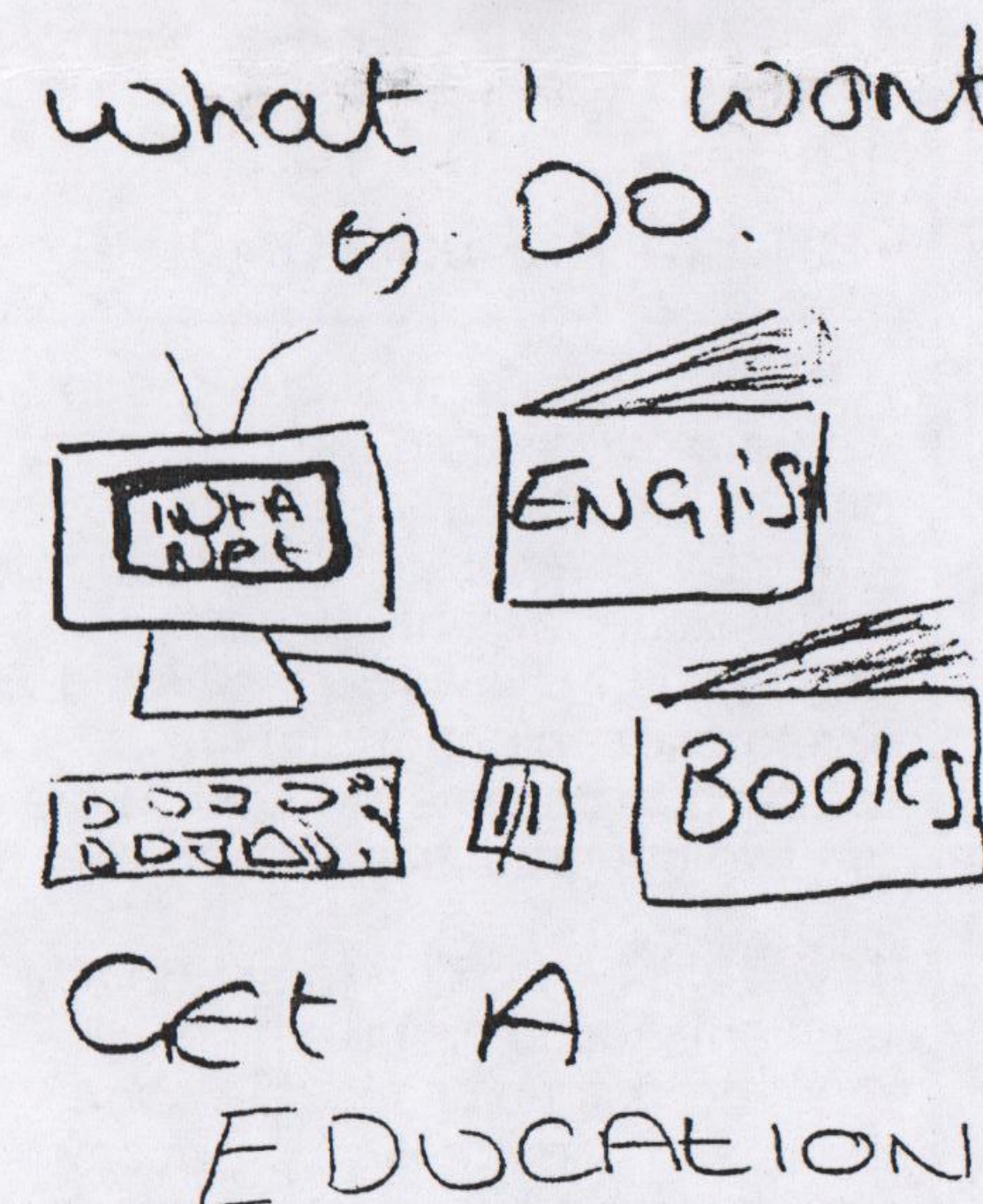


## Problems for young people...



First of all, as a matter of introduction I would like to say hello! My name is Richard Pincott, I am 42, six foot in height with a smile just as wide.

I have a wealth of experience working within communities where the voice of young people is often regarded as an integral part of their overall plan and yet suffers the indignity of being shelved to the fringe until negative issues bring it to the fore. People are always asking why young people do this, do that, act the way they do, hang about here, hang about there. It raises a smile to think that those same questions are asked by people who were once young themselves, affected by similar issues and confronted by the same desire to express themselves.

