Arches Local (Big Local)

Unit 71a, Pentagon Shopping Centre, Chatham, ME4 4HY.

23rd of February 2021

**Ref: Letter of support for the Fort Amherst 'Women working at Fort Amherst in World War Two' project bid application.**

To whom it may concern,

Big Local is an exciting opportunity for residents in 150 areas around England to use lottery funding to make a massive and lasting positive difference to their communities, it’s about bringing together all the local talent, ambitions, skills and energy from individuals, groups and organizations who want to make their area an even better place to live.

In a nutshell, a vision of the Arches Local area is shaped and agreed by people who live here, a plan is formed that must invest National Lottery funding in making a lasting change in the things that matter to local people. We are at the midpoint of our year 5 plan. It includes these topics, Social Investment, Urban Greening, Neighborhood Planning, Getting More Active, and Community Engagement.

Over the years Kate has become a highly respected member of our Big Local community and through her involvement and membership of our partnership we have seen how interested and committed she is through her socially concerned approach using the arts and local history as a medium in looking to help the wider community.

This bid ticks many boxes for us as we are always keen to support projects that highlight the contribution and sacrifice that individuals from our area gave during both World Wars. We saw from the WW1 Peace Day event we held in 2019 commemorating 19th July 1919 the high numbers of human sacrifice given locally during that period, the effects of which still resonate in the area to this day. In particular we are excited by this project as it focuses on stories of local women in WWII, who in the past have not always got the recognition they deserve or sadly no recognition at all.

Additionally, in an area that has richly diverse population to help ensure that we continue to recognize all the positives that come with that. Its important that we have projects that can bring the wider community together and enrich our understanding of the past and in particular highlight the key part that everyone, especially women played at that time working together with STEM skills to get us successfully through that period. There is definitely some learning that can be carried forward from then and we hope from this project to our present around our current struggles with the effects of the global Covid-19 pandemic. We have our fingers crossed in looking forward to seeing this project delivered locally and supporting Kate in future projects centered on or around our Big Local area.

Please accept this letter of our full support for this bid application, and if there is any additional information you require please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Perez

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