

# New Deal... what's new ?

By David Roberts  
A personal View

The first themed consultation sessions for New Deal for Communities have just finished and having taken part in all of them, I'm offering some observations on the process so far.

The sessions have all been quite different in style and content and the level of engagement with and involvement of local people has varied immensely. The amount of discussion has ranged from nil or very little to lively, informed group sessions which I really wanted to continue to participate in. Some agencies have begun with information sharing - but this is a very one sided affair and we need to go much further. I also filled in some survey forms - useful for gathering views but for me covering old ground.

Overall I get the impression that some public sector agencies are wary of discussing the services they deliver with the users of those services. It's probably the first time for some of them, that they

have had to sit down and seriously plan how to discuss with local people the problems of the area and then work together to find **radical** solutions. Having said that it's the first time some residents have had to sit down and work with people from other sectors, and it's been a challenge to many of them as well. But this is what New Deal is asking of everybody involved - it's different - much more demanding than the 'normal' way of doing things. There is a good reason for this: you only have to spend time knocking on doors and talking to people in their homes or in pubs and community centres and you begin to get a vivid and sometimes frightening picture of what people have to put up with in terms of poor health, inadequate housing, high crime rates, long term unemployment and low educational achievement - these conditions would be unacceptable in more prosperous parts of the city. It's no wonder that many local people are angry and antagonistic towards some who deliver services in the area - in the past they have been guilty of accepting poor delivery and low aspirations as 'normal' - now there is a chance to change things.

Also, the Government is bringing in something called "Best Value" which is asking organisations like the City Council and the Health Authority to be more accountable to their 'customers' - that's you and me. The services provided will be judged against local performance indicators with Customer Scrutiny Panels being set up so that local people can really help shape services.

In one or two of the New Deal consultation sessions local residents have been outnumbered by professionals - but some interesting and exciting ideas are already coming up. Ones I have seen include: getting a local business to 'adopt' a street or community centre similar to the 'adopt a school' scheme - establish a University of the First Age where young people are trained in leadership, citizenship and morality based on what young people actually do rather than what older people think - recruiting and training local people to deliver socially useful work such as home security or energy saving schemes locally and to be paid no less than £5 an hour.

I think good consultation should be about enabling local people to make informed judgement about the issues that matter to them - this is starting to happen and groups will form at the first congress to take those issues forward and start to prioritise action points. Some of the themed groups will need more time to engage with people effectively and I think that the interim partnership should start to flex its muscles to ensure that this happens.

I recently went to a New Deal for Communities national conference in London where we had presentations from Birmingham and Newcastle New Deal Areas. Both described their difficulties - lots of antagonism between local people and the city council - stormy public meetings - recruiting and involving residents was not easy - in fact Birmingham's New Deal Partnership originally only had 2 resident reps. Hilary Armstrong, the Govt. Minister in charge of New Deal, also spoke - confirming that it New Deal demands **more** from every agency or sector - the public sector needed to be more open and willing to accept changes to mainstream services. She said that the public sector is part of the solution not just part of the problem. She also said that residents cannot work in isolation and in many communities there were existing networks of voluntary and community groups which should be built on and encouraged to take part in the changes that could be brought about. I was struck by this and remembered it when I attended the recent community involvement event for Area 4 at Radford Road Police Station. Fifty or Sixty representatives of over twenty local resident and voluntary groups plus reps from public sector organisations attended and it demonstrated the amount of activity going on in this area - probably much more than in other parts of Nottingham.

If New Deal is about investing in **people** rather than buildings, more work needs to be done to establish links between community and voluntary groups and businesses and public sector agencies. By following a very similar agenda I believe that this is what we have been trying to do at the Partnership Council. As Hilary Armstrong said: 'Without community involvement you cannot sustain regeneration in the long term' - but, as we have learnt from experience at the PC, working together to achieve change is challenging for some people and agencies involved in the process.

With New Deal the Govt are prepared to be flexible and are willing to back radical new ways of working - so lets not have processes like the old regeneration programmes (bricks and buildings rather than people) - It would be such a wasted opportunity, particularly after all the 'joined up' working we have struggled to develop at the Partnership Council.

Nov 99 . No.20

Partnership Council

one sheet

## A view on New Deal

### Background

New Deal for Communities is a major new regeneration programme which has been launched by the Government.

It is offering between £35 and £50 Million to be spent in parts of Radford and Hyson Green which are experiencing some of the worst problems within our wider community.