Times have changed, it's true, however, they didn't change overnight. Youth culture evolves from generation to generation and even somewhere in between. People have a tendency to group issues and the URBAN youth scenario is no exception, it could be argued that the picture drawn up relating to 16-17 year olds in the Hyson Green, Forest Fields, Radford and New Basford area is a very negative one, related to drugs, crime and a vein of moral decay.

I can, on the other hand, paint a different picture. For the last two years I have worked intensively with young people from the URBAN area on the 'Prince's Trust-Volunteers' personal development programme. Where I have constantly been impressed by the amazing achievements young people have made, not only for themselves but also for the local community. These young people have engineered projects from creating sensory gardens for the disabled, refurbishing community centres, environmental conservation through to making video films about sensitive issues related to local community concerns.

These young people have forged their own identity through working together towards a common goal, often faced with major barriers, both personal and collective.

Of course, there are many 16-17 year olds in the area who have made the transition from school into further education, training or employment and it is to these people that I would make this appeal, would it be at all possible for those successful people to give a little something back into the community and offer support as 'peer model mentors'. I would more than welcome voluntary assistance towards helping those amongst us who have not had the privileged route available to them.

For some 16-17 year olds the transition has been restricted due to poverty/social related issues and for some, due to reasons that have not been identified, acknowledged or supported the only way forward is to design an alternative route.

So therefore, what exactly is the 'Youth Empowerment Project'? This mission statement should underpin the intention, only the young people themselves can create the vision.

The project will identify the reasons why some 16-17 year olds in the URBAN area have withdrawn or been excluded from participating in formal education and training programmes.

In consultation with the target client group a programme of accredited vocational and personal development courses will be offered which will aim to encourage the full participation of young people in the resident community.

I suppose in short, it's about being positive, it's about identifying the barriers and then 'step by step' moving towards a new destination.

This project offers a rare opportunity for young people to express themselves, to be heard and to redress a situation which was designed by generations before them, we have a wealth of youthful energy untapped, shelved and ignored by too many for too long.

From 'nowhere to somewhere' and the choice is an open book, there is no longer room for the argument, 'there is nothing to do round here'. I can offer young people a chance to build courses, events and projects around 'what they are into', there are no limits to what they can achieve.

Programmes can be built around:

\*Music, Youth Radio, Youth Magazine, European Exchange,

\*Sport, Community Projects, The Environment, Robot Building,

\*Art, Dance, Wildlife, Performance, Outward Bound, etc, etc, etc.

The Partnership Council forged the project through listening to local people, the 'Partnership Council' engineered the process to create the 'Learning Legacy' which enabled the 'European Social Fund' to support the Ideology and 'South Nottingham College' have given their expertise, time and intensive effort towards managing the project and ensuring its success.

All we need now is Young people, older ones who want to get involved, in fact the whole URBAN area should get up and help young people establish themselves within our community, in a design relevant to the issues they face and to the future they would want for themselves and their own children.

### The URBAN Youth Empowerment Project

Richard Pincott Tel: 0115 924 9715 Mobile: 07818 044452  
The Vine Community Centre  
Drop In every Wednesday  
11.00am - 2.00pm

**970 8200**

47 Gregory Blvd . Hyson Green  
Nottingham . NG7 5JA



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Feb 2000 . No.23

**Partnership Council**

**one sheet**

How can we improve

# Social Services

Forum Members mailout



*conference one : Elderly services*

### Local resident Phil Matius explains the background to this exciting new opportunity

Earlier this month I attended the first meeting of the Social Services Pilot Project Steering Group.

The steering group was formed after the Partnership Council were approached by the Social Services to carry out a 'Pilot Project' which would seek to consult local residents on the services provided by the named organisation in the area.

The aim of the project is to gather local residents' perspectives on Social Services, identify and propose changes, target gaps in services and make other recommendations to improve service provision.

The group agreed that there was a negative image of Social Services and it was hoped that this project could highlight and identify positive aspects of of the work they do.

**\*Please mention it to any elderly people who would be willing to attend and discuss positive changes with others.**

Veronica Price-Job, Policy Officer with the Social Services, said that the service were keen to take on board 'what people want' that they must work towards becoming 'People minded,' and to see people as people and not problems. She also spoke of an internal change within Social Services. Old style management was giving way for a new 'caring order' and that was what we must build on.

The Group chose to focus the first consultation of the project on 'Elderly Services' - other areas of work would be looked at following this first pilot project.

