

**St David's Neighbourhood Partnership AGM 22 January 2014
Held at Exeter Community Centre – approx. 40 people attending.**

AGM Agenda item and notes	Actions
1. Welcome and Chair's Report – by Acting Chair Christine Fraser	Noted
2. Treasurer Report – income £360, expenditure on newsletter paper, printing and distribution, cartridges and stationery £586. Reserve £5,000.	Noted
3. Election of committee 2014 Kelvin Lacy – Chair to 2014 was thanked for his work in establishing SDNP as a vibrant community association in St David's	Christine Fraser, Hannah Reynolds, Gina Richards, Kelvin Lacy, Penny Dodd, Stuart Crewes, Belinda Dillon, Katy Wicks elected unanimously to serve on SDNP committee for 2014
Residents General Meeting	Actions
<p>Neighbourhood Policing – report by Sarah and Marina Police Community Support Officers for St David's.</p> <p>Drug dealing and drug taking has declined after eviction and closure of one property in St David's – another court action pending for another property. Graffiti – action taken to remove graffiti and has not so far reappeared.</p> <p>Community question: where to report noisy neighbours – parties etc? Answer – Environmental Health at City Council. Exeter City Council has Anti-Social behaviour officer who can talk to letting agent/landlord etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents requested to call 999 if see drug taking/dealing • Call 101 if you have info re drug activity – can make it clear you want to remain anonymous. Also call 101 for any graffiti or other anti-social behaviour. If no calls, police must assume all okay. Never mind calling more than once, if it bothers you, keep calling. – or can email via police website and PCSOs will contact you. Calls are only 15p from landline or mobile.

<p>National House – clock tower roundabout Steve Strang, Estates Manager of Exeter College showed design for National House refurb. Residents concerns had been noise from air conditioning units, rubbish collection, blank wall ends (what will happen there?) and particularly the narrowness of pavement plus congestion by groups of students may cause accidents. SS explained that rubbish and plant stored in basement, tank removed from roof and roof filled in but no higher and redesign has relieved narrow pavement somewhat. Solar panels planned for roof. Not known yet re blank wall ends colour palette – some form of branding but will take account of aesthetics and conservation area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exeter College will be putting planning application in Feb/March and have spent time talking with community groups about the proposals • Construction will start March and end in time for Sept 15 intake – construction vehicles will not park on road – however some disruption when Highways requirement to resite pedestrian crossings is actioned. • Concern expressed by residents re traffic flows on roundabout. Noted by SS. However much re traffic is Highways requirements not Exeter College decision.
<p>Traffic Calming James Anstee of Devon County Council spoke re the progress for traffic calming on St David’s Hill. Reported that safety audit of agreed scheme had raised issues re safety and access for large vehicles to Richmond Court. Also developer has recently submitted proposals for completing the entrance to Richmond Court. So agreed scheme now not possible. Residents concerns about the delay and that money for scheme (£15,000) should be ring-fenced until another scheme is agreed elsewhere on the Hill. Particular concerns re taxis speeding up and down Hill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Jill Owen will write to emphasise need to ensure funds are still available next financial year • Proposal that SDNP write formally to request that SDNP receive the £15,000 now and hold in reserve account until new scheme agreed • James Anstee commissioning traffic surveys and desire lines of pedestrians to determine next actions.

<p>RHS Award Christine Fraser SDNP Acting Chair – St David’s had won Silver Pennant in 2013 as a ‘village’. In 2014 there will be more clusters of Exeter areas entering, as well s St David’s e.g. St James, Sylvania. In 2015 communities will challenge Exeter City Council to enter Northernhay Gardens and Rougemont Gardens into the RHS main scheme which will be major step forward. Community activity this year = Mulberry Garden in Community Centre, Little Silver, St David’s Churchyard.. Thanks to Rotary for generously donating trees in St Barts where trees dying due to dangerous dog attacks on bark of trees.</p>	Noted
<p>Volunteering Christine Fraser outlined the opportunities to get involved as a volunteer in the neighbourhood – gardening, St David’s churchyard, delivering newsletters, serving on SDNP committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents invited to sign up for volunteering activity – more info by request from info@sdnp.org.uk or on SDNP website or in newsletter
<p>Past Present Future Project Hannah Reynolds , Treasurer reported on a joint community engagement via creative arts project with Exeter Community Centre, funded by People’s Health Trust. Memories of those living in the neighbourhood had been recorded by volunteers - some going back to before 1939. Soundscape of sounds of the area recorded, creative arts workshops, exhibitions in Centre, storytelling chair in Mulberry Garden, time capsule buried. Memories will be held in permanent SDNP archive and comments will be used to build priorities for future of St David’s to 2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final exhibition of Past Present Future memories and artworks in Exeter Community Centre week of 21 June. • Residents invited to give more memories and also lend artifacts of the area for the exhibition • Next SDNP meeting will be held on 24 June – middle of exhibition week

<p>Residents Discussions – Priorities for action in coming year and looking forward to 2020. Groups discussions re priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summaries submitted – appendix to these notes
<p>Date of Next SDNP General Meeting – 24 June at Exeter Community Centre – meeting plus residents special viewing Past Present Future exhibition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All invited to next meeting 24 June.

