

**Newtown Community Association Committee Meeting
Monday 26th May 2014 at 7.30 pm, Belmont Hut
Minutes**

Present: Robin Attwater, Su Aves, Richard Branston, Derek Burnside, Jacky Cox, Jackie Holdstock, James Leigh, Hugh McCann, (Exeter University) Rory McNeile, Michael Parrott.

Apologies: George Dumble

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action by:</u>
1	<p>The Vision – agreeing steps</p> <p>Robin Attwater reminded us of the origin of ‘The Vision’; along with Ian Harrison he was one of the originators of the project. The current hut is not, and cannot be, DDA compliant – it therefore cannot serve the whole community. Sustainability, accessibility, flexibility, adequate storage and inclusion were all key factors in the new design, as was consistency in general style with the park’s original huts. Integrated solar pv roof tiles, plenty of daylight through sun tubes, external shading, wheelchair-accessible toilets, low-flow fixtures and fittings, rainwater harvesting, locally-sourced materials, energy-efficient fixtures and earth block walls were all design features incorporated to achieve those factors. If the full spec is to be achieved it will cost approximately £700,000. £100,000, conditional on the rest being raised, has been awarded through the New Homes Bonus scheme.</p> <p>Planning approval will expire in 2016. June 2015 is the target build start date.</p> <p>The Lottery ‘Reaching Communities’ fund will require greater evidence of the changes to users’ lives that the new hut would provide.</p> <p>Jacky Cox had done some research in 2012 on local community facilities that already exist, such as churches, community centres etc. which she re-presented. She had concluded there weren’t many local resources as accessible and flexible as the current hut provision is. There is anecdotal evidence that some groups had outgrown the hut, and some others had stopped using it because the heating was inadequate.</p> <p>Jacky has also done some work based on the ‘Mosaic’ and census data from 2001 to 2011. 52% of Newtown are Group E (students and young professionals), 14.8% are group F (lower paid jobs, receiving benefits, lack of family stability), 14% are group D (home and car owners). We have a higher-than-Exeter-average of Group E, and are the 2nd highest ward in the city with car-less households, and have the 4th highest proportion of non-white ethnic households. The number of student and ethnic minority households in the ward is rising.</p> <p>The Hut Users’ survey has been sent to all 20 regular hut user groups. At all the recent NCA Cafe events further questionnaires have been completed. There has been a 50% return, with 26 completed forms received. The annual footfall has been estimated at 18000, and regular users amount to 200 people weekly. Rory presented a summary of the responses received. The immediate access to the park is a recurring appreciated factor, as is the need for better disability access. Our local councillors will meet to discuss what part a new hut could play locally in meeting community needs, especially in light of the current round of funding cuts;</p>	

	<p>Rory will initiate.</p> <p>Hugh McCann commented on the part the university could play. The campus has teams of professional bid writers whose expertise might be available to shape a strategy for a second bite at the Lottery grant, focussing on long-term outlooks, and Hugh will explore whether we could access those resources, and report back to Rory. Contact with the Guild of Undergraduates will be valuable. Derek will initiate contact with the Guild and Community Action through Rachel Gillies, the incoming Guild Chair.</p> <p>Conversations with the CVS would also be valuable, which Rory will initiate.</p>	<p>RM</p> <p>HM DB</p> <p>RM</p>
2	<p>Review of minutes: All previously unapproved minutes were approved.</p>	
3	<p>Respect stall Su outlined the proposed schedule and volunteer timetable. Rory will agree the formulation of the questionnaire, and Michael will arrange printing. Derek will make some signage for our stall. Banners and promotional mugs have been ordered and will be on hand at the stall.</p>	<p>RM MP DB DB</p>
4	<p>Treasurer's report Hut booking revenue has caught up somewhat on last year's levels: it currently stands at £3476.</p>	
5	<p>Hut issues The piano room floor has largely been fixed. Our thanks to James. James will also kindly work on eradicating the ants that have been proving problematic. The door code will not change for June; Jackie will inform users. We clarified that if hut users wish to use bouncy castles they have to speak to the Parks Department. Ramps and rails – the rail is made, Mr Davis will fit it w/b 1st June. Derek will put the grab rails in cupboard 6 ready for Mr Davis to fit them.</p>	<p>JL JH</p> <p>DB</p>
6	<p>Future café programme 2014 Dog Walkers Café/Health Café Sunday 20th July, 2-5pm. George is unlikely to contribute to this café, as originally planned.. Sally Palmer might be able to help. – Rory will contact her. WW1 anniversary event, Sunday 3rd August, 2-5pm Food festival. Sunday 14th September, 12-4pm Halloween Café, Saturday 25th October, 5pm Craft Fair, Sunday 30th November, 11 – 4pm. Winter Warmer, Sunday 14th December, 6pm.</p>	<p>RM</p>
7	<p>AOB Su has put a bid in to the 'Cash for your Community' fund, advertised through the Express & Echo, for the Social Cafe. James informed us, in case of any future 'conflict of interest', that he is also involved in developing 'The Hall/Exeter', another community resource in the city.</p>	

	Su reminded us that Muriel Forrest is the NCA's Honorary Secretary.	
8	Dates of next meetings: Thursday 3rd July, 7.30pm, 10 Clifton Hill July Open Forum date 14th July, 7.30pm. AGM: Set as Sat 25th October 10.30am (the same date as the Halloween party)	