

Community planning review...

By Arvinder Paddam
Volunteer

The biggest issue is communication "we all need to talk to each other". This was arguably the most noteworthy statement I heard when I took part in the Hyson Green and Players Triangle community planning day on 19th February at Hyson Green Youth Club. The event was organised with the assistance of John Thompson & Partners (Community Planners, Urban Designers, and Architects), the Partnership Council together with New Deal for Communities and a steering group made up of local residents, workers and City Council representatives. Its purpose was to give local people the opportunity to have a say in the creation of a physical vision and practical action plan for the future of Hyson Green. It was the first in an area-by-area series of Community Planning events being held over the next few months, which will eventually cover the whole Partnership Council area, not just Hyson Green.

The Hyson Green Planning Day was the major element in a programme of consultation about the future of that local area. Another part, which was held on the 9th of March, was a Report Back of the outcomes of the planning day. Other components included consultation visits made by John Thompson & Partners to the Bridge Community Centre and two local schools. The canvassing of the views of people on the streets of Hyson Green was another contribution.

Consultation with local people was certainly the key to John Thompson & Partners' strategy. They did not come to dictate what they thought would be good for Hyson Green. They came to listen carefully to the views of local people and to make sure the plans they draw up for Hyson Green are what local people have said they want.

The Day was made up of two main activities: Topic Workshops and Hands-on Planning. The Workshops were titled as follows: Housing, Environment, & Community Safety; Community Provision; Revitalising local shopping areas & the local economy; and Getting About.

The participants - numbering about 100 - divided themselves, each joining a workshop that interested them. Running in parallel to these four Workshops was a Young People's Workshop. At the end of the Workshops, the participants re-congregated and representatives of each reported back their findings. Each Workshop had three stages, designed to capture as efficiently as possible the concerns of the participants and how they wanted these to be dealt with. The first part was titled 'Problems', the second 'Dreams', and the third 'Solutions'. Each part was considered in turn. For each part, the participants were asked to provide their suggestions. These were all noted.

In this way, the following were quickly established: the problems in the area that really mattered; what people who care about the community (the participants sacrificed their Saturday to attend, so they must care) would like to see happen; and suggestions to help to solve the problems that were identified. By virtue of the structure of the Workshops those who took part were able to voice their concerns and opinions and have them recorded for analysis. The majority appeared to enjoy the process and requests for its furtherance in the community were made by those who took part.

The other major activity 'Hands-on planning' took place after lunch. The attendees divided themselves into three groups, each group working on one of these themes: 'Fitting it all together', 'The Bigger Picture', and 'Key Opportunity Sites'. A representative of John Thompson & Partners facilitated each group. I joined the last of these. We gathered around large maps and offered ideas about specific physical improvements that could be made in the area.

After the Planning Day, John Thompson & Partners analysed and synthesised all the information they had gathered through their consultation programme.

