

Credit Union changes?

Fair Goose Credit Union has been active for a number of years now working across much of our local community. To help them develop, and employ staffing, they received £37,600 from URBAN through the URBAN Social Economy Business Grants.

Now with two staff and other support Fair Goose (along with a developing Friar Tuck credit Union) are facing an issue about the future role of local Credit Unions and a potential city wide perspective.

This article has been taken from the Fair Goose members newsletter and discusses some of the benefits and disadvantages to proposed changes.

How many of you know about plans being discussed to create a Credit Union that everyone who lives or works within the City's borders could join?

Fair Goose wants your opinion on whether we should remain as we are, or go forward and pin in. We will be holding a meeting on 17 July to discuss this.

Points to consider in favour of of a City-wide Credit Union

1. Of the existing Credit Unions in Nottingham, only 3% of the population can join - even after our expansion. This is because many areas of Nottingham are not covered by one of the three existing community Credit Unions.

2. Some areas in Nottingham that want a Credit Union can not have one due to new rulings. This is because the areas are thought to be too small on their own - i.e. St Anns, Broxtowe or Meadows.

A city-wide Credit Union will be developed as a merger and expansion of the existing Credit Unions and not as a takeover by an outside group. Directors, committee members, volunteers and members of

existing Credit Unions would be expected to be involved in shaping and planning this more inclusive Credit Union.

4. Centralisation of some credit union activities would make life easier and take away the strain from local groups - i.e. accounting, marketing.

5. Access would be improved to the credit union because members could go to any credit union office to do their business, e.g. Bulwell, Lenton, St Anns etc. Locally based branches would operate, cash handling and granting loans.

6. Democracy, which is the heart of the Credit Union movement, would not be lost or diluted, rather it would be available to a wider group of people. It is up to the current directors of the existing Credit Unions to oversee that the central ethos of the Credit Union is preserved.

This type of expansion/merger is not new in the UK. Telford, Rochdale, Leeds and Exeter have all done this. They can now offer a more professional service, more products and a faster turn around for loans. Any development of a city-wide Credit Union in Nottingham would look to these for help and guidance. To pursue this will require hard work, and an infusion of new people.

We value the input our volunteers have made over the years and see an important roll for them in the running of the citywide Credit Union.

To say no to this proposal means that many people in Nottingham, who need the services of a Credit Union, will be without access for the foreseeable future. Think about how the Credit Union has improved your life—shouldn't everybody have access to that? We want everybody to benefit in the way that we have.

Potential disadvantages of, and Points to Consider as Fair Goose Discusses whether to introduce One Credit Union in Nottingham.

1. There are some points which Fair Goose members should consider before they recommend the development of a single Credit Union in Nottingham at this point in time and in the current circumstances.

2. There is a threat to democracy, which is at the heart of the Credit Union movement - this is especially the case as this has not come naturally through the Credit Union membership but rather as a top down approach. If democracy is to survive the change (greater commitment to this than is currently evident) will be required.

3. Whichever development is preferred, the identity of individual credit unions will disappear. This has a number of implications.

4. Volunteers have been working for the benefits within their own local community.

How will they and their commitment be supported and maintained when the focus widens?

5. There has been great value to individuals and their communities through the capacity building which has come from local common bonds. What measures will ensure that this is not lost?

6. Control of loan repayments have largely been successful through personal knowledge within small localities. There is a danger of this being lost and of debt to the Credit Union growing.

7. One of the Credit Union's strongest advantages is that, whilst being professionally run, it is not like an impersonal bank or building society. There is a danger of this being lost as a much larger entity is created and run by a remote centralised team.

8. The Credit Unions in Nottingham all have immediate pressures on them, eg Fair Goose and Bulwell are trying to enlarge / merge with Steering Groups, Friar Tuck is at early stage of development. There is a danger that the focus of already stretched volunteers will be taken away from this work towards the development of One Credit Union.

9. To manage such a major change will require a wide variety of skills; ability to value and promote democracy as a core value, ability to value volunteers and develop mechanisms for supporting them through the change and into new and different roles, ability to foster loyalty within a city wide organisation. Is there evidence that these skills are recognised as important and are measures being taken to ensure they are present?

PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

If you are a member of Fair Goose then check for details of the members meeting. If you are not a member but have any point of view on the subject write to us, before July 16th, at;

Fair Goose Credit Union
69 Wiverton Road
Forest Fields
Nottingham
NG7 6NU
Tel: 960 7840

The Fair Goose Credit Union is supported by the Partnership Council through URBAN Funding.

Other groups which received agreement on URBAN Social Economy Business Funding (all with various conditions) were Homecare Nottingham Ltd, Co-operative Community Action, NECTA Ltd, Fair Goose Credit Union, Force 7, and Birkin Patch Improvement Association.

Partnership Council

Credit Union changes?
see back page

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

July 2001 . No. 39

Onesheet

Exclusive information for forum members & other participants



Community Planning Theme

A sustainable community



Looking to the future

More creative projects Page 3
NDC & Partnership Council See page 4
Business

Page 6

for the Partnership Council

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.

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



COMMUNITY FUND
Lottery money making a difference

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
Structural Funds (URBAN)

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

Internal Information

Partnership Council Forum Representatives

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

New Basford / Forest Fields Resident Forum
PC Shaghofta 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.

Previously we have listed the Partnership Council Forum reps who have sat on the New Deal for Communities (NDC) Interim Partnership. NDC is now a company limited by guarantee with its own board of directors. See article on page 4 for more info about NDC.

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.

Partnership Council Participants and Friends

© Social

Thursday 26th July,
7.00pm - late @ the PC
47 Gregory Blvd.

You are invited to our social. Excellent company. Good discussion. Reasonable food. Okay drinks and meet Susan the Squirrel. Please bring a bottle or bring some food.

KEY Fund

The Key Fund has now almost committed all it's funding. Although applications are accepted on an on-going basis until October 2001 organisations and groups should be aware that remaining funding is limited. Panel meetings take place at the beginning of each month. For more information please contact Key Fund staff on 964 8156.

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.

Love Award

Andy Barret's "Love in NG7" Project funded from Working Groups 2's small creative grants is being entered for a local radio award. The results are known at the end of July. Love in NG7 is also being rebroadcast probably on the August Bank holiday weekend. We'll let you know more when we know.

Amazing Business innovation

Local company 'Fruit of the Cardigan' has brought in international skills for its new and unique jumper. Learning from the recent Shetland Pony and Zebra accident (which as you will know produced a hybrid zebra/horse) FOTC are mixing a Zebra with a Sheep to produce striped jumpers ready made.



Zebra



Sheep

The new animal (called a "Zeep") produces lovely striped wool on the animal itself - thus saving the huge costs of knitting in different colours. Other ideas discussed so far are; a Leopard / sheep ('Leap' spotted jumpers). Beaver / sheep ('Beep' water resistant jumpers) and Reindeer / sheep ('Reep' Christmas patterns).

Company officials have, however, dismissed ideas of a Kangaroo & sheep combination (to produce a wooly jumper!) as silly and childish.

Developing a creative strategy.

Working Group 2 are looking to employ both a Consultant and potentially a Host organisation for developing 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 months. The Host organisation may take part by carrying out all the necessary employment and administration necessary for the Consultant to work.

If you are interested in tendering for either Consultant or Host please express your interest in writing to the address below.

CREATIVE STRATEGY
Partnership Council
47 Gregory Blvd
Hyson Green
Nottingham
NG7 5JA

Local artists in residence: "Home"

Metalworker Laura Kitchen & writer Steve Carroll will be NG7 artists in residence throughout September and October.

In a project funded by Working Group 2 and co-ordinated by City Arts & Angel Row Gallery the pair will be working with community groups, collecting creative writing and testimony. Each participant will then have the opportunity to create their own customised box - using personal objects, metal panels and ideas discovered in the metal working workshop. The final exhibitions at City Arts & Angel Row will feature the finished works - boxes, text and objects people want to show. The final exhibit will be a representation of lots of separate peoples lives and experiences brought together by this unique community residency.

