

# Backpage

## URBAN mediation project

### NEIGHBOURS IN CONFLICT OVER KIDS

Dee and Linda are neighbours in Hyson Green who found themselves at loggerheads over their children. Linda felt that Dee's grandson did not always behave respectfully towards her or her son. Dee felt that Linda used to pick on her grandson and did not like the fact that he would "stand up for himself". She was also concerned that racism may be a factor in the dispute.

The situation intensified and reached a stage where they were unable to talk about what was happening without things deteriorating into a heated confrontation. The conflict caused them both a great deal of stress and worry. They were also concerned about the effect it was having on their children.

"I know my grandson was guilty of some of the things he was accused of but not all of them," said Dee. "Some more neighbours got involved and it was getting really out of hand."

"My son was not wanting to go out and play," said Linda, "Neither I or my son would want to walk down the back alley or even put my bin out on a Wednesday. It was like 'if I have to pass that person I'm going to, I don't know, erupt with emotion'." said Linda. "It's so awful to have to bring your kid inside when he is being the victim of this sort of attitude."

Dee and Linda heard about Nottingham Mediation Service, a free service for neighbours in conflict and decided to give it a try as the situation between them was getting worse. Two trained mediators visited them separately in their own homes to find out what the problems were and explore ways of moving forward to a mutually agreeable solution.

Mediators do not judge people or take sides, but try to support both parties and open up communication between them. After several visits Dee and Linda decided they were ready to meet together with the mediators present in a 'round table' meeting. It is not necessary in mediation that neighbours meet each other if they do not wish to, many resolutions have

been reached through mediators acting as a go between. However a 'round table' meeting can really help to break down barriers and pave the way for future communication.

Dee remembers the meeting was difficult initially, "Some of the things my neighbour said got me angry and I decided that we weren't going to get anywhere because of her attitude in the first place. So I got up and walked out. But when I went through the door I had second thoughts about it and decided, well, the mediation went through all this trouble in trying to help us solve our differences and the problems we were having, so the least I can do is go back in and see what happens!"

The mediators supported both neighbours throughout the meeting and encouraged them to work through their initial reactions.

Ground rules were agreed and referred to during the meeting such as 'Listen to each other without interrupting', 'No verbal abuse or name calling', 'Be willing to answer relevant questions'.

**"If I have to pass that person I'm going to, I don't know, erupt with emotion."**

After a little while Dee and Linda began to talk more easily. Linda found mediation to be a very constructive approach to conflict...

"You've got to let off steam to find out where the root of the problem is and to be able to do that in a confined area. Things were confidential whatever you said but at the same time the mediators didn't take offence at anything you might say. They'd see a good side in it and some way to develop your own thoughts into putting it in a nice manner."

"The mediators were both there to listen to us talking and to find out what was really bugging us so much and how we should solve it by talking it through and agreeing to disagree on some things, apologise for the bad behavior that we'd both done, and making agreement to keep the peace really in the end."

Returning to the meeting and sticking with it paid off for Dee, "We drew up an agreement to sign that if each child should do something that we don't like then we can knock on each other's door and talk

about it." The agreement included amongst other things that the adults would speak politely to the children if further problems occurred and the children in turn agreed to respond positively when spoken to in this way.

They discussed openly the issue of racism. Whilst she was upset that Dee thought she could be racist Linda was able to appreciate why this was an issue for Dee and her family. For her part Dee accepted Linda's assurances that racism was not a factor in the dispute between them and acknowledged that her grandchildren had been welcome in Linda's house in the past.

Linda remembers how different she felt after the meeting, "And then we shook hands and felt that the fear of walking past their front door went away and we walked up the street to the front of our house talking about what the next event in the year would be, like Easter, like "have you got enough Easter eggs for the children yet?" and it seemed to dissolve really and I haven't had any trouble since then."

Dee added, "As for my grandson in the situation with Linda they started talking again. I sent him round to apologise, which he did."

Linda felt meeting face to face helped to 'humanise' the conflict, "Once we saw each other as people, I think rather than the problematic women in each corner of a ring, we tried to relate and understand and like, back down the attitude and talk to one another properly, with respect, because I think there was a lack of respect from both parties as well."

Dee agrees, "I've learnt that being angry doesn't solve the problem and you've got to try and solve your problems calmly."

Linda says she no longer sees Dee as "the opposition". "I just look on her as a member of the community taking care of her children in her way that she feels is right."

For this and other real life stories see the new Nottingham Mediation Service Video which explains more about how mediation works. For details of this, the video launch or enquiries about mediation please phone NMS on 0115 - 962 0035.

Nottingham Mediation Service is funded by European Community Structural Funds (URBAN) through the Partnership Council and Nottingham City Council and are in the process of applying for funding to sustain and expand the service beyond 2001.