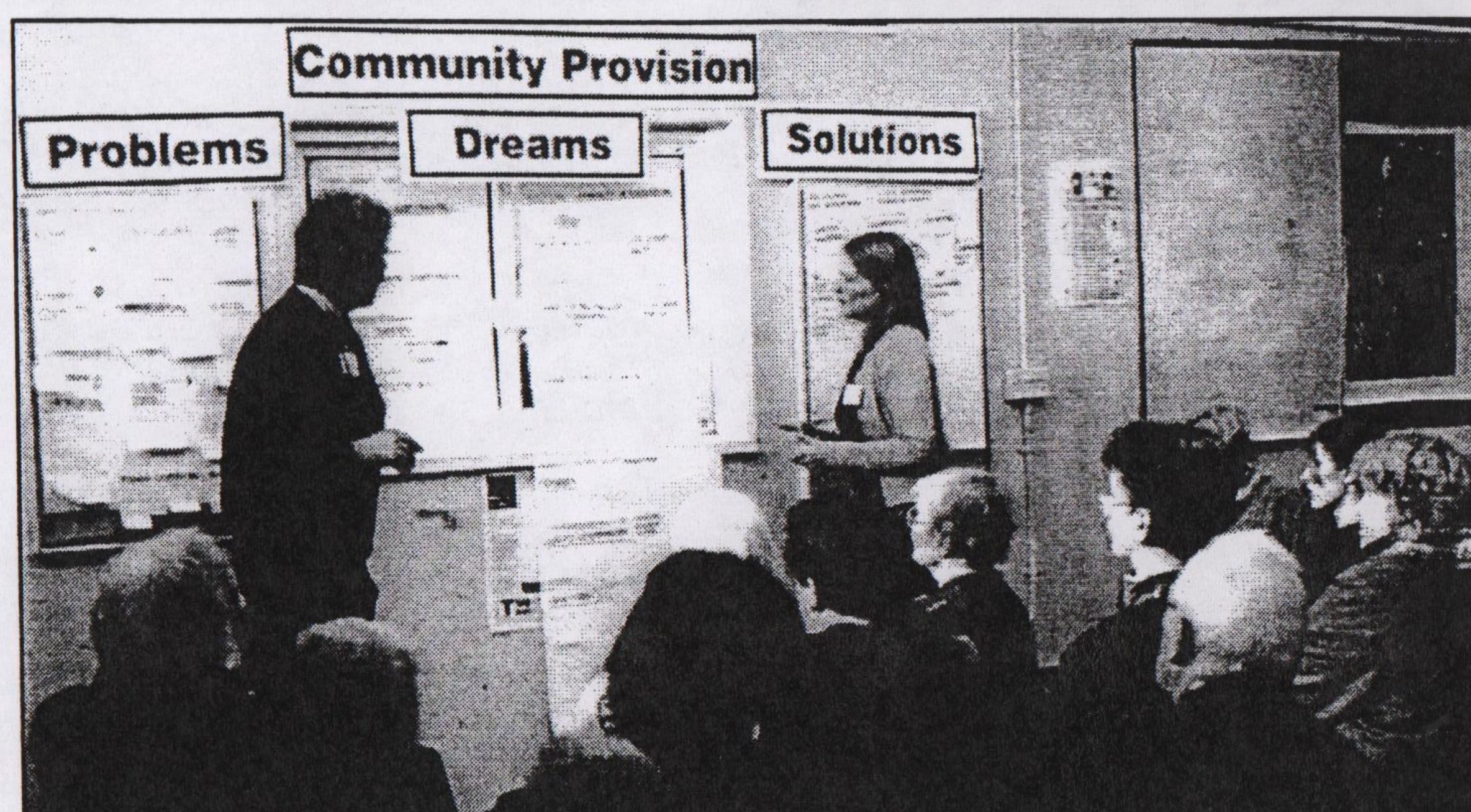
This was presented to the approximately 20 people who attended the Report Back, to which all who took part in the Community Planning Day had been invited. Through their work, the Organisers came up with a list of Key Themes and a Vision. These were open to debate and discussion as the organisers sought the views on these points of those who attended.

The participants thought it important to allow the whole community to react to the results of the consultation and ways of doing this were discussed.

Those who attended the Planning Day were anxious that something concrete should result from the project, and quickly. As a result of this, a list of early actions that could be taken with relative speed was drawn up at this report back meeting.

My personal hope was that all this will be of benefit. Most of the people I spoke to were optimistic that the project would yield genuine changes for good in the area. One such person, who was a very enthusiastic supporter of the whole idea warned that it takes a long time for changes to take place, and we should bear this in mind. Another view I heard was more cynical - that nothing ever comes out of projects like this. I know that all those who took part will do their utmost to make sure that improvements to Hyson Green will result from this enterprise.

A full summary of the day is expected to be delivered through all of Hyson Green & the Radford Triangle in the immediate future.



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Nottingham . NG7 5JA



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Partnership Council

one sheet

Community planning day: New Basford

Social Service 1st consultation.



Social Services Consultation Day (for older people) was held on Wednesday 22nd of March at the ACFF. Over 60 people attended the day (including professionals as well as residents) and discussed issues as varied as problems with 'cabbage, cauliflower and potato meals' through to basic tasks around the home.

The response from those attending was very positive. Older people enjoyed the opportunity to talk about social service issues and professionals gained a good insight into issues they need to address.

Work from the day will be going to make direct recommendations to social services committee. Veronica Price-Job, of Social Services department, felt the day had been very useful and would help them to improve the service. There was also a commitment to begin work immediately on those matters which could easily be addressed.

Notes from the day will be written up and sent to participants, and feedback given on successful changes. We will also include a broader review in the Onesheet as soon as its available.

Pop in or stay
all day !

A Community Planning Day is being held to create a physical vision and practical action plan for the future of a large part of New Basford.

The Community Planning Day will bring together local residents and all those who are interested in the future of the area.