If you are interested in getting your group/street/ family involved in the project please call Beth at City Arts 0115 9782494

"facing uncertain and ambiguous career paths and little job security, we'll find in the years to come that the most critical knowledge for all of us - will turn out to be self-knowledge"
J.Kouzes / B.Posner

Working Group 2 Small Creative Grants

One element of Working Group 2's funding is a small creative grant scheme. The aim of the funding was to support new and innovative work in the area for the benefit of local people. Groups supported so far include:

The Big Speak Out/Macedon/HLG - £600 To offer creative workshops prior and as part of the day. An art, poetry and drama workshop. The aim of the event is to offer homeless and formerly homeless people the opportunity to share their experiences of homelessness and to identify ways of becoming more involved in planning and delivering homelessness services.

African Ark - £400 To provide a showcase of work over 2 days in the form of exhibitions relating to Kwanzaa celebrations. On both days there will be pre exhibition discussions and workshops focussing on the core elements of Kwanzaa - creativity in relation to African Ark i.e. dance, visual arts and pride in black history.

Erondu - £1250 To establish and develop an 'Arts' programme which will take the form of an 'After School's Club'. The programme will be over 12 months and will be divided into 3 x 10 week blocks will focus on Music, Drama, Singing and Dancing as part of Block one, explore African and African Caribbean cookery in Block two and to cover aspects of visual/creative arts in Block three leading up to an exhibition and open day in the summer months.

Groundwork- £900 To implement phase 1 of Groundwork's sketch plan for schools ground improvement. Working with pupils at Bentinck Primary School to design and paint a mural. To create a new 'Welcome Area' with pupils at Forest Fields Primary.

Belle and Banjoko - £1500 A performance piece focused on twentieth Century Women as part of National Women's Day which will include drama, song and dance. This will include a series of workshops for post 16's which will be part of the pre performance process.

Andy Barrett- £2275 'Falling in Love in NG7' is a collection of real stories about love, meetings and moments from residents in the area of NG7. The stories

will be collected by Andy Barrett and then retold in the form of a solo performance in various venues around the area. The stories will also be broadcast on Radio Nottingham during the spring.

Curriculum Enrichment Services - £975 An intergenerational project working with residents of Culbert Lodge Housing Association and Northgate Primary School. A visual artist, video artist and drama tutor will work with the residents and pupils on the themes of Healthy eating - then and now, which will culminate with a sharing between the two groups.

Salamanda Tandem - £2950 Working with 3 groups, to include the Royal Society of The Blind and a disabled group, the participants will work with a dancer, a musician and a visual artist on pieces themed on the forest and the environment. These will culminate in a final performance, to include a created wind harp on the Forest park. The creation of a jingle by one group to be broadcast on air will also be part of the celebration of the project.

Ekta Youth Group - £1885 Through musical exploration in a series of workshops the young people will be encouraged to develop their artistic skills through working with up and coming artists in the fields of KATHA and Bangea Dance. This will give the young people awareness of possibilities and prospects for the future.

Forest Community Enterprise - £400 An event to raise awareness of health and environmental issues in a culturally sensitive way for children and adults. The event will involve childrens workshops on environmental themes, adult workshops on health issues and workshops run by community volunteers and professional artists. These will include a number of creative workshops including a steel drumming workshop.

City Arts - £835 'Big Beat' music workshops will involve a number of warm up workshops leading up to a week long cultural 'play scheme' for 50 young people with an interest in music dance or visual arts. The week will culminate in a performance at the Riverside Festival on 4 August.

Radford Carnival* - £600 To provide a carnival to serve Radford, it's different communities and age groups and to support local voluntary or charitable groups fundraising. Show consists of side shows, arena events, music workshops, pony rides, balloons, refreshments, stalls etc. (* This project is not a 'new' project, however funding of the Carnival was agreed seperately but done through this grant scheme to avoid heavy paperwork for the group).

A number of other grants are pending.

