

Newtown Community Association Open Forum Meeting Monday 27th January 2014 at 7.30 pm, Belmont Hut

Minutes

- Present:** Su Aves (Secretary), Richard Branston, Derek Burnside (Treasurer), Helen Cleasby, Peter Cleasby, J.Cox, Fiona Daughton, George Dumble, Jo Farquharson, Lou Fearn, Suaad George, Gabriele Gvozdociciute, Paloma Hermoso, Jackie Holdstock, James Leigh, Rory McNeile (Chair), Elena Milego, Arran Momin, Keith Owen, Sally Palmer, Ron Parkhouse, Susan Parkhouse, Michael Parrott, Roger Spackman, Saxon Spence, Richard Westlake.
- Apologies:** Mrs G Dumble, John Staplehurst.

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action by:</u>
1	Welcome: Su Aves explained the new structure of the NCA meetings and the voting procedure and eligibility, following the revised arrangements according to the new constitution. See the constitution on the website for further details.	
2	Police report. PCSO Nic Unsworth was unable to attend, but had submitted a written report. He asked it to be noted that we now only have one PCSO in the ward, so Nick is less visible than previously. If anyone has any further information regarding the dog attack on Sunday 12 th January he would be grateful to be contacted.	
3	<p>Keith Owen (Exeter City councillor with responsibility Portfolio holder for Parks) joined us. Two dog attacks have recently occurred in Belmont Park, one in August, when a dog died, and the January 12th attack on a dog and a member of the public. Changes to procedures in Belmont Park are under consideration. Compulsory muzzling of dogs is not legally possible, but insisting that dogs be kept on a lead (not the current situation in Belmont Park) is a possibility. The City Council is discussing the issue internally and with the police to discuss what police resources are realistically available. We need to note that regular formal supervision of the park to enforce any future change of possibility would not be viable. Informal indications of personal preference taken at the meeting were as follows:</p> <p>20 people indicated that they would like the situation to remain as it is (no requirement for dogs to be on leads). 1 person favoured all dogs being put on a lead. 5 people indicated no preference.</p> <p>It was suggested that a 'time zone' system could be introduced, with different rules in place at different times of day, or whether a further 'dogs off the lead' zoned area could be possible. A regular dog owner and user of Belmont Park expressed the opinion that the general level of responsibility of dog owners in the park is high, and that these two incidents, albeit in quick succession, have been very unusual.</p> <p>Concerning this anyone can contact Keith Owen on the city council website via the email published.</p>	
4	Vision Update. Rory McNeile outlined briefly the Vision history, which is aiming for a new hut build to commence in 2015. Alex Chalkley from 'Granted' fund-raising consultancy updated us on fund-raising progress to date since their October 2013 start on the project, to raise the (up to) £750k required. The method is to scope available funds and then identify possible sources. Four primary grants are now in sight, particularly the community lottery fund which could provide up to £500k, which is the current primary focus. Separate grants for energy efficiency and community development are also amongst the 18 – 20 secondary grants in sight. Results are expected in about 6 months time. Granted has identified a similar successful project in Taunton and the chair of the society has been helpful	

	<p>in sharing that experience. The Stakeholder engagement plan and business plan have been completed. The former has been good but could be strengthened, possibly through distribution of a questionnaire; higher numbers in support of the vision would be helpful. Initial feedback from the lottery funders has been positive. Secondary grants in the £10 – 50k range will be helpful but not central. Some reduction of build quality could be considered if the original target proves unattainable.</p> <p>The chair reiterated the committee’s determination to support Granted’s effort, and this could be particularly needed in the short term in capturing stakeholder opinion. Alex will suggest some possible steps forward.</p> <p>Post-funding, the project-management of the build needs to be considered, particularly the issue of whether that should be an ‘internal’ or ‘external’ appointment. The costs of that have been estimated in the overall total funds being sought.</p> <p>Alex reported that the New Homes Bonus for a further £50k should be secured soon with the help of the committee.</p>	Alex Chalkley
5	<p>Development Delivery Document. All councils have been asked to anticipate how many homes will be needed in the next 12 years – Exeter has estimated 12000 new homes, and likely locations have been identified, which can help in future planning situations and in saying ‘no’ to possible developments. Plans are available to be viewed at various locations. In ‘the Grecian Quarter’ the bus station area has been identified as a possible site for new builds. Consultation is open until 28th February.</p>	
6	<p>Lou Fearn coordinated the Portland Street ‘Communal Advent Calendar’ project (that had originated in Scandanavia and come to the UK via Derbyshire) and she joined us to describe it. She shared how her experience reinvigorating the Newtown PTA had enhanced community engagement there. She realised that out of 108 houses she probably only knew 7 or 8 households after several years of living on the road. It took three attempts to get the required 24 households on board; in the end 30 homes participated, and there was very warm feedback received. That included some student households, which provided some more positive impressions of students on the street. New relationships were formed as a result of the scheme. Some funding from Richard Westlake’s community pot was very helpful in subsidising the stationery. There is a strong desire on Portland Street to do it again this year and to have a meet the street. Lou has offered to supply copies of the paperwork if any other street wants to do the same.</p>	
7	<p>Future programme of events. The programme of future events is available on the website and the agenda.</p> <p>Suaad Genem-George was with us to give an update on plans for Respect 2014, 31st May – 1st June (Exeter’s annual celebration of diversity, equality and human rights). Since 2013 the festival has become a company to provide a stronger legal structure, with a committee of eight members, including legal support from Michelmores. Last year there were some problems with alcohol consumption amongst some of the estimated 22000 attendees; Suaad personally felt that the original message had been diluted: was it becoming a music/drink festival? Next year’s festival 2014 will therefore be alcohol free. No musicians or participants from outside of Devon will be invited. The NCA will have a stall. There is a huge involvement in terms of local volunteers.</p> <p>WW1 anniversary 118 Newtown men died in the Great war. Ideas for anniversary celebrations are invited. Poppy planting and a website have been mooted.</p>	
8	<p>Noticeboard. George Dumble explained that we are pursuing the possibility of three new community notice boards at the entrances to the park. Any feedback or suggestions to George, please.</p>	
9	<p>Aaron and Gabrielle (student community wardens) joined us. There are ten SCWs in the city, supporting students who live off campus. That includes providing a guide covering property marking and bike security, dustbin protocol, event publicity, community liaison, etc. Projects have included tree planting, glass collection and recycling. 8th February is Chinese New Year including a party and fireworks on the Streatham Campus.</p>	
10	<p>AOB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pond adjacent to Newtown School on County Council land has fallen into disuse. A renovation is planned. • In the Denmark Road area there is a proposal to review the parking arrangements, which are causing concern. A consultation will commence in February. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lord Mayor recently opened a new trade association initiative in the Mount Pleasant area aimed at supporting local business. • Vacancies currently exist for an NCA health and safety officer, and Su Aves is willing to relinquish the secretary role if anyone else would like it. Enquiries about both to Su, please. 	
11	Treasurer's Report. The treasurer presented the provisional summary of the 2013 accounts, which are attached with these minutes.	
12	Date of next meeting: Monday 28th April, 7.30pm, Belmont Park Hut.	