo (Welsh House Farm Big Local)

Throughout the pandemic, community groups have shown how quickly and effectively they can deliver for their local areas, and some local authorities have started to listen and learn from them. Other local councils have also set up new strategies to devolve assets and powers to their communities. But are we witnessing a wide-ranging and sustainable transfer of power from local authorities to communities? How can local government and communities better work together in their localities? At this panel session, you will hear from a range of speakers coming from think tanks, local authorities and community groups on the evolving relationship between local government and communities.

Hybrid meetings: what, why and how (and how not)

Gallery 2

Type: Interactive
Theme: Future

Speakers: Helen Garforth and Richard Usher (Just Ideas)

As restrictions ease, everyone's talking about hybrid meetings – but what does this mean and how do you do it successfully? Some of us love being in a real room together, others get their buzz from Zoom... To make sure there's something for everyone in your Big Local, is a hybrid meeting the way forward? This session is an opportunity to come together to explore what works and what doesn't, share your experience, and come away with top tips and practical advice on how to make meetings where some join online, and others are 'in the room' accessible, inclusive, and fun. We'll discuss some of the challenges and learn about the technology available, making it easier to bring members together and keep the community connected in a way that suits all.

This session will be repeated at 11.40am.

Talking Tent – building a thriving local economy

Discovery Suite

Type: Interactive
Theme: Future

Join us in the Talking Tent to network with a purpose. Make new connections and learn from other Big Local areas who have a shared interest in building a thriving local economy. Come with an open mind, ready to listen and talk. To make the most of this session, it will be hosted a facilitator.

11.40am–12.40pm

Energizing young people in your area

Conference Suite 1b/c

Type: Listen and learn
Theme: Power

Speakers: Central Jarrow Big Local and Heart of Pitsea Big Local

Lots of Big Local areas run brilliant activities or services for young people, but many struggle to engage young people in making decisions or involve them in partnerships. In this session the young people from two Big Local areas – Jarrow and Heart of Pitsea – will talk about their own involvement in Big Local and the innovative things they are doing, and how other areas might learn from their experiences.

Distributing Leadership in Communities

Conference Suite 4

Type: Interactive
Theme: Power

Speakers: Isabel Young (Young Foundation), Sheetal Mistry (Koreo)

This interactive session led by the team behind the Community Leadership Academy will explore ways of developing and distributing leadership in communities. Together, we'll look at different perspectives and ways of understanding participation, and explore the importance of wellbeing for ensuring sustainable leadership.

Community rather than loan sharks – how can Big Local provide alternatives to illegal money lending?

Conference Suite 2

Type: Listen and learn
Theme: Society

Speakers: Steve Ward (England Illegal Money Lending team), Rodger Read (Withernsea Big Local)

Come along to find out more about the important role of the England Illegal Money Lending Team and their work in communities in combatting loan sharks, and hear from Withernsea Big Local telling us about their successful partnership with their Credit Union.

This is a repeat of the session at 10.30–11.30pm.

Creating a community manifesto for good employment and skills

Conference Suite 3

Type: Interactive
Theme: Economy

Speaker: Rayhan Haque (Local Trust)

Need help building your community manifesto? Come along for an interactive session providing a snapshot overview of the employment and skills policy landscape and a chance to work together as a group to create your own five-point manifesto.

Need more funds? Now what?

Worcester Suite

Type: Interactive
Theme: Future

Speaker: Andrew Blakely (Riverside Big Local)

Thinking about finding funding from outside Big Local for a big project or because your area's funding is running out? Here's an opportunity to hear from areas about their experiences – and a chance to share your own. 'How to prepare?' 'What to expect along the way?' and 'Are there alternatives to grant applications and fundraising?' are just some of the questions we'll be answering today.

This is a repeat of the session at 10.30–11.30pm.

Hybrid meetings: what, why and how (and how not)

Gallery 2

Type: Interactive
Theme: Future

Speakers: Helen Garforth and Richard Usher (Just Ideas)

As restrictions ease, everyone's talking about hybrid meetings – but what does this mean and how do you do it successfully? You'll come away with tips and practical advice about technologies available and overcoming challenges, making it easier to keep the community connected.

This is a repeat of the session at 10.30–11.30pm.

Community work is climate work

Brailsford Suite

Type: Interactive
Theme: Environment

Speakers: Harriet Sansom, Julian Mellor and Margaret Jackson (Centre for Sustainable Energy)

Climate change is too big for communities to tackle. Right? Wrong! This workshop will reveal the many opportunities (like extra funding) that can come from including climate change in your work and tell you about the support Centre for Sustainable Energy can provide as Big Local's new climate support partner.

