

Newtown Community Association
Open Meeting Tuesday 18 January 2011

NOTES

Present: Cllr Roger Spackman (ECC), Sgt Ian Lugg, PCSO Aurea White, Ali Matthews, E.M.Steenman-Clark, George Dumble, Gaby Dumble, Gabi Recknagel (guest), Michael Parrott (Publicity Officer), Duncan Jackson, Gay Smith (Secretary), Ian Harrison (Chair), John Staplehurst, Steve Palmer, Sally Palmer, Joan Bond, Cllr Richard Westlake (DCC), Dr Jo Cox, Robin Attwater (The Vision), Ellie Parker (guest), Su Aves, Jackie Holdstock (Bookings Secretary), Jon Whittle and Avril Baker (guests from Campus Development Management).

Apologies: Tess Nixon, Peter Montgomery (Treasurer), Cllr Richard Branston (ECC), Polly Osterley

| ITEM | ACTION |
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| <p>1. PACT (Police and Communities Together) Aurea reported: a) Crime figures for Newtown are down for November and December 2010. b) No speed monitoring was planned in the immediate future. They will let the Chairman know when the next check will take place. c) There have been two recent alleged man-on-man attacks one possibly in the Belmont Park area. CCTV pictures have been publicised. If anyone has seen or sees anything unusual which may be connected to this possible offence please contact Aurea direct by email on: aurea.white@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk d) The cycle reported at the last meeting which is attached to the lamp post in Clifton Road is still there. The City Council will not remove it. ECC Cllr Spackman and DCC Cllr Westlake will see if they can get some action on this. e) PACT is now known as "Have your Say".</p> | <p>All Cllr Spackman Cllr Westlake</p> |
| <p>2. Future Events a) Harvest Event Sunday 27 February 10 am to 1.30 pm Ellie Parker of ECI's Harvest project told the group more about their aims which are mainly to make good use of growing areas such as large gardens and other spaces called Garden Match. They have booked the hut for a Seedy Sunday on 27 February. It was agreed that Harvest would be welcome to bring along their gazebo with seasonal activities such as compost, seed swaps, plant and produce swaps to our Sunday cafes. Gay will let Ellie have cafe dates. Alison Matthews expressed interest in getting the Home Educators group involved.</p> | <p>Gay Ali</p> |

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| <p>Harvest will take on our raised bed. George offered to stain the wood if we can get some wood stain donated from ECC. To find out more contact E ellie@eci.org.uk</p> <p>b) German Cafe Gabi Recknagel and Gaby Dumble proposed a German cafe preceded by a baking day when cakes would be prepared. It was agreed that this was an excellent idea. Initially they would like to have two other bakers with them on the baking day but in future may look at running baking classes. The first dates for this are 9 April for baking and 10 April for a German Cafe.</p> <p>It was agreed that NCA would pay for baking materials and then take any profit from the cafe.</p> <p>c) Getting Older Members of the Community to our Sunday Cafes Joan suggested that Ian come along to one of their regular coffee mornings to speak to residents of Cleveland Court about the Association and the Sunday Cafes and this was agreed. It was agreed that the residents might be particularly interested in the 125th Anniversary event. Sally would like to partner Joan in any cafes organised.</p> <p>George mentioned that there are at least five sets of almshouses in Newtown that could also be the focus of promotion to the older members of the community.</p> <p>d) Blitz Cafe 8 May It was agreed by some that this would be a fun idea.</p> <p>e) Other Cafes The African community has expressed an interest in running a themed event. Ian will speak to him. 3rd July was suggested as a good date for this. George suggested that the African community in Newtown may be approached through Julian and their 'contribution' regarding food and music be discussed with him. Ian agreed to speak to Julian about this.</p> <p>f) 125th Anniversary of Belmont Park This will take place on 30th and 31st July. Michael and Gay would like more volunteers to join them in a sub-group to organise. Sally expressed an interest. Michael and Gay will soon produce a draft programme so that tasks can be assigned. Su has brought this event to the notice of Newtown School and also spoken to the Exeter Children's Orchestra about a performance at the event.</p> <p>g) Speakers for Other Events Su has contacted an experienced and interesting local person about speaking at an event. She has not yet had a reply.</p> <p>h) Cafe Schedule Gay to circulate updated schedule to all involved.</p> | <p>Gabi and Gaby</p> <p>Ian, Joan, Sally</p> <p>Ian</p> <p>Michael, Gay, Sally</p> <p>Gay</p> |
| <p>3. Treasurer's Report</p> <p>In Peter's absence Duncan reported that he and Peter were to meet later in the week to discuss budgets. Having a forward budget would mean that unexpected expenses such as water would be taken care of. He was looking at some free software which should make account keeping easier. George expressed the NCA</p> | |