Article by NMS

# Partnership Council

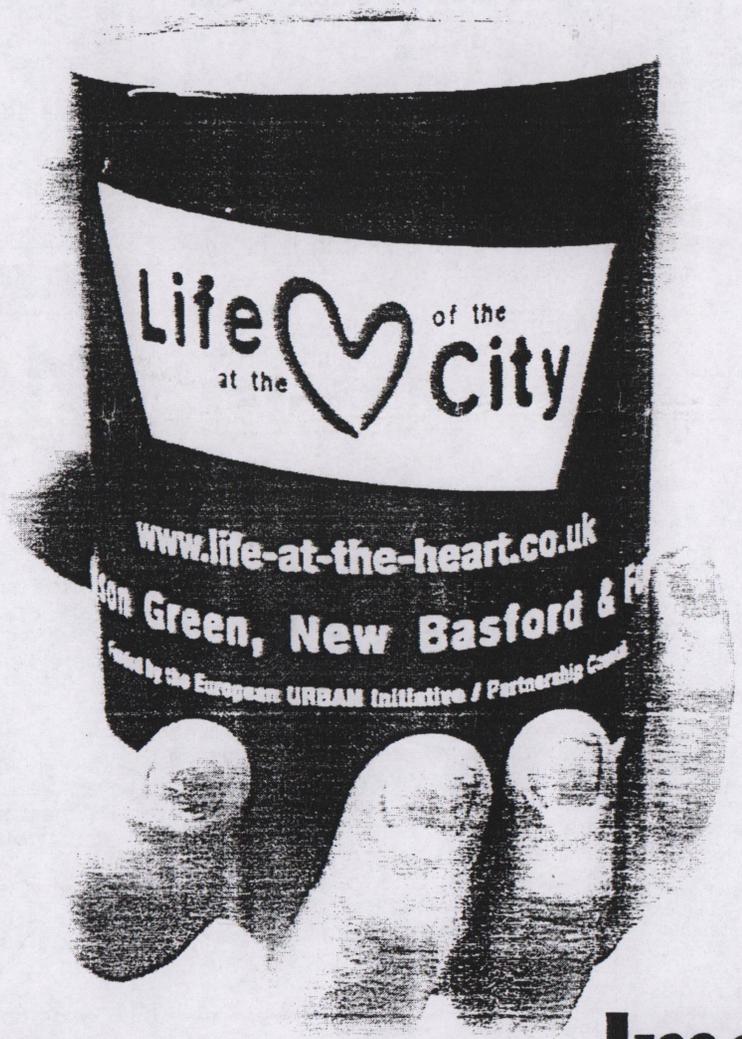
How mediation works see back page

Residents, Businesses, Voluntary sector, Public sector, Area 4 and Friends

August 2001 . No. 40

# Onesheet

Exclusive information for forum members & other participants



## Working Groups

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## Key Fund latest decisions

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## Inclusion project

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# Image is everything?

Well no... but it can have a role to play See centre pages



The onesheet is exclusive to those who are part of the Partnership Council forums or who are friends who actively participate in the organisation's work.

The Partnership Council aim is to act as a bridge builder so that all those who live and work in the local community can together influence decisions about local services, facilities and projects. We work with Residents, Voluntary groups, Public sector organisations, Businesses and the local City Council Area Committee.

The aim of the Onesheet is to help communicate information and opportunities amongst those participating within the Partnership Council. It also aims to encourage participants to develop their skills, knowledge or experience and to promote achievements of work and participants.

#### Inclusions

The Onesheet is mailed regularly at the beginning of each month. We occasionally take articles and adverts for activities and events which are related to our partnership work or include such material in our mailouts.

Please note that we cannot commit to include such information. Similarly, such items may necessitate a contribution to supporting mailing or distribution.

Please contact the Partnership Council office on 970 8200 before sending information.

#### Media

If you are, or work for, a media organisation or publication such as newspaper, community newsletter, radio etc, please do not use information from the Onesheet without checking it past us first.

The majority of information is fine for wider use however some information contained within the Onesheet is targeted specifically at Partnership Council participants and not for general release. Please be courteous and call us about using information from this Onesheet. We also ask that any sourced articles must respect the immense hard work that is put into projects by hundreds of people and include appropriate credits for the origin of the project as well as its funding.

### Internal Information

## Partnership Council Forum Representatives

**Business Sector Forum**  
PC Richard Hawthorne, Peter Lowery, Issan Ghazni.

**New Basford / Forest Fields Resident Forum**  
PC Shaghofa Shan, Vacancy, Vacancy.

**Going Forwards Committee**  
PC John Taylor, Marcia Watson, Iftikhar Ahmed, Gary Long (sub).

**Hyson Green Resident Forum**  
PC Mike Rowe, Donna Payton, Michael Briscoe.

**Radford Resident Forum**  
PC David Roberts, Phil Mattias, Wendy Brewer.

**Public Sector Forum**  
PC Mick Stringer, Farah Jamil, Mark Pollack.

**Voluntary Sector Forum**  
PC Julian Adams, Michael Henry, Sophia Ramcharan.

All Reps on Partnership Council sit in order to represent their Forum not themselves or their own individual organisation.

