Committee Members
St David’s Committee Members are:
Christine Fraser (Chair)
Hannah Reynolds (Treasurer)
Kelvin Lacy (Chair, Exeter Community Centre)
Gina Richards - Bonhay Road
Penny Dodd - Queens Terrace
Shaun Curtis - Little Silver
Stuart Crewes - Lower North Street
Belinda Dillon - Lower North Street
Jenny Liggins - St David’s Hill

Date of Future Meetings
Tuesday 13 September 2016
Tuesday 6 December 2016
AGM: Tuesday 17 January 2017

Key Roles
The Committee is looking for people who will help and support their work. Volunteers do not have to become full committee members. However, they can fulfil key roles. Anyone interested in the following should contact Christine Fraser:
admin@stdavidsneighbourhood.org.uk
Newsletter - Editor
Newsletter - Production
Newsletter - Distribution
Funding Raising
Treasurer

By sharing the responsibilities more widely across the Neighbourhood, the Committee will have more time to focus on key strategic issues which impact the area.

St David’s in Bloom
The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Britain in Bloom judging in Exeter starts in St David’s on Monday 4 July. Behind the scenes much work has been done by volunteer groups throughout the neighbourhood to help make St David’s a green and pleasant place for everyone.

• Little Silver and Russell Terrace residents have made amazing improvements to Little Silver Green. The blaze of colour when the tulips were in bloom was a real feast for the eye.
• Richmond Road Car Park is having a face-lift with Silver Terrace and Richmond Road volunteers removing dense bamboo from the border ready for a new tree and shrubs - and creating a Veitch Border by the new electric sub-station with plants funded by Western Power Distribution.
• The Mulberry Garden Volunteers at Exeter Community Centre have brought out the best in this garden and created a new Sensory Garden with funding from The People’s Health Lottery.
• Exeter Community Centre has commissioned hanging baskets which should be up by the time this Newsletter is published.
• Iron Bridge Planters - Mike Parker continues to maintain and encourage the Planter Container Garden under the bridge and keeping the area swept and tidy.
• The Greening of Richmond Road continues with support from university students and residents. Twenty new containers, planted up by children at the Food & Drink Festival in April, are now blooming along the street.
• St Nicholas Priory mini park ‘Friends’ are creating a new border to complement their 3 raised beds and the wisteria arch has been pruned and shaped.

Efforts are being made right across St David’s ‘Village’ and the results of the judging will be known on 6 October at the Regional Awards event being held this year at Taunton Racecourse.
Note: Exeter as a ‘small city’ is representing the South West in the National Finals of RHS Britain in Bloom and being judged on Monday 1 August.
ALL CHANGE WITH WARD BOUNDARIES...

New St David’s Ward
City ward boundary changes mean that St David’s Ward is now bigger and includes part of Alphington on the other side of the Exe and extends down past The Quay to Ducks Marsh. (right) is the best map we could find:

The reorganisation of city ward boundaries means that instead of two city councillors, each Ward now has three.

New St David’s Councillors
Following the local elections, the new Exeter City Councillors for St David’s are:

Cllr Lewis Keen
A student at Exeter University, Lewis is a keen and skilled sailor, competing in the RS Feva class world championship. He also has a passion for African wildlife (large wildlife). His recipe for success is hard work, some brain cells and initiative.

Contact: 07986 172359
Email: cllr.lewis.keen@exeter.gov.uk

Cllr Robert Lamb
Originally from the west of Scotland, Robert has lived in St David’s, Exeter since 2002. Robert teaches at the University, in the Politics department. His leisure activities include rambling in the countryside with his wife, Sarah; old films, football, chess, and cooking Italian food.

Contact: 07500 929710
Email: cllr.robert.lamb@exeter.gov.uk

Cllr Luke Sills
Luke hails from Hertfordshire and is a student at University of Exeter studying history and politics. His leisure activities include acting and pantomime and Luke enjoys travelling. He says that moving to Exeter is one of the best decisions he has ever made.

Contact: 07944 478592
Email: cllr.luke.sills@exeter.gov.uk

Devon Ward Boundaries

Cllr Jill Owen
This gets complicated. Devon Councillors serve two city wards. However, the city ward boundaries and now not co-terminus with the Devon county ward boundaries. Cllr Jill Owen continues to serve as the Devon Councillor and her catchment still includes St David’s Neighbourhood.

Contact: 01392 413075
Email: jill.owen@devon.gov.uk

Outgoing Councillors
Sarah Ward decided not to stand for re-election because of work commitments and we would like to express our thanks for all her work during her term of office.