The Partnership Council, as an organisation, has been asked to help with some parts of Phase 2. Mainly publicity for consultation events and recruiting people to attend consultation events.

You may have seen posters around the area or had someone knock on your door.

### Interim Partnership

The Partnership Council is however not in charge of New Deal for Communities and is not responsible for how the consultation work is carried out.

The consultation work is being lead by a New Deal Interim Partnership. This group includes some representatives from the Partnership Council Forums (including Resident Forums) representatives from other organisations and eight resident places for resident groups in parts of Radford and Hyson Green.

### Difficult task

All those people involved in New Deal are beginning to recognise that genuine consultation is a difficult task that takes time. Similarly that sometimes mistakes are made and that it is a learning process.

Indeed the Government is getting news from other New Deal areas who are all indicating the difficulties of drawing together an action plan.

We are not saying that New Deal is perfect or that the process so far could not be improved but we are saying that the only way to make it work is to become involved, and take part.

# A New Deal for

See what might happen & give your resident ideas for the £50 million project.

Do you live in Radford or Hyson Green ?

open  
consultation

Advice, workshops, kids activities, free prize draw, food and refreshments. **If you're a local resident you should be here!**

Creche, disabled access & free transport (for elderly or infirm). Contact Michael or Kenny on the info' line **924 4571**

**27/28  
November**

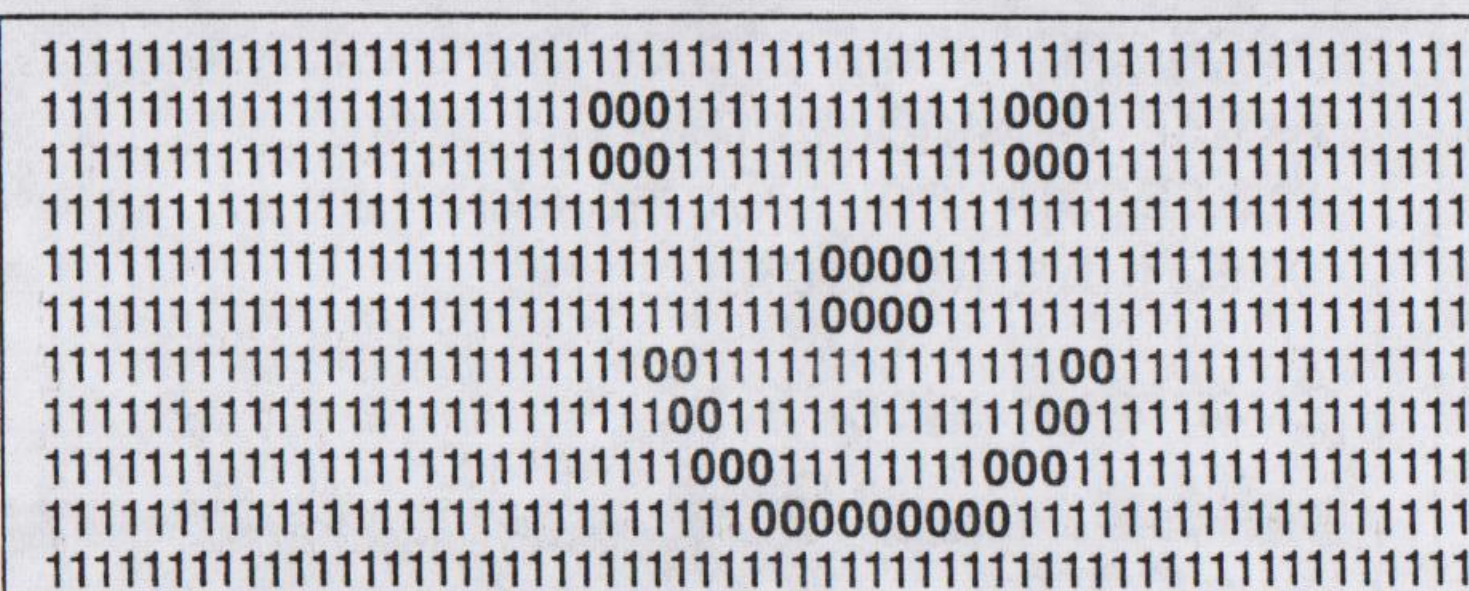
**Tennyson Hall Youth  
& Community Centre  
Forest Road West**

Sat:10am-5.00pm, Sun:11am-3.30pm



## Go digital !

Digital television is the latest technological breakthrough to help us stay in at night and veg out in front of the television. For those of you not familiar with the technology 'digital' television is made up of binary code used by computers, these are transmitted through the air to our t.v.s. Here is an image showing the high quality definition that digital shows. Can you tell what it is.