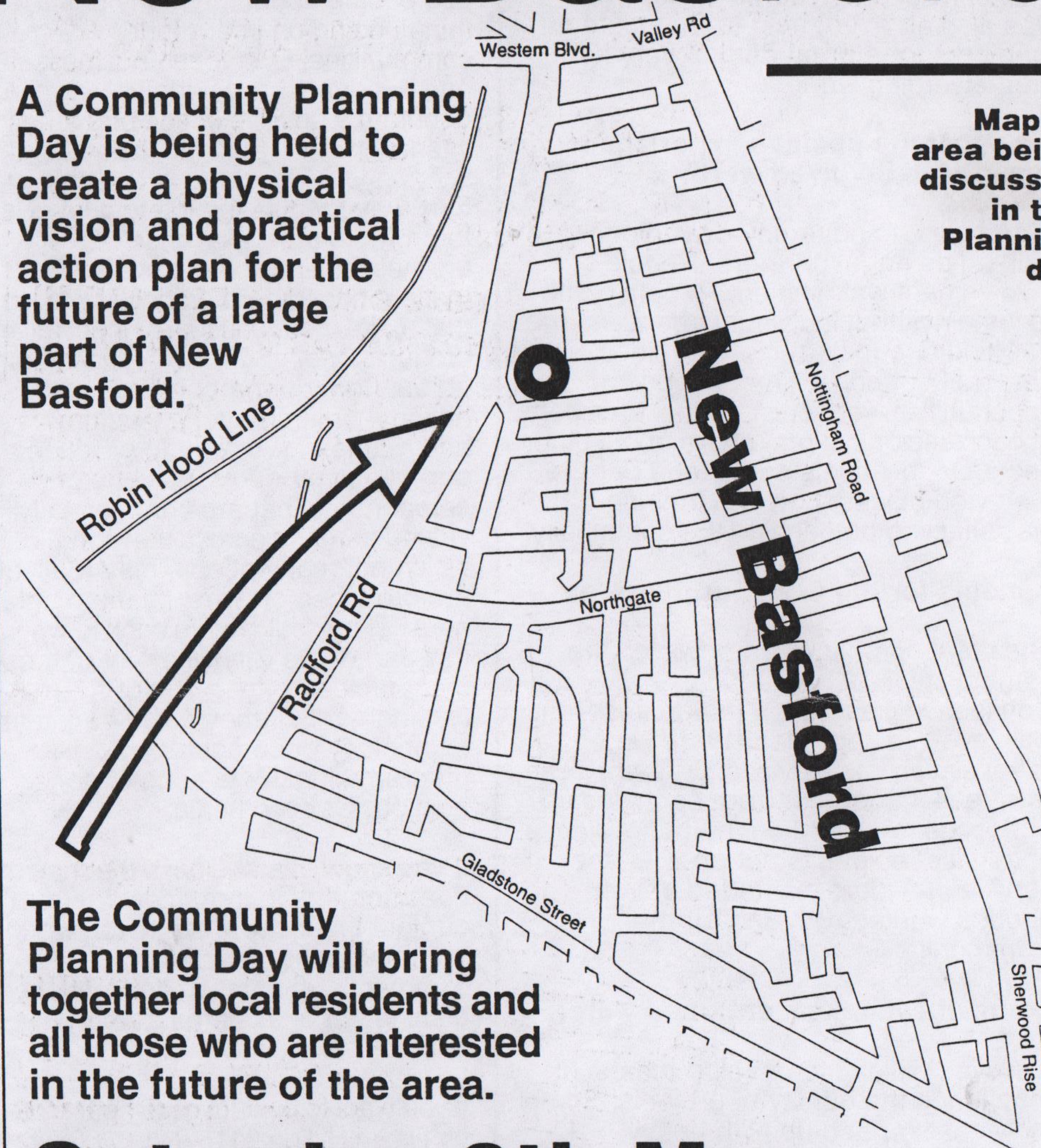
Saturday 8th May
@ New Basford
Community Centre

Radford Road and
Zulu Road corner

11.00am - 5.00pm

Young peoples workshop 11.30am!

Map of
area being
discussed
in the
Planning
day



Everybody is invited to come and work with us through open, lively workshops and 'hands-on planning' design groups to create a new plan for New Basford. Community Planning is a new technique for involving local people creatively in deciding the future of their area. The event will be very informal and you can stay for the whole day or just drop in to see what's going on. It's up to you! Free refreshments and a creche will be available.

