

URBAN Community Partnership Plan

number of outreach and consultation sessions. There was a stall at the Radford Carnival and so far nearly 600 people have taken part in one way or another - giving views, coming up with some great ideas and taking part in the 'hands on' planning exercises. Thanks to all of those who gave time to attend the events and give their views.

It has been something of a mixed picture - we would certainly admit some down-sides to the project as well as some great successes.

Some of the events have been relatively poorly attended. We were particularly disappointed overall by the relatively low attendance by council officers and people in a good position to influence change.

Not everyone was happy with the consultant's style and many people expressed genuine concern that the exercise could end up being yet another talking shop about ideas that people have been saying should have been happening ages ago.

There is understandable frustration about the length of time it takes for local residents' ideas to be converted into action and also some cynicism that some organisations will do what they wanted to do anyway.

We would admit that we still haven't got the publicity right - especially regarding the distribution of material and posters and getting the Evening Post to take interest at the right time.

Upsides

There have been a huge number of positive benefits to the projects so far.

There is a very wide range of very imaginative ideas for the area emerging from local people.

Slowly the agencies responsible for implementation are coming on board and, importantly, the exercise is likely to persuade budget holders to consider releasing money to turn ideas into action. It is still early days on this but the signs are quite encouraging. (e.g. we have had a very positive meeting on transport issues and many suggestions can be fed into the new Local Transport Plan).

There is some indication that the decision makers are listening to what is being said by local people - although we need to keep pushing this agenda.

Another great benefit is that the Government are now requiring 'Community Plans' to be drawn up for local areas - part of an exercise aimed to give local people more of a say - and our Community Partnership Plan which admittedly focuses a lot on the built environment will have a contribution to the wider plan and thus stands a much greater chance of being listened to.

Overall this kind of project has not been done in the area before and so far it's having a positive effect as well as helping to learn from mistakes.

Next steps

The next stage is to develop an implementation plan to turn some of your ideas into reality. Many of these ideas will be fed into working groups to develop practical projects.

We are having a series of meetings with Councillors and council officers and are continuing to encourage discussion with some landowners such as British Gas.

We are looking for finance and trying to persuade the decision makers to include your projects in their programmes.

We are planning an event to bring all of the ideas together - this may be early in the New Year and everyone will be invited to attend. This will also be an opportunity to update on progress on some of the projects.

Before then we will be doing some newsletters to update on the outcome of some of the events and how things are going.

We are looking for additional residents to sit on the Steering Group for the project so if you might be interested or if you simply want to learn more please give Shirley-Anne or Jim at the Partnership Council a ring on 9708200.

This short article is designed to update those who have already been involved in the process and to inform others who would like to learn more about community planning.

The original idea for a 'Planning for Real' exercise came from local residents during the preparation of the URBAN Action Plan.

Residents wanted to shape how things should change in the area with a particular eye on crime and community safety.

A Steering Group of local residents, Partnership Council staff and City Council staff was formed to manage the process.

The Steering Group wanted to ensure that the whole of Forest Fields, New Basford, Radford and Hyson Green was covered fairly and it was felt best to tackle the area by the individual and distinct communities.

Help was needed and a specification was drawn up on which tenders were invited from local and national companies with expertise in the field. Five firms tendered and three firms were interviewed by a panel involving local residents. John Thompson and Partners who are architects and community planners with extensive experience were appointed.

The story so far

Since the start of the year five planning events have been held along with a

If you have any ideas or comments please contact Shirley Anne or Paul at the Partnership Council on 970 8200 or at 47 Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green.

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

Dec 2000 . Planning Update Special
Partnership Council

New Basford & Forest Fields

Special
Community
Planning
Update

New
Basford
& Forest
Fields

New Basford

A Local Supermarket on the Gas Works site, a park and wild nature area along the River Leen, and safer crossing over the Radford Road.

Forest Fields

A resident priority parking scheme during tram building, better pedestrian access to the area, a community cafe and young people's meeting place.