There is a very small remainder of the grant fund. Any group still interested in applying should contact Fran Blackler at the Nottingham Playhopus on 947 4361.

New Deal for Communities and the Partnership Council

As New Deal for Communities (NDC) programme develops we have been in constant discussion with their staff and board about how the two organisations can work alongside each other.

The roles of NDC and of the Partnership Council are distinct. NDC is concerned with the delivery of a £55m regeneration programme in Radford and Hyson Green. The Partnership Council is working to develop Community Planning and the participation of local people in decision making throughout Hyson Green, Radford, Forest Fields, New Basford (and soon the communities within the wards of Robin Hood, Radford, Forest and Lenton). The two organisations work with, and in, the same communities and obviously there is the potential for the two to work together in a way that both delivers the NDC programme and effects change for the wider area.

As NDC has developed a number of key issues have emerged in the relationship between the two organisations.

After a meeting between NDC, the Partnership Council and Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM) a sub-group, comprising of Partnership Council, NDC and GOEM, was set up to develop the terms of reference for any relationship between NDC and the Partnership Council.

The key areas where work is required are...

- *The relationship between NDC delivery plans and the Community Planning.

- *The relationship between NDC Directors and the forums that nominate them.

- *The relationship between NDC and Partnership Council Working and Steering Groups.

While these issues have been discussed

before, and much of the work has been done, there remains a need for clarity and agreement between the two organisations. To this end a discrete project will be commissioned to progress these issues.

The project will consult the NDC and Partnership Council Boards, and key members of Working Groups, Forums, GOEM, Nottingham City Council and the Area Four Committee to...

- *Establish the basis of a mutually beneficial relationship serving the needs of the communities served by each organisation.

- *Construct ways of working integrally so that the actions and consultations of both NDC and the Partnership Council are informed by each other.

- *Clarify the relationship between NDC Directors and the Forums that nominate them.

- *Identify the key links between NDC and Partnership Council Working and Steering Groups, establishing clear terms of engagement between each.

This project will report to both PC and NDC boards in October. With a clearer relationship, recognising the different but complementary roles of each organisation we hope that we can move forward together to work in the best interests of the whole community.

In the absence of current clarity there has been some confusion and frustration between the PC and NDC. Therefore, while this is being done, the Partnership Council will focus on its own work and will look to work with New Deal for Communities when the relationship is clarified.

Mike Rowe

Partnership Council Resident Rep

Spring 2001 Clean

Four Red Litter Days - Clean-Ups. One in each ward across Area 4. Eleven hotspots were tackled. (streets designated by the Steering Group as having particular problems).

Targeted publicity to local residents and businesses including a 'most-asked questions' leaflet with a hotline number. Average tonnage on Red litter days increased from 15 tonnes to over 40.

The local profile of the City's litter phone

This is a brief summary of some of the Spring Clean achievements so far.

line has hugely increased. The whole project has proved very fruitful for publicising and recruitment for the Partnership Council.

The work has also highlighted the critical element that a public / resident partnership provides in achieving real learning and successful outcomes.

Future Plans. Further to the above it is intended that the Steering Group becomes the panel for monitoring cleansing issues in Area 4. A consultant has been appointed to advise the Steering Group on good practice nationally and to develop potential long term solutions. For more info contact the Outreach Team on 970 8200.

Where we're hoping to be.

During 2000, whilst continuing to assist the delivery of URBAN funding, and holding service providers to account for matching their delivery against their commitments, the Partnership Council began to evaluate the case for sustainability. Two independent evaluations both concluded that the Partnership Council had anticipated much new national policy trends for participation and regeneration and had made a positive impact on the quality of local services far beyond normal funding programmes like URBAN, as well as building the confidence and capacity of those who took part.

