

**St David's Neighbourhood Partnership  
Notes of General Community Meeting  
9 January 2008 at Exeter Community Centre**

**Present:** 30+ people from the community,

St Davids Neighbourhood Partnership Committee:

Aubrey Cox, Penny Dodd, Christine Fraser, Kelvin Lacy,  
Maureen Lewis, Hannah Reynolds, Gina Richards, Bob Turner, Kate Wicks

Dawn Rivers (ECC) Peter Stephenson (YMCA) Marc Colson (MOP) Neighbourhood Beat Manager Ray Faichney and PCSO Marina Lawes. Devon County Council and Exeter City Councillors Phil Brock and Stella Brock.

1. **Welcome.** The Chair, Hannah Reynolds welcomed the community and took additional items for the agenda.
2. **Exeter City Council Initiatives:** Dawn Rivers, Social Inclusion Officer for ECC announced that, further to the Council's Neighbourhood Initiatives programme it had been agreed by Council to allocate £2,500 to the Neighbourhood Partnership to further the neighbourhood's agreed Vision Statement and Action Plan priorities.
3. **Transfer of Community Centre to community management:** Following protracted negotiations with DCC, a lease agreement is finally being negotiated to transfer the Centre to community management. HR spoke about activities planned for the Centre – social enterprise hub, community meeting space, office rentals for agencies and community groups, a base for agencies such as community police – most importantly, a branch doctors' surgery run by Barnfield Hill surgery. An updated detailed business plan is being prepared. A lottery bid for refurbishment funding of £750,000 was submitted (in partnership with Devon County Council) in December and following a successful telephone interview we are to receive a full assessment visit on 15th Jan. The outcome of our bid will be known by the end of March 2008.
4. **Housing Developments:**
  - Episcopal. Building work currently taking place
  - Lower North St – one site due to start, one planning application for 11 flats being made by Stonham Housing.

Concern expressed about the levels of lorry traffic; need to be vigilant due to many developments in operation all at the same time.

Concern also at more housing under Iron Bridge. Already problems with noise and other anti-social behaviour, such as persistent drug dealing. Ray Faichney,

Neighbourhood beat manager explained the approach the police are taking to address these issues. He urged that we report anything suspicious.

Concern also expressed that Exeter City Council had missed many opportunities to request Section 106 funding specifically for community facilities from the developments in this area. At Exeter City Council Communities First meeting in Nov 2007, Leader of Council had indicated that this would now happen.

'Change of use' planning permission has been granted to create a hotel at the bottom of St Anne's Well/Lower North St. Permission also granted for 11 one-bedroom flats at junction of Lower North St and Paul St.

**Actions :**

- 1. Agreed to request overt policing in iron bridge area, with mobile camera to deter anti-social behaviour.**
  - 2. Request through our councillors that Section 106 agreements be levied by ECC for community facilities for all qualifying developments in our area.**
  - 3. Request that ECC send through to the Partnership details of any planning applications in the area.**
- 5. Introducing Businesses and Community Groups in the area.**

**Exeter YMCA (key points noted only, for full notes contact Peter Stephenson)**

Peter Stephenson, Chief Exec of Exeter YMCA spoke about its work. The YMCA organisation was founded 160 years ago. The centre on St David's Hill houses 31 homeless young people aged 16 -29, the majority under 21. Helps young people stand alone and contribute to society. No drugs are allowed on premises and no class A drug users accepted.

Half the young people currently at the Centre are either in college or employed – signifying a major achievement by young people and the Centre over the last 4 years. Staffed until midnight.

Questions and comments from the meeting requested more information about the nature of the support for the young people and also queried why there was no staffing cover overnight when the possibility of anti-social behaviour would be more likely to take place than in the daytime. PS responded that this was a resource issue but that the CCTV camera for YMCA will pick up any anti-social behaviour at the Centre entrance. PS stressed that not all anti-social behaviour should or could be attributed to YMCA and other hostels. In some senses they were easy targets when in fact the anti-social behaviour may be from other groups e.g. students.

PS stressed that the YMCA was keen to work together with residents and any resident wishing to report anti-social behaviour overnight would be welcome to ring (the next morning, please so that CCTV camera can be checked) and to

give a description of the young person/people and, if appropriate, action can then be taken.

## 6. Community Items for Info

- *St Clements Lane.* Following an attack on a young woman in St Clements Lane before Christmas, St David's Neighbourhood Partnership had asked the Council to improve the lighting. This was being done this week. Dawn Rivers was asked to pass on thanks to Council officers for their prompt action.
- *Sponsorship.* Local resident Christine Fraser asked for sponsorship for the Taunton Half Marathon, in aid of Shelter Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2008.  
<http://www.tauntonmarathon.co.uk/>  
**Action: sponsorship form to go onto SDNP website**
- *Enforcement of residents parking in Looe Road/Bonhay Road area.* Continuing problems of people parking without permits and residents with permits having nowhere to park. Police had been targeting the area for parking tickets to deter, and will continue to do so.
- *St David's Station.* Following complaints about litter etc in the station area, SDNP committee members had met with the station manager. Following the meeting, pavements were being repaired, the University was to do a one off clearance of weeds and litter in the area and bike racks are to be provided outside the station. First Great Western has also joined the St David's Neighbourhood Partnership. The Station Manager requests that any immediate concerns re safety in the area should be reported to station staff. More general concerns should be reported to SDNP who will take up with First Great Western.

Concerns about rail track maintenance, noise at night etc should be reported on the **Network Rail Helpline 08457 11 41 41.**

**The meeting closed at 8.15pm**