These were just some of the ideas to emerge from New Basford and Forest Fields during Community Planning Days and other meetings held this year to discuss the future of the area.

What is Community Planning?

The Community Planning Project is being run by the Partnership Council to try and give local people a better chance to influence decisions on local projects, services and facilities. Residents came up with the idea of a Community Planning exercise as a



Group workshops at the Community Planning Day held in New Basford.

Photo: Daljit Phullar

chance to give local people a say in how the area might be planned and

improved for the future. The idea is to ensure that local community views are taken seriously and to persuade land owners, the City Council and other spending agencies to turn the ideas into reality. It is essential that you make your views heard if you have not already done so as the more people who make their views known the better chance of early action.

Background

Some time ago residents came up with the idea of a Community Planning exercise. It was agreed that there should be a vision for the whole of the Radford, Hyson Green, New Basford and Forest Fields area and a series of community planning days have been organised which will end with an event to pool all of the suggestions.

ਕੰਮਿਊਨਿਟੀ ਪਲਾਨਿੰਗ ਪ੍ਰੋਜੈਕਟ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਇਲਾਕਿਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਰਹਿਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਸਮੱਸਿਆਵਾਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਜਾਣਨਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ ਜਿਹੜੇ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਕੰਮਿਊਨਿਟੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਦਲਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ ਅਤੇ ਇਥੇ ਰਹਿਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਲੋਕ ਭਵਿੱਖ ਵਿੱਚ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਇਲਾਕਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਕਿਵੇਂ ਦੇਖਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ।

ਵਧੇਰੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ:

ਏਸ਼ੀਅਨ ਵੁਮੈਨ ਪ੍ਰੋਜੈਕਟ 9783945

ਕੌਰਿਮਿਆ ਇਨਸਟੀਟਿਊਟ 9420588

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Ideas put forward for the New Basford area

New Basford New Basford New Basford New Basford New Basford New Basford New Basford New Basford New Basford

The Following are a range of ideas that have come from those people attending an open Community Planning event in May and from other local people putting forward their views.

It must be stressed that they are only suggestions which residents have suggested so far. Are they great ideas or not?

IDEAS FOR GAS WORKS SITE

- Employment uses, offices, light industrial with expansion potential for local industries and employers, new technology units (including one for training local people) on the bulk of the site
- A small supermarket/discount foodstore on the south of the site facing a car parking square with trees
- Resource Centre as a link between new businesses on Gas Works site and local community (a one-stop-shop for local services/neighbourhood management/tram tickets)
- Recreation/leisure facility, maybe utilising existing buildings, managed by local community and incorporating small cafe: 'somewhere to take kiddies for a lemonade'
- Family pub close to tram stop and River Leen with view to Shipstones
- A park along the river with wild nature area
- Safe routes to and through the new Gas Works development linking to New Basford with improved pedestrian/cycling crossing
- New bridge across railway and river
- New right turn into Radford Road from Western Boulevard with improved pedestrian facilities

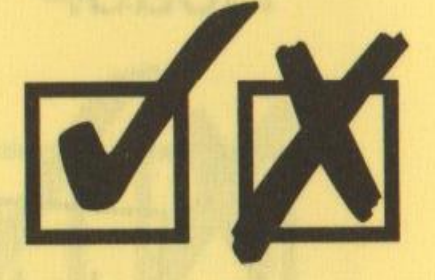
Is there anything else that you would like to see done? ?

How would you like to see New Basford and the Gas Works site look in the future? ?

