

St David's Neighbourhood Partnership

Annual General Meeting 17 January 2017

Approx 30 people attending – signed attendance book

Apologies: P Dodd, S Curtis, L Keen, K Lacy, Cllr Lamb, G Richards

Chaired: Christine Fraser

1. **Chair's Report** – copies circulated. Chair outlined key achievements (report appendix 1)
2. **Election of committee** to serve for one year as per constitution – C Fraser, B Dillon, S Curtis, J Liggins, S Crewes, K Lacy, G Richards – elected en bloc by vote. Christine Fraser highlighted opportunities of committee membership and open offer to residents, group reps to join the committee.
3. **Treasurer's report** – copies circulated. As agreed at last AGM, accounting year had now moved from calendar year (Jan/Dec) to financial year (April/March) so report was on 15 months accounts. Opening bank balance 1/1/16 was £4,269. Closing balance £15,388 – all but £83 is restricted income. Treasurer said that income had increased significantly in this period due to project grants from local authorities, Lottery and People's Health Trust.

AGM Closed 6.50pm

Open Meeting

1. Thanks

Cllr Jill Owen (retiring from Devon County Council) in April and Hannah Reynolds (retiring from SDNP committee) were thanked for all their hard work and commitment to the community of St David's.

2. Projects Reports

Projects taken forward this year by SDNP committee to fulfil the Vision 2020 statement agreed at last AGM Jan 16. Note: Actions to combat and deter anti-social behaviour and drug crime featured highly in the priorities for 2017/18 in the Vision 2020 statement so projects a, b and c below.

a. Community Warden Scheme

Thanks to start up support from local authority and People's Health Trust the scheme was now up and running, monitoring anti social behaviour in St David's. 52 incidents reported in first month, now reducing as result of scheme. Questions from the floor about the range of the community warden scheme (Exe St, Bonhay Road to St Clements Lane, St David's Hill and 'rib roads' between Bonhay Road and Queen St – i.e. St David's Neighbourhood Partnership area. Question - whether it would be possible to extend the scheme further than SDNP area. Discussions are ongoing with community

associations in other areas of Exeter who would like to cost and start a similar scheme Community warden Brandon spoke of the role of the warden to gather evidence for police of asb and drug dealing and to provide information and support to residents experiencing asb.

- b. Community Liaison with University – a meeting had been held with Vice Chancellor to air residents concerns re expansion of student housing in St David's. SDNP had proposed the setting up of a forum by VC and CEO City Council to achieve dispersal of student developments across the city to help achieve 'balanced communities'. Meeting with officers planned for late Jan 17 with University officers to further exchange information and develop partnership working. Advised that if there were problems with asb re students, this should be reported to university estate patrol as well as police as university penalises students for asb.
- c. Public Spaces Protection Order
Consultations had been held with the community in autumn 2016 on proposals for a PSPO for the SDNP area. Exeter City Council Scrutiny Committee had now approved the scheme. Full Council will consider the PSPO in Feb 17. Question re the purpose of a PSPO. Response was that it was designed to make prosecution of asb easier for police – enabling them to act on the street re fines and/or impose Acceptable Behaviour Orders of offenders.
- d. Community Centre
Community Centre trustee HR reported that the Centre had been open 4 years was now very busy. A new Centre Manager, Ramona Nash, had been appointed in Jan 17. Volunteers to staff reception or help in the garden always welcomed. A sensory garden area had been created , with clay wall tiles and wooden planters made in the Centre's pottery by residents and St David's school and planting by garden volunteers. HR thanked all volunteers and staff for their commitment to the centre – particularly Peter Lavers Mason for his building work to maintain the Centre as a vibrant community hub. Next project in Centre is to redevelop the top floor for tenants. Fundraising is beginning and the meeting was asked to pass the word to potential tenants that this will be a great place to base your offices.
- e. Big Bash Festival
Linking school, residents, groups, Community Centre, businesses in a Celebration of this area as a great place to live, work and visit. June 17. Intend to apply to close Iron Bridge and St David's Hill for one day and celebrate together, also raising money for charity. Need sub committee to organise. Volunteers asked to sign up to help.
- f. Great British Spring Clean
Will be Sunday 5 March. Volunteers needed to co-ordinate small areas of clean up e.g. street or row of houses – picking up litter, tidying front garden

etc. We have a new street cleaner, John, now that Bob has retired. Thanks to Bob for his cheerful attitude and hard work.

Question – junction Exe St and Dinham Road waste ground now v overgrown – no-one knows who owns it. What can be done to upkeep it? Response – probably unregistered land – not Council – write to Council who are currently looking into other areas of seemingly unregistered land e.g. Jubilee steps.

3. Student Numbers

CLlr Sills reported on meeting with Vice Chancellor of University. VC said that University not planned to expand more than another 100 places – with 1200 students planned to live on campus. Meeting was first time that VC had met with local residents to discuss concerns and surprisingly nothing in University strategies re developing community links.

CF - another meeting would be v useful to explore further as idea of 'balanced community' is what many cities – particularly University cities – are striving for. For example St James neighbourhood plan defines balanced community as 'where no single group in community represents more than 50% of community'. Another meeting with University would take forward the idea that University, City Council, Developers and Residents reps need to get together to take a city wide approach.

4. Other news From Residents

Representative from City Gate Hotel reported that City Gate closed for refurb and would reopen as a Boutique Hotel with late licence application.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm with invitation to stay, meet neighbours and sign up for volunteering jobs.