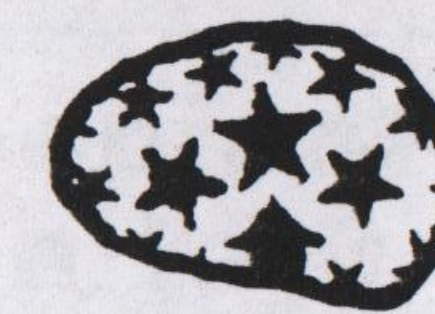
Over the past year, the Partnership Council has carried out a rigorous process of review and participant and peer evaluation. Participant engagement in Working Groups, Forums, Steering and Action Groups have all been reviewed by the participants themselves. It has also sought to forge strong links within the emerging structures of partnership in the city as a whole. Using the new 'Community Planning' framework we have successfully argued for community agendas to influence main stream services. This is because our ambition is for local perceptions, knowledge and priorities to have a much greater influence in shaping local services.

The Partnership Council's current funding will come to an end in December 2001. We are currently seeking the support of funders and partner organisations in building on our past successes by supporting the project described in a Business Plan. If successful, January 2002 will see the launch of a stronger and more inclusive organisation which will act to improve the life chances and choices of local people.

Community planning themes are the framework in which we will be working from now on.



A sustainable community



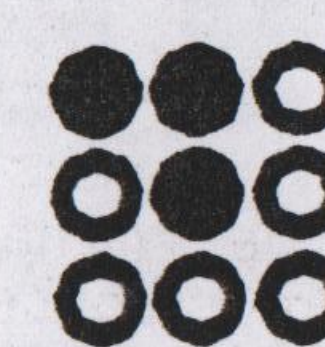
A learning community.



A well planned and clean environment.



A caring and healthy community



An economically strong community.



A safe community



A community engaged in leisure & cultural activity



An active and empowered community



What's the future

The Partnership Council's aim is to engage those who live and work locally in the development of inclusive, local, issue based strategies through which to inform, challenge, change and hold into account mainstream service delivery and inform the development and delivery of local regeneration programmes.

Our future aims

For the future we intend to meet this aim through a number of objectives.

- *To ensure that the work funded, supported, developed and undertaken by the Partnership Council is specified in the Action and/or Community Plan and is assessed as sustainable.

- *To strive to provide equality of opportunities for members of all sectors of the local community to participate in making decisions and developing strategies affecting local issues and services.

- *To develop and implement mechanisms which enable the Partnership Council to assess the qualitative and quantitative impact of its work and hold the Partnership Council Board accountable to Forum participants.

- *To create opportunities for local people to develop the confidence, skills, knowledge and experience which enable them to participate more effectively in decision-making.

- *To enable members of the local community to actively participate in setting the agenda for future regeneration programmes, enabling them to shape, design and run sustainable local projects which meet

local needs.

- *To create a vision for the Partnership Council area which is owned and shaped by local people and the local community.

- *To celebrate and promote the achievements of local people and the local community.

- *To challenge and change the culture of service provision to ensure that service delivery is more accountable to local people and members of the local community.

Why do this

The Partnership Council actively works with local people, Public Sector front-line workers and members of the local Business and Voluntary Sector communities in the generation of strong area strategies, setting priorities for action, the development of projects to fill gaps in services and in the design and delivery of mainstream services.

The impact of the Project on the local community is on a number of levels.

Firstly, participants from all sectors enhance their skills, knowledge and experience through participation. For resident participants, this enhances their employability and reduces social exclusion. Active engagement in the decision making process develops core skills which include communication skills, team working, numeracy, literacy and confidence.

For other participants, it strengthens their local networks, enabling them to better co-ordinate their activity with other local service providers and increases referral rates between agencies.

Secondly the structures of involvement and inclusion help the development of services and projects that are better able to meet, the needs of local people. The engagement of partner organisations in working alongside residents enhances the effectiveness of local services.

Thirdly, the Project enables those living and working within an area of high social and economic deprivation to more effectively influence and inform the priorities and actions of those at a number of levels. This includes the City Council's Area Committee, the Local Strategic Partnership and, through the Greater Nottingham Partnership, the sub-regional agenda. This will help ensure that regeneration and policy initiatives undertaken from city to regional level are informed by a better understanding of the needs and priorities of local communities.