IDEAS FOR NEW BASFORD

- Create safe direct access to the new tramline across Radford Road and Gas Works site.
- Develop new local group to concentrate on the Gas Works site: establish regular newsletters and meetings and target local schools & businesses.
- Improve Chard Street playground with railings and seating
- Improve green areas such as Gawthorne St Park and really tackle the dog mess problem
- Improve pedestrian crossings on Radford Road, near the Community Centre and traffic calm other streets such as Liddington Street, and those in the Gawthorne St Park area
- Local environmental improvements, especially drains, pavements, road surfaces south of North Gate,
- Build a continuous cycle path along River Leen, with landscaping connecting to New Basford
- Divert No 84 bus, taking same route as No 69 but down North Gate and out onto Radford Road
- Provide more secure local environment to prevent petty crime & vandalism: better lighting. CCTV
- Develop a wider choice of housing
- New recycling facilities at Hedley Park

New Basford Key themes and issues that have emerged so far...



Follows after Forest Fields map

The New Basford & Forest Fields Residents Forum

The New Basford & Forest Fields Residents Forum is for residents who live in the area. It has helped organise the community events and is looking to take some of the ideas forward into action.

It believes the best way to improve our community is to work together in partnership with others, such as businesses, City Council workers and voluntary groups. Its aim is to provide an

opportunity for residents to get involved in influencing decisions which affect their lives or communities.

The forum is open to anyone who lives in New Basford or Forest Fields to get involved in influencing decisions.

As said above, the forum is taking on board some of the issues raised from the consultation as well as organising opportunities for residents to work with other agencies to influence decisions.

We are not promising that we can change the world but we are trying to do something positive to improve our communities.

If you would like to get involved or want to find out more about the group please contact Shirley Anne at the Partnership Council Office on 9708200.

New Basford



Ideas put forward
for the Forest
Fields area

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Forest Fields

How would you like to see
Forest Fields look in the future? ?

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It must be stressed that they are only suggestions which residents have suggested so far. Are they great ideas or not?

- Invest in Noel St leisure centre building(s) as a community facility, retaining baths if possible and focussing on provision for young people.
- Invest in Berridge Rd. Use empty shops for community provision - advice and information, internet cafe, young people's meeting place, cafe with food in the evening. Not based around alcohol.
- Develop new masterplan to regenerate The Forest:
Improve management, quiet picnic areas, better clean up after Goose Fair, reinstate railings, replace trees lost during tram construction, more dog bins, introduce water features, wildlife area with information centre, etc.
- Introduce a residents' parking scheme during tram construction.
- Extend cycle lane along Mount Hooton Road.

- Environmental improvements through establishment of an Environmental Task Force - area wardens, traffic calming (not humps) and street greening, explore alternatives to wheelie bins, improve play areas.
- Junction improvements for Noel St and Burford Rd junctions with Berridge Rd, School crossings.
- Use Forest Fields Comprehensive School for organised community events.
- Traffic calming for Premier, Foxhall and Leslie Rd.
- Improve "at ground" pedestrian crossing facilities and remove pedestrian bridge across Gregory Blvd.
- Encourage private and public sector landlords to maintain and manage housing to highest standard.
- If the Forest Leisure Centre is to happen consider:
 - a. low cost priority use for local people.
 - b. including healthy living centre ideas.
 - c. buildings of ecological design.
 - d. locating at Noel Street end of Forest which is least attractive section, on new tram route and close to inner city communities.

**Forest Fields
Key themes
and issues that
have emerged
so far...**



Follows next page

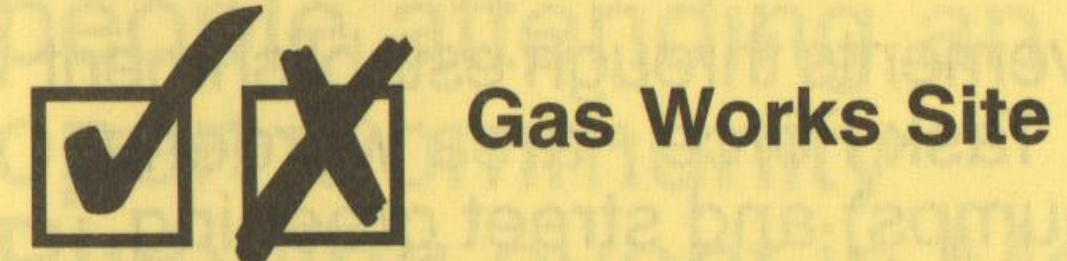
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Key themes and issues that have emerged so far...