RADFORD AND HYSON GREEN FOR A BETTER NEW BASFORD

WORKING GROUP CONFERENCE

The European URBAN funding was successfully committed by 31st December, a great achievement by the various Working Groups involved. The system of Working Groups, which was used to develop services demanded by the Action Plan, has been under review to examine its successes and its drawbacks. This review included a feedback questionnaire from the groups themselves, and a conference, which was also an event held to thank group members for a great deal of very hard and rewarding work.

Amongst the positive experiences from those involved were:-

There was no hierarchy - everyone worked as equal partners. People's involvement was valued. People came together without individual agendas - the Working Groups structure avoided personal agendas. The networking opportunities were outstanding. Members of each sector lost prejudices about other sectors. Individuals could feed back to their workplaces how the funding was affecting or touching the community.

Benefits for the Community were:-

The creation of links empowered the community. Confidence was built in the process, and skill levels raised. Ideas were kept true in translation into services. Different ideas were pulled together from each sector. The focus remained on the beneficiaries or service recipients, not on what the service providers wanted to deliver. The Groups worked with and for the Community.

Some drawbacks mentioned were:

It proved difficult to develop means of monitoring the quality of projects. Some individuals ended up with heavy workloads. Match funding was a difficult issue. (although this was also mentioned as a positive in that it encouraged people to work together who otherwise would not have). European goal posts and rules often changed, without the groups or Partnership Council having any influence over the changes being made.

A full report of the Working Group Review will be produced in May and this will inform a lot of what happens in the future. All members of Working Groups on the database will receive one, however those who require a copy should contact Chrissie or Meilani at the Partnership Council office.

Meanwhile a huge thanks to all Working Group members past and present.

Promoting our area, because it deserves it !

You may have heard or read in the local press about some of our plans to actively market our inner city areas of Radford, Hyson Green, New Basford and Forest Fields to the wider Nottingham community, starting this summer. We believe it's time we told people about the many positive things going on in our four communities. Everyone - businesses and residents - will benefit if we can generate a positive image and a new interest in our areas and their assets.

One way to raise the interest level is to promote the wide range of businesses and commercial activities that are based here. Especially those that make more unusual or innovative products or offer unique services that go out from our part of the City to national or international customers and markets. We want to produce a portfolio of products, designs or components that are commercially valued perhaps across the world, but which not many people may realise are produced or were invented right here. They could relate back to when this part of the City was part of the manufacturing heartland of Nottingham. Or they could be latest technology or computer programming. Or leading edge fashion. Or new media.

If you know of a business that has or does something that goes out from our four inner city areas to the world. We reckon there's a lot more commercial innovation and influence coming out of this area than many people realise. Are we right?

If you want to contact us to hear more, try David Hill on 0115 941 0963 (who is leading on the project) or Joe Robinson at the Partnership Council 970 8200.

Latest !!

A special Marketing Drop-in Evening is being held between 5.30 and 8.00pm on Wednesday 19th April at the Bridge Centre, Gregory Boulevard (opposite Hyson Green Post Office).

The evening is open to all to see what ideas have been suggested for promoting the area. If you live in the area and want to see a positive message being sent out then come along and see what's going on. We want to find out if the ideas so far are good enough to take forward.

See attached leaflet

Community Newsletters ?

If you run a newsletter or magazine, or are considering setting one up, membership of The Association of Nottinghamshire Newsletters (ëNotts News) can provide invaluable support. This includes training in all aspects of newsletter production. For further information, please contact Keith Wood, Secretary, Notts News, Tel: 0115 914 2930; or Lisa Barley, Clerical Officer, Notts News, Tel: 01636 815267.

Launch of the

a2Z

for local
voluntary groups

The Voluntary Sector Forum has been planning a local A-Z of voluntary groups and this will be launched on April 13th at the Voluntary Forum Meeting. The A-Z has taken some time to get off the ground and is intended to be delivered to every household in the area to let local people know what services and opportunities are available to them.

This is the first time this has been done locally and is a bit of an experiment. So the Voluntary Forum are keen to find out if it will work in promoting what local groups do. The A-Z should begin delivery after the 13th so keep an eye open on your letterbox.

Social skills

Humour is essential to positive social interaction. Here are some techniques you can use, try them on people you know & then ask them what they think. Please feel free to own these jokes - there is no need to mention that you read them here.