It was a pleasure to work with Sarah and we hope she and her family will continue to be our neighbours in St David’s.

Stella Brock is known to just about everyone in St David’s Neighbourhood for her hard work, dedication to supporting community initiatives, supporting individual cases where people have been in difficulty, as well as serving the City as the Lord Mayor.

Stella, with Phil, has been an active and effective councillor serving St David’s community for many years and will always be welcome as a friend to local events in and around the Neighbourhood.
Two consultation meetings with local people have taken place to agree the wording for a Vision Statement of how it should be to live and work in St David’s by the year 2020.

The Vision Statement and the community’s priorities for action and change in the next 4 years were agreed in Feb 2016. (See the vision statement on the next two pages).

Funded by The People’s Health Trust, the ‘Visioning’ process began with a photo competition – photos of the things that residents valued most in the neighbourhood. Prizes were awarded for Under 16s and Over 16s age groups.

**Vision Statement 2020**

**Building our Balanced Community**

A steering group is in the process of putting together items for a small arts festival which is likely to take place between 11th and 16th October.

One of the main aims of the festival is to give creative people in the St David’s Area the opportunity to share their talents within the community.

We have already been in touch with a number individuals and groups who will be able to offer events across the arts spectrum. If you are a musician, an artist, a craftsperson, a photographer, a writer, a poet, a dancer, an actor and you have an idea for an event please call Roger Kaye on 01392 206625 or email: artsfest.steering@gmail.com
Vision Statement 2020 - Building our Balanced Community

We want St David’s Neighbourhood to be a place where people want to live and work, now and in the future.

· It should be a balanced community, reflecting the needs of the diverse community that lives here.

· It should be an active and engaged community, with housing that meets all needs, and architectural design that blends the best of the old with the best of the new.

· It should be a safe Neighbourhood with low levels of crime, drugs, litter and anti-social behavior, and with strong networks and groups that help the community to thrive.

Students pay no council tax yet use roads, parks, waste. Council tax payers subsidise them

Haldon road - issues with multiple occupancies - to much to-ing and fro-ing, lighting up cannabis in alleyways

Guided photography workshops
Community portrait classes and exhibit the results
Annual photography competition
‘Flowers and Gardens’ photography competition - with exhibition at RAMM in June
Community centre as a music venue?
Visual arts changing exhibition in The Mulberry Cafe?

Dog mess in Haldon Road
Discourage dog fouling - public info, campaign re hazards and effects

Support staff for HMOS - with wardens. Helps vulnerable people and neighbours
More pressure on landlords to take responsibility to ensure tenants do not make nuisance, to take care over who they let their properties to and to take action on problem tenants - particularly repeat offenders
Housing Associations taking responsibility for their tenants when shouting and other ASB

Integrated Health Centre in the Community Centre? E.g. GP visits. Clinics and more complementary practitioners
Promote The Mulberry Cafe as a ‘pit-stop’ along the Green Circle walking route
Encourage ‘gardening’ volunteers to enhance verges/pockets of green space and get fit at the same time

St Davids Priorities and projects mmap (2) (2) S2 (3)AS (2).mmap - 24/02/2016 - Mindjet
St Davids Priorities and projects

- Student housing
  - Priority: taking care over who responsibility to ensure tenants do not make nuisance, to take action on problem tenants particularly repeat offenders. To encourage more pressure on landlords to take responsibility for their tenants when shouting and other ASB.
  - Consider individual streets/roads removal of street furniture/period features.
  - Consider community centre music venue? E.g. GP visits, photography workshops.
  - Community portrait classes to exhibit the results.
  - ECC to cooperate with Exeter Private Rental Forum. Landlords to use Private Rental Forum’s Landlord Guide.
  - Consider clinics and more complementary practitioners.
  - Health and Wellbeing, People, Culture.

- Housing
  - Purpose built student housing too expensive for students - not solving the problem.
  - Consider areas where students are included in 25% cap not just students in HMOs.
  - Need an area somewhere else to take the pressure off city centre. e.g. on Exeter to Waterloo rail line e.g. Cranbrook.
  - Council to apply Housing at Risk Register rules.
  - Empty houses - 6 in Richmond Road area - just bought as investment.
  - Fine landlords, not tenants, for fly-tipping.
  - Council MUST adopt ‘Building Balanced Communities’ Policy like Nottingham City Council.
  - Consider individual streets/roads removal of street furniture/period features.
  - Streets, Transport, Speeding.

