

Open Community Meeting

**Wednesday 27th January 2010 at 7pm
Exeter Community Centre, St David's Hill**

Everyone in the neighbourhood is warmly invited to the meeting. We are having an Open Forum discussion, with Key Speakers on issues which may particularly concern you.

Refreshments from 6.30pm !



YES !! Our bid for £1.2m of funding to save the Exeter Community Centre has been successful !!
(see background article on page 2)

AGENDA	ITEM
6.30 -7pm	Refreshments Meet the Committee, friends and the neighbourhood policing team
7:00pm	Welcome
7:15pm	Transition Exeter — hear about what we can do to start the ball rolling in becoming a 'sustainable community'.
7:35pm	Neighbourhood Policing —News from our neighbourhood beat team.
7:45pm	Exeter Community Centre: The future of our centre (see article).
8:00pm	Community Priorities for the area as decided at the September 2009 open meeting.
8:15pm	Any Other Business
8:30pm	CLOSE OF MEETING

If you have any issues you want raised at the meeting, please telephone 01392 211554 and leave a message with your phone number and we'll get back to you— or go to 'Have Your Say' on our own St David's Website at www.sdn.org.uk

Visit our website anytime for the latest updates on community news

www.sdn.org.uk

If you want to join the Partnership (annual membership is just £3 per household/ business) you can join at the meeting or fill in the form on the back of this newsletter.

Who Are We ?

The SDNP is a local group, open to all, which aims to promote the quality of life in the St David's area and to provide a collective 'voice' for the people who live and work here. Membership of the neighbourhood partnership is open to **anyone who lives and works in the St David's area** – from the Iron Bridge to the St David's Railway Station and all 'spine' roads in between. We also liaise with other active resident's associations around our area. We have no political affiliations.

How Can I Get Involved ?

Read on to get the latest news from our community and see the variety of things going on in our area.

Even better, come along to the next open meeting.

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HOT OFF THE PRESS !! THE COMMUNITY CENTRE SAVED!

After five years of negotiation DCC agreed in March 2009 to grant the building to our community based trust. However in November 2009 they gave SDNP and the Exeter Community Centre Trust just 21 days to secure the funding required for the £1.4m refurbishment the centre would need if it were handed over to the community. Failing this, the offer would be withdrawn and the building would be offered for sale on the open market.

....We're delighted to report that our bid has been successful

Successful Bid! We submitted a funding proposal to **Communitybuilders** (a government funded agency). This is for £1.2 million (60% grant, 40% loan). We had to make a presentation to a panel of 15 Assessors in London on 12 January and we're delighted to report that our bid has been successful!

This really was our last hope of saving the centre. Throughout December members of SDNP and the Exeter Community Centre Trust have worked flat out to gather all the information needed to complete the details needed by the **Communitybuilders** assessment officers who visited the St David's area twice in December.

Many local businesses have helped create our application, for example offering legal, surveying and business expertise. The successful outcome is the result of a huge effort by members of the community and a practical example of just what a strong community spirit can achieve. **Well done to everyone who has played a part in this long process.**



The community vision for the building is for a renovated multi-use centre. It will have a much needed branch doctors surgery, café, preschool, conference and meeting space, start-up 'hot desking' for businesses and services whilst retaining enhanced facilities for the Global Centre and the many clubs and associations that use the centre currently. The centre will be a registered charity run by a board of local trustees.

COME TO THE MEETING IN THE CENTRE ON 27 JANUARY, 7PM, TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FUTURE FOR THE CENTRE AND THE OUTLINE TIMESCALE

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES FOR 2010

In the open forum discussion at the AGM in September residents listed their priorities and these were then collated under five headings:

- Crime and Community Safety
- The Community Centre
- Planning and Residential Development
- The Environment – Built and Natural
- Parking, Cycling and Traffic

Read the full list of priorities on our website www.sdn.org.uk

The full list of comments and suggests made at the meeting and the actions agreed to try to achieve these priorities can be read in full on the SDNP website.

They will also be discussed at the January SDNP meeting. What came through strongly in all the comments is a shared vision for St Davids to be a pleasant, neighbourly and safe place to live and work, and a desire for the historic and residential nature of the area to be recognised and supported by the community and local and national authorities.

COMMUNITY CRIME FIGHTERS

Residents got together to combat the nuisance and asked the local authority for a review of the license.