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| <p>Management Committee's approval and appreciation of Peter and Duncan's actions and the use of a 'computerised system' which would allow regular financial reporting to the Management Committee. Ian also highlighted the reasoning behind the 'original' considerations of a budget system which included the hire charge currently made by NCA and the Charity Commissions' requirements</p> | |
| <p>4. Debrief on 2010 Events We have had a great year with a lot going on.</p> <p>a) The hut decoration is almost finished but there is still more to do including setting up the digi lock which is now fitted. It was thought that it will be necessary to work out a run- in time and George suggested the possibility, in the first period, of anyone having difficulty with it being able to quickly contact one of the committee members by mobile. This suggestion was not discussed further and no-one was nominated.</p> <p>b) The bulb planting went well. It was noted that this took place at Sandford Walk not East John Walk (apologies from Gay). It was agreed that there were several possible planting areas in future which did not appear on the ECC map. The Chairman agreed to follow up this item with ECC.</p> <p>c) The Winter Warmer was attended by about fifteen souls who braved the ice and snow to get there. Rosie Kelly of ECC was responsible for an excellent exhibition entitled Newtown Writes.</p> | <p>Ian, George</p> |
| <p>5. AGM, talk and Cafe, Saturday 26 February 11 am – 1 pm</p> <p>a) Constitution Gay had circulated a request to all to look at the draft Constitution. There has been no feedback to date.</p> <p>b) Trustees It was agreed we should write to our three existing Trustees to see if they wish to continue and it was agreed that this would be done after the Trustee Training Course on 24th January when we hope we will understand this subject more clearly. The existing Property Trustees are Annie Ross, Joan Bond and Simon Perseghetti.</p> <p>c) Speaker Gay has obtained the agreement of Gill Westcott of Transition Exeter, the sustainability group, who will come along to give a short talk and answer questions after the AGM and it is hoped that this interesting item will bring in more people.</p> <p>d) Quorum George stated that we require a quorum of 25 people in attendance at the AGM to proceed which is difficult for us to achieve. Members present were asked to bring along a friend to ensure that we have the required number. Ian will investigate the issue of the number required for a quorum as this number is rarely reached.</p> <p>e) Cafe for AGM Thanks to Sally who has offered to run the cafe.</p> | <p>All</p> <p>Gay</p> <p>Gay, Michael</p> <p>All</p> |
| <p>6. The Vision There has been some controversay over whether this idea should go any further, also whether the Committee sees the idea of a new building as a good idea at all. George pointed out that the committee had already approved the raising of £5,000 for initial proposals as the first step towards going any</p> | <p>All</p> |

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George pointed out that the committee was already committed to raising the initial £5,000 for initial proposals as the first step towards going any further. These proposals are necessary to take the project forward to the bigger funders. Pressure through Section 106 funding will be put on local developers such as the University Campus Management and Waitrose to achieve this. Duncan believed that we should focus on the current hut and the history it holds and look at improving the building we have and love. Duncan was also concerned that we would have to raise our charges with the new building and therefore make it difficult for hard-pressed users. Ali Matthews agreed with Duncan concerning a fear about raised charges. George stated that he had no concern in this regard concerning the replacement of the existing hut by a modern, lower operational cost building. Ali and George also said that a larger building would be welcomed by many users. Ali stated that the Organisation which she represented had views concerning the design and layout of a new building and after some discussion agreed that they would voice their issues in writing to the main 'design' person (Robin Attwater). Ian (together with George and Rob) and Duncan had all done SWOT analyses which had come up with different answers. It was noted that our hut was originally designed as a temporary building 66 years ago with a life expectation of one year, so it has done well to survive. It is ripe for replacement having minimal insulation in the walls and roof and none in the floor; poor access for disabled users (unable to achieve DDA requirements) and is insecure and a fire hazard being constructed entirely of timber which has not been treated for Fire retardation or with anti-rot proofing material other than the external painting, recently improved.

In a discussion about pricing George pointed out that, in his opinion, the fact that the current charge (based on a fairly comprehensive survey recently conducted by the Booking Secretary) appeared to be the lowest in the City and many surrounding areas exacerbated the fact that it was often sought to be hired by organisations outside the Newtown ward and questioned whether this should continue, except in instances where the organisation (even though it was 'based' outside the Association's area of operation) served the residents of Newtown.

Cllr Roger Spackman made several points:

- Some future planning is necessary.
- The community is about to grow and will continue to do so.
- It takes time to do these things so we need to start now.
- City and County Councillors had already been in discussion with the Chairman about achieving the initial £5,000.

Joan emphasised that this was only a vision and will take a lot of time and hard work to sort out.

Steve Palmer said that Rob needs all our views and people should be more open about sharing them. The hut is not what it was and needs

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| <p>too much work to just renovate. The community is outgrowing it and it needs to keep pace. The real heart of the community is its people and there are some wonderful examples of contemporary community facilities.</p> <p>It was decided to take an informal vote on the Vision. There were 12 for and 2 abstentions with 5 against.</p> | |
| <p>7. Football Wall Ian has done some initial work on the cost, possible location and design of the football wall with ECC so that the young people could decide if this is what they wanted. Duncan was unhappy with this and felt that we should have consulted with the young people first as to whether this is what they wanted. Duncan left the meeting.</p> | Mgt Cttee |
| <p>8. End of Meeting The meeting closed before the Agenda was completed on the agreement the Chairman as it was very late.</p> | |
| <p>9. Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 1 March 2011. Gay will ask Peter Montgomery if he will give this up as it is booked as a regular slot for his band practice.</p> | All |