It was recognised that different communities had specific needs, for example, Afro-Caribbean and Asian Elders. This needed to be taken on

board and addressed. A decision was made to hold a consultation day for the project which should be targeted at both residents and workers involved with working with the elderly. This would include Social Services Staff and Voluntary Sector Organisations. The day has been set for Wednesday the 22 March 10am - 3pm at the ACFF on Beaconsfield Street, Hyson Green.

This day is a genuine chance for all concerned to 'air' their views openly and to help influence the way that Social Services carry out their services. On this day all can help to find and encourage solutions to the present problems that we need to work out so that Social Services do indeed give the people best value and genuine care, and that the people in return, can give their best, for me it works both ways

## Social Services

*conference one : Elderly services*

**Wed 22 March**  
10am - 3pm  
ACFF, Beaconsfield St.  
Hyson Green

Contact Shirley Anne 970 8200 for more details about the day or to book free transport to ACFF



African Caribbean Friends and Families centre.

**RADFORD AND HYSON GREEN FOREST FIELDS NEW BASFORD**



## Leisure Complex update

The broad results of the Leisure Centre questionnaire have raised some complex issues. Particularly that while there is meaningful support across the City for a new Leisure Centre, that local opinion was divided almost exactly in two.

The City have agreed that they now have a clear mandate to continue with the proposal.

Some individuals have raised doubts about the outcomes of the survey process.

From the 12th June public meeting it was agreed to do a large survey with questions chosen by a multi partnered group that we set up. This group helped devise the questionnaire and was reasonably satisfied with the final questions and the manner in which the questionnaire was to be delivered. The group did a major overhaul on the original questions which were presented to them and no one on the group raised significant objections to the final draft which was used.

Objectively it seems clear that the overall results of the consultation are valid. They perhaps complicate the local agenda rather than clarify it but nevertheless they are valid. We are trying to ensure objectivity in this situation and try to enable both sides to best represent themselves. We have chatted with the Forest Fields campaign group about the consultation process and we will also be discussing further issues with the City. As ever we will keep you posted.

### Additional

At the children's Forum we used the issue of the Leisure Centre as an example to briefly try out a new discussion aid 'The Six Hats thinking method'. In an initial vote there was a clear majority against the proposal. Then we used the Six Hats to look at what we felt about the proposal, what the positives were, what the negatives, what solutions existed, and finally the information we didn't have.

After we had done this a second vote showed a much less clear majority. Proof, if nothing else, that sensible discussion between everyone can lead to different opinions.

### Civic Trust Millenium Awards

Local Community Volunteers are being given the chance to win a part time training award, (over six months) supported by the voluntary group they work for. This would start in July and would cover topics such as: Marketing and raising funds, publicity, negotiation and assertiveness skills, design and running of projects. We have details at the Partnership Council Office for you're interested. (Ask for Chrissie or Meilani).

### MATCH £ CONTRIBUTIONS

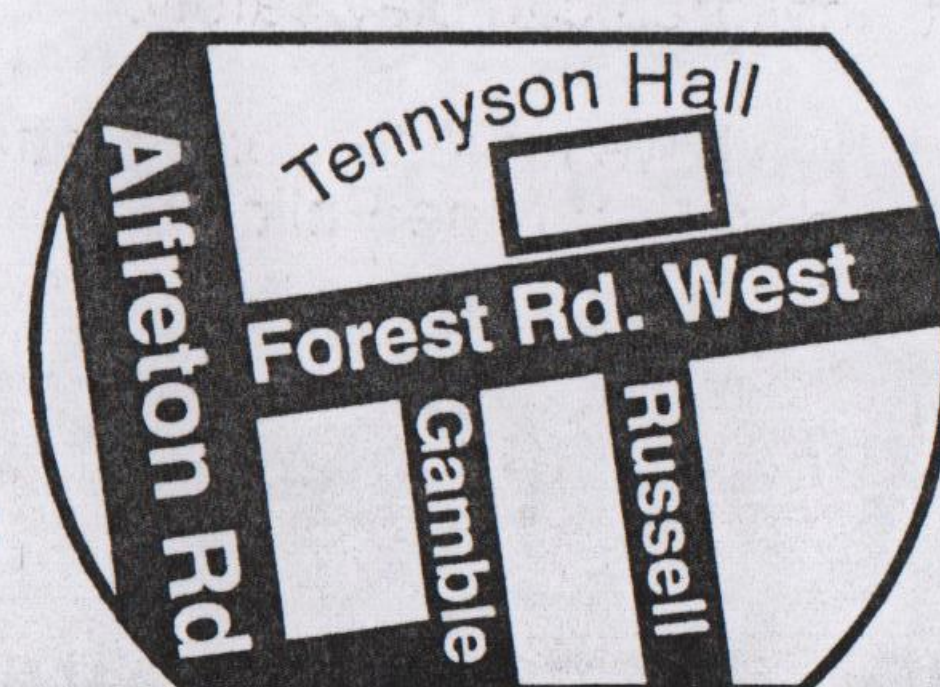
As some of you may know, all European funding requires that each pound awarded has to be matched locally. So, if you do not raise the match funding you do not get all the European money.

