

Newtown Community Association

Meeting Tuesday 15 June 2010 at 8 pm in the hut

NOTES

Apologies: Richard Pears, Kat Thomas

Present: Ian Harrison, NCA Chair, Peter Montgomery, NCA Treasurer, Gay Smith, NCA Secretary, George Dumble, Billie Cornish (Bookings Secretary), Muriel Forrest (Hon Chair), Cllr Richard Westlake (DCC), Michael Parrott, Jackie Holdstock, Monika Hudcova (Exeter University, Duncan Jackson, Sonia Kemp (Exeter Play Rangers), Derek Burnside, John Staplehurst, Aurea White and Nic Unsworth (D & C Police), Tess Nixon, Annie Ross, Joan Bond.

Item	Action
1. Minutes of Meeting on 6 April were agreed and signed off.	
<p>2. PACT</p> <p>a) Speeding - Aurea and Nic reported that they have done two speeding operations along Belmont Road, observed by NCA members, yesterdays' being from 8.15 am to 9 am. The top speed recorded was 29 mph out of 50 – 60 cars. Only one Newtown resident was identified and the others were passing through. The possibility of having a larger platform near the park to deter speeding was discussed but in the current financial climate this is unlikely to be put in place.</p> <p>b) Play Rangers - Sonia introduced the Play Rangers project and tabled leaflets. The Rangers will be running 7 open access play sessions for children and parents in Belmont Park on Wednesdays from 1 September to 2 October. All except the first one will take place from 3.30 – 6 pm. The first one which falls in the summer break will be from 2.30 – 5 pm. For events there is a hire fee for the Play Rangers of £220 for four hours with three rangers.</p> <p>c) Ping Pong Table Issues – Tess reported that there was a lot of late night disturbance from students using the ping pong table. This is made convenient by the street light which illuminates the table which activity disturbs residents of Gordon Road. Various solutions were discussed i.e. dimming of street lights, putting a shade on the light shining towards the park, putting up a notice, or contacting Environmental Health with a log of incidents. Cllr Westlake offered the simple and most cost effective solution of putting a shade on the light to block out the light from the park and will approach DCC to ask them if they can do this.</p>	<p>GS</p> <p>RW</p>
<p>3. Respect Survey, Monika Hudcova, Exeter University</p> <p>Monika is writing a dissertation on the impact of the Respect Festival on the community. She asked if she could record the responses to her survey and this was agreed. There was a positive response to her questions but concerns were raised</p>	

<p>about parking should the festival become larger in the future. It was also agreed that people were attracted to the event because of the free entry and that people appreciated that it was a family event finishing at 6 pm. People living nearby experienced no significant disturbance from the event.</p> <p>It was established that we have not received the hut keys back from Respect and Gay will contact Paul Giblin to trace them.</p> <p><i>Post meeting note: keys found</i></p>	GS
<p>4. Events for 2010</p> <p>a) Summer Sunday Music Cafes will be held from 11 am to 1 pm on 4 and 25 July, 8, 22 and 29 August. Gay will contact all interested in helping with the cafe to draw up a rota of helpers. <u>More are needed, especially for 25 July and 8 August for which we have no offers.</u> George is willing to run a short familiarisation session to show new recruits how to run the kitchen and where to find things. Helpers will need to be there from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm. Food served will be cakes, biscuits and drinks, and funds collected will go towards the NCA Vision. Gay will find out from Dawn if she can pay for flyers to publicise the event. Peter has told Crystal Carter that we will not require funding from Music in the Parks. Peter will organise a programme of musical entertainment.</p> <p>b) Magic Carpet Open Mik Event 26 June. This is not one of our events but one which we will promote. It will go on our www.</p> <p>c) Art Day proposed by Kat Thomas Kat had been in contact with Gay to say that she would like to postpone this event until December. Billie will let Gay know which weekend dates in December are available. It was agreed that this could be a good Christmas event with the possible opportunity for visitors to purchase artworks as Christmas gifts.</p> <p>d) Millenium Project Hut Mural Panels It was agreed that these will be taken down in the autumn prior to the repainting of the hut by the team of solicitors in contact with Ian. Those who can be traced who were involved in the creation of the murals will be informed of this by letter. The original artist will be asked if he wishes to take possession of the murals on the day they are removed, otherwise the Committee will look at their disposal.</p> <p>e) New Hut Mural Panels and Sign Gay agreed to draw up an invitation to local artists to take part in a project to produce the first two new panels with local children which will be circulated to the committee for approval. Some were interested in possibly using graffiti art and if it was decided to go down this road then ECC would need to be consulted. The proposed sign showing our name and contact details will be considered at this time.</p> <p>f) Halloween Celebration 31 October To include storyteller, lantern walk, pumpkin comp. Gay will look at the cost of a storyteller for a Halloween event. Duncan agreed to organise the Halloween cafe.</p>	<p>GS GD GS</p> <p>PM</p> <p>KT BC</p> <p>GS</p> <p>GS PM GS DJ</p>