New Basford

Do you agree with these issues - do you disagree - are there more?



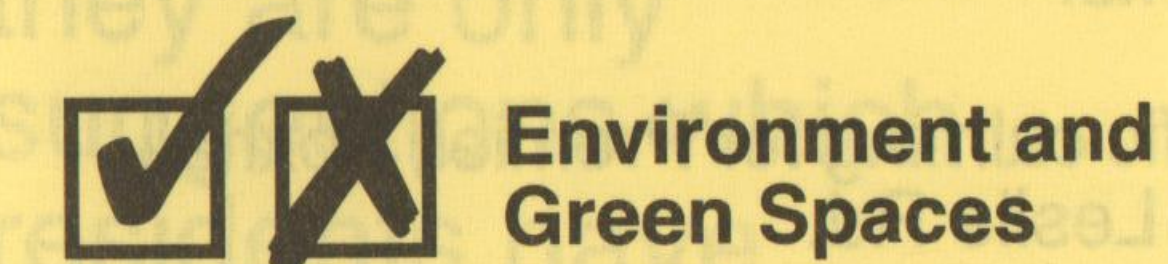
Gas Works Site

People felt that to ensure community benefit from the development there should be continued community involvement in planning the future of the gas works with good communication about what is happening to the wider community



Crime and Security

On-street and property crime and the fear of crime were seen to be problems in the area with the desire expressed for better lighting and higher profile policing. 'I've been burgled three times and my gates been set on fire and three dustbins burnt to the ground!'



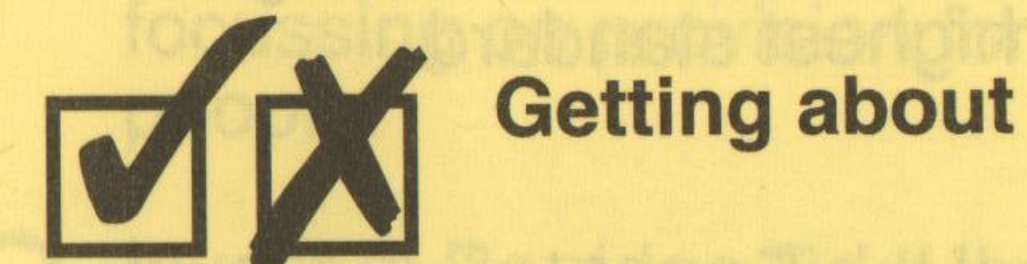
Environment and Green Spaces

Local people would like to see improvements in the condition and management of streets and spaces (e.g. Chard Street) with an increase in the amount of green space. 'The place needs a general tidy up!'



Social and Community Provisions

There was felt to be a lack of after school provision and local meeting places especially for the young people, disabled and those with learning disabilities 'Social activities bring people together'



Getting about

People want improved pedestrian crossing facilities across Radford Road, more frequent public transport at weekends and improvements to the parking situation within the narrow streets of New Basford.



Housing

People were concerned about overcrowding, badly maintained houses and the compatibility of the students lifestyles within the area. There was also thought to be not enough larger family houses or housing for the elderly to ensure a more balanced community. 'It must be nine years since they painted my house 'I do it myself now.'



Shopping

There was concern about the decline of North Gate and Beech St and the resulting lack of provision. People wanted to see a small local supermarket in the area. 'You used to have 48 shops on Northgate but now you can't get a bottle of milk'



Employment and training

There was thought to be a mismatch between training and jobs in the area. Some survey work maybe useful to try to rectify this.



Image and identity

It was felt that New Basford is a largely forgotten area which needs to come to terms with whether it wants to be an industrial or residential area and how this will affect its future. 'We pay the community charge but what do we get?' 'Are we residential or industrial?'