"What do you call a boomerang that does not come back? - a stick"

Dr Watson asked Sherlock Holmes why he was painting the front door to his Baker Street home a vivid bright yellow. Holmes replied: "That's a lemon entry my dear Watson"

"Is a baby Octopus an Octokitten?"

We apologise for the quality of this month's humour (Ed).

Single Regeneration Budget - (SRB 6)

The Single Regeneration Budget (Round 6) is a packet of Government funding which Nottingham is currently hoping to apply for. The bid will encompass 12 of the 50 most deprived wards in the East Midlands (locally it covers all or parts of Radford, Hyson Green, Forest Fields and New Basford). It is intended to support various projects reflecting local priorities, as identified by local partnerships, over the period of 7 years. Three strands have been set and they are: One - Community Learning and Information & communication technology or ICT for short (£5m). Two - Local area regeneration in Bestwood. (£2m). Three - Regeneration fund (£2m)

The strategy developed here will be used to develop a wider conurbation strategy. In turn it is hoped that the funds are used to increase the levels of basic skills (to include ICT) and thus improving educational attainment and access to employment. This was done on the basis of a survey carried out locally (The Greater Nottingham Employer Survey 1999/2000) to assess the need for such a scheme and the outcome of the survey indicated a growing demand amongst employers for personnel equipped with ICT skills.

Currently, the SRB team have organised a series of workshops to bring together partnerships. The final bid for the funds has to be submitted by the 2nd of June 2000 to EMDA (east Midlands Development Agency) and the first year (2000/2001) will be spent exclusively on building strategies to allocate, manage and build the capacities of local area partnerships and communities to ensure the sustainability and ownership of the Project.

****If your interested in funding structures Watch this space for news.**

Why sometimes you can't "just do it"!

Anyone who does not know about it might simply ask what's the big problem with drawing down European funds. It's easy to miss the huge amount of background work involved in accessing European money. So here's how it works...

1: At the end of each quarter of the year (in April, July, October and January) every group who receives funding has to submit a claim form for the money they have spent in the last three months.

2: The 'accountable body' who in are employed by the Partnership Council to account for European funds (in our case the City Council as you need a lot of cash flow) draw all these claims together under the four different 'measures' which funding fits into.

3: The four 'measures' are added up together and then the total bill is sent to the local Government Office (responsible for handing out European funds) who check all the figures.

4: If all is correct the Government Office sends the right amount of money back to the accountable body who then send cheques out to all the different groups.

This is a simplistic version as you have to remember that when spending public money there are a whole raft of checks and balances, and procedures to make sure everything is done properly and can be accounted for.

The problem which can delay this process are many. Over forty claims can come at each quarter - for funding between £200 and £100,000. All of

these have to be checked and then added together to make one giant claim to the Government office.

If one claim, just one!, is late then everything has to wait. This can happen. It might be because a small organisation has limited resources and is late because of the time it takes to fill out a form. A big organisation may have thousands of details to tie together which again can take ages.

If one claim is wrong (i.e. the maths has a mistake in it) then it has to be rechecked. This again delays everything.

From claims going in to the Government office sending out money can take three months. If a mistake is discovered by the Government office the whole process can be delayed. In 1999 this did in fact happen and £34,000 was delayed because of an error of just £14.

If there is a delay in the process then organisations who are reliant on the money can have serious financial problems.

The difficulty for everyone is that if one mistake or one claim was improperly made then everyone (you, me, the Evening Post, etc) would quite rightly start asking questions.

Public money is not free money, it is given for specific purposes. No one can allow any mistakes no matter how small or unimportant it may seem when looking at multi million pound programmes.

This whole issue explains why, perhaps, when someone says "why can't you just do this!", that those responsible for sorting out the money take a big deep sigh before trying to explain it all.



The Partnership Council is currently setting up a 'Key Fund' project to support application for grants up to 100% to the maximum amount of £25,000. We are looking for individuals who are interested to form a grants panel.

Grants Panel - Roles and Responsibilities. The panel is to come up with the following: (1) A detailed criteria for applicants (draft criteria is available for guidance). (2) Project application forms. (3) Consider grant applications. (4) Ensure that match - funding is secured

We are looking for residents, business people, voluntary and public sector reps to be members of the panel. We are looking for people who:-

*know whether projects are capable of becoming self-supportive. *how relevant projects are to the purposes and criteria of the grants. *how capable applicants are in financial terms and in terms of delivery. * are willing to positively contribute with local resident knowledge.