- Transport
  - Harlequin Centre car park, Richmond Road and Queen St, Haldon Road - clean up.
  - Rubbish. Re-educate landlords and tenants about fly tipping large items in the street - fridges, bookcases, cookers, sofas.
  - Drug dealing. Stop shouting in the early hours. Target drug dealing.
  - Parking. Enforce parking rules especially after 6pm. Much parking on double yellow lines at night.
  - Reduce light pollution. Exeter College: motorway type lights around skateboard areas.
  - Appearance. Old lamp posts in Haldon Road need repainting - Haldon Road residents should do this. DCC to consult before considering removing street furniture/period features.

- Speeding
  - Failure of 20 mph zone on St David’s Hill. Put parking both sides to slow traffic x 2.
  - Bonhay Road needs 20mph limit.
  - Plant more trees along roads.
  - A hazel near Iron Bridge west side.
  - Replace trees cut down for flood protection work.
  - Don’t let trees be removed for bogus reasons.
  - Create tree trail in St Barts and Bury Meadow - reduce anti-social behaviour and educate about trees.
  - Plant more trees along roads.
  - Don’t kill all free growing plants - trees and “weeds” are wild plants, adding beauty, greenness, oxygen, wildlife haven, insect diversity etc - for free.

- Green Spaces
  - St Bartholomew cemetery gate accesses flooded 80% of the year. Raise gates; raise ground level; paint gates; enhance this important space.
  - Put a wall end next to the slope beside the steps that lead from lower North St to Paul St - every time it rains it washes down onto pavement.
  - Pedestrianize Iron Bridge - make it a Green Bridge.
  - Turn mud slope beside Iron Bridge into path and steps - already used by pedestrians so make it safe.
  - Rockery and bushes by fish and chip shop at Clock Tower - it is mess.
  - Trees.
  - Don’t kill all free growing plants - trees and “weeds” are wild plants, adding beauty, greenness, oxygen, wildlife haven, insect diversity etc - for free.
BCHA (Bournemouth Churches Housing Association) are specialist housing and social care support providers, offering a wide range of help to people in vulnerable circumstances - whether facing homelessness, housing issues or needing support to help live more independently.

We have over 45 years’ experience of helping vulnerable people to access the right housing, health, learning and work opportunities.

During their stay at our projects in Exeter people will access a wide variety of services to support them in their recovery; we work closely with partner agencies.

Activities include a volunteer reward system, skills boosting groups, help with budgeting, regular house meetings and an allotment provided by Exeter City Council.

BCHA has a number of houses in and around Exeter to which people move, usually within 9 months, getting them used to independent living and to help them get into the private housing sector.

For more information visit: www.bcha.org.uk

YMCA Exeter supports over 70 young people like Laura with Accommodation, equipping them with the skills they need to lead more fruitful lives.

Laura was 16 when she left home due to physical violence and family breakdown. After spending time living under Exeter Quay Bridges, Laura found out about YMCA Exeter through the Youth Enquiry Service.

After becoming part of the YMCA community, Laura continued with her A-Levels and began attending our Community Job Clubs.

Here she received help with her UCAS application – successfully gaining her place at The University of Wales. Three years later and Laura is graduating with a 2:1 - she has begun her first job as a Support Worker for Autism sufferers.

From homelessness to graduation, Laura now lives in Wales, has a restored relationship with her family and is saving for her mortgage – achievements that she never thought possible.

YMCA Exeter supports over 70 young people like Laura with Accommodation, equipping them with the skills they need to lead more fruitful lives.

Transformation and Repair to St David’s Church

After some four years of grant applications, repair work on the west end of the church started in February 2016.

This included £198,000 of funding from the Heritage Lottery, £220,000 from the sale of property at Wrefords Close, and other grants from Pennon Environmental, Garfield Weston, Bernard Sunley, The Cooper Legacy and All Churches Trust.

The complex work includes underpinning the whole structure with 42 concrete piles to anchor into the bedrock below the church (somewhere between 2 metres and 8 metres depth) and then linking all the piles together with a concrete ring inside and outside the building.

There is a website diary with photographs of the work as it progresses which can be seen at: http://stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk and go to ‘Transformation’.
'Studentification'

The increasing number of student housing in St David's Neighbourhood area has been a concern for local residents who ask if the nature of the community in the Neighbourhood is now becoming unbalanced. St David's Neighbourhood Partnership committee has been asked to consider the issues involved and has put together this information for local residents, to give some more information about what's involved. The number of students attending universities has increased massively right across the world.