Home Office Award for Local Resident

Local resident and founder member of the SDNP Hannah Reynolds, has won a Home Office Award for helping tackle crime and anti-social behaviour near her home on St Davids Hill.

Hannah and other residents were victims of anti-social behaviour that came predominantly from the North Bridge Inn pub in St David's Hill, under previous management. After many years of tolerant co-existence with the previous landlord, noise and anti-social behaviour in the area significantly increased after the pub changed hands in May 2009. Hannah even had a window smashed. Residents got together to combat the nuisance and asked the local authority for a review of the license. Following evidence

from Hannah, fellow residents, Exeter City Council, the police and local councilors, the pub lease was reviewed, the pub changed hands and is now run by local people Ben and Sarah— and life in the area has much improved.

Because of all the different parties involved Hannah is keen to stress that the award is really for the whole community

"The award is for the whole community, which is a strong one," she said. "We decided we would not put up with anti-social behaviour like that. The outcome is a boost for people power."



Hannah was nominated for the Award by our local Home Office 'Community Crime Fighter' (Christine Fraser). There are now nearly 4,000 CCFs across England and Wales. The scheme was set up following the publication of "Crime & Communities" Review by Louise Casey (report available on www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk). Christine attended a 2-day residential training course in Chester in November to learn more about the tools and powers that the police and councils have to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. She has been invited to apply for a Home Office grant for two Notice Boards for our neighbourhood - we expect a decision in February and, if successful, to purchase the Notice Boards in March. More in the next edition.

ST DAVID'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our local primary school had an OFSTED inspection in November. The inspectors reported on the good care and guidance given to the children and how this is appreciated by parents and pupils. Francesca Brinicombe (the new headteacher, appointed two years ago) was commended for her determination to raise standards and for her professionalism in leading the school in its change from a first school to a full primary school. Overall the school was rated as satisfactory.

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We understand that negotiations to complete the housing development surrounding the school are underway. Over the summer holiday period in 2008 the original developers stored building and waste materials on the school playing field shortly before going into administration. The new developers will be required by the local authorities to reinstate the playing field.

ST DAVID'S NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Hello from your Neighbourhood Policing Team,

St Davids continues to be a very safe place to live. The team have worked hard to reduce the crime rate and we are currently seeing the lowest crime rates in the area for several years. Compared to this time last year the crime rate has dropped **63.8%**, so a big thank you to all of you for helping with that.

Although these figures are very reassuring I still believe we can make improvements and reduce them even more, for this I would like the help from the community.

Vehicle crime (thefts from vehicles) has risen very slightly in the last month, only by a couple of incidents, but still it is an area to watch.

It is our aim to provide this newsletter and regular monthly updates to everyone in St Davids, if you would like to receive these updates please send me your email address at christopher.leisk@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

We have obtained interim ASBO's on 6 people who live or who are often in St Davids, the interim orders are temporary orders to address their behaviour whilst we apply for full orders. They were chosen as they have been identified as people whose behaviour has the biggest impact on your lives. Full details of the orders, including the prohibitions, can be found on our website at www.devon-cornwall.police.uk Just visit the St Davids pages under the "Your local policing team" section.

Finally many thanks to everyone who sponsored the team in this year's commando challenge. We raised over £500 for the British Legion and the Air Ambulance. We had a great time doing the event.

COMMUNITY MESSAGING

The police are setting up a local community messaging system to enable them to circulate information directly into the community via email to be forwarded. For example they recently circulated a warning of a bogus caller in the area. If you'd like to get these emails, and are a SDNP member, you can add your email address to the SDNP membership mailing list.

EXE STREET DERELICT SITE

...since then the derelict site has become increasingly overgrown

The Papermakers Arms premises in Exe Street were demolished some 4 or 5 years ago, without planning permission. Since then the derelict site has become increasingly overgrown and the boarding has been forced open giving access to the site. It is always a worry that such sites have the potential to become the focus for anti-social behaviour and drug taking, as well as being an eyesore within neighbourhood. Our local councillor, Stella Brock passed on our concerns to the planning department and received the following response.

"As far as I am aware no new application has been submitted for the site. The scheme that was approved sought permission for a four storey building to provide seven self-contained flats, pedestrian access to highway and associated works. The relevant decision notice was dispatched on the 19 July 2007 and the application number was 07/1027/03. With regard to the condition/appearance of the site I will forward your email to Sara Jenkins, the LPA's enforcement officer. Depending on the severity of the condition it maybe something we could pursue in an attempt to improve its appearance."