**Forest Fields & New Basford Rep**  
As you have probably gathered we have had 2 vacancies for P.C reps from Forest Fields and New Basford Forum for some time. Currently Mr Taleh Mehdi is interested in filling one of these vacancies. Mr Mehdi has lived and worked in Forest Fields all his life and is a very active and respectful member in the Asian Community. We are hoping to Co-opt him on the board at the next resident forum planning group meeting and we are holding an election on September 17th at 7.30pm if no objections are received. If any resident from Forest Fields or New Basford is interested in filling the second Vacancy contact the Outreach team Paul, Martin, or Rehman on 970 8200.

### Opportunities

#### Developing a creative strategy.

Working Group 2 are looking to employ a Consultant to develop a creative strategy. The Consultant will work in close partnership with the Working Group and other local organisations interested in this strategy to carry out consultation, develop the strategy based on a specific set of aims and objectives, and carry out day to day duties necessary for the completion of a final document. The Consultant would probably be expected to work part time for a number of months.

Details of tendering are available from the Partnership Council office, address below. The deadline for applications is 5.30pm Monday 13th August and applications should be sent, marked 'Creative Strategy Tender' to:

Partnership Council  
47 Gregory Blvd  
Hyson Green  
Nottingham  
NG7 5JA

## £1000 in cash prizes to be won

Photographic competition still ready to be 'snapped' up.

There's still plenty of time to get your entries to the [www.life-at-the-heart.co.uk](http://www.life-at-the-heart.co.uk) photography competition. Entry forms and criteria are available from either Hyson Green or Radford/Lenton libraries or the Partnership Council office and now also at [www.life-at-the-heart.co.uk](http://www.life-at-the-heart.co.uk).

William Davis builders have just agreed a £1000 towards displaying the photographs which will become part of an exhibition in the Autumn.

The competition is open to anyone who lives and works in Radford, Hyson Green, Forest Fields or New Basford. Any ages, amateur or professional.

#### Complaints procedure

The Partnership Council has a complaints procedure which is available to anyone to use if they have a complaint to make about the Partnership Council. For information or a copy of the complaints leaflet please contact the Partnership Council office on 970 8200.

### RESIDENTS FORUM Planning Group

The next meeting of the Residents Forum Planning Group will be looking at finalising the Forum's Action Plan and planning an event on September 17th. The meeting will be at the Partnership Council offices on 5th September at 6.00pm

### RESIDENTS FORUM MEETING TRANSPORT & OPEN SPACES

The next area-wide Residents Forum meeting will focus on two themes - Transport and Open Spaces. Both of these were issues that a lot of people in the area raised as concerns in the Community Partnership Plan consultations. The City Council has responded to the suggestions put forward by local residents and drawn up Action Plans. These will be discussed along with other ways residents can influence services in the area. The meeting will take place on Monday 17th September at 6.30pm - venue to be confirmed.

Radford, Hyson Green, New Basford, Forest Fields Residents Forum is for, and open to, any resident who lives in those communities. If you are not a member of the Forum and would like to join or find out more about it contact Paul, Martin or Rehman (The Outreach Team) on 970 8200. Other professionals may be invited to Forum meetings. If you are interested in the Forum please contact Paul on 970 8200.



#### Consultant Appointed.

David Richards: who has previously worked for Nottingham-shire County Council has been appointed to work with the Partnership Council's multi-sector Spring Clean Steering Group that organised the successful Clean-Up Campaign in April.

David's brief is to 'examine and recommend sustainable measures to ensure cleanliness, in terms of all waste, to a standard to be agreed

## Inclusion

INCLUSION PROJECT IS UP AND RUNNING

The Inclusion Project, which aims to work with the African Caribbean and Asian Communities to make the Partnership Council a more inclusive organisation, has begun. BUILD, who won the tender to carry out the work, have started to interview African Caribbean and Asian people who have been involved with the Partnership Council. The aim of this is to build up an understanding of the organisation and how it has approached issues of inclusion.

A Steering Group, composed of members from the African Caribbean and Asian communities, is helping to manage the project and advise BUILD on the approach taken. The next stage of the project is looking at contacting organisations who work with the African Caribbean and Asian communities to involve them in focus groups to discuss perceptions of the Partnership Council and recommendations as to how it can improve its processes and structures. BUILD should be contacting organisations in August. BUILD are also looking at holding focus groups for local residents from the African Caribbean and Asian communities.

If you are interested in the project and would like to get involved please contact Dan Robertson at BUILD on 924 4187 or Paul Sanguinazzi on 970 8200.

by the Spring Clean 2001 Campaign Steering Group and other partners. He will address the most pertinent issues that arose from the review of the April Campaign and will look at 'Best Practice Alternatives' from around the country and make costed recommendations.