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



Funded by European Community Structural Funds, National Lottery Charities Board, Nottingham City Council & a variety of other Public, Private & Voluntary resources. The Partnership Council is a Company Ltd by Guarantee. Registered in England & Wales No. 3495975



## Tram talk

You may have seen loads of posters on the new Tram system go up. Construction work is expected to start soon and a number of meetings are scheduled to begin giving more information about the tram and the ongoing construction.

One of the first meetings set up by the Tram organisers will take place at the Vine Centre on Bobbersmill Road, on Wednesday 24th November at 7.00pm.

For more info on this meeting call (0115) 915 6000. For more info about resident forum involvement contact Martin at the Partnership Council on 970 8200

## Radford on TV?

Radford Residents Forum are applying for funding toward making a video about the local community, the areas image and the people who live in Radford. The idea is to present a new and positive image of the area. The Forum would even like to try and get the final film on television.

Anyone interested should contact David Roberts via the Partnership Council office.

## Mary Potter Rebuild

Over the past few months preliminary discussions have been taking place with regard to the proposed redevelopment of Mary Potter Health Centre on Gregory Boulevard in Hyson Green.

The existing centre is nearly 30 years old and is no longer able to meet all diverse needs of local residents and help to overcome health and social inequalities of the area.

'The vision is to put health in the heart of the community by becoming a vibrant easily accessible one stop Health and Social Care Centre that takes a holistic and innovative approach to delivering health and social care.' (September 1999)

The redevelopment is dependent on Central Government funding. Nottingham Community Health Trust have been consulting with both current and potential users of the service over the plans but would very much welcome more comments and more involvement from local residents in the discussions.

They are committed to the development of a project which is true partnership between local residents and statutory and voluntary bodies.

So if you have any ideas regarding how the new building should look or the services it should provide please contact Shahinda Hasan the Manager of Mary Potter on 9420330.

## Seasonal closing

The Partnership Council office will be closing over the Christmas period. Although staff may still be at work the office itself will not be open to the public

and the telephone will be on answer machine. The office will close at 5.30pm on Tuesday 21st December and re-open at 9.30am on Wednesday 5th January.

## Basford Gas Works

Many people have been waiting to see what might go on the famous Basford Gas Works site on Radford Road.

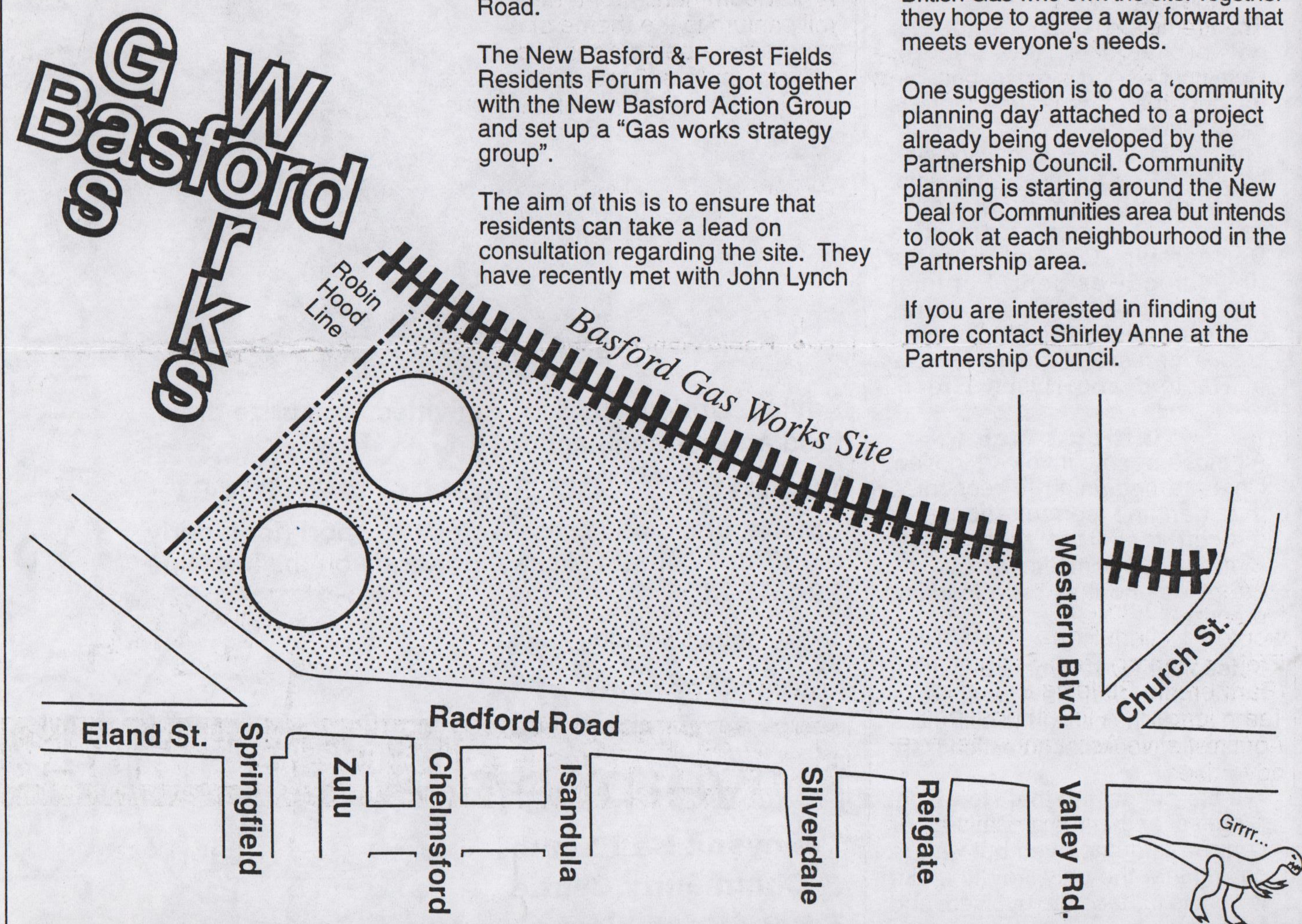
The New Basford & Forest Fields Residents Forum have got together with the New Basford Action Group and set up a "Gas works strategy group".