SDNP will continue to press for this site to be made secure and tidy.

UPDATES FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

LIGHTING ON MILLERS CROSSING - WORK NOW UNDERWAY

..each hand rail has to be fitted with 82 LED arrays, with all the additional wiring, drilling and other modifications needed

Work is underway fitting new LED lights to the bridge and you may have noticed the electrician working away in the cold and damp weather of the last few months. He has our sympathy – and thanks! DCC's Street Lighting Engineer, Stephen Dommatt, tells us that the job has proved to be a complicated task as the replacement fittings are a different size from the original fittings. In work terms this means that each hand rail has to be fitted with 82 LED arrays, with all the additional wiring, drilling and other modifications needed. Also, the works have had to be carried out in such a way, that the whole site is left in safe condition at the end of each day, to ensure that the Bridge has remained open to the public 24hrs a day (which it has done).

So, although progress may seem slow, work is in progress and we should soon see the bridge lighting back to its full glory.

EMPTY HOUSES RICHMOND ROAD – EMPTY NO LONGER!

The two empty houses (empty for 15 year) were bought at auction in the summer by Acacia Renovations run by partners Tom Lang and Nick Gunn, who have a lot of experience in house renovation. They came along to our AGM in September to meet the community and outline their plans for the house. Work is now well underway and we asked them to update us on their progress. Nick writes:

but we'll also be providing work and income to over 30 local tradesmen and professionals

"These two fine old houses had seen better days and were on the "At Risk" register. We plan that these "derelict offices" will become houses once again (not hostels as some rumours have suggested). We really do want our houses to fit into what is a lovely area. No. 21 will become a 7 bedroom house with 4 shower rooms, a large kitchen, dining area and lounge. No. 22 is slightly smaller and will have 6 bedrooms. The extensions at the rear of the property will be used for kitchens, and bathrooms. If you'd like to see the plans they are on the council planning website under 09/1434/07 or 09/1433/03.

We are not a property company, and we do not intend to sell either property for at least 7 years. We are however (or at least try to be) a successful commercial operation. We will be spending over £250,000 on the renovation and will do most of the building work ourselves – but we'll also be providing work and income to over 30 local tradesmen and professionals. Our projected completion date is August 2010.

Market forces dictate that the finished accommodation will be for students and we make no apologies for this. What we can guarantee is that as experienced landlords, we advertise through the university, and that we take our responsibility to our tenants, our neighbours and our sub-contractors very seriously.

We have received a good deal of support from our immediate neighbours and would like to say we have made to feel right at home. Now back to the painting! "

SDNP is delighted to see these houses being brought back into use. It's good to have responsible owner and landlords in the area, so welcome to Nick and Tom. We shall all watch the renovations with interest over the next few months.

CLOSURE OF ROCKSIDE FOOTPATH

The Rockside footpath remains closed and the diversion in place. Despite our efforts we have no further details, although we understand that a housing association is negotiating to take over the development and work may soon start again to finish the incomplete houses on the development site. When the houses are completed the footpath will be reinstated.

BURY MEADOW PARK

In November the chair's of the three community associations in the immediate area around the park (SDNP, Bury Meadow Residents Association, West Country Housing Tenants Association) were contacted by Ian Cowe, Leisure Manager, Exeter City Council asking how the community felt the remaining £8,500 (of £63,000) for the park should be spent. The joint community request was for a set of conventional flat swings and a seesaw.

Look out for the new equipment being installed early in 2010.

TAKING ACTION

PROBLEM IN YOUR STREET ? REPORT IT ONLINE !

"FIXMYSTREET" is a 'MySociety' website which you can use at no cost to report problems such as blocked drain, graffiti, refuse/litter problems, street lighting, road signs or fly-tipping to Exeter or Devon councils. The website directs your report automatically to the appropriate council for you.

It's very easy to use - just go to www.fixmystreet.com and click on the tab to 'Report a Problem'. Then follow the instructions. FixMyStreet pass it on to the relevant council and you can track the progress of your problem. Once it has been dealt with you will see "(fixed)" beside your item in the list. This website also lists all the other problems that have been submitted to your council. AND there is a national list of councils with the number of problems, the number fixed and the number outstanding - so you can see how our neighbourhood/council compare to others!