His report should be available mid-September. If you would like to contribute to David's brief/join the Spring Clean Steering Group please contact Martin Curtis at the Partnership Council - Tel: 9708200.

## NOTTINGHAM'S 2ND BIG HOMELESS SPEAKOUT

WEDNESDAY 5TH SEPT 2001, FOREST RECREATION GROUND

As part of Groundswell's National Speakout week, Nottingham is holding its second Speakout event. This is an opportunity for homeless and ex homeless people from across the city and county to have a platform to express views, experiences and to ask questions of decision makers and service providers, otherwise known as the Big Debate.

Groundswell believe that: "Homeless people are part of the solution and not the problem" "Homeless people must be involved in practical solutions to tackle homelessness" "Homeless people have the right to information to make informed choices.

The whole day, including lunch, is free. The programme for the day has not been finalised as yet, but is looking good! Various workshops are going ahead in the lead up to the Speakout. A football tournament has been organised between different projects, with the final kicking off on the day. Workshops planned for the day include photography, poetry, art and drama. A Kandu Arts performance has also been scheduled. Entertainment and music is being booked and speakers for the Big Debate invited.

Last year over 200 people attended various workshops where they could talk about their experiences of homelessness and service provision for homeless people, as well as having a go at aromatherapy, DJing, walking on stilts and putting ideas onto T-shirts. Issues raised and discussed included night shelters and hostel accommodation, begging, pets, drugs, benefits, healthcare and people's attitudes towards the homeless.

The Speakout is a fantastic opportunity for the homeless or ex homeless to speak for themselves, be listened to, to get appropriate advice and to have a good time! If you know people who may benefit from the Speakout, please spread the word!

It's not too late to get involved in the organisation of the Speakout. If anyone is interested contact Claire Grainger at HLG on 0115 9565313 for further information.

The Big Speakout is supported by the Partnership Council (Working Group 2) through funding from the European URBAN initiative.

**"God put me on the earth to accomplish a certain number of things. Right now I am so far behind I will never die."**

Anonymous notice

Partnership Council . 47 Gregory Blvd . Hyson Green  
Nottingham . NG7 5JA . Telephone: (0115) 970 8200  
mail@partnershipcounc.demon.co.uk



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EUROPEAN COMMUNITY  
Structural Funds (URBAN)

*Unlike the advert "Image means nothing" we would argue that a marketing project like 'Life' can form a small but integral contribution to local urban social and economic renewal.*

**David Hill, co-ordinator of the Life at the Heart of the City marketing campaign, reports on the progress and plans for the project.**

The unique marketing campaign is trying to tell people why they should think differently about our four communities of Radford, Hyson Green, New Basford and Forest Fields.

For years the four areas have had an image of deprivation in and around the City and all the negative assumptions that go with it. But many locals say they are comfortable living where they do. They like the tolerance and easy-going atmosphere in the communities. Many enjoy the mix of cultures.

The campaign, 'Life at the Heart of the City', was instigated by residents from the four areas through the URBAN Action Plan. They requested that Radford, Hyson Green, New Basford and Forest Fields be positively marketed in order to improve the image both within and outside the communities as part of their regeneration programme. The campaign is now a year on and has achieved a strong presence.

The Partnership Council - an independent 'bridge-builder' which works solely in the four areas - set up a Project Steering Group made up of representatives from Nottingham City Council, Nottingham Development Enterprise, local major businesses, marketing professionals and local associations. Collectively, the Steering Group has orchestrated the marketing campaign following an initial strategy report, commissioned in 1999.

The 'Life at the Heart of the City' marketing campaign has been developed out of the European URBAN Initiative Action Plan, which was put together by the Partnership Council with local residents, businesses, public sector organisations and the City Council Area Committee. Together, these groups agreed to 'plan and implement positive marketing which will reverse the poor image of the area'.

This project is one of many that are working to meet the aims set out in the URBAN Action Plan.

With an initial budget of around £100k, specifically allocated from the URBAN

Initiative, a multi-layered advertising and public relations campaign highlighting the many positive aspects of the four areas began in July 2000.

The 'Life' logo and creative direction was developed after a local consultation event in the area. During the event residents also requested a web site as a marketing priority.

A number of advertising messages were developed, covering aspects of 'Life at the Heart', to promote the four areas. These included: 'It's time to look at us differently', 'New sites-new sounds', 'Open for business', 'Hot on trail for exotic foods'.

They were produced as a series of banner advertisements in the news and business sections of the Nottingham Evening Post, on poster sites in and around the City and on Nottingham City Transport buses. The initial media campaign ran from July to December 2001.

Commercial organisations involved with regeneration projects are also now 'buying into' the campaign by sponsoring their own versions of 'Life' advertisements and community promotions.