The Partnership Council needs to raise Match Funding for the funding it uses in its job delivering the URBAN Programme. If you have been doing work for the Partnership Council - such as Working Groups, attending meetings where decisions have to be made, etc., then we need to hear from you.

The time and effort that you have put in can be valuable as voluntary time is counted as match funding. If you haven't had YOUR contribution counted, please get in touch with George Moulson at the Partnership Council office and he will send you a sheet to fill in.

This also applies to 'in kind' donations, such as free or discount room hire, donations of goods or services, etc. All contributions are of value to us.

If you need any further clarification, please contact George on 970 8200. His job is to ensure contributions are recorded properly. Many thanks.



### Information for Voluntary groups.

### THE PLANNING EXCHANGE. FREE TRIAL PERIOD !

*The Planning Exchange has been developing a UK-wide bibliographic service since 1973, based on a weekly bulletin sent to members and access to a computerised database. Members are able to source original documents as well as journal articles. They regularly abstract over 500 journals and currently have over 80,000 items on the database, which last year gave rise to 82,000 documents supplied to members and 8500 requests for information being satisfied.*

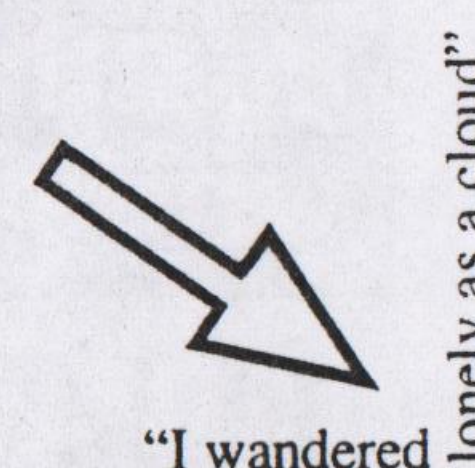
*The Planning Exchange has recently been awarded a grant from the National Lottery Charities Board to develop and extend the information service to reach 50 community organisations in England involved in local regeneration initiatives. The funding will match an existing Special Grant awarded by the Department of Transport, Environment and the Regions.*

*The project reflects current policy priorities of enabling local community organisations to participate in regeneration initiatives which affect them. Through the project, community groups will have access to a nationally-established information service of impartial and relevant material. In this way, they will be able to be better informed and save time on unnecessary searching. An earlier pilot project - of which the Partnership Council has been a part of - suggested that groups could greatly increase their confidence and effectiveness through having access to the same sources as their better resourced regeneration partners. Though the project is intended to run for three years, groups will be able to join for a year at a time. In addition, there is a free trial period currently on offer for those unsure whether the service is for them. The service is aimed at organisations in England which are community-run, not-for-profit, and local rather than national. They may be in urban or rural areas.*

For more information on this offer, please contact Tom Duncan, Project Leader, at The Planning Exchange, Tontine House, 8 Gordon Street, Glasgow, G1 3PL. Or telephone 0141 248 8541. Email address: tom.duncan@planex.co.uk

### Poetry Corner

*This month's poetry corner is the bottom right hand corner. Next month: Top left corner.*



## Promoting our area

It's time we told people why they should think differently about our four communities -- Hyson Green, Forest Fields, New Basford and Radford. For years we've had an image in and around the city as a deprived area with all the negative assumptions that go with it.

But many locals say they're comfortable living where they do. They like the tolerance and easy going feel of the communities. Some really enjoy the mix of cultures. We have a tremendous range of specialist businesses and colourful displays of ethnic food and niche shops.

On a more practical side, the area is close to the city centre with good transport links that are likely to improve even more. And everyone from Nottingham and miles around

knows that this is THE happening place at least once a year when Goose Fair comes to the Forest.

