



Newtown Community Association
Newtown Community Centre
Belmont Park
Belmont Road
Exeter
EX1 2HQ

Annual General Meeting 2022

Saturday 10 September 2022 at 11:00 am

The meeting was held in the large room at the Newtown Community Centre, and simultaneously by Zoom

Chair: Christina Towler

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions

Present:

Trustees: Christina Towler (chair), Jackie Holdstock, Kev Winser, Steve Palmer (Secretary), Rory McNeile (by Zoom)

Members: K Seymour, M Hodges, M Zheleva, Z Zhelev, D Laing, M Palmer, A Ketchin, W Paley, S Kingsnorth, S Palmer, J Leaver, D Leaver, N Paley, P Cleasby, C Dent, J Hancock, M Vizzard, M Bell, D Thompson, D Hebborn,
(by Zoom) Ella Westland, Saxon Spence, Elena Milego

Apologies: Su Aves, Richard Branston

2. Presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2021

https://newtowncommunity.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/NCA_AnnualReportAccounts_2021.pdf

Steve Palmer presented the Annual Report and Accounts, with a summary on Powerpoint. Discussion of Liabilities, mainly restricted funds linked to grants not yet spent.

Annual Report and Accounts approved unanimously.

3. Election of Trustees.

Steve Palmer introduced, with thanks to Rory McNeile for all he has done in getting the Community Centre built and opened. Rory and Steve are standing down, Steve is willing to stand again. Jackie Holdstock and Kev Winser continue to serve. An appeal for more volunteers to serve was made.

Motion: That Christina Towler, Rachael Shah and Steve Palmer should be elected as Trustees of NCA – approved unanimously.

4. Update on finances for 2022 Will Paley presented.

Highlights: currently £11K in current account and £20K in savings account. Position continues strongly. Some groups have dropped out over summer, but new groups have shown interest for the autumn. The solar panels are now producing income, so this helps us with the effects of the energy crisis.

5. **Update on achievements during 2022.** Kerrie Seymour presented.

The centre hosts a great mix of weekly and monthly activity bookings including;

Health and Wellbeing: Qigong, Meditation, Yoga, Pilates and Acupuncture clinic

Dance and fitness: Adult Tap, Zumba, Swing Dance

Music: Violin, Exeter Flutes, Doremi

Education and Pre school: Monkey Music, LAMDA, Fun Science

Cultural Groups: Orthodox Church, Bulgarian Society, Greek School, Malayee Association,

NCA supported Activities include:

The Social Café – a monthly meeting point

Roots Band – Folk tunes from around the world, all acoustic instruments, all ages, all abilities

Exeter Jazz Orchestra – Golden Age Big Band Jazz

“Garden for the Bees” project – working together for biodiversity, especially the corner of Clifton Road / Clifton Street and the planters by the Community Centre.

Plans for the Centre in 2022

Co create planter project – a community project working with local residents and park users to build a series of planter box benches which will be placed outside the Centre. These will brighten up the space, encourage pollinators to the local area, create pleasant places for people to sit, and may also help to discourage children from using the veranda posts as football goals.

Mend and Make - A monthly drop in session inviting people to bring any clothes in need of repair, alterations, etc. A place to learn and share skills, chat and make friends.

Information support days – drop in sessions where people can meet representatives from local organisations who offer support and information about local issues, rising living and fuel costs, etc.

Defibrillator fund - In partnership with charity London Hearts the NCA are raising money to purchase and install a Defibrillator unit in Belmont Park. We also hope to host some Defibrillator training sessions for local residents. We have secured some of the funding required and are now reaching out to our friends and neighbours to help us to raise the rest.

Discussion: Possibilities of using the Centre as a “Warm space” – the problem is that the building is not supervised, so volunteers would be needed.

6. **Comments from Councillors and other representatives.**

Jayne Leaver – Newtown & St Leonards Community Builder:

Garden for the Bees project really reaching out into community, also gardening project at the top of Sandford Walk, and maintenance at the bottom of Sandford Walk.

Supporting residents in Faraday House, including a mural project. Newtown Crochet and Knitting Group continues. FreeMoovement groups in the park.

Matt Vizzard - Councillor

Thanks to NCA. Information on Books of Condolence. Cost of living – Council officers are doing their best with limited funds, some pots of money but no extra staff. Opening of St Sidwells Point. Planning issues, including police station refused. Community grants, still some available up to £350 per project.

Discussion: Planning issues, especially over-development of the police station site.

Question of plans for warm hubs. No details yet; Quaker Meeting will be open.

Student numbers – ECC have no powers to limit student numbers. HMOs with more than 6 residents require planning permission, fewer is not restricted. Council-owned sites will not be used for student housing, but may be family housing.

Cycle routes and cycle parking hub – Devon CC issue, low-traffic areas very controversial.

Flooding in Clifton Road – Devon CC only take action when flood persists more than 24 hours. Difficulty of getting drains cleared and development increasing runoff.

Reliability of buses – very poor. Stagecoach promising fewer services but more reliability.

Clifton Hill redevelopment started.

7. Closure of meeting at 12:20pm

Stephen Palmer
Secretary, NCA