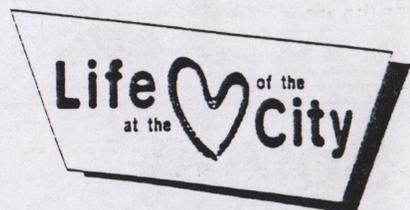
A web site containing information about the marketing project for the four areas was also created. Found at [www.life-at-the-heart.co.uk](http://www.life-at-the-heart.co.uk) the web site is designed to provide a showcase where visitors can enjoy a brief taste of the cultural diversity offered by the communities of Radford, Hyson Green, New Basford and Forest Fields today and the successful business and community life that goes on. To date, hits have come from New York, Canada, Australia - even Finland!.

A community news section and business portal are also been developed with a view to local organisations eventually taking over their site maintenance.

Alongside the web site and media campaign, the Steering Group has also been involving residents and businesses directly in the campaign's message with a series of promotional events which

started in September last year with a special food tasting event in Nottingham's Market Square. Food establishments from the four areas came together to cook and serve samples of their foods in a one-off event designed to give the wider Nottingham community a taste of the huge variety of food outlets and suppliers that are one of the strengths of the areas.

The 'Life' campaign aims to involve every age group and section of the communities. To that end, promotional items such as mugs, logos and stickers have been distributed among retailers, businesses and residents.



Radford, Hyson Green, New Basford & Forest Fields

A 'Life at the Heart' CD featuring music tracks to which pupils from local schools in the areas have supplied the lyrics is to be produced for distribution during 2001.

The Nottingham Evening Post has been a major supporter of the campaign. In March it produced a highly successful 'Heart of the City' Bygones publication containing photographs and stories of people who have lived and worked in the four areas and a mobile Bygones exhibition is now on tour around area libraries.

More than 21,000 people live and work in their four inner city communities, which are recognised for their varied culture, ethnicity, lifestyles and shopping and eating experiences. The friendly spirit that exists has inspired families to remain in the areas for several generations. By promoting the many positive aspects of these areas the marketing campaign is contributing to their regeneration

# Challenging some negative images

attracting commercial investors and new homeowners looking for an inner city lifestyle.

A Photographic Competition was launched in April this year to commemorate and record the positive aspects of living at the heart of the city today. (See page 2 in this month's Onesheet). Everyone with a home or work address in the four areas is invited to capture on film what they see is best about living at the heart and an exhibition of winning entries will be shown in public and commercial venues around the City into 2002.

A very positive 15% awareness level of the 'Life at the Heart of the City' campaign has already been achieved among households, according to research carried out in January via a questionnaire mailed to a 1,300 panel of households throughout the Nottingham Evening Post's core distribution area. The score is even more notable since the panel is drawn from far beyond the inner city. 55% of those aware recalled seeing the campaign mainly in local press advertisements; 41% on bus sides; 20% on outdoor posters. 24% said it is about life in the Radford/Hyson Green areas of the city; 24% thought it is to do with promoting the inner city.

Further evaluation of the campaign in structured interviews with local residents and businesses is planned for later this year.

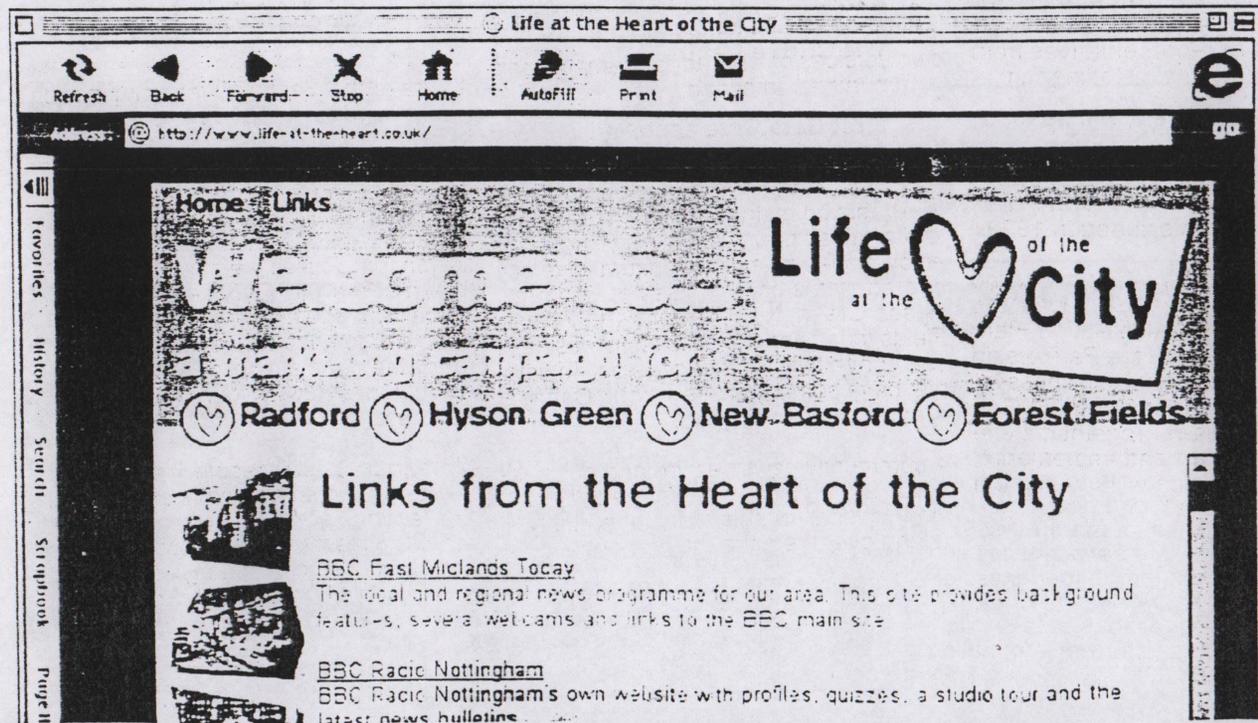
Target outputs for participation by local residents and artists to the marketing activity have already been achieved and those for support for existing small businesses are within sight, after less than a full year's programme. To maintain this marketing momentum, applications for renewed funding are being submitted by the Steering Group to New Deal for Communities, East Midlands Local Government Office and East Midlands Development Agency. Pledges already received from commercial organisations and support agencies with an interest in the regeneration of the areas have encouraged the Steering Group to plan for an extension of the marketing programme into 2002.

