

## Leisure Centre results...

### Questionnaire results on the proposed New Leisure Complex on the Forest have come up with some interesting conclusions.

During the middle of last year the Partnership Council held a public meeting related to the issue of the New Leisure Complex proposal.

The issue has three key elements...  
(i) to build a new City leisure complex  
(ii) this centre is proposed to be built on the end of the Forest Recreation Ground  
(iii) that Noel Street and Victoria Leisure centres close once the new centre is running.

The issue understandably raised a concerns and a variety of arguments against the proposals have been put forward.

The Partnership Council arranged a public meeting where groups from all points of view had an option to present their case and where workshops discussed separate issues. One result of the meeting was a focus group which agreed to work with City Council officers on developing a large questionnaire.

The group met three times over a number of weeks and included local residents, traders associations and members of Nottingham Civic Society as well as City Officers responsible for doing the work.

The group completely overhauled the questionnaire that was presented to them and the final product, although not perfect in every way, did have the general consent of the group.

The questionnaire was carried out locally and across the City by Trent Surveys. The results which have come back are very interesting and raise a number of questions for those supporting or fighting the proposal.

These figures are taken from a summary included within a City Committee report and therefore we have not had chance to look at the complete results of all the questions carried out. However the questions which respond to the three big issues are included.

#### Does Nottingham need a new leisure centre.

Answers from...			
	Citywide	Victoria baths area	Noel St. baths area
Yes	79.7%	67.4%	70.5%
No	16.5%	21.7%	33.5%
Don't know	3.8%	10.9%	0.9%

\*Two figures don't quite match up. It may be an error or a technical anomaly. If an error we will print correction.

#### To pay for the new centre will mean closure of Noel St. & Victoria baths, is this acceptable.

Answers from...			
	Citywide	Victoria baths area	Noel St. baths area
Agree closures	69%	49%	50%
No to closures	31%	51%	50%

#### Acceptable for new centre to be sited on end of Forest Recreation Ground.

Answers from...			
	Citywide	Victoria baths area	Noel St. baths area
Yes	66.6%	63%	40.6%
No	28.7%	28.6%	43.3%
Don't know	4.7%	8.8%	16.1%

There are a variety of other questions and answers which expand on more specific points. For example User Groups of Noel Street and Victoria showed a strong view against Closure of the baths and building a new centre on the Forest.

When we have seen a copy of the full Trent Survey report we will try to give a more complete summary.

So where do these results leave us. It is clear that across the City there is a desire for a modern Leisure Centre complex and that the majority feel building it on the Forest is acceptable.

It is also interesting to see that while there is a strong local opposition to the proposals this is evenly matched with the view that they are acceptable.

These answers alone raise questions about the relationship between City wide agenda and the local agenda. Which takes priority and how does one agenda (City or local) not compromise the needs of the other. More difficult is the question of a local community which is split down the middle in terms of its views. How does we objectively resolve this matter one way or the other.

The summary report is going to the City Council Committee on January 27th for them to agree the next steps. Meanwhile there may be further opportunities to resolve the conflicts within this proposal at a more local level. We will keep you posted.

#### Hyson Green Community Centre

There appears to be some issues and confusion over the sale of the Hyson Green Community Centre building on St Pauls Avenue. The information we have been given by the Community Association raise a number of concerns. We have not been able to gain the facts from all the parties concerned but we have written to them and will print a summary of the information in the next Onesheet.

#### Another Happy New Year

Celebrated by a variety of cultures February 5th is Chinese New Year. It's the year of the Dragon which is upon us. Amongst celebrations, fireworks and family gatherings one special tradition is for anyone who is married to give anyone unmarried some money in a red packet called an 'Angpow'. If your single why not remind your married relatives of this?

#### Voluntary Sector

The Voluntary Sector Forum is having it's next meeting on Thurs 3rd Feb (10am and 12.30pm) at Tennyson Hall Youth & Community Centre. Agenda items include Employment Zones, 'Best Value' and Partnership Council evaluation.

Voluntary Sector members interested in New Deal for Communities can also meet on 8th Feb. Please phone Shirley Anne on 970 8200 for details.

#### Exciting Plan for the year 3000

After the success of a number of Millennium events held at midnight on December 31st a number of organisers are planning an event to happen in the year 2999. Parents with a long term view can currently buy tickets for their great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great grandchildren. The event will probably include 'quantum physics firework display' which has not yet been invented as yet and will take place at Nottingham's Interstellar Spaceport (not yet built). Organisers are selling tickets at 10p which, with inflation, will be worth around £14 in a thousand years time.