Change

As part of the broader review of the Partnership Council and its structures the role, function and structure of the staffing team was also reviewed and a new staffing structure has now been developed. If the Partnership Council is successful in securing support for its further development it will also be expanding its area slightly to cover the same geographical area as the Area 4 Committee of the local authority.

All in all we believe there is a proven need for the work we do and that, if others agree, we can build on existing success and work with others to increase the participation of local people in shaping their community. Hopefully changing the community for the better.

Business Forum

Government Grant improves Cutting Edge for local Sheet Metal Company

New Basford Engineering Company KEP has just received a Business Grant that will safeguard and secure its employees. The support could lead to an increase in its workforce and enable the company to compete in new highly competitive and skilled markets. Thanks were given to an enterprise-promoting Government Grant, identified by URBAN Funded Business Advisors based at First Enterprise Business Agency.

KEP Engineering successfully applied for the Government Grant after getting advice and support from Business Advisors. The grant will help improve competitiveness and profitability now that the company has invested in a state-of-the-art CNC large Format Turret Punch Press to manufacture precision sheet metal components for all areas of industry.

Keith Bentley, Managing Director of KEP Engineering said "Without this money we wouldn't have been able to buy this vital new machinery to boost the firm's future. The skill of our 21-strong workforce can now be improved with new staff recruitment

on the cards. We're also delighted with the team at First Enterprise who persuaded us to apply for the grant in the first place and gave advice every step of the way. Ian Webster, Head of Enterprise and Innovation at the Government Office for the East Midlands said, "The grant has given KEP Engineering a great boost, helping it keep up to date with the latest technology and safe-guarding jobs".

Richard Tyas, First Enterprise said "KEP Engineering approached Steve Wakeling and myself for support on its business plan. We knew that the company were based in an eligible area to apply for an Enterprise Grant, so we encouraged Keith and the company to apply, as we knew they would have nothing to lose. My years of experience as a Bank Manager were invaluable and we are both delighted with the support from Neil Cort at Government Office to see the project through".

Steve Wakeling of First Enterprise said "I have been in contact with KEP Engineering for some time and I thought that this grant opportunity would be invaluable for the company. The support that my colleague and I provide is unique, in that we offer grass-root level business solutions in and around the URBAN Area of the city".

Business Forum to meet with New Deal

A meeting has been arranged for Thursday 5 July between our Business Forum, the Independent Business Association and ACE, the African Caribbean Enterprise group and New Deal for Communities. The intention of the meeting is to understand the different relationships and to agree a way of working together on such subjects as support for businesses, funding decisions, strategy development, representative body elections and representation and future consultation and engagement of the private sector.

Funding from New Deal

A number of partnership bids have recently been submitted to New Deal for Communities for consideration. The bids cover a Retail Renaissance 2 Project, further funding for the commercial Property Strategy, money to continue the Business Support Project and finance to continue the Marketing Project - Life at the Heart.

A decision on the bids should be received within the next few weeks.

Residents Forum meeting

First Area Wide Residents Forum - 'How Residents Can Change Local Services'

The first area-wide Residents Forum meeting was held on June 11th with the theme of 'How Resident Involvement Can Change Services In The Area'. About 50 people turned up at Hyson Green Community Centre for a positive evening of discussion and food.

Councillor John Taylor talked about how every local authority now had a statutory duty to produce a Community Plan. This plan has to be drawn up in consultation with local people and so is a real opportunity for residents to influence services in their area. The plan will look at all the services in the area including street cleaning, health, social services and learning. Councillor Taylor urged people to get involved in the groups that the Partnership Council is running which are already working with local services to make improvements in the area.

Workshops were then held on four themes where the Partnership Council is currently working - Crime and Community Safety, Health and Well Being, Cleaning up the Area, and Services for Older People. These workshops generated a lot of ideas, and both local people and service providers explained how changes had come about and how residents can get involved.

Thank you to all those who came along and made it such a positive evening. The next Large Residents Forum will be held on September 17th at 6.30pm and we will be looking at Open Spaces and Transport.

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.

For information on the Business Forum contact Adrian or Eric at the Partnership Council on 970 8200

Voluntary and Community Organisations Forum

Is Your Group Short of Volunteers ?