Talking Tent – working well with other organisations

Discovery Suite

Type: Interactive
Theme: Future

We can be stronger when we work together. Join us in the Talking Tent to make new connections and learn from others about how to work well with other organisations. This session will be facilitated to help guide the conversations.

Lunch

Banqueting Hall

12.40–1.50pm

Refreshments, buffet lunch and networking

2.00–3.00pm

**Read all about it!
Telling your story to the media**
Conference Suite 3

Type: Interactive

Theme: Power

Speaker: Harriet Marsden
(Journalist-at-large)

Want to share your successes far and wide? Keen to get your story in local, regional or even national media?

Join our journalist-at-large Harriet Marsden as she guides you through the steps of spotting, developing and pitching a story to the media. She'll lift the lid on tips of the trade and give an insight into what journalists are looking for, to make it easy for you to reach out and tell your community's story.

An introduction to 'Climate-proofing' your Big Local Plan
Gallery 2

Type: Interactive

Theme: Environment

Speakers: Harriet Sansom, Julian Mellor and Margaret Jackson (Centre for Sustainable Energy)

The Big Local programme is running at a time when we are waking up to one of humanity's biggest challenges – climate change. If you are keen to build your community's resilience and embed climate change in your Big Local plan and legacy, this is the workshop for you. Hear what Big Local communities are already doing and introduce the support Centre for Sustainable Energy can give you as Big Local's new climate support partner.

**Communities in Control
– The Power of Big Local**
Conference Suite 1b/c

Type: Listen and learn

Theme: Power

Speaker: Jennie Popay
(University of Lancaster)

Has Big Local given your community more power and control over the decisions that matter to you? Join Jennie for a chance to hear brand new findings from Communities in Control, a major study of 15 Big Local areas about how Big Local partnerships have been improving health, lives and wellbeing in their neighbourhoods.

The future of work: bringing good work to your local area
Brailsford Suite

Type: Listen and learn

Theme: Economy

Speaker: Steve Toft (Writer)

Our economy is changing fast, so what does the future hold for work in the UK? Forecasts might sometimes look grim, but risks can be transformed into opportunities for your area. Come and hear about the trends our economy will likely take in the next decade and then join a brainstorm on how you could take advantage.

Reimagining your high street
Conference Suite 2

Type: Listen and learn

Theme: Economy

Speaker: Frances Northrop
(New Economics Foundation)

High streets have been in decline for decades, but there are a growing number of great examples from around the country where communities have repurposed these spaces and brought life back into their area. Come along and be inspired, share experiences, and discover what you can do.

Banish those Hindering Thoughts
Worcester Suite

Type: Interactive

Theme: Future

Speaker: Deanna Wildgoose (TH!NKFC)

A fun and practical way to get people thinking more positively – sharing a fun tool to take away and a game you can play!

**Navigating the maze
– Setting up legal bodies
& legal structures**
Conference Suite 4

Type: Interactive

Theme: Future

Speakers: Jeff Scales (Locality), Barbara Arrandale (Grassland and Hasmoor Big Local)

Big Local areas looking to establish legacy organisations often face a complex web of legal language and a confusing array of choices. In this session we'll be jargon-busting, helping to advise whether you need to set up a legal body, and giving an overview of different legal structures. Grassland and Hasmoor Big Local will also be sharing their experiences.

Talking Tent – building a successful Big Local partnership
Discovery Suite

Type: Interactive

What ingredients make the most successful partnerships? This is an opportunity to chat and network with others about the challenges and victories they've encountered during their Big Local journey. Come with an open mind, ready to listen and talk. To make the most of this session, it will be hosted by a facilitator.

**Finale
Theatre**

3.10–3.20pm

Type: Listen and learn

Speakers: Alice Calder and Sarah Donohoe (Local Trust) and Kingswood & Hazel Leys Big Local and Par Bay Big Local poetry collective

Poets from Kingswood & Hazel Leys Big Local and Par Bay Big Local round up the festivities with a joyful performance that captures the magic of Connects. These two areas get together regularly for poetry jams, and will come together at Connects to share their experiences with the wider Big Local network. With closing remarks from Alice Calder and Sarah Donohoe (Local Trust) and winners of the raffle announced.

**Coaches to
Nottingham train
station from
3.30pm**