

**Newtown Community Association Open Forum Meeting
Saturday 21st November 2015 at 10.00 am
Minutes**

Present: Su Aves (Secretary,) Richard Branston, Derek Burnside (treasurer), Jacky Cox, Chris Dent (Trustee), Jackie Holdstock (Bookings Manager), James Leigh (Hut Manager) Rory McNeile (Chair), Dr Niall Macleod, Peter Montgomery (webmaster), Michael Parrott (Vice-chair & publicity), Galvin Short (ECC), Saxon Spence, Richard Westlake, Harry White (University Community Warden), Natalie Vizard, Elena Milego (11am)

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action by:</u>
1	Apologies: Steve & Sally Palmer. Elena Milego, Fiona Daughton, John Stapleton.	
2	Review of minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the 8 th August 2015 Open Forum were approved and signed by the chair. One correction required: item 3 should have read £2.25k.	SA
3	Treasurer's report. Derek reported that as of 9 th July 2015 the bank balance stands at £12867.20. We are however losing money: as of this date our 2015 general fund losses were at £443.03, in spite of £900 grant income. At their last meeting the committee recommended that regular NCA events will pay the hut hire charge, in light of the current losses and likely decline in local government grant funding. We agreed to postpone the committee-proposed 1/1/16 implementation of this to give time for the relevant groups to plan and respond. Final decision is therefore deferred until the AGM. It has been suggested that NCA charge a small membership fee to help funds.	
4	Newtown Ward County Councillor's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parr St car-park will remain as it is and not become a coach park at the loss of 31/41 current spaces. Alternative options will now be explored. • ECC is consulting with residents on city centre parking. 	
5	University Warden's Report Harry White reported that greater resourcing has meant the university has been better-able to respond to issues arising from the arrival of students for the autumn term. Concerns remain about the amount of student accommodation in the ward, especially in light of the proposed student development in Belgrave Road.	
6	Hut Issues & Bookings update Problems with electrics remain, and a full inspection is imminent. We have received a maximum 5-star food hygiene rating. A carpenter will shortly be constructing an enhanced disability ramp.	
7	Police Report from PCSO Nic Unsworth Egg-throwing and car damage have been an issue in the Blackboy Rd area. If anything is seen please inform the police. Police checked the CCTV in Blackboy Road, but it was negative, in response to the wing mirror damage in Clifton Hill and Blackboy Road recently. Motor-vehicle theft has decreased in the Ward, but we should remain vigilant in the run-up to Christmas. Remove valuables from vehicles. St Leonards and Newtown is covered by PCSO Nic Unsworth and PC Sarah Payne who also has to cover Wonford. RW pointed out that people should not store presents in unlocked sheds as thefts in previous years have happened.	
8	Belmont Park path realignment. Galvin Short informed us that the path through the middle of the park will need to be moved due to root damage, and that it will be inevitable that a London Plane tree and the much-loved but ageing twirly slide ('Spiraglide') will need to be removed in the near future. Three trees to replace	

	recent losses will be planted, and our input into that decision, and to the choice of playground equipment to replace the slide, will be welcomed. Further discussion on these to be scheduled for the AGM.	
9	St James Park Redevelopment Plan Following the recent consultations decisions are still pending on the future of this development.	
10	Exeter Community Forum Rory updated us on the work of this grouping of community & residents' groups, which is developing a community strategy to be presented to the ECC, with particular focus on the strategic distribution of the Community Infrastructure Levy community fund- £3.5 million across ten years. More detail can be found on the ECF website.	
11	Dr Niall Macleod: Health in the community Niall has been working to bridge the 'health-community gap', recognising that most of our health comes down to diet, exercise, relationships, and community engagement. With the NHS in significant crisis this community aspect of health and well-being must be enhanced if we're to avoid paying for medical provision. Rising life-expectancy, obesity & mental health issues are a concern. Better weighting from the current treatment/prevention resource distribution of 93%/7% is needed. Healthy eating/living/parenting classes could be a helpful redress to increased social disease manifested through greater isolation, increased relational breakdown etc. Integrated Care for Exeter (ICE) looks to integrate hospital/home/community group liaison to see more people receiving treatment from home. Could every doctor's surgery have a remunerated 'community connector', community link worker, or 'healthy-living hub', where community engagement, 'social prescribing', 'people not pills', 'soil, soul and society', 'natural health service'- could be enhanced. We will circulate Niall's charter on our website, and Niall encouraged us to map the community initiatives in Newtown. Niall will forward a list of suggested actions to Rory, and Saxon will circulate further ideas. Harry will offer suggestions on how the university might be engaged.	
12	Event Reports Successful Met Office visit , Music Cafe , and Food Festival have happened since we last met.	
13	Future events: Christmas Craft Fair. Sunday 29th November, 2-5pm. 5 or 6 stalls currently booked in. Winter Warmer , Sunday 13th December, 6pm-8pm, at which the NCA choir will be singing. £3 entrance fee. Table-top swap cafe will be our first event of the new year: Sunday 17 th Jan 2 – 4pm. Rhino Project. The Juvenile Rhino is coming. A cafe for designing the decoration will be on Sats 23 rd Jan 11 – 3pm and the winning design announced at a cafe on 27 th Feb. 2 – 4pm. The unveiling of the decorated rhino will be at a cafe on 21 st May 2 – 5pm. At the end of the project the juvenile rhino will be placed in the park. The arts group will be making festive window decorations.	
14	AOB: A large number of jobs are currently being covered by six people - more committee members would be gratefully received. The three Newtown polling districts were mooted as possible boundaries for the NCA membership once the new ward boundaries are implemented; we reiterated the committee's provisional decision to retain the current Newtown ward boundary as the future NCA designated area. Michael's excellent work on the 307 Squadron weekend events was noted.	
15	Date of next meeting: AGM: Saturday 20th February 2016 10 am (apologies in advance from Derek Burnside)	