The aim of this is to ensure that residents can take a lead on consultation regarding the site. They have recently met with John Lynch

(Assistant director of Development Department) who expressed his commitment to involving local people. The group will next be meeting with British Gas who own the site. Together they hope to agree a way forward that meets everyone's needs.

One suggestion is to do a 'community planning day' attached to a project already being developed by the Partnership Council. Community planning is starting around the New Deal for Communities area but intends to look at each neighbourhood in the Partnership area.

If you are interested in finding out more contact Shirley Anne at the Partnership Council.

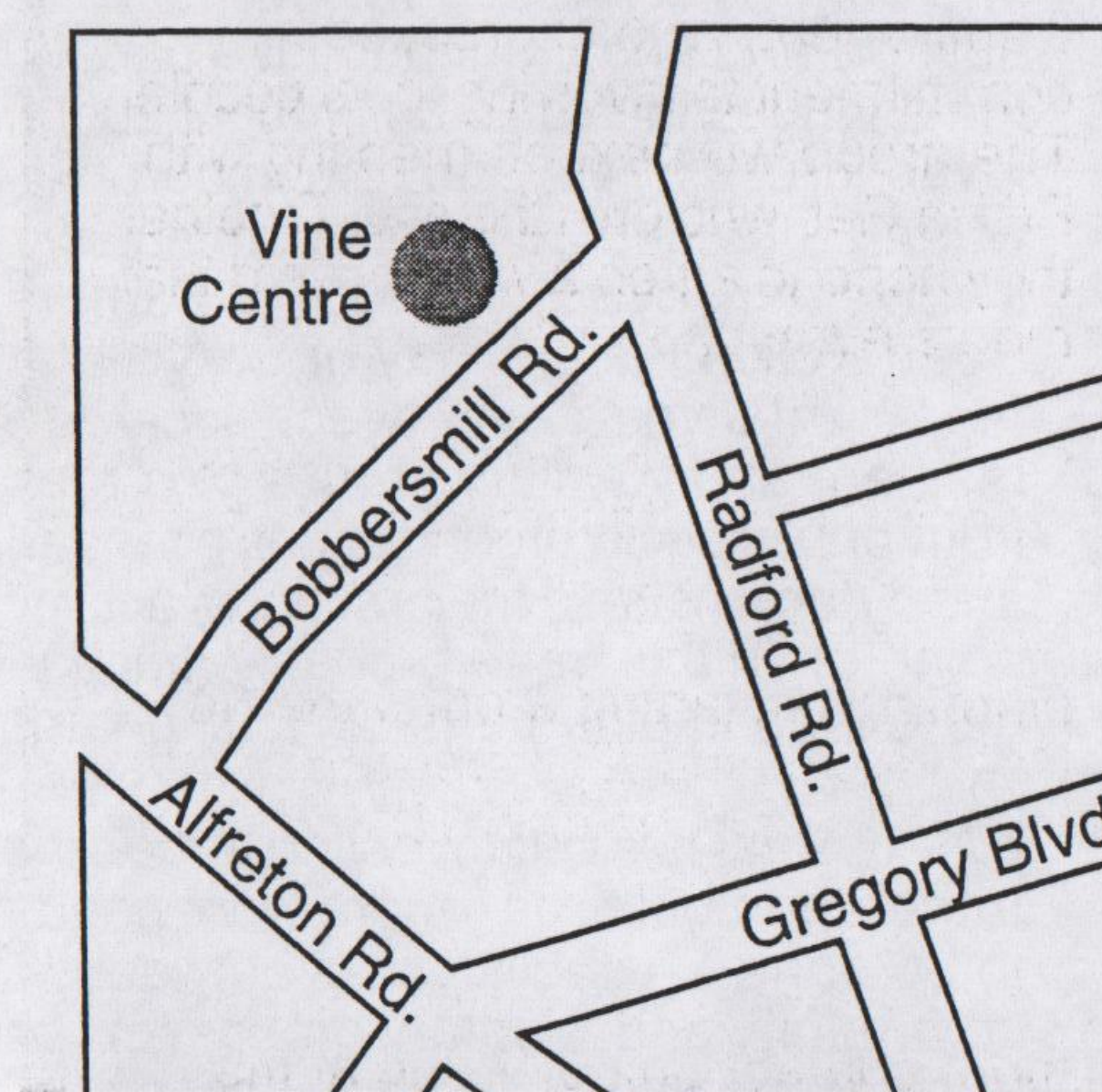


## FOREST FIELDS NEW BASFORD RADFORD AND HYSON GREEN Resident Forum Social

Everybody from Hyson Green, New Basford and Radford Resident Forums are invited to a Joint Resident Forums Social on **Tuesday 14th December 1999** from 6pm-8pm at The Vine Centre off Bobbersmill Road, Hyson Green.

There will be food, refreshments and entertainment including an Asian dance group. Children are very welcome.

If you need transport to get to and from the Vine please can you contact Martin on 9708200.



## News

### Partnership Council staff

The Partnership Council has three new staff members joining the team. New people are Michael Briscoe (Assistant Outreach & Support worker) Meilani Radzi (URBAN Project worker) Paul Sanguinazzi (Partnership Building & Outreach Team leader). A fourth post of Administrative Assistant is been re-advertised.

Michael has started recently and the others will be starting soon. When we find out some personal gossip about them all then we will do a little write up on them all.

