



Newcourt Community Association

Monday 28 January 2013 – AGM
at Plantsman's Café, St Bridget Nurseries

Notes

Attendance: 85

Apologies: Natalie Ball, Sam Bourner, Lesley Browne, Simon Collett, Ray & Sylvia Drury, Gerry Irwin, Sarah Smerdon, Carole Smith, Tony Raven, John & Angela White

53 people wanted to be involved in some way – subgroup, helping with Community Centre, Committee

- ✚ The Digby & Newcourt Community Choir opened the AGM with two rousing songs.
- ✚ The Lord Mayor, Cllr Rob Newby congratulated NCA on what we had achieved in the past year.
- ✚ The Vice-Chairman, Paul Johnson chaired the evening and expressed thanks to partner committee members – our Councillors, Dawn Rivers, PCSO Natalie Ball & TOR Housing - Persimmon and Stagecoach; to St Bridget Nurseries, and Rita Farrant for opening the Plantsman's Café specially.
- ✚ Questions that were asked during the evening and comments given are listed in the box at the end

A. Financial Report Summary – Clive Martin - NCA Treasurer

NCA has received funding from Devon & Cornwall Housing, Exeter City Council, Exeter County Council. For 2012 - Income £1,600; expenses £114.51; balance £1,485.49.

We have submitted a business plan for the Community Centre. Have applied to HMRC for recognition as a non-profit-making organisation. In future we plan to look further at applying for Charity status.

B. Subgroup reports

Environment – Clare Parkinson

Have organised 4 litter picks, next one **16 March 11am-1pm**. Bulb planting in September. Planning a Produce Show for anything made on the estate - Summer bank holiday.

Neighbourhood Watch – Ray Drury (presented by Kate Bloor)

Scheme has been operating for 6 months now, registered with national scheme, street signs. Over 120 registered members. Trevor Parker done excellent job in recruiting. Crime reports – lowest in area. Remain vigilant – call 101

Parking - challenges remain unresolved as roads are unadopted.

C. Newcourt Plan Explained: Andy Robins ECC

During next 15 years ECC have to provide 12,000 homes. Newcourt will provide 3,500 of these.

- Rugby Club is extending capacity to 20,000 – building will begin in the next few months.
- Barratt - building 249 houses north of Old Rydon Lane.
- Persimmon/Charles Church - building 400 houses in south of estate.
- Application in for field north of Newcourt House for 46 houses not yet approved.
- Planning consent up to 700 houses on Dart land in SE of estate has been approved in outline form. This includes new school, health facility, community centre, sports pitches.
- Other land is allocated for new development
- New school site north of Barratt's site

D. Report from PCSO Natalie Ball (read by Paul Johnson)

1. Monthly 'Neighbourhood Policing Update' with list of crimes recorded in previous month is available if you are on the Newcourt Residents' email circulation. There were only 3 relevant crimes reported in December – significant drop from November.

2. Contacting the police:

Call 999 - if there is a crime in progress, or a threat of violence

Call 101 - to report a historic incident, lost/found property or a general enquiry

www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/Pages/Default.aspx - to report a non-urgent crime (eg: criminal damage to vehicle); suspect that drugs use is being committed, etc

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111 – you can pass on any information about crime anonymously. *It's free and they never take your name or record the call.*

3. **Anti-Social Behaviour** was reported last year by many residents who were concerned by large group of young people congregating, being abusive, swearing, noisy and intimidating when asked to move on. This was wholly unacceptable behaviour. Police Taskings were put in place. Strong action was taken against a number of individuals following graffiti and criminal damage – spoken to with their parents & housing provider if appropriate, and the ASB Escalation Process commenced. There are 4 juveniles at present on this process.
4. **Please report unacceptable behaviour.** Then it can be addressed and monitored.

E. Playpark Update (John Arkell)

18 months ago, residents had been invited to view plans for the playpark. But there is still no play park. NCA Chairman initiated a meeting in June 2012 between ECC & Persimmon to try to move things forward. The latest report is that the price structure has been arranged – and the legal work is in process. Hopefully, the play park should happen by summer.