<p>g) Other Ideas for Events Some earlier ideas had been missed off the agenda for which Gay apologised. They included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tea for the elderly • Big lunches • Window sill comp • Local history walks <p>Joan felt that those at the sheltered accommodation would be keen to meet up over tea and will seek the views of the residents.</p>	<p>JB/GD IH IH GD</p>
<p>5. The Vision for a new hut</p> <p>Ian reported that over 200 surveys had been completed by Newtown residents at the Respect Festival. Robin Attwater is now analysing them. There is a copy of the survey on the www. newtowncommunity.org.uk should anyone wish to complete it later. Initial plans will cost in the region of £5,000 and Ian is currently looking at five possible sources of funding. Maya of Glass House, a charity which advises community groups on putting together such a project and which some of the committee met with recently, has said that her charity is willing to assist us. Ian is shortly meeting with the Vicar of St Matthews church to find out how they are progressing with their ideas of converting part of the church into a hall to see whether this will inform our plans. It was believed that partnership with the Scrapstore could add some passive management of bookings, etc. Gay said that we should seriously take into consideration how we would finance the running of such a building because even if we partnered the Scrapstore, that too is an organisation which doesn't make a profit. There was much discussion on how we could raise revenue to run such a community facility. Increasing bookings was unlikely unless there was much more accommodation as we are already almost full and to put our prices up would rule out those that we wish to support. The Chair stated that we should take the Vision one step at a time and that the first step was to raise funds to draw up the plans after which a firm proposal could be put to ECC. George was concerned about the arrangements with ECC (99 Year Lease at a 'peppercorn' rental).</p>	
<p>6. Cleaning after Late Bookings</p> <p>Some late party bookings make a lot of mess. The cleaner is willing to take on some additional cleaning and there was some discussion about how this was to be managed. George felt that the person booking and the cleaner could be put in touch to arrange and pay for additional cleaning. Gay felt that this was unnecessarily complicated and will discuss with Billie. George felt that (providing the cleaner was in agreement with this procedure and stated a reasonable fee for cleaning after such events then) the person booking should be offered the choice of such a service or required to pay a deposit large enough to cover the commercial cleaning of the hut if deemed</p>	<p>GS/BC</p>

<p>necessary by an inspection by a Management Committee Member. Gay felt that this was unnecessarily complicated and will discuss with Billie and/or the cleaner.</p> <p>Billie as bookings secretary would have discretion as to whether or not to accept a booking for a late night event and those who did not agree to paying the required fee for cleaning after a party or a large event for possible damage and/or commercial cleaning.</p>	
<p>7. Haiti Appeal – Profit from last Cafe £120 will be presented to the Regional Manager at the Save the Children shop in Paris Street on Wednesday 30 June at 12 noon. Reminder to make sure that anyone photographed gives their permission for their photograph to appear on the Newtown Community Association website and/or in the newspaper. George said he would ensure this was done, in writing, on the day.</p>	GD
<p>8. Any Other Business</p> <p>a) Gaps in floor in RH Room Ian has just finished a grant application for £500 which should enable us to fix this soon.</p> <p>b) Cllr Richard Branson has been unwell and NCA should send him a get well card. Gay will arrange this and send it on behalf of the association.</p> <p>c) Slide in the Playground This is still incomplete because of issues with the contractor. It is hoped that this will be finished soon.</p> <p>d) Items left in the hut There is an increasing number of items left in the hut, coats, chairs large and small, and lights strung across the beams. These should not be there and as they have not been claimed despite repeated requests they will be disposed of. Any electrical items brought into the hut by groups MUST be PAT tested, or not used, please, and a copy of the test certificate provided to a member of the Management Committee</p> <p>e) Grant Aid from Debenhams for Cafe Crockery Derek will work out how much we need and do a letter to Debenhams.</p> <p>f) Dinner Service for Hire George proposed that we purchase a full, simple dinner service which could be used for our evening events and also be hired out as a source of revenue for the Association.</p>	<p>IH</p> <p>GS</p> <p>All</p> <p>DB</p> <p>GD</p>
<p>9. Date of Next Full Meeting Tuesday 24 August at 8 pm in the hut.</p>	