Internationally renowned names such as Raleigh and John Player chose to make their homes in these inner city areas of Nottingham. The hope is that fledgling businesses operating in Radford, Hyson Green, New Basford and Forest Fields today could reach similar proportions in future years. The long term benefits from a positive marketing campaign both inside

and outside the areas will be considerable. Residents can feel proud as their areas become seen as desirable for people to live, work and enjoy themselves in. There is a beneficial 'overflow' for other agencies who are working towards the economic regeneration and the improvement in employment and educational levels in the four communities.

Successful marketing that helps regeneration isn't just about promoting a single activity or a new commercial opportunity in one particular site or district, as this 'Life at the Heart of the City' is proving. It's about the totality of the community, its confidence, its pride and making sure people outside its immediate areas appreciate how the community works and the many positive aspects of life that go on there. It's a big challenge that will take more than just a first year to bring tangible results. But 'Life at the Heart' has made a great start.

The 'Life at the Heart of the City' campaign is taking a bold approach to its contribution to inner city regeneration. Unlike the advert which suggests "Image means nothing" we would argue that a marketing project like 'Life' can form a small but integral contribute to local urban social and economic renewal.



Part of the web site at [www.life-at-the-heart.co.uk](http://www.life-at-the-heart.co.uk)

At a recent meeting with the Partnership Council Business Forum and the IBA (Independent Business Association), ACEC (African Caribbean Enterprise Consortium) and board and staff members of New Deal for Communities (NDC) the representation of businesses on NDC were discussed. The meeting was a challenging one with a number of different and strong opinions being aired.

The primary aim for our Business Forum is to maintain the current values of the Partnership Council. These include: a commitment to cover all businesses across Area 4, to include all types of business regardless of size, ethnicity etc. and to include social economy businesses as well as commercial businesses. We recognise there are strengths in our existing Forum and weaknesses which we are committed to trying to resolve. The Forum is open to constructive suggestions as to how it could better meet the needs of local businesses and the community as a whole.

With regard to NDC (which covers parts of Radford and Hyson Green) various matters were discussed at the special meeting. One suggestion was to recruit an independent adviser to explore issues in relation to representation, particularly to focus attention on excluded businesses / groups. While acknowledging the imperfections of system which has led to the existing NDC Business nominees another suggestion was to continue with them as representative of businesses until such time as alternatives have been found. Many other ideas were raised and discussed.

The challenge for this and any future discussion is how to create a system which is accountable, which has a strong interest in working with other sectors, which allows all kinds of businesses to take part and which is based on the benefit of all through collaboration across the sector.

Next months Onesheet will be a **Business Special** discussing issues of business involvement in regeneration across our area, support for businesses and latest news on projects.

**Advertisement**

Nottingham Mediation Service (NMS) welcome referrals in Radford, Hyson Green, New Basford, Forest Fields. **Have you** been approached by residents/ tenants/ service users being troubled by their neighbours? **Would you** like NMS to talk to your service users about mediation and how it can help them? **Would you** like to see the NMS promotional video where service users and volunteers talk about their experiences of mediation? If you answer yes to one of more of the above questions please ring NMS for discussion and further information on 0115 - 962 0035.

**Latest key fund decisions**

The Key Fund is nearing completion. Out of a total grants budget of £779,625 some £665,636 has been allocated. This leaves £113,989 unallocated. Applications received for the next panel meeting exceed the remaining funding and we expect the fund to be drawing to a close in the very near future.