Does it work? SDNP members have used it recently to report that some storm drains/gullies in St David's Hill were blocked and some street lights out nearby. Both problems were quickly resolved. So – if you're irritated by that hole in the road or that uncleared rubbish, why not give it a try?

TACKLING EXCESSIVE NOISE

Living in a city centre ward is inevitably noisier than living in some other locations – but excessive noise is just as intrusive in St Davids as in outer suburbs. The university, police and council are aware of the problems created by late night noise so do use the numbers listed in the section below to report incidents.

Building and repair work can also cause noise problems but planning permissions can include restrictions on the hours worked so that evenings and weekends are peaceful. Always ask for these to be applied if you respond to a planning application

In September Railtrack carried out some very noisy night-time work on the tracks between St Davids and Central station, without prior notice to local residents. Many were kept awake for several nights. SDNP wrote to Railtrack to complain on behalf of local residents. In their

reply Railtrack apologised but pointed out that they had no legal obligation to provide advance notification to residents – although they ask their contractors to do so as a courtesy.

If you are disturbed by work on the railway

Call the 24hour National helpline 08457 11 41 41

or you can write to: Network Rail Community Relations Dept. Western House, 1 Holbrook Way, Swindon SN1 1BD.

In all these cases, the more we make it clear there is a problem, the more likely it is to be taken seriously.

REPORTING CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Call the Police on 08452 777444

Always ask for a log number of the incident. If events aren't logged we do not have evidence on the number of incidents reported.

Our **Neighbourhood Beat Manager** Chris Leisk and **Community Police Support Officers** Marina Lawes and Kayleigh Dyer can also be reached on this number.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

EXETER CITY COUNCIL (noise, housing, graffiti)	01392 277888
POLICE (in emergency call 999)	08452 777444
COMMUNITY PATROLLERS (Exeter City Council out of hours service)	08453 511060
CRIMESTOPPERS (national report line)	0800 555 111
LOCAL COUNCILLORS PHIL AND STELLA BROCK (Devon County Council and Exeter City Council)	01392 277317

COMMENTS ON YOUR NEWSLETTER ?

Write to Kelvin Lacy, 4 Queens Terrace, Exeter EX4 4HR
or email: admin@sdpn.org.uk

This edition was generously printed by the Shilhay Community as part of their Meaningful Occupation Project for homeless or vulnerably housed adults.

PRIZE QUIZ !

Our prize quiz is open to all in St David's. Send your answers to "St David's Quiz, 2 St David's Hill, Exeter EX4 3RG" by 14 February. (You can also enclose your Membership subscription and form in the same envelope!)

All the answers will be found either in this edition of the Newsletter or they appear on buildings or structures somewhere in our neighbourhood. Good luck!

- 1 What is the name of the 'Community Crime Fighters' Award Winner ?
.....
- 2 What is the telephone number of Devon & Cornwall Police switchboard(not 999!) ?
.....
- 3 In which year was the Iron Bridge erected ?
.....
- 4 What is the name of the newly opened 'stores' on St David's Hill opposite Ivybank ?
.....
- 5 What is the name of the footbridge, opened in 2002, over the River Exe in Bonhay Road ?
.....
- 6 What is the name of the Exeter historian whose house in St David's Hill has a 'blue plaque' ?
.....
- 7 How many telephone boxes are there outside Exeter Community Centre ?
.....
- 8 What is the name of our Neighbourhood Beat Manager (police constable) ?
.....
- 9 What is the name of the Church next to St David's Primary School ?
.....
- 10 How much is the annual subscription to St David's Neighbourhood Partnership?
.....

Your Name:
Address:
Postcode:
Phone:

JOINING OR RENEWING MEMBERSHIP FORM

We welcome new members. Your membership donation is vital to help us pay the costs of hire of meeting rooms, running the website and printing the newsletter. This is a voluntary organisation.

Contact Name

Business/Group name (if applicable)

Address

Postcode Telephone

Email



The household, community group or business above applies for membership of the St David's Neighbourhood Partnership for 1 April 2009 – 31 March 2010 (Year 6).

Signed on behalf of household or business.....

Date

Number in household over age 18

Number in household under age 18

(numbers in household will only be used as a total area figure to show approx how many people the Association represents, as well as the number of households)

Please hand in this sheet at any SDNP meeting with **£3 membership fee for Membership Year 6**, or send to:
The Treasurer, St David's Neighbourhood Partnership
c/o 2 St David's Hill, Exeter EX4 3RG