It is recognised that this can put considerable pressure on local neighbourhoods where private houses are let out to students and, in particular, where 'developers' and speculators get planning permission to put up large student blocks in residential areas.

Is this a problem? Yes if it causes neighbourhoods to become imbalanced or drives residents to move away, or if appropriate services and infrastructure are not provided alongside the developments, or if the developments/blocks are just plain ugly.

Recognising this issue, Exeter City Council commissioned Dr Darren Smith (Loughborough University), an expert on 'studentification', to produce a report. The Planning Department issued the report proposing that, to deal with the expected increase in student numbers, more student 'blocks, would be needed (these blocks are called Purpose Built Student Accommodation or PBSA). How would this work?

The increase from 2006, around the time that Point Exe in Bonhay Road was built, to 2030 is around 10,000. St David's Neighbourhood, which already has a very high proportion of students living here, is not protected from this. The Council puts a limit on the 'percentage' of students living in houses in any one area (usually 20%) but it does not count the number of students living in PBSA in that percentage.

Distribution: Students 'desire' to be near the main campus and therefore do not wish to 'travel' from wards further from the main campus. The clustering of students close to the main campus is illustrated in the Council's map below:

Petition to Government:

Faced with the existing number and planned increase of students living in our respective neighbourhoods, St David's and St James signed a petition to government with the City of Chester and others and this was supported by Ben Bradshaw MP. We also had a meeting with Ben Bradshaw who is now calling a meeting of all MPs from university cities to look at how the pressure on local people of high levels of student accommodation in their areas can be addressed.

Durham University:

There is also a major conference at Durham University, with the National Organisation of Residents’ Associations, on 20 July to look at the impact of studentification. A key issue is that the development of blocks is by private developers (not universities) and is for 'investment' purposes because they are able to charge high rents and achieve double-digit returns on their investment. This in turn creates a burden on students, particularly UK students, who are faced with these high rental costs. St David's Neighbourhood Partnership Committee is a member of the Joint Strategy Group with the university and is continuing to look into these issues.

Chair, SDNP
Exeter Community Centre, St David’s Hill

Now well into its third full year since refurbishment, use of the community centre continues to grow!

This year has already seen a 50% increase in use over last - providing more space, more often and to more people – plus the Mulberry Café serving great coffee and great food.

We’ve even become a polling station for two days in the year!

Acupuncture, Yoga, Art, a Book Club, a Choir – these are just a few of the many varied activities going on every day in the centre.

You may not know that the space in our centre is also used by many public and charitable organisations to run training and development programmes, reaching people of all ages and diversity in the local and wider Exeter area.

And much more besides. Over 200 individuals, groups and organisations came to us for the first time in the past year and then held events in the centre.

Back in 2010 our original plans to refurbish the top floor had to be put on hold due to the additional cost of unplanned structural work, and as a result has remained unused.

Graffiti Attacks

No-one can walk around Exeter without seeing graffiti on street furniture, public buildings, business premises and private houses. It is hugely expensive to remove and usually involves use of chemicals and specialist equipment.

St David’s Neighbourhood recently experienced a severe ‘graffiti attack’ which was extensive and very distressing for everyone. However, there is a partial solution to the problem where property is repeatedly attacked or where brickwork, painted surfaces or wood-work need protection.

Graffiti Magic protective coating is a clear solution which can be applied to brick, timber, render, concrete and metal using either a brush or a roller. It works.

In St David’s we have trialled this product over the past 2 years on public and private property and we have found that it does exactly what it says on the tin. Graffiti painted onto a protected surface is simply washed off with soap and water - no harsh chemicals involved - and householders and businesses can do it themselves, saving significant costs. It’s economical, too - 2.5 litre tin goes a long way. Importantly, it is also a deterrent. The quicker graffiti is removed, the less impact is has and the less gratification for the offender.

Exeter City Council is considering using this product. And there is an interesting video demonstration on Graffiti Magic website. http://graffitimagic.com

GROWING USAGE: Exeter Community Centre.

A fresh, detailed study into the refurbishment and restoration of the top floor was commissioned earlier in the year and the recommendations are very positive. Significant structural strengthening work will be required, but once completed, the additional space would provide further value and financial stability to the centre whilst re-uniting the entire building and completing the original project – as envisioned by the community.

The work will cost in excess of £600,000 - and the trust is now considering how best to raise the (rather large!) sum required.

Kelvin Lacy Chair, Exeter Community Centre