



## **NEWSHAM PARK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

**Public Meeting, 17<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

**Adult Learning Centre, Newsham Drive**

**Attendees (in order, running left from Chair):**

- Courtney Owen (Meeting Chair),
- Ellen Owen,
- Steven Corcoran (NPCDA Chair), [steven.corcoran@live.co.uk](mailto:steven.corcoran@live.co.uk), 07512-232-112
- Cllr Chris Lenton,
- James Sanderson,
- Ian Moran,
- Diane Crozier Smith, Peter Lloyd Leisure Service,
- Sandra Sandford,
- Cllr. Steve Radford,
- David Seiboth,
- Ms Chris Rice,
- Jonathan Brown, 10 Carstairs Road, Newsham Park, L6 8NN, [jonathan.jrbrown@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.jrbrown@gmail.com)
- Mary Brandt (Lily),
- Stephen Guy, West Derby Society, [Stephen.guy@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](mailto:Stephen.guy@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk)
- Mick 'Da Cat',
- Albert E. Constantine,
- John Chambers,
- Avril Chambers,
- Mark Boardman,
- Pamela Boardman,
- Karen Browne,
- Karen Lucas,

### **Agenda**

- 1. Adult Learning Centre 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – Wed 1<sup>st</sup> September, 11am – 3pm**
- 2. Discussion of Group Structure and individual contributions**
- 3. Ten Suggested Action Areas**
- 4. AOB/Date of Next Meeting – Second Monday of the month (13<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm, Newsham Park Adult Learning Centre, Newsham Drive)**

## 1. Adult Learning Centre 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – Wed 1<sup>st</sup> September, 11am – 3pm

- ALC leader Jacky Rotherham has written to invite involvement/ideas – all welcome to contact her on 233-2050, [jacky.rotherham@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:jacky.rotherham@liverpool.gov.uk), 07734-735-739

**ACTION – Steve Corcoran** to contact Jacky

## 2. Discussion of Group Structure and individual contributions

- **Chair Courtney Owen** noted the need for a clear structure for the Group, for minuting and reporting purposes. He invited contributions and suggestions.
- **Jonathan Brown** requested clarification between focus on the Orphanage and the wider regeneration of Newsham Park.
- **Cllr Radford** suggested contacting the city council's Executive Member for Regeneration, Malcolm Kennedy. [Malcolm.kennedy@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:Malcolm.kennedy@liverpool.gov.uk)
- The Group agreed a twin track approach to the Orphanage, working with owners to assist a financially viable scheme, whilst urging council to use its powers to press for action.

**ACTION – Jonathan Brown** to contact and invite Cllr Kennedy to see the park and Orphanage.

**ACTION – Steve Corcoran** is continuing to seek advice on outline Orphanage plan.

- **Mick 'DaCat'** reminded the meeting of the urgent necessity to nominate a Treasurer, to allow a bank account to be set up for funding bids.
- **Steve Corcoran and Cllr Radford** discussed the merits of charitable status – the NPCDA does not have this. Tuebrook Hope Group does; Cllr. Radford offered its assistance.
- **Stephen Guy** advised the Group needs a clear message and mission. He suggested a ten point plan or similar.
- Group agreed members should take a lead on subjects of particular interest to them, reporting back actions to this open access 'steering group' via meetings and online.
- **Jonathan Brown/Mick 'DaCat'** suggested we go round the table and invited expressions of interest/commitment to particular topics.

## 3. Suggested Action Areas:

i. Orphanage

ii. Sports and Events

iii. Trees and Planting

iv. Empty Houses

v. Access

**vi. Newsham Park Cricket Club**

**viii. Wildlife, Habitats and Sustainability**

**vii. Signage and Historic Interpretation**

**ix. Security and Crime Prevention**

**x. Lister Drive Library**

**i. Orphanage** - The Group agreed this to be the Park's 'jewel in the crown', potentially the key to wider regeneration.

**ACTION** – **Steve Corcoran** will take the lead on communication with owners Gateway Properties, assisted by other Group members, ward Councillors, council officers etc.

**ii. Sports and Events** – The Group agreed that bringing more life and activity to the Park is essential to a feeling of security and well being – “people will attract people”. Sports like tennis, football, running etc. can generate a sense of safety and interest; as can cultural and musical events like boating on the lake, bands on the bandstand, bowls on the bowling green etc.

**ACTION** – Several people agreed to assist with exploring the scope for encouraging sport and entertainment on the Park, and report back to the next meeting.

- **Karen Browne** will contact council officers (via [Nigel.Sharpe@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:Nigel.Sharpe@liverpool.gov.uk)) to explore potential for reopening tennis courts etc., and for encouraging cultural events on the Park.