A number of local groups have said they are short of volunteers, that they find it hard to recruit and keep volunteers. The Voluntary and Community Organisations Forum would like to address these issues and is keen to hear from any local groups who might be interested in developing and/or managing a bid for a volunteer development worker.

We envisage the person being based locally and reporting to the Forum and its Planning Group although they will be managed externally.

If you might be interested in developing a bid either on your own or with another organisation and/or would like further information please come to our Annual General Meeting on Monday 16th July between 10am and 12 noon at the All Saints Community Care Project, 75 Raleigh Street, Radford.

The AGM is followed by a buffet lunch. Creche/child care available to unfunded groups and organisations if booked in advance.

Alternatively, contact Martin Curtis at the Partnership Council on 9708200 or via e-mail: mc@partnershipcounc.demon.co.uk

Advertisement

LEARN £ GRANTS

LEARN is a Local Area Partnership that was set up in 1998 to administer the 4th Round of Governments Single Regeneration Budget (SRB4) programme, on behalf of the Greater Nottingham Partnership (GNP) in Lenton, Radford, Hyson Green, New Basford and Forest Fields, under the remit of Lifelong Learning. As a part of its Lifelong Learning activities LEARN administers a Small Grant Fund, which is ideally suited for testing small initiatives and project ideas that would be of benefit to the residents of the defined Lenton SRB4 area.

Learn invites applications from all sections of the Lenton SRB4 community, particularly, from voluntary and community sector organisations and community groups. All project applications must promote at least one of the following measures:

1. Raising educational achievement and attainment, in particular core skills like numeracy, and literacy, for children and parents/carers.
2. Improve the linkages between the local colleges, employers and the community to enable the post-school population to improve their basic skills and to enhance their chances of employment; and quality of life, as well as enabling them to improve the chances of their children.
3. Raising educational achievement and attainment amongst the African and Asian communities.

The closing dates for each round of small grant fund are July 13th, September 14th, November 16th 2001 and January 11th and March 8th 2002.

For more information and application packs contact Sophia or Kirsty on 978 3737, Fax: 9783735 or write to LEARN, Unit 9, Third Floor, Provident Works House, Newdigate St, Radford. Nottingham. NG7 4FD.

Advertisement

SUMMER CRICKET PROJECT IN FOREST FIELDS

An exciting cricket project aimed at local adults and young people in Forest Fields is being planned for the summer.

Channel 4, which televises England's, test matches have put together an initiative to encourage and develop cricket at grass roots level. At the centre of this is a commitment to encourage cricket in inner-city multicultural areas of the country. Channel 4 has identified housing estates as being a key grass-roots area, which they would like to operate. Nottingham has been selected for this initiative along with other cities where test matches are being held.

Nationally Channel 4 is working with the England and Wales Cricket Board and NACRO to form local partnerships to develop and deliver this initiative. In Nottingham a partnership comprising of the **NACRO** and the **URBAN Youth Team**, Nottinghamshire County Cricket Board, Youth Inclusion Programme, Nottingham City Council Sports Development, and the Area Four Co-ordinator have been working together to plan and deliver a project in the Forest Fields area.

Cricket will be introduced to children aged 12-15 years of age through qualified cricket coaches and trained volunteers offering six cricket sessions in the summer holidays at the Forest school on the following dates:

Saturday 21st July, Monday 23rd July
Tuesday 24th July, Saturday 29th July
Monday 30th July, Tuesday 31st July