The Key Fund has supported a range of organisations, who in turn, have provided a range of services for a range of beneficiaries. Since reporting on the Key Fund in the June One sheet the list of organisations funded has grown.

**Forest Community Enterprise** were approved funding for **£1,000** to produce a Business Development Plan.

**Forest Fields Advice Centre** have been awarded **£14,460** to fund a Community Development Worker.

**Rainbow Centre** will receive **£24,968** towards the cost of renovation work.

**Grassroots** have been awarded **£17,871** to pay for a Development Manager, training and events.

**Radford Visiting Scheme** were approved funding totalling **£18,883** for a Development Worker and an Admin worker.

**Erondu Study Support and Afterschool Club** have been awarded **£24,106** for a Project Development Worker.

**First Data** have been awarded **£13,899** for a community newspaper.

**Nottingham Association of African Caribbean Voluntary Organisations (NAVVO)** will receive **£21,150** to fund a Development Worker

**Sisters of NIA** were funded **£4,155** to hold seminars.

**Greenfields Childcare and Training Centre** funding of **£15,190** was approved for added value courses.

**Asian Women's Project** were awarded **£19,437** for an Access to Nursing project and **£19,680** for the Kiran Media Project.

**The Bridge Centre** were awarded **£25,000** to support various projects.

**First Data** were approved **£18,745** to develop the Cisco Academy training course and **£18,879** for a Community Pathways to Employment project.

**Creative Solutions** Nottingham will receive **£1,000** for health and safety work.

**Tennyson Street Play Centre** have been awarded **£990** to fund a carnival troupe.

**Action in the Community** have been approved **£450** to provide a business plan for a learning resource centre.

**All Saints Community Care Project** were awarded **£19,107** to sustain and expand their gardening project.

We interviewed some of the organisations we funded to get their views. **PALS - Play And Learn in Safety** "are most appreciative and have funded

a Volunteer Co-ordinator and Admin support. The funding is focussed on recruiting volunteers and it is good to have someone to concentrate on that area. Has come at a really important time. Helps with volunteer expenses, it can pay for meals and training."

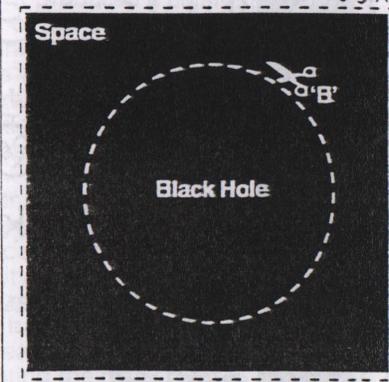
**Forest Fields Advice Centre** "The funding provided a Community Development Worker to provide advice and information. The Advice Centre is about raising awareness, budgeting and debt management. They will be holding small workshops in the advice centre and community centres helping people with access to benefits and general advice work. The funding also provided a lap top computer to take out to people for outreach work. We want to get as many volunteers from the community involved in the project as possible. We're keen to involve volunteers. Volunteers will be involved in admin, reception work and information gathering."

We also asked members of the Key Fund Panel what they thought. They said that "It has been interesting". "We have piloted something that has been good, positive." "We're getting better because we're asking more. That's how its been progressing. We've improved the process. That will help with the New Deal appraisal." "We've tried to simplify forms to try to help them fill them in, but sometimes oversimplify, then don't get the information we want. People need more help filling them in."

The Key Fund was initiated by the Partnership Council, managed by Nottingham City Council, and is supported through funding from the European URBAN initiative, New Deal for Communities & SRB.

**'Space' TV Tie In**

We have teamed up to bring you a free TV tie in with the new Sunday night BBC documentary 'Space'. The show vividly shows viewers the fascinating history and science of our planet and universe. Onesheet readers can now use this FREE TV tie in image of some 'space' which can also be made into a scale model of a 'Black Hole'. Cut out 'A' and hold it up towards the sky to see what space looks like. It works day or night. Alternatively cut round 'B' for your scale model of a 'Black Hole'.



Remember: Only around 142 shopping days left until Christmas!

**Voluntary and Community Organisations Forum**



**NEW DEAL FOR COMMUNITIES VOLUNTARY SECTOR CAPACITY BUILDING BRIEFING**

The Voluntary and Community Organisations Forum is looking at holding a briefing session about the support and capacity building that could be offered to Voluntary and Community organisations through the New Deal for Communities programme. The Briefing session will take place at BESTCO on Russell Street at 11.30am on Thursday 20th September.

**PLANNING GROUP TAKES AUGUST BREAK**

The Voluntary & Community Organisations Forum Planning Group is taking an August break. At the Forum AGM over twenty organisations came forward to take a more active role in the Forum and get involved in the Planning Group. The next Planning Group meeting will be held on 20th September at 10.00am at Bestco, Russell Street. We are also holding a meeting to draw up an Action Plan for the Forum if you want to get involved in this please contact Paul on 970 8200.