Appendix 1

Priorities for SDNP in 2014 and beyond

Summary of comments from community group discussions at AGM 22 Jan 2014

<p>Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more student accommodation • HMOs – increasing numbers of HMOs (Dinham Road) is a concern
<p>Anti-social behaviour</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubbish on pavement below North Bridge Inn – put on wrong days • Sort out bins/rubbish in houses near community centre and on Richmond Road • Litter and rubbish put out on wrong days in bags that split • Good work by police re drugs please keep drug dealers away
<p>Traffic Calming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic speeds on St David’s Hill (both directions and taxis in a rush. • Stop Taxis speeding down St David’s Hill • Stop Speeding traffic • Calm traffic before it gets down to the Iron Bridge • Narrow St David’s Hill at Hele Road to discourage traffic coming down Hill at all – that was what we said we wanted initially • Traffic calming St David’s Hill • If the traffic calming of St David’s Hill reveals that levels of traffic have increased, what will be done?

Built and Green Environment, public realm, streetscape and getting rid of eyesores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community initiative for St David's Hill – spray and pull weeds in pavements, especially St David's Hill • Bus shelter opposite National House – lopsided rubbish bin on pole • Beside fish and chip shop – boulder and grass area is a complete mess • Paul St car park – mirror windows and red paintwork thick with grime • Street signs and street furniture – minimizing and rationalizing and considering impact and aesthetics – this is conservation area • If developer is completing Richmond Court area, could we have some more trees in the pavement planned in to the completion • Permaculture in some of the green spaces such as in Northernhay • Pedestrianise the Iron Bridge – make it a 'living bridge' like the HiLine in New York
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinking like a 'village' • Neighbourhood Events for community cohesion – using Community Café? • More community engagement
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More local health services • Doctor's surgery x3
Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring back community shop • Support local businesses • Make sure café in Community Centre stays • Encourage flourishing shops and businesses x 3 • Loyalty cards to link up small independent businesses •
Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sort out top floor of community centre
Highways and pavements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition of the road – potholes!! • More concentration on aesthetics of conservation area in completion of Richmond Court entrance. Can we keep the granite setts at the entrance please – or have them for the Mulberry Garden in Community Centre?

Note: the groups also submitted a summary of community comments from a 'Neighbourhood Gathering' in Haldon Road in November 2013. The edited text from this summary is below.

Things people said they like about Haldon Road ('Tops'): Nice people, good community, friendly neighbours, close to town, good location, near river and green areas, nice architecture, sense of history, can be peaceful, no traffic, the Community Centre.

Things people said they don't like ('Pants'): Old furniture and rubbish left in gardens. Need more community events. Rubbish and waste in the street. Too many bins. Hearing every noise from other flats. Too much scaffolding left up for long periods. Sometimes antisocial noise and behaviour and not knowing what to do about it. Rubbish on the pavement. View out window: bins, rubbish, decaying houses, car park. Too many satellite dishes. Cold, damp houses. Parking permits! Not many children. [Actually, several young children live on Haldon Rd--need more ways for them to meet?]

Ideas put forward re the above:

Getting a group together to clean up rubbish, maybe working together with Council on this.

Put flowers and pots and tubs of plants in gardens and maintain them.

Posting events on social media. Webpage with notice board. Physical notice board. Haldon Road newsletter?

Plan a street party for 2014!

People with vehicles helping those without vehicles to take 'bulky waste' to the tip.

Ask Council to put Haldon Rd on list of locations to which it regularly sends a vehicle to collect bulky waste free of charge.

Writing to all residents and property owners to encourage co-operation in taking care of the road and its houses, including specific suggestions based on our experience of living here.

Creating directory of landlord contact details so can be contacted in emergencies or if there are concerns about properties. Or a 'responsible person' in each house to contact.

Meeting with Council's Conservation Officer re help conserving buildings. (For anyone not aware, Haldon Road is officially a Council-designated 'Conservation Area'.)

Attend next St David's Neighbourhood Partnership meeting (Jan 22nd, 6pm, Cmty Centre) and speak about Haldon Rd initiatives.

Car sharing; bike racks; talk with University re car-hire/car-share for students to reduce no. of cars parked on road.

Creating a directory of residents' contact details (voluntary) and perhaps any services offered.

Considering again the possibility of having a Neighbourhood Watch (a formal or informal one?).

Writing to landlords (in friendly positive way) to encourage good property maintenance and management, for sake of quality of life not only for tenants but for everyone living on the road, with simple suggestions that make a difference.

Circulating contact numbers re moving one's car in order to try to free up those pesky little half-spaces which sometimes bung up the road.

What about also circulating contact numbers of those who would be willing to come along/give support when someone is experiencing an antisocial noise or behaviour problem and would like some help approaching the person/s concerned?

Generally ...While Haldon Road has had a longstanding reputation as just 'low-end short-term rentals' or a 'no-go area' with a natural resistance to community-building, there is in fact a varied mix of people on the road, many who have lived here a long time and many who care about a good quality of life, and neighbours here are starting to connect and communicate more, both socially and regarding shared concerns such as property maintenance, drug activity, crime prevention, streetscape and environment.