

NEWSPARK

New Park Centre's Newsletter

Issue No. 3 March 2009

The Development Project - The Way Forward



Getting Down To Details

How much money is still needed?

In October last year the New Park Community and Arts Association (NPCAA) board obtained detailed planning permission to refurbish and extend New Park Centre. The principal focus of current work is sourcing sufficient funds to allow this vision to be turned into reality.

In addition to the original pledge from Chichester District Council of £972,000, a second major pledge has now been received from the F.G Woodger Trust of £400,000, completing a third of the target of £3.9 million. This is a remarkable achievement at such an early stage in the project, but we still need to raise a further £2.5 million to complete the refurbishment and extension of the Centre.

The fund-raising team is busy on a number of fronts: making applications to many other Trusts and Foundations, cultivating relationships with prospective donors and researching statutory sources of capital funding.

At the same time, in the short term, we also need to raise essential "pump-priming" money to fund the upfront costs of the detailed design work. The Centre's board is asking the user groups to help raise £50,000 towards this over the next year. We know this is a lot of money, but if we all pull together, and focus on using what we already do and enjoy to provide fund-raising opportunities, we know we will achieve the target. Whether your group is big or small, meets once a week or once a year, we can help you to help us all. Contact the development office or drop in on the first Tuesday of each month, and the fund-raising team will gladly help you develop an idea or link you with another group to work together. Most importantly let's have some fund-raising fun!

When will the building work begin?

Depending on the availability of funding, the re-development will be carried out either as one major project or a phased series of smaller projects. Whatever the final form of the contract, the construction programme is provisionally scheduled to begin in 2010 continuing for between 1 and 3 years.

The Project Team (Rod Fennell & Benny Lawson) has now started work with the Core Professionals on all the necessary preparatory and technical work to allow construction to start next year. They man the Development Office on Monday mornings. If you want to know more, give them a call and arrange for a catch up session.

What about us – The Users of New Park Centre?

Much like the Windmill Theatre between 1939 and 1945

we have adopted the "We never close" spirit.

Our commitment to your future and ongoing enjoyment of New Park Centre is paramount

The users of the Centre are at the heart of the programme. Consideration for your continued use of the centre during building works is giving shape to a **Transition Plan** which will balance building requirements against user needs. The Project Team and managers are confident that, based on the current planned schedule of works, the impact on existing users will be minimal. A separate leaflet, which explains and outlines how the transition planning process will proceed, is available at the Centre or by contacting the managers Sharon Gregory and Alistair Russell.

In summary, we are already looking closely at, and will be discussing with representatives of all User Groups, the following transition arrangements:

- how you get to the New Park Centre - users, visitors, deliveries, and where you can park: an Access Plan is being drawn up.
- your full requirements while you are at the Centre - space requirements, services, toilets, showers, refreshments, information etc.: this will assist the proposals for phasing.
- any temporary relocation to an alternative room at NPC or, in the case of a very few user groups, if you need to move to a nearby venue, we will strive to ensure you are not out of pocket.

We will ensure disruption and inconvenience are kept to a minimum.

All of these arrangements will be developed flexibly with you, although obviously any room moves and timing issues will be dependent on progress of the development.

In addition, one of the main jobs will be to ensure that the detailed architectural specifications meet the needs of User Groups. In the coming months, consultations and Design Workshops will be arranged with users to identify detailed needs and requirements in each area of the Centre: eg: Martial Arts and Fitness, Cinema, Arts and Crafts, Dance & Performance, Education and Leisure. There will also be discussions on the Foyer area and the bar and catering provision. User Forums will give every one the opportunity to have their say.

We will also be talking with new groups who have expressed an interest in using the Centre in the future, to understand their particular needs.

Nothing will happen on site without plenty of advance warning and the opportunity for discussion about any areas of concern!

Car Parking & Access to New Park Centre -

Good access to the Centre is of key importance - The board is well aware of the deep concern amongst users over proposed reduced on-site and adjacent public car parking. The Project Team is working to improve and create a diversified range of access methods to the Centre. A high priority is the feasibility study for an early introduction of a shuttle bus service around Chichester, possibly in partnership with other local organisations. The board is also engaging with the County and District Councils to ensure that the parking needs of the Centre are addressed during the current revision of parking objectives for the City as a whole. The Redwood Partnership (a specialist firm of transport consultants) has been appointed by the board to advise on effective ways to address these issues.

During the construction process, there will inevitably have to be changes to the present parking provision at the Centre. As with all other changes, users will be given plenty of notice of any necessary changes that impact on access to, and parking at, the Centre.

Temporary Community Information Centre – Why so soon?

An urgent need for a one-stop information centre, covering community and health activities and voluntary groups in Chichester, was identified in the original feasibility study for New Park's development. A manned Centre at New Park will help members of the public identify and get to grips with relevant information, groups and activities to join and services available to them across the District. It will also allow trials to be set up for a centralised booking service for all the local community venues with rooms for hire.

The Board has identified an opportunity to open a pilot Community Information Centre this summer. It will be housed in a portacabin-style temporary building next to the main entrance of the Centre. With the support of our partners in this venture, Chichester District Council and Chichester & District Council for Voluntary Service, volunteers from a range of front-line community and voluntary groups will run the service.

"This is an exciting new endeavour for New Park Centre, which promises to help expand our horizons over the next few years. Our current users will immediately benefit from the higher profile of New Park, and increased awareness of the wide range of activities that take place here. It will also ensure that the Information Centre ultimately provided in the new foyer will be tailor-made to satisfy local need." said Vice Chairman Bill Jutton.

Further Information

Much will be happening in the next few months. A PR and Communication Plan is being drawn up to ensure everyone is kept up to date with what is happening and when. This will include further editions of Newspark, regular updates of the exhibition in the bar corridor at the Centre, stories in the press and on the radio. Please keep an eye out for this changing information and contact us if you have any ideas or concerns relating to the any aspect of the development.

Fund-raising - Bill Jutton 01243 583988, Mb: 07761097825

Transition - The managers: Sharon Gregory, Alistair Russell, on 01243 536840

Development - Benny Lawson, Rod Fennell on 01243 771390 Mb: 07777 690968
Or, drop in to the Project Office on Mondays from 10.00am -1.00pm

Open House Development Update - Sessions in the Centre Foyer:
1st Tuesday of the month 12 noon -1.30pm.

The notice boards and bar corridor - Exhibition will be regularly updated
with the latest information.

If you wish to join our e-mailing list - then please email your address to:
bjutton.newpark@btconnect.com stating
"ADD TO EMAIL LIST" in Subject Box