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Partnership Council

one sheet

# "What has been attempted is genuinely innovative and - can be regarded as able to claim in key respects the status of 'best practice'."

The crucial deadline for committing all of the European URBAN funding which the Partnership Council was responsible for was December 31st last year... and we have done it!

Not only that but we have involved more local people throughout the process than any other UK URBAN.

Committing the money does not mean it is all spent. Committing money is where it is at a stage where a legal contract has been signed with the organisation who are going to deliver the work being funded. There is still over £3.2 million of URBAN to be spent in the area including a variety of grant schemes to local groups.

The challenge for URBAN areas across the country is that any money which had not been committed towards a specific project by that date would have to be sent back to Europe.

Throughout the last year it has become clear that Nottingham's URBAN has been reaching the top of the league in terms of performance. Figures in the summer put our level of commitment at 58% compared to others like Bristol at 14%. Not only that but we have had a much higher and broader level of participation than other cities across the UK.

A recent independent report said "In Nottingham community involvement has experienced a considerable level of commitment which allowed the creation of an innovative partnership model, and consistent strong involvement the local community. The Nottingham Partnership Council is a multi-sectoral forum acting as a model

of participatory democracy at a local level."

"The Forum structure provides, by any standards, the most comprehensive attempt in the UK to put rooted structures into a local community"

Sometimes when we are all focusing on the challenges within the area and our successful and unsuccessful attempts to change things we can lose sight of how well we are doing when measured against other people who are trying to do the same thing.

It is also sometimes a challenge to feel we can ever say that we are doing something good when there is still so much to do. But the fact is we have together achieved something unique and against the odds. We have proven that it is possible to deliver large regeneration initiatives and to do it through the active involvement, both large and small, of the community. From now on there is no excuse to say it cannot be done.

"What has been attempted is genuinely innovative and, despite the limitations we have pointed out, can be regarded as able to claim in key respects the status of 'best practice'."

"The Partnership Council offers a rich source of learning about the real challenges of 'bottom-up' approaches - it is a heroic attempt to tackle in a real context an issue that has become popular in rhetoric but where good practice is hard to find."

So if you have been involved, if you



have taken part in one meeting or in every meeting then thank you. It is only together that this has all been achieved and it is only together we can continue to work on this success. We have together proved that partnership, even within the challenges that exist, can work.

Quotes from: Enterprise PLC Evaluation report. Autumn 1999

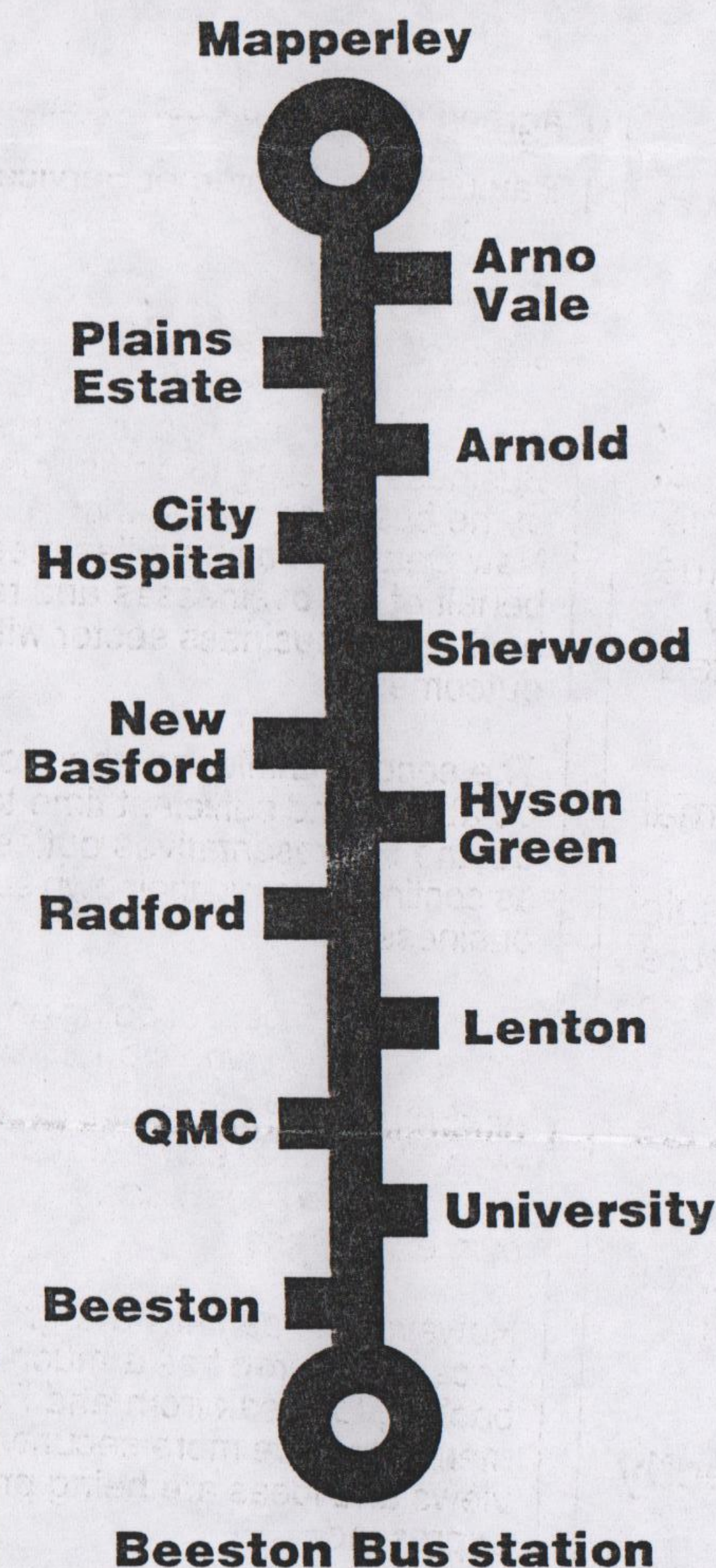
**\*Committed £4.8 million URBAN funding. (£3.2 million URBAN still to be delivered by groups who have received funding).**  
**\*Attracted £7.1 Million match funding.**  
**\*A variety of URBAN grants still available.**