- **John and Avril Chambers** will seek advice from Sefton Park Palm House Trust on staging of events e.g. on the Bandstand; also contact council, Sport England re. scope for improved running facilities, Croxteth Park style active exercise machines, etc.

- **Albert Constantine** will discuss with local bowling committees and contact council parks officers Paul Scragg/Nigel Sharp to request return of crown green bowling facilities.

**iii. Trees and Planting** – The Group expressed deep concern at the ongoing loss of mature trees, and the absence of replacement planting aside from the 'birthday woodland' along the railway.

**ACTION** – **Mick 'DaCat'** will continue to work with **Steve Corcoran** and the Academy Deputy Head **Steve McIlroy** on the 'Battrees' recycling project. Batteries can be taken to the Academy reception for collection; proceeds will go to purchase of trees for planting on Newsham Park.

**iv. Empty Houses** – The Group agreed that empty and run down properties blight the park and deter visitors. Many of the worst properties are in public ownership via the city council and major housing associations like Riverside.

**ACTION** – **Jonathan Brown** will continue to press for refurbishment and re-use of historic properties around the area.

**v. Access** – The Group agreed that getting to and through the park safely and conveniently is key to encouraging more users. **Ms Chris Rice** expressed concern about basic access issues for people with walking difficulties, with poor surfacing, crossings, wheel chair facilities etc. Members felt speeding cars and bikes are a problem at times.

**ACTION** – **Mary Brandt** noted an earlier proposal to restrict traffic on Gardners Drive beyond the playground, and agreed to contact council to determine progress with closure/calming.

- **Mark Boardman and Cllr. Radford** agreed to press Merseytravel/City Council/Department for Transport/MPs for re-opening of inner loop line railway (aka Canada Dock Branch) to passengers. See info at <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/watercity/Rapid-Transit-Football.html>

- **Ms Chris Rice** agreed to contact councillors and officers re. improving pedestrian and wheel chair access around the park, potential for toilet facilities etc.

**vi. Newsham Park Cricket Club** – The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and Liverpool City Council are in discussions to provide a competition standard ground in north Liverpool, with Newsham as the preferred site. A feasibility study is to take place by the end of the year.

**ACTION** – **Deva Kumar** ([devakumar99@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:devakumar99@yahoo.co.uk)) has set up a cricket club, with former MP Jane Kennedy as patron. Her son Rob Kennedy is treasurer, and Academy Deputy Head is President. Steve Corcoran will continue to act as liaison between these parties and the NPCDA.

**vii. Signage and Interpretation** – The Group discussed the rich heritage of the Park, including the Judges 'Mansion' House where Queen Victoria stayed, the dancing fountains along the Boulevard, Buffalo Bill's visits etc. Contemporary celebrities like John Sergeant have strong connections with Newsham. This should be celebrated with publicity, interpretation boards, plaques etc., (perhaps using artwork the council used for Newsham Park leaflets a couple of years ago).

**ACTION** – **Stephen Guy** will contact John Sergeant and journalist support when Group is ready to launch publicity.

**ACTION** – **Cllr. Radford** noted existence of small funding pots from LCVS, Tuebrook Hope Group etc. which could go towards minor improvements; he will explore and report back.

**viii. Wildlife, Habitats and Sustainability** – Group members expressed a strong interest in improving biodiversity around Newsham Park, which is an important resource for birdlife, bats, newts, insects and wildflowers etc., but lacking any proper management to protect valuable habitats.

**ACTION** – **Avril Chambers and Cllr. Radford** amongst others noted the work of Anne Hines' wildlife group, and agreed to act as liaison with the NPCDA.

**ACTION** – **Karen Lucas** has set up a food co-operative to encourage locally sourced products; she will promote this in the park area and report back to the Group.

**ix. Security and Crime Prevention** – the Group agreed that this is essential to the Park's future – a Home Watch Group has been set up with support from Merseyside Police and local Councillors.

**ACTION** – **Mark and Pamela Boardman** will act as liaison with the Home Watch Group.

**x. Lister Drive Library** – the parlous state of this beautiful listed building was highlighted in the Newsletter as a concern and will be a focus for future campaigning activity.

**ACTION** – **Jonathan Brown** has contacted councillors, MPs and media, and will report back.

**4. AOB/Date of Next Meeting – Second Monday of the month (13<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm, Newsham Park Adult Learning Centre, Newsham Drive)**

Jonathan Brown proposed a vote of thanks to meeting Chair Courtney Owen; the Group warmly applauded his contribution.