Community

Although the community is perceived as being quite transient, in part due to the limited variety of housing, there is a great deal of pride in the area and a desire amongst those who participated in the planning day to continue to be involved in the future improvement of the area.

Key themes and issues that have emerged so far...

Forest Fields

Do you agree with these issues - do you disagree - are there more?



Community

There is local pride in the strong, multi-cultural community of Forest Fields and perhaps because of a general perception that local views are ignored by the City Council, there was a desire for more community involvement to create local solutions to local issues.



Image and identity

The area has the poor image of a neglected and run down inner city area but with a vibrant, strong community



Environment

The local streets and public spaces have an air of general neglect with litter, dog mess, wheelie bins, poor waste management and a perceived lack of care by utility workers. There is a lack of green open space and noise pollution from a variety of sources including neighbours and car alarms. There was a strong desire for better law enforcement and improvements in the condition and management of streets.



Crime and Security

Anti-social behaviour, petty crime and vandalism, fear of crime and lack of support, were issues highlighted and local people would like to see uniformed area wardens and high profile beat policing to build relationships with the people and cultures of Forest Fields.



Employment and training

Employment initiatives should be targeted at local people and training should be available for older workers.



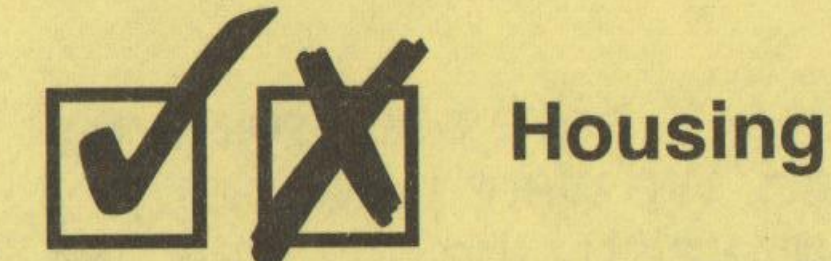
Getting about

Pedestrians, cyclists, bus users and car drivers all have difficulties in Forest Fields and there was widespread concern that the construction of the tram will make these worse. A variety of issues need to be addressed including alternative to ramps for traffic calming, improved crossings to the Forest and later bus running times.



Young People

Young people suffer from a lack of open space and supervised play provision, few if any meeting places and anti-social behaviour and bullying by others



Housing

The poor condition and upkeep of housing, student housing in particular is badly neglected, empty properties, security, noise and anti-social neighbours are all key issues in the area.



Leisure Centre

Their appears to be mixed feelings within the community about a new leisure centre on Forest Fields. Most agree there is a need for something local, modern, clean and with range of activities but many ask why on the Forest? What about other possible locations eg Gas Works. A summary of both sides might say either;

"No to the Forest Fields Leisure Centre - don't build on the Forest!"

"Yes to the Forest Leisure Centre - there's not much for the children to do around here."

If the final decision has been taken to locate leisure centre on the Forest, there must be full local involvement to ensure maximum benefit to local people.



Social and community provision

In general there is a lack of open spaces, meeting places, local facilities and information about what does go on. Local facilities such as the Forest Fields Community Centre and Noel Street are valued but neglected and require more investment.

Take part

The idea is to persuade the City Council and the spending agencies to turn ideas into reality as soon as possible so it is essential that you make your views heard if you have not already done so.

The more people that make their views known, the better the chance of early action.



970 8200
47 Gregory Blvd . Hyson Green
Nottingham . NG7 5JA



The event is being organised by John Thompson & Partners (Community Planners, Urban Designers and Architects) for the Partnership Council together with New Deal for Communities. For further information please contact Shirley Anne Whitely at the Partnership Council or Charles Campion, at John Thompson & Partners, 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ. Tel 020 7251 5135 Fax 020 7251 5136 E-mail cc@jtp.co.uk

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