F. Community Centre Update (John Arkell)

Even before the NCA had been formed, we heard of the expectation from the Council that this community would manage the building. Built by Persimmon, it will need considerable equipping before being fit for use. The NCA has succeeded in securing grant funding from the City Council to help complete the equipping of the Centre, and fund a part-time manager for the first year. The building will not be finished before Easter, and possibly, not before the summer. Disappointingly, the upstairs ceiling is low, so there will not be room for badminton. We will not sign the lease till the Playpark is being built.

NCA Chairman's comments:

A community is more than a bunch of houses on an estate. We need to work together, get connected, take care of one another. Newcourt Community Association is not about a few people doing everything. Things will only get done if we all buy into it. There are FOUR areas in which you can be involved:

1. Get involved in a subgroup

- Children & Families – we have no subgroup yet in the area of children and families
- Transport – will concentrate on Railway Station, and Rugby Club traffic issues
- Surroundings – Clare Parkinson's team is working well
- Communication and publicity – not yet up and running
- Neighbourhood watch – We are looking for Street Sector Reps
- Youth – no subgroup yet for this

Each subgroup will have someone representing them on main committee.

2. Sign up for the Committee - First meeting 25 February 2013

The following people expressed their willingness to serve on the committee and were unanimously voted in:

John Arkell, Kate Arkell, Paul Brady, Anita Clover, Kurt/Yonna Dahlke, Paul Johnson, Clive Martin, Kathryn Newbery, Trevor Parker, Clare Parkinson, Andy Parkinson, Carole Smith, Jonathan Smith, Chris Tripp.

3. Can you volunteer to help with setting up and running the Community Centre?

The Centre will only function on volunteers. We need people for accounts, admin, bookings, caretaking, cleaning, fundraising, grounds & maintenance, HR, IT, legal help, management, security, surveyor, trustees...

4. Being a good neighbour

Getting involved will mean crossing our cultural barriers – whether we are married, have kids or not, are renting, or own our own home. The question we should ask ourselves is not 'Who is my neighbour?' but 'Who am I neighbour to?'

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Questions & Comments

- Bins – dog & litter – There is considerable dog mess round the estate. People who have dogs should pick up after them. You can put dog poo in your own black bin.
- **Railway station?** – probably in 18 months. Working on design. Has been agreed.
- **Broadband speeds?** Check these links:
<http://www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/where-and-when/> There is a panel on the right-hand-side: 'My exchange isn't in the rollout plans, but I'd really like superfast broadband...' button 'Register your interest' http://www.openreach.co.uk/org/home/products/super-fastfibreaccess/downloads/sffa_exchange_lists/new_housing_developments.pdf
- **Sandy Park coaches**
 - (i) **Exiting into Old Rydon Lane?** The NO RIGHT TURN sign is being ignored by the rugby buses coming out of Sandy Park and turning right into Old Rydon Lane. There is a planning issue that means the Council are unable to enforce this 'no right' at present. But once planning permission is given for extension, Council will be able to enforce it.
 - (ii) **Rugby Match parking on estate?** DCC intention to enlarge the rugby match days parking scheme and Sandy Park looking to expanding it also.
- **Unclear signage off dual carriageway into Newcourt Way?** D County have promised to replace it.
- **Supermarket trolleys left on the estate?** – Can we put pressure on Tesco to do something to stop trolleys coming here?
- **Narrow roads made even narrower with parking**
 - (i) **Liberty Way** becomes in effect a single lane late at night. Safety is compromised by where people are parking. Cllr Andrew Leadbetter will start looking at it. 'Double yellow lines will restrict parking. We will consult.'
 - (ii) **Omaha drive is not fit for purpose.** 'Seems like really bad planning. Can we not make the roads wider?'
- **Is there provision to replace damaged or dead trees?** Will discuss that with Persimmon. NCA might finance that ourselves?
- **Is there going to be sports field here (Multi Use Games Area)?** There are no plans or space assigned for an outdoor MUGA, although this seems a crucial item. We would like to explore that. We will try to use a bit of leverage on Persimmon to get the things we are after.
- **Can we use the land behind community centre for playing fields?** If Persimmon don't do anything on it: they have the right to do what they want with it. Cllr Rob Newby - 'Don't do petitions. Writing individual letters counts for much more. Can do that in a coordinated way.'
- **Problem of cars that speed through estate** – they slow down for speed bumps then speed off. 'Take registration number – phone through to 101. If two people see it, both report it. Natalie will intervene.'
Report any site vehicles you see speeding.