

Newtown Community Association Open Forum Meeting
Saturday 8th August 2015 at 10.00 am
Minutes

Present: Su Aves (Secretary,) Joan Bond, Derek Burnside (treasurer), Peter Cleasby, Helen Cleasby, Jacky Cox, Chris Dent (Trustee), Jo Hawkins, (St James Neighbourhood Plan), Penny Heighton, Oscar Martinez, Rory McNeile (Chair), Elena Milego, Peter Montgomery (webmaster), Sally Palmer, Steve Palmer, Michael Parrott (Vice-chair & publicity), Bryony Paszkiewicz, Konrad Paszkiewicz, Jane Robey, Saxon Spence, Richard Westlake.

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action by:</u>
1	Apologies: Richard Branston, Jackie Holdstock, James Leigh, Roger Spackman.	
2	Review of minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the 23 rd May 2015 Open Forum were approved and signed by the chair. Saxon Spence updated us that the summer cookery courses at St Sidwell's Community Centre have started and are going well.	
3	Treasurer's report. Derek reported that finances were in good shape. Our balance as of 9 th July 2015 stands at £9388.91. We have dipped below £10k as we await reimbursement for a paid 'Vision' invoice for £2250k.	
4	<p>Newtown Ward County Councillor's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Westlake reported that Residential Parking reviews are underway in the St Leonard's area, following concerns about abuses of the 2-hour waiting scheme. Pay-and-Display is being introduced, which is popular with some residents. Blackboy Rd residents' parking is also a concern, being used by non-residents. • <input type="checkbox"/> During resurfacing the Blackboy Rd Zebra Crossing was removed, causing some perceived danger. An enquiry is underway. • <input type="checkbox"/> The Bus Station Development plans are available for inspection, and we are encouraged to look at them and comment. Jo Hawkins has a meeting scheduled for 26th August, 6pm, to discuss the highway implications with the applicants, and a NCA attendee is invited. • <input type="checkbox"/> 'Smartwater' property marking is available to buy; where this has been implemented elsewhere in the country theft reduction has reached 80%. Call 101 for more details, or email Richard Westlake. • <input type="checkbox"/> The hole in Portland Street has been looked into. DCC have agreed to fill it in, hopefully soon. 	
5	<p>Hut Issues & Bookings update</p> <p>Bookings seem healthy. A new NCA sign is up on the side of the hut, and we await permission from the council to erect a new external noticeboard. Oscar Martinez, a qualified teacher and local DBS-certified TA and Spanish national, is offering to teach free Spanish lessons in the hut as an NCA event on Wednesdays from 6 – 7pm, starting in September 2015. James Leigh will finish the toilet painting in August and also do further work on the piano room floor. Our thanks to James. Discussions continue of the improvement of disability access into the hut.</p>	
6	<p>St James Park Redevelopment Plan</p> <p>Jo Hawkins, former chair of the St James' Forum, which formulated the St James' Neighbourhood Plan, alerted us to the plans to redevelop the ECFC ground to build some new student blocks (320 beds) to fund the required new stand;. There is concern that such a development would not contribute to sustaining a 'balanced community' in the St James' ward as outlined by the St James' Neighbourhood Plan; affordable housing/starter homes/retirement complex etc. would seem a better</p>	

	<p>option, although they may be financially non-viable for the developer. The Cricket Club pavilion re-development has already resulted in four new student blocks in the St James' ward. The University's plans for expansion (an extra 2000 students) mean that pressure for new multiple-occupancy households will continue and not be significantly reduced by this development. We are encouraged to submit comments to the consultation, via the ECFC website.</p> <p>The Exeter Community Forum is progressing well, and may prove to be an effective conduit for community input on proposed development.</p> <p>Correspondence from both sides of the discussion could be posted on the NCA website.</p>	
7	<p>Globe Inn changes to opening hours Becky & Sam from the Globe had submitted a written statement, which Su Aves read to the meeting and is available on the NCA website, Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <input type="checkbox"/> An invitation from the Globe management for drop-in chats from local residents (they open from 5pm, and earlier evening chats before they get busier will be more viable.) • <input type="checkbox"/> The value they place on local neighbourhood relations and concerns. • <input type="checkbox"/> The brutal economic environment for UK pubs (28 are closely weekly) and the need to strengthen their business. • <input type="checkbox"/> Their good work in transforming the Globe over the last two years: they now employ 12 staff. • <input type="checkbox"/> Their intention to commit long-term to the pub's future, including daytime opening, B & B accommodation and an upstairs restaurant opening in autumn 2015. • <input type="checkbox"/> Later opening hours on Fri/Sat will be utilised on an only occasional basis. Only those already in the pub will be allowed to stay – the doors will be locked from 11pm • <input type="checkbox"/> Their current steps to limit noise pollution • <input type="checkbox"/> Submissions to the council can be made until 12th August, in advance of the hearing on 4th September 10am, Civic Hall. <p>Comments from the meeting included the problematic noise levels that already exist for residents on Belmont Road, Clifton Road, Albert Street and Portland Street, and the fear that extended opening hours will only exacerbate those problems. Some felt that the Globe's stated intention to only use the extended hours occasionally is curious when they already have the facility for a number of extensions each year. The increase in the size of the beer garden and the erection of an illegally-built external bar have been problematic; they have been instructed to remove the outside bar within the next fortnight. Their current license already requires them to close all doors and windows by 8pm, which is currently sometimes not complied with. The beer garden being available until 11pm and the request that doors and windows can be left open until 10pm seem out-of-keeping with the tone of the submitted letter. Richard Branstone has agreed to represent local residents at the September hearing.</p> <p>Letters need to be sent to the Chief Planning Officer at the Civic Centre on or before the 12th August.</p>	
8	<p>Event Reports Table-top Swap Cafe July19th Sally and Steve Palmer had submitted a helpful report on this initial experiment. Although numbers were low it was felt to be worth repeating. Our thanks to the Palmers for all their efforts. There will be another one in January on Sunday 17th 2016. Will promote it more. It will help to reduce landfill, up cycle, get things free and have fun. It will need a two hour preparation slot next time. A questionnaire filled in by those that attended was very helpful to inform how to run the next event.</p>	
9	<p>Future events: Community Music Cafe 16th August - 2-4pm Flute cake, singers and Gypsy Jazz. Jacky, Peter and Su. September 13th Food festival. 12-4pm Halloween Café, Saturday 31st October, 5pm- 8pm</p>	

	Craft Fair. Sunday 29th November, 11 – 4pm. Winter Warmer, Sunday 13th December, 6pm-8pm.	
10	AOB Saxon Spence pointed out there is a useful online site called Street Life on which we could advertise events.	
11	Date of next Forum meeting 10am on 21st November 2015	