

ROOM TO SPARE



Just a reminder we have a range of modern, well-equipped meeting spaces available for all sorts of formal and informal events, at any time of the week. Our rates are very favourable and we have space to accommodate up to one hundred people if required. We can also assist with catering and other requirements so, if you've got some sort of gathering coming up, why not have give us a call and find out what we can offer. We guarantee good quality facilities at hard to beat rates, so try them out for yourself.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES CONSULTATION

We recently hosted the first in a series of sessions looking at future community facilities, and their role in the wider regeneration process. Working with community representatives and the Joint Venture Company, the sessions are aimed at identifying priorities for future provision, for example, leisure facilities, meeting spaces, open spaces, Libraries and so on. This will include identifying locations within the community which could be safeguarded for future development of facilities.

Part of the process will involve visiting similar communities in the Central Belt, and possibly north east England, to see what sort of facilities they have and what has been successful (or otherwise) for them. Give us a call if you'd like to know more about this consultation process.

NETWORK NEWS

You can't have failed to have noticed the impressive new Hays 2 Business Centre at Hay Drive. Formally opened in December last year, the centre is new home to Castle Rock Housing Association, who invested £2million to move their headquarters to Craigmillar. The centre will also be home to a state-of-the-art ICT facility, known as Community Communications Network. The facilities will include modern internet computer stations for public use and the centre is a culmination of a joint initiative between Castle Rock, Craigmillar European Programme, and a number of other local projects. Work on the new IT facility is about to get underway, however, the operational side of the project is progressing slower than the community would have anticipated. This is largely due to the City Council's Community Education Service who remain reluctant to support the new Initiative.

GREEN KEEPERS

CBP are conducting a research exercise, on behalf of the Edinburgh Greenbelt Trust, to determine local opinion about the future of the open space between Bruntsfane and Newcraighall. With pressure to develop Edinburgh's green spaces ever increasing, the Trust is keen to safeguard the area and protect it from adverse commercial development. The land, which includes historic Newhailes House, and is a popular spot for walkers and youngsters, has huge development potential and would undoubtedly attract interest from property developers looking to exploit local housing demand. However, as the land is protected greenbelt space, the Trust believes it should not be given over for such a form of development.

Therefore, the research is the first stage in creating a picture of what local people think about the area at present, how they think it could be improved, within the constraints of greenbelt legislation, and what sorts of future developments they would be against. CBP have trained and supported a number of local volunteers who have spent five days designing, carrying out and collating the research. This included canvassing the views of many people who use, are familiar with or live close to the land in question. Give us a call if you'd like to know more about the research findings, or what might happen next.



Newhailes House

FOUNDATIONS

The Newsletter of The