

**Newtown Community Association Forum Meeting  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at Belmont Park Hut  
Minutes**

**Present:** Richard Branston, Joan Bond, Derek Burnside, James Cotter, Jacky Cox, Chris Dent, Jude Diamantes, Joe Farquarson, Megan Francis, Clare Henry (City of Sanctuary) Jackie Holdstock, Phyl Marshall, Robert Marshall, Rory McNeile (Chair), Peter Montgomery, Louise Ord, Steve Palmer, Linda Potter, Natalie Vizard.

**Apologies:** Su Aves, James Leigh, Michael Parrott, Saxon Spence.

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action by:</u>
<b>1</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report.</b> Bank balance stands at <b>£14539.68</b> . Interim accounts to November 15 <sup>th</sup> were presented, and are available on the NCA website.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Review of minutes of the last Forum on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.</b> The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. No matters arising not covered elsewhere.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Exeter City of Sanctuary</b> We welcomed Clare Henry, who presented the work of ECOS, a grass-roots organisation seeking to: promote a culture of warm welcome to refugees & asylum seekers, displace myths, celebrate the contribution of R&ASs, and build bridges between them and community groups. In doing so they work alongside existing agencies such as local councils and Refugee Support Devon. Devon has committed to find homes for 25 unaccompanied children and housing for 74 families. Help required includes more foster families, more private landlords willing to make property available, community groups willing to extend practical hospitality and a willingness for individuals and community groups to sign the ECOS 'Resolution of Support'.	
<b>4</b>	<b>City Council updates</b> Councillor Natalie Vizard updated us on recent developments. ECC £300 grants have recently been given to NCA Qigong group, the park equipment replacement fund and St Matthew's pre-school. The bus station construction work starts in March. Arrangements for National Express coaches' pick-up points remain unclear. Interim toilet arrangements during the redevelopment will be provided by shops and restaurants; the adequacy of this arrangement was debated. Richard Branston reported recent flooding in Clifton Hill, due to leaves blocking the drains, which was swiftly resolved. Churchill House on Denmark Rd may be taken over by an alternative provider to Guinness Trust. The Honiton Inn demolition to make way for a nine-story structure is being opposed, by English Heritage and others.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Police Update</b> PCSO Nick Unsworth reported that some noise complaints have been received and followed up. Drug abuse in Newtown is being more accurately monitored. Crime rates remain relatively low. We are encouraged not to leave post-Christmas packaging visible outside our homes. A <b>Public Space Protection Order</b> for the locality is being proposed. A presentation and discussion is happening at St Sidwell's School, Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December, 7pm. Nick encouraged us to support it, arguing that it gives the police greater flexibility in dealing with actual problems rather than	

	imposing blanket prohibitions inappropriately. Nick can be contacted at <a href="mailto:Nic.unsworth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk">Nic.unsworth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk</a>	
6	<p><b>University Wardens</b> Louise and Megan introduced themselves. They seek to assist students living out-of-hall to integrate effectively with the local community. Particular issues should be addressed to <a href="mailto:streetwise@exeter.ac.uk">streetwise@exeter.ac.uk</a>, and the community liaison officer Rory Cunningham will follow up any complaints. Issues with transient noise, if consistent, should also be reported, as trends can be established and sources tackled. The 24-hour university Estate Patrol number is 01392 723999.</p> <p>Rory emphasised that, as 50% of Newtown residents are students, they should be aware of the availability of the hut as a resource, and asked our wardens to encourage local students to engage with NCA events.</p>	
7	<p><b>The Vision.</b> Our current designated funds stand at circa £174k. We need another £275k to fund the current ‘Plan B’ Home Lodge estimate, although a reduced square footage from 200 to 150 square metres would reduce that proposed cost. Local contractors MACE have indicated a willingness to contribute £25k. Council leader Pete Edwards is keen to see the project go ahead, and ECC may consider a further contribution if the overall costs are reduced. Rory has also approached ATT Benfield and requested an estimate for a ‘Plan C’ timber frame building; they have quoted £270k as ‘indicative full build cost’.</p> <p>A new NCA sub-committee has recently formed to discuss the renovation and renewal of the park play equipment, all of which will need replacing within the next five years. Jo White is chairing that group. We emphasised the importance of liaison between the redevelopment of the hut and the resign of the park’s play equipment.</p> <p>Peter pointed us towards ‘Flat-pack Democracy.org’ who have recently completed a community build in Frome.</p> <p><b>NCA’s charitable status.</b> With the new build pending it would be wise for the association to become either a Charitable Limited Organisation (CLO) or a Charitable Incorporated Organisation Association (CIO), which means we can register property and enter into contracts in the name of the charity rather than in the name of the holding trustees; such status gives officers greater protection. We are currently an ‘Unincorporated Charity’. Rory will research what is involved in becoming a CIO.</p>	RM
8	<p><b>Exeter Community Forum</b></p> <p>A ‘<b>Grass Roots’ Grants Panel</b> has been formed. £50k is available, and organisations are invited to submit applications. Newly-appointed ‘Community Builders’ will come and work with a community for a period or project, and we are encouraged to seek their assistance as appropriate.</p>	
9	<p><b>Events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Winter Warmer</b> has been moved to <b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>, 6pm – 8pm, from the 18<sup>th</sup>. A suggested donation to cover food and drink will be requested, and a pop-up Exeter Foodbank Collection point will be on site, so please bring donations of non-perishable goods.</li> <li>• <b>30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations</b> are scheduled for the first weekend in July 2017. James Cotter will be writing some short plays, and Jacky Cox and Michael Parrott will also be involved in the planning. Any comment or involvement is welcomed. Phyllis, an NCA founder member, told us about an earlier research initiative that had captured Newtown residents’ memories, and also about some Newtown murals and sport teams.</li> </ul>	
10	<p><b>AOB:</b></p> <p><b>Exeter Cycling Campaign</b> is promoting greater mobility for a growing city through cycling. ECC has produced a charter, to which we agreed to sign up; Chris proposed, Joan seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried. Derek will visit the charter website and sign us up.</p>	DB
11	<p><b>Date of next meetings:</b></p> <p>The next Forum will be the AGM in February – date will be confirmed in the new year.</p>	All