Assistance and support will be provided by City Council and Partnership Council staff. If you think that you would be able to spare the time (once/twice monthly) please contact:

Meilani Radzi, Project Officer at the Partnership Council
Telephone 970 8200 or E-Mail: mail@partnershipcounc.demon.co.uk

Area Committee Quiz night

City Council Area Committee are holding a social evening and quiz night. Wednesday 12th April at the Horse & Groom (Radford Rd/Northgate). Any local voluntary or resident groups are welcome and quiz prizes look to be very... interesting.

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).

Question:

Do you think the local area...

- ☐ Is rubbish.
- ☐ Will never get better.
- ☐ Is not something anyone cares about.

Then thank you we won't trouble you.

Do you think Radford, Hyson Green, New Basford & Forest Fields are...

- ☐ Simply the Best.
- ☐ Brilliant.
- ☐ Lively and cosmopolitan.
- ☐ Vibrant.
- ☐ Superb.
- ☐ Pretty okay.
- ☐ Enterprising.
- ☐ A great place to be.
- ☐ A place you like to live in.
- ☐ A place you are proud of.

Then we want you to come to.

Marketing our community drop-in evening

Wed April 19th

5.30pm - 7.30pm

**The Bridge Centre
Gregory Blvd**

(opposite Hyson Green Post Office)

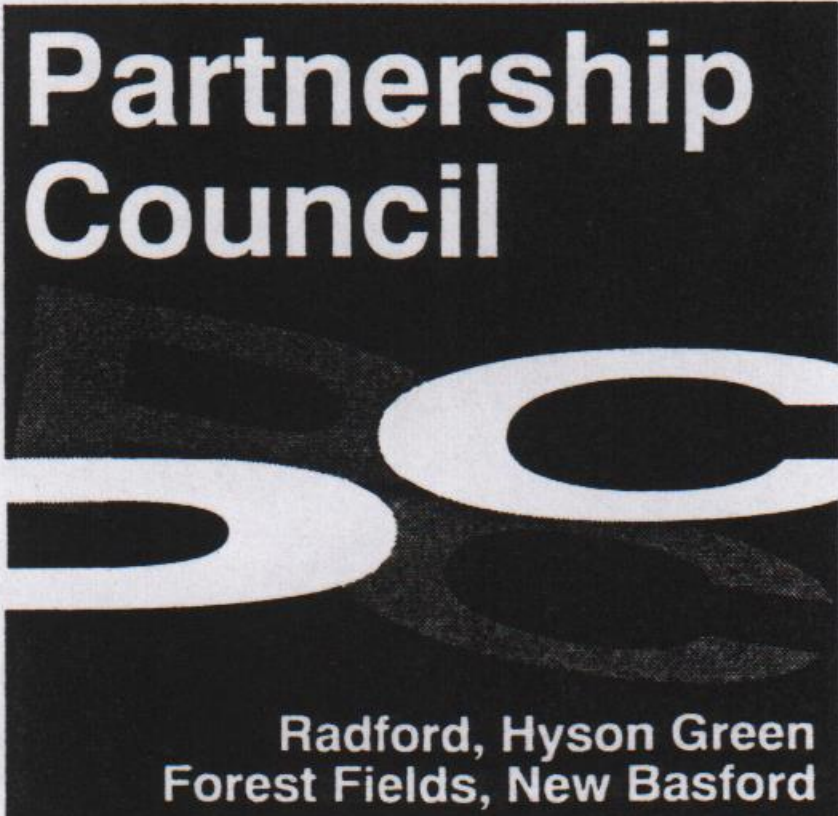
Refreshments available

Just drop by or stop and chat

You may have heard or read in the local press about some of our plans to actively market our inner city areas of Radford, Hyson Green, New Basford and Forest Fields to the wider Nottingham community, starting this summer. Everyone - businesses and residents - will benefit if we can generate a positive image and a new interest in our area.

A company has been employed to work for the area and we are holding a special Marketing Drop-in Evening to see what ideas have been suggested so far. If you live in the area and want to see a positive message being sent out then come along and see what's going on. We want to find out what you think about the ideas and talk about how we can take it forward.