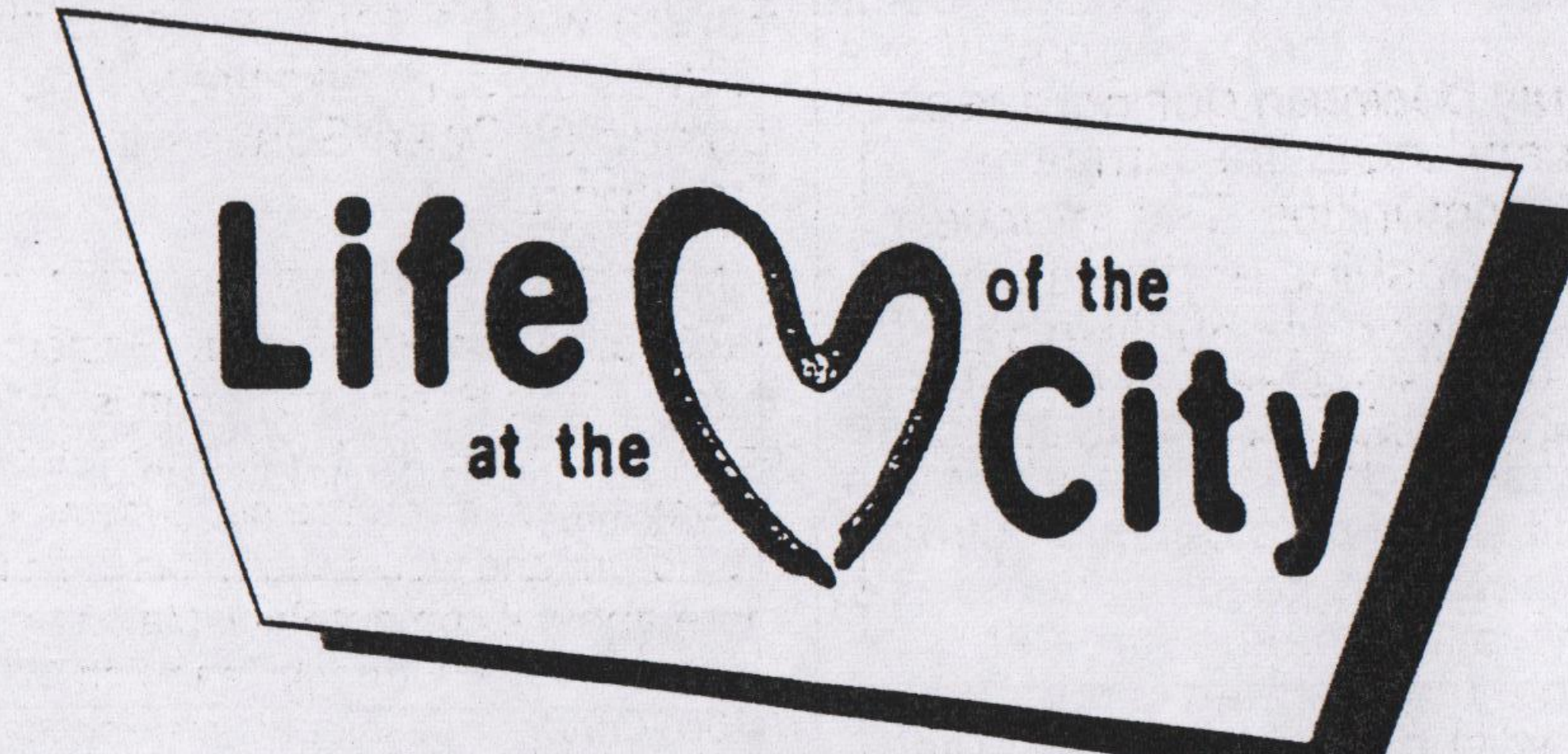
Anyone aged 12 - 15 years and living in Forest Fields who is interested in attending these sessions should contact Steve or Bashir at the Urban Youth Team on 9155845.

Channel 4 has arranged for Viv Richards to attend many of the sessions around the country. He will be coaching, giving advice and sharing his experiences in question and answer sessions with the young people taking part. It is anticipated that Viv Richards will be attending the session in Nottingham on 30th July.

Building on this initiative, the URBAN Youth Team, with the support of the City Council's Area Committee, is planning to organise Street Cricket in Forest Fields throughout the summer.

For further information please contact Paul Phillips at Nacro on 9857744.

The URBAN Youth Team and a number of NACRO projects are funded through URBAN through the Partnership Council.



Life at the Heart of the City

**Radford, Hyson Green,
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