## Job Opportunities



**National Coordinator**  
**Salary £23,894 - £26,002**

One year fixed term contract (renewable) based in Sheffield.

The UK URBAN Network is a network of regeneration partnerships in 18 UK Cities funded by the European Commission. We meet quarterly to share information and best practice and to have a united voice on issues to do with European funding and community involvement in regeneration.

For an application pack { no CV's } or to discuss the post please contact Laurie Adams Singh, HSPRC, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9PH. Email [uk.urban@virgin.net](mailto:uk.urban@virgin.net) or Tel: 01273 643904 Fax: 01273 643496

## Millenium Eve A New Community for a New Millenium

**Speakers from the Muslim, Sikh, Secular & Christian faiths. Discussion, food and friendship. All welcome.**

A new community for a new millennium is the theme of a programme being arranged on Millennium Eve, 31st December. Its aim is to bring people of religious faith and those of secular faith together. It will be from 4.30pm - 6.30pm and held at the Forest Fields Community Centre on Sturton Street. The centre is kindly providing the room rent free. It is open to all.

The first hour will be broadcast live over Radio Ramzan and speakers from Muslim, Sikh, Christian and Secular faith perspectives will speak. We all recognise the fact that we are living 2000 years after the birth of Jesus Christ and we are conscious we share a common life together in inner-city Nottingham. Food and Music and an opportunity to mix together and talk will form the second hour. Come along and build for a new future.

Graham Burton

**Friday 31st December**

**4.30 - 6.30pm @Forest Fields  
Community Centre Sturton St.**