There are plenty of real and positive reasons why our four communities at the heart of the City can and should have a more positive image. If we can change old prejudices everyone benefits. New businesses will be encouraged to move in and employ local people. Residents can feel proud of the area which is seen desirable for people to live, work and enjoy themselves in.

The Partnership Council has been working on a marketing strategy for the area which aims to change it's image - to give people inside and outside the area good reason for taking a new interest in its assets and potential.

### LAY ADVISORY PANELS ASSESSING POLICE RESPONSE

A personal update on meetings

Along with other members of the Partnership Council resident forums, I have now attended a number meetings of the Police Response Lay Advisory Panels. The aim is to assess Police response to a variety of issues and is the brainchild of Chief Superintendent Gary Oscroft of B Division, Nottingham Police.

People will know that after my report on the first meeting, how keen and positive I was for us all to grasp this opportunity to be able to help the Police understand us and we to understand them. Hopefully bringing about a new confidence and trust between the Police and the Public.

Well, after a number of meetings I am even more convinced that the Police want to offer a Quality service and that the old "Community Copper" will soon be replaced by a new name - Community Gold!

Why?, quite simple. The Police are trying very hard to get it right. They themselves are changing. They are dumping their bad apples. They are putting forward new Mission Statements such as "Sexism and Racism Will Not Be Tolerated In The Nottingham Police."

The Police are learning from their mistakes and are willing to look for better ways. That is why these Lay Advisory Panels are so important. They show the very different decisions that police have to make, the oppositions they get, and the challenges they face. For me it's a education I can tell you.

We in this country must be very thankful for our British Police Force. I have travelled extensively around the world and our Great British Bobby is known to be the best of all the Police throughout the world. I have seen Police in some countries openly taking money off people - it would seem an accepted thing there. Let us encourage our Police to become 'Community Gold'. Let us encourage them and thank them for protecting us, for they often do. For whom do we run to stop the riots, to stop the car thieves, to quell the trouble - the Police. They take the flack every time to protect the public, putting their lives on the line. It is about time that we, members and leaders of the communities backed them by taking real interest in what they are doing.

It was Dr. Martin Luther King who said 'We had better learn to live together as friends or die together as fools'. So let us, in Nottingham, encourage our Police Force to become known as 'race friendly' in a city that is known as 'race friendly' - then we truly can become the best city in the world.

There will always be those who wantonly flout the law but our choice is for 'trouble free zones' - places where we can walk day or night, places where the elderly can enjoy strolling out on a warm summers evening, places where children can play safely.

Well, we have to work to attain these ideas, and fine Policing together with the help of us all can achieve these necessary things which communities need to survive and flourish.

Phil Matias . Resident

We want to hear of all the positive things that go on and use that information to create a new advertising and promotional campaign to give our four communities a new image in peoples' minds. We are using locally based professional marketers to help develop the campaign, which is targeted to appear around June.

But anything we say or do has to feel right for those living here. And we don't want to make exaggerated claims. So were looking for some regular help and opinions on the messages we are considering. We would like to set up a residents' panel who will give us their blunt and honest views as to whether we are on the right lines before we publish anything. We particularly want to find people who may not already be involved in Partnership Council or other community activities. Have a look at our advert, below, and get in touch.

If we get it right, this will be the most innovative approach to marketing inner city areas yet.

Interested, read on....

### Voluntary Situations Vacant

### Residents Interested in Promotion and Marketing or area

A Partnership Council sub-group who are overseeing the marketing project is made up of people from a number of different backgrounds, professional, voluntary, business and resident. However we would like to offer an opportunity to residents to become involved. There are two opportunities:

- 1: We will be looking to set up a residents focus group which will meet occasionally and talk about ideas and comment on proposals for promoting and marketing the area we live in.
- 2: We are also looking to attract one, (possibly two) people who have an interest in developing their own knowledge and experience in marketing and related areas. You might be thinking about a future career or work or gaining experience to help you in education.

You would need to be able to attend monthly daytime meetings, be able to focus on achieving results and feel able to put forward a positive resident perspective. Contact Paul at the Partnership Council office 970 8200.

Project funded through **URBAN**

A New Deal for  
**2<sup>nd</sup> congress**  
focus agreement  
**Saturday 26 February**  
**Tennyson Hall**  
Youth & Community Centre, Forest Rd West  
**10am - 5.00pm**

Radford & Hyson Green