RADFORD AND HYSON GREEN FOREST FIELDS NEW BASFORD



## No. 69 Local bus extended

The Number 69 bus, which travels across the area from Mapperley and the City Hospital, via Hyson Green and Radford, past the QMC and finally to Beeston was set up after discussion through a transport conference. The route is running as a limited service and details of the route are below.



The Key Fund has been established to ensure that any ERDF funding not committed by the end of 1999 can continue to be used to support and meet local community needs. We are currently in the process of recruiting members to form a Grants Panel for the Key Fund. The panel members would preferably have knowledge of reviewing grant applications and of the activities of voluntary, community or community business organisations who provide services to URBAN area communities.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Key Fund and the role of the grants panel, please come to our Key Fund briefing/ recruitment session on 15th of February 2000, 6:00 pm at the Partnership Council office. Please contact Meilani Radzi to let us know you are coming.

## Tram

The Tram builders have begun putting together their office site on the Forest ground. We've been told this initial site will be a quarter of the final site when construction really gets going.

Nothing else appears to have practically happened as yet and we are endeavouring to get news as soon as it is possible to let people know what's going on.

## A New Deal for Radford & Hyson Green

### Update

The 2nd Congress for New Deal for Communities is being planned for Saturday 26th February between 10am - 5.00pm.

Details have yet to be agreed but it appears the primary focus of the day will be to look at the draft Action Plan for New Deal and to see if there are areas of work people feel are good or if there are missing areas which need to be included in the plan.

### Special Forum meetings!

Prior to the 2nd Congress for New Deal for Communities each Forum is trying to arrange a special Forum meeting where they can look at the draft plan and make comments or suggestions.

**Please try to attend this meeting and contact Shirley Anne if you want more details 970 8200**

### Advertisement Situations Vacant

## Project Worker

### Nottingham Restorative Justice Project

£15,198 - £16,194 p.a. (fixed term until End Mar 2002)

An exciting opportunity exists for a committed and motivated individual to join a team developing a highly innovative approach to crime prevention.

You should have at least one years experience of either; mediation, conflict resolution, working with young offenders or with victims and have a commitment to the principles of restorative justice.

Please apply in writing only for further details and an application form from Nikki Proudfoot, NACRO Services in Nottinghamshire, 25 Vivian Avenue, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham NG5 1AF Closing Date: Noon Monday 31st January 2000

**Project funded through URBAN**

# What is Best Value?

It is a phrase you are likely to hear more and more over the coming months. 'Best Value' is a new initiative that the Government is developing with City Councils across the whole country.

It is an attempt to encourage local authorities to find new ways of measuring the quality and provision of all the services they provide. Ways which are cheaper, more effective, more responsive to local needs, and continuously improving.

A key element to this new process is that it is meant to use consultation with the people of the City to help measure the quality of the services.

