

## A VISION FOR ST DAVIDS



Agreed by the community at the SDRBA  
meeting on  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2004  
at  
Exeter Community Centre

**This Vision Statement has been prepared after consultation with the residents, businesses and elected members of St David's. The discussions began in January and the Vision Statement was approved at a meeting in March 2004. It is now time to start moving towards achieving our collective vision for the area.**

### **Our Vision Statement**

- 'The area of St David's is a community of people living in mutual respect of each other, irrespective of diversity
- The style of buildings and the built environment blends the best of the new with the best of the old and there is balance between the buildings and green space
- Residents care about and for each other and the area they live in
- Community facilities and services have been developed in consultation with local people and meet their needs.'

In detail.....

### **Planning & Residential Development**

- There should be an integrated, strategic approach to whole area, taking account of 'what is here' when planning 'what is to come'
- That all development conforms to the highest ecological standards
- Building design in Exeter and St David's should aim at excellence – taking inspiration from the best that European cities have to offer

### **The Environment – Built & Natural**

- Green space is a valuable resource and existing areas must be protected and new areas promoted
- St David's should be at the forefront of environmental, inner city waste management and recycling
- The history of St David's should be celebrated, reflected in development and enhanced with new, striking street architecture and landmarks

### **Crime & Community Safety**

- There must be a balance between the fear of crime and awareness of crime
- Anti-social behaviour impacts upon the community more than serious crime and all steps must be taken to minimise its impact
- All members of the community will take ownership for the reporting of crime and maintenance of community safety
- St David's Residents & Businesses Association supports Neighbourhood Watch

### **The Community Centre**

- A Community Centre is needed and should be made available at all times for all members of the community
- The Community Centre should offer facilities and activities to encourage the maximum usage, particularly for the young and Senior Citizens

### **Parking**

- It is recognised that parking in St David's is limited
- Resident's parking requirements must be considered as a focal part of an integrated, city wide transport strategy
- Traffic calming measures must be considered for the St David's 'spine'

## **Background To Our Vision For St David's**

- 'The area of St David's is a community of people living in mutual respect of each other, irrespective of diversity
- The style of buildings and the built environment blends the best of the new with the best of the old and there is balance between the buildings and green space
- Residents care about and for each other and the area they live in
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## **Detailed comments and feedback from groups**

### **Planning & Residential Development**

- Joined up development – a strategic approach is required for the whole area
- To conform to the highest ecological standards
- Government policy is to develop with "High Density" housing in inner city, but we are primarily a residential community which leads to tensions regarding planning policy and the community
- Clarification required regarding guidelines and the definition of "High Density"
- Planning Guidelines emphasise importance of community consultation – so consult!
- Family housing needed in balance (harmony) with single person housing
- The aspiration should be for quality materials and local labour
- Mix of architecture – quality, contemporary versus pastiche, striking architecture, public art and landmarks, as well as reflecting features of the historic in the new
- Integrated approach required, with opportunity for input from all members of the community regarding future development strategies
- Conservation Area Review urgently required
- More opportunities for privately owned businesses
- Community development by and for the community

### **Parking**

- Liaison with University needed to ensure that current policies are applied and adhered to
- If there is a trend to 'car-free developments' then provision must be made for transportation and for the impact upon on street parking
- People will bring cars anyway!
- People in car-free developments will have visitors, who need to park somewhere too
- We live between two stations; let's have joined up services of buses and trains
- One bus route from St David's Station to City Centre also go over Iron Bridge
- Traffic calming particularly at school times, and less opportunity for people to park illegally near the shop etc
- Congestion charging – long term solution?
- 20mph speed limit along St David's Hill from 'City Gate' to junction with Hele Road

## **Crime and Community Safety**

- There needs to be balance between fear of crime and awareness of crime
- Focus needs to be on day and late night antisocial behaviour, street drinking, vandalism etc rather than on more serious crime (as there isn't very much of that!)
- Neighbourhood Watch - could these schemes be extended?
- New Development - Police Architectural Liaison Officer to review major schemes in our area to maximise community safety opportunities.
- Marwood House concerns - positive action, not just talk
- Encourage "people looking out for each other"

## **Community Centre**

- We need one – all times of day and evening, for variety of uses
- Needs better use of facilities and more outreach into the community to encourage people to come in
- Could be a centre of excellence, inclusive
- Must be facilities for Senior Citizens
- Weekly lunches in Community Centre ended in November. Please can these be reinstated and/or replaced by other activities?
- A meeting place for all ages / groups of people in the community is needed. More young people encouraged – a better mix
- Not necessarily the existing building, but sited centrally, preferably on the same site
- Educational activities should be included
- Community needs to be involved in planning and design development of Community Centre Site
- Joint agency schemes should be sought / considered, to make proposals more economically viable eg
- Health Centre / Doctors' Surgery
- Other statutory and / or voluntary agencies looking for a site? Some private businesses included?
- Centre needs to be financially viable – get feasibility study on possible uses – local authority funded/lottery funded

## **Environment – Built and Natural**

- More green areas – open spaces & trees – and keep those we have
- Make the most of historical aspects and features– St David's is on the route tourists walk and drive to the city centre
- Treat the area as a residential and not a town centre
- Better refuse collection
- Better education regarding refuse banks and recycling – no bins outside on non-bin days or increase collections, big street corner bins etc
- Law enforcement of existing regulations
- Noise pollution reduction and noise vandalism elimination
- Graffiti – graffiti buster team – community service order or local authority funded, with 'at cost' contribution from business and residents
- Street lighting – yes, regarding community safety, but not lighting up the sky at night
- Suggestion of Public toilets – pay as you use, linked to local businesses
- Civic pride and cleanliness
- Community spirit

- To become a European model conforming to the highest standards of excellence and ecological standards
- Needle Bins
- Tidy up and conserve local churchyards
- Provide local open spaces, some small with seats and trees others with thoughtfully designed multi-use areas – and use public art
- Create a really "smart" area with sympathetic design of buildings and space to give the essence of Victorian architecture with modern living
- Create meaningful joined-up development with all the agencies, such as having a St Davids Health centre, post office, thriving community centre and school in modern facilities in line with being in a conservation area
- Encourage safer environment for more people to walk on the streets all times of day e.g. dog walking. More people on streets means greater safety for pedestrians
- More seats / memorial seats
- Something beautiful or perhaps stunning in a quality sort of way, outside St David's station as a landmark.

## The things we value about St David's

"...the sense of community"

"...the architecture of the area"

"The iron bridge"

"...proximity to the City centre"

"St David's Church & churchyard"

"Peep Lane and the walk down to the river"

**Little Silver**

"All the little backwaters off the main St David's Hill"

**'The central position we are in within the city, the busy, city feel'**

"The mixed nature of residents, housing and shops"

'The brewery and St Anne's Well'