☎ 970 8200



Registered Office:
47 Gregory Boulevard
Hyson Green
Nottingham
NG7 5JA

Tel: 9708200

Project Co-ordinator:
Christina Ashworth

23 March 2000

Dear Resident Forum Member

Re: Outreach Team to contact forum members to complete questionnaire

The resident forums are looking to draw up their action plans for the next year. Each forum is keen to look at what the forum should be doing and how they can improve the way they get residents involved.

As part of this the outreach team (Paul, Michael, Martin and Shirley Anne) is keen to find out from existing forum members what your experience has been and find out suggestions for improvements. To help with this evaluation we are hoping to carry out a short questionnaire with a number of residents who have been involved in a resident forum or are on our mailing list.

We will be contacting you in April either by telephone (if we have your number) or at your home address, to go through the questionnaire. This should take no longer than half an hour.

Please contact us if you would like to arrange a convenient time or to let us know if you do not want to be contacted or be part of the forum any more.

Thanks for your help and we look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely,

Shirley Anne Whitley

THE PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL ACTION PLAN

RAISING ACHIEVEMENT

1.1 CHILDREN

Supporting work with involving children in the area.
Supporting the Children's Forum

1.2 YOUNG PEOPLE

Supporting the development of the Youth Strategy

1.3 COMMUNITY OF LEARNING

Looking at developing the training/skills work that Learning Legacy has started.

Looking at increasing skills in the local community and how IT(computers) can be best used in the local community

1.4 BUSINESS PERFORMANCE

Developing plans for developing businesses, business property and business use of IT.

1.5 QUALITY OF SERVICE PROVISION

Developing consultation on local services e.g. Social Services, Leisure services

1.6 VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Developing groups skills to enable them to access funding

DEMOCRATIC OPPORTUNITIES

3.1 DEMOCRATIC OPPORTUNITIES

Involvement in planning the physical environment and facilities (Community Planning)

Involvement in New Deal for Communities

Involvement in influencing the Area 4 Committee

3.2 JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Developing ways of bringing job opportunities to the area including 'social' businesses and creating local jobs for local people

3.3 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Developing ways of helping business to start up and looking at IT opportunities for local businesses

3.5 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Involvement in helping to distribute and monitor grant funds.

3.6 HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Helping to develop a health and well being strategy

3.7 SPORT, CULTURE, HERITAGE, LEISURE

Involvement in developing a creative (e.g. public art, festivals, internet work) strategy

OVERCOMING BARRIERS

4.1 SOCIAL CAPITAL

Involvement in connecting people to networks and promoting social inclusion.

4.2 OVERCOMING PREJUDICES

Involvement in involving excluded groups, bring different faiths together and marketing the area

4.3 TRANSPORT

Involvement in tram discussions, and creating a transport strategy for the area

4.4 HIGH QUALITY SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Involvement in developing a community garden, play areas for young people

Involvement in developing a community safety strategy

Involvement in ensuring that development in the area is environmentally sustainable

4.5 PROMOTING PARTNERSHIP

Involvement in promoting best practice in partnership working

Changing role of the Forum

Please find enclosed a copy of the forum minutes, ideas for actions for the forum, as well as the Partnership Council Action Plan, which sets out the key themes which the Partnership Council recognises that it can influence and can work on this year.

The information contains ideas, suggestions and proposals put forward in relation to the residents forum. There are new ideas about its role, the way in which people can be involved and actions to carry out. We need feedback from forum members about the suggestions as well as ideas from you on what should be the key actions and issues should be this year.

If you have any questions or suggestions please pass them on to Shirley Anne at the Partnership Council.

Thanks for your help.

New Basford and Forest Fields Residents Forum Meeting Thursday 9th March, Noel Street Leisure Centre

Present: Sue Anderson, Joe Pearce, Ravi Subramanian, Owen Gaffney, Margaret Hancock, Rand Paul, Jackie Frieth, Jo Talbot, Betty Peach, George Moulson Mohamed Ghullam, Paul Sanguinazzi, Shirley Anne Whitley.

Aim of Meeting

The aim of the event was to develop an action plan for the forum for the forthcoming year. However before this could be done the forum needed to re-establish what the role of the forum should be and how it can involve residents in influencing decision making.

Aim and objectives of the Partnership Council

It was suggested that before focusing on the forum, residents could look at the wider objectives and role of the Partnership Council. Paul presented a number of objectives for the Partnership Council and asked the group to discuss these.

It was felt that they contained a lot of jargon and were difficult to understand. Action: Paul agreed to revise it making it easier to read.