**New Annual Report & Poster**

The Forum is currently printing their annual report, combined with a snazzy poster to display. We'll be sending copies out to Groups next month.

**Working Groups go on...**

The Partnership Council is still actively recruiting for the different groups still continuing work under URBAN, even though it is now fully committed, and almost spent. The work of some of these groups may now be almost complete, however the activity which they have generated will continue, provided the Partnership Council continues into 2002.

Since the Working Groups were launched, during late 1997 some 180 people have been involved, from all sectors, and reflecting a wide range of interests, issues and local knowledge. These people used their knowledge and vision to design new services for local people using the URBAN Action Plan as their 'handbook'. The guidance of the Partnership Council Board and the support of the staff team enabled this activity to happen in a coordinated and informed way, so that the interests of individual organisations took second place to the interests of the community.

Currently the only uncommitted funding remains in the form of grants, which are available to those whose activities fit with the funding rules. The Grants Panels are again made up of people who live, work or volunteer locally, and who have the knowledge to make the very difficult decisions demanded of them.

Each Working Group member wants to make sure that their work has been worthwhile, and that the many projects that have been set up or delivered have had an impact on the lives of the people and they were designed to help.

Projects are aware that the Groups are there to support and advise if required, and those that have not achieved their goals are not left undisturbed. Working Groups have played a crucial role in developing the Strategies which

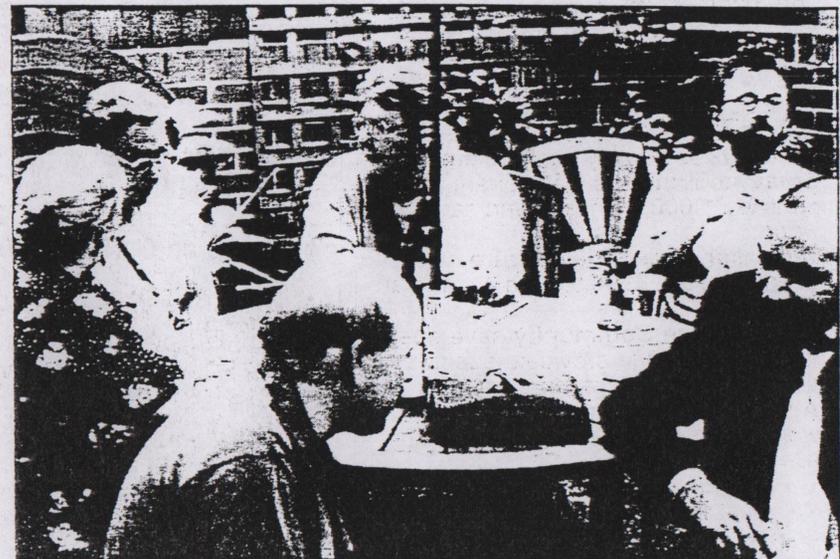
create a local agenda for change. These include Community Safety, Creative and Celebratory, Learning, Youth Issues, Skills and Business related strategies. Because group members have looked beyond the immediate, their work has had a major influence on the way public money is spent and existing services delivered.

There are benefits in joining Working Groups and Grants Panels, beyond the satisfaction of being part of the process. Skills and knowledge developed, valuable links are made with organisations and people with the same goals, friendships are forged and people have the satisfaction of being able to achieve change for the better. They can also learn about the work being done by other groups. The Community benefits by having services influenced and designed by people who know what local needs are, and how best to tackle them, and indeed by being able to join and or advise if they wish. (This of course applies both to Working Group and Forum membership.)

Recent recruits to Working Groups include Jo Thorpe (Birkin Patch and local resident), Susan Sheviane (local resident), Ian Cornelius (Capital One), Brenitor Knight (Voluntary Sector) David Thomas (APNA Arts), Akin Sankofa (EMACA). The Personnel Group has been joined by Carol Chadwick of Pork Farms and Bruce McLellan of Capital One, and the Finance Group by Opaul White of NatWest Bank. All of these people give freely of their knowledge and skills.

Everyone has something to contribute, and something to gain. For more information, contact Chrissie or Sarah 970820.

**Socialising**



Thanks to all those who came to the last Social. Here are some of you lovely people scoffing the slightly burnt sausages. Everyone appeared to have fun although someone did leave their prize (a plastic Squirrel) behind. Please ring the office if it was you.

**OBJECTIVE 2 LATEST BIDDING ROUND**

A call for bids from INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS has just been launched with a deadline of 31st August 2001. If your project MUST start by March 2002 you may be eligible. (The Partnership Council Area is in the eligible area.) Purposes such as development of premises for small companies (eg credit unions), provision of vocational training facilities, business support projects, provision of care facilities to enable local residents to access training or job opportunities are included. CONTACT: CEFET 114 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HL Tel. 9110419 email: info@cefet.demon.co.uk