Nottingham City Council have drawn up a Best Value Performance Plan for delivering their Services, for anyone who uses the Council's services, whether they live in, work in or just visit the city. This should be particularly interesting to those who live and work in the Partnership Council Area, where there is the potential to improve many services.

The Council will be audited continuously to ensure that they achieve this, and particularly that they carry out the necessary consultation with all sectors of the community.

The Partnership Council recognises this as a real opportunity to enable local people to have their say in the sorts of services which are delivered, and the way in which they are delivered.

Local Partnerships like our own have a real part to play in this, as well as tenants and residents groups. More information will be given as it becomes available, particularly about how the community can be involved in setting Performance Indicators and scrutiny of the services delivered both locally and Citywide.

## Best Value Plan

Local Authorities are obliged to send copies of their Best Value plan to any organisation or resident who request it. Their first version will be ready in April this year however a draft 'Best Value Performance Plan' is currently available and is being consulted on right now.

The draft document is quite formal and may not be of interest to everyone however the Partnership Council is going to try and ensure that every Voluntary Sector Forum organisation is each sent a copy. Any Forum member with a strong interest should contact Paul at our office on 970 8200

We also have a copy of the Draft Document at the office which people can reproduce.

**Anyone wanting one directly should contact Louise Slocombe at the City Council on 915 4844 (leave a message if she is not in).**

## Business meeting

The Partnership Council Business support staff have been developing a business focus group in the Gamble Street area. Their last meeting was held on the evening of 12th January at Ristes Motor Co Ltd's premises.

One of the items discussed was the question of the vacancy for the 3rd Business Representative on the New Deal Interim Partnership to join the other two, namely Neville Hunter of Hunter Systems Ltd and Juliette Abrams of Eddy's Nottingham Ltd. Three volunteers put their names forward and it was agreed by those present that Malcolm Paulus of I N C Internet Services Ltd be appointed the Third Representative.

The challenges facing a Representative, especially a business person, are mainly twofold; firstly accountability, which means the person has to attend the Business meeting to obtain the views of the business sector, then attend the New Deal for Communities meeting on behalf of the businesses and report back to the business sector with the outcome.

The second challenge, therefore, is to be able to find sufficient time to carry out the Representatives duties as well as continuing to run their own successful business.

The whole concept of being an enabling representative, who works for others through an accountable process, is different from the process where one is elected and then expected to represent the views of others simply from their own experience.

However the benefits are greater because the rep has a much stronger backing to speak from and Forum members have more security that their views and ideas are being properly expressed.

Our grateful thanks to Steve Lovatt of Ristes and his staff for their hospitality and kindness for being allowed to use the premises.

## "Our agenda is now to address this local recruitment issue"

Nigel Skill . February 1999 Onesheet

Skill's Coaches in partnership with Learning Legacy (funded through URBAN) have put together a package to train and employ 12 new drivers from the area.

Nigel Skill's article in the February Onesheet discussed the whole issue of local recruitment and how Skills were going to take a new approach. This new programme was advertised over the last month Skills are looking to find local people, not necessarily with experience, but who do have the right personality and motivation.

Nigel said "What we do that is different is when we find our people. We are not looking for formal qualifications, we take a much broader view on the sort of people we are looking for. What we tend to do is look for broad experience and for people who can meet our core values which are trust, care and excellence."

His concerns about ensuring his local company is committed to local employment has lead to this initiative.

An open session was held at Hyson Green Jobshop on Wed 12th January but anyone interested should contact the Jobshop on 909 5906.

## E-mail

At long last we have our E-mail set up (see address below) which means people can contact us via the world wide web. Over the next couple of months we are going to put together a Web site so that people can access information about the Partnership Council and up and coming events. Our address is;

**mail@partnershipcounc.demon.co.uk**

## New staff

New staff include Michael Briscoe, starting as the 'Assistant outreach & development Worker' and Donna Payton, starting as Administrative Assistant.

Michael was born in Derby and moved to Nottingham in 1991 and has lived locally in Forest Fields for last few years. Amongst other less relevant skills he is a specialist in bricks but has gained more suitable experience volunteering at organisations

like BUILD. Micheal has a passion for latin american 'world' music and scuba diving. He says he hasn't dived the River Leen as yet.

Donna was born in Sheffield but has lived locally for 13 years. Donna began her involvement with the Partnership Council as a trainee on the CICERO project and also as a Forum rep. Now, happily, she has arrived back as an employee. Amongst other pastimes Donna is a constant computer mad Web-surfer.

**970 8200**

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