Forum members felt that it was important to look at the forums objectives first and then move on to the wider Partnership Council aims. This would ensure a "bottom up" process. Therefore a decision was made to move on to look at the roles, objectives and idea for the forum itself and go back to the Partnership Council aims afterwards.

The Role Of the Forum

It was felt that the regular monthly forum meetings are not accessible to wider community and only a certain type of people attend regularly.

The monthly forum meeting was not the place to involve the wider community in putting forward ideas. Need to invest resources in wider public meetings and see the forum as a small action group.

The regular forum meeting should be the steering group or small action group which can be the catalyst for change. It saw itself as the group of activists or the enabling group.

It does not claim to represent the community but seeks to find out the views from residents.

Group to go out and find out what are the issues, organise consultation in the wider community and the group to discuss and take forward the ideas.

The group felt that before it could develop an action plan it needed to find out what the issues are in the community which need tackling. It could do this by consulting residents and finding out what are the priority issues people need tackling.

Involving People In Different Ways

Need to organise a range of events so that people can put their ideas across and get involved in influencing decision making.

Hold a big fun (free food, bouncy castle etc.) event to find out the 4 or 5 key issues which the forum work on in the year.

Hold quarterly public meetings on specific themes or issues which the forum can do the follow up work on.

Socials - Some meetings need to be put on which are sociable and enjoyable. The main part of the meeting could include music and food. There could also be a speaker on an issue or discussion.

The forthcoming community planning events seen as a key event to get views residents in the area.

Got to get out there!

Need to go out to other groups in the community such as lunch clubs, mums and toddlers, schools etc. and find out from people there what issues are and then feed these things into the forum. Forum members link to groups to ensure feed ideas in, however being clear they are not representing the groups.

Go out to public venues such as Asda and do stalls and consult people. Do a questionnaire and find out peoples priority issues what do people rank as top 5 issues.

Publicity

Simple leaflet go out explaining what we are about. This needs to be translated.

Build on achievement and communicate achievements and work carried out.

Deal with issues that we can make a difference with

The forum felt that it was important to look at issues where we can make a change. The biggest barrier in the community is the sense of hopelessness people face. They have been involved in things and not seen things changed. Therefore we need to get away from wish lists but realistically look at areas where we can make a change. Rather than spending all out energy on an issue or campaign which will have already been decided on.

It was asked what issues can the Partnership Council realistically change? Paul explained that the Partnership Council had already looked at this and that was the reason for producing its action plan, which looked at areas where a difference could be made. For example areas where there are funding opportunities or change in legislation such as Best Value which demands the City Council to consult on all its services.

Action - The group felt that this action plan needs to be further explained and simplified to use at next meeting. Paul to look at action plan and make clearer. (Please find revised action plan enclosed.)

Issues Highlighted

Issues which were highlighted in the meeting which might be considered to address include: the removal of bins, services for older people, road humps /transport and a car scheme for elderly.

Follow Up Meeting Wednesday 22nd March 6-7pm

It was agreed to hold a follow on meeting to draw the ideas together.

It was agreed that following the last meeting that a proposal should be made to all forum members that the monthly forum meeting would now be the small planning or steering group and that wider public meetings would be held once a quarter.

The next decision which needs to be made is on the types of action which it needs to develop this year. It was decided to circulate possibilities for action for the forum (please see next page) for feedback from forum members.

The Partnership Council Action Plan which outlines the key areas of work to be developed is also circulated. Forum members are asked to feedback on whether the issues are areas which the forum wants to be involved in.

Action: Please can forum members read information and comment on the suggestions and proposals which have been put forward in relation to the forum and its actions for the forthcoming year.

Next Forum meeting Monday 17th April 6.30 -8pm at Noel Street Leisure Centre

POSSIBILITIES FOR ACTION FOR NEW BASFORD AND FOREST FIELDS FORUM

- 1. Partnership Council Consultation Conferences**
- 2. Consultation Events (Multi-sector)**
- 3. Community Planning**
- 4. Forum Meetings**
- 5. Recruitment work/ door knocking**
- 6. Outreach work**
- 7. Developing the Forum's Action Plan**
- 8. Social Events**
- 9. Fun days**
- 10. Training**
- 11. Involvement in Partnership Council Working Groups**
- 12. Involvement in Grant Giving Panels**
- 13. Publicity**
- 14. Representing the Forum or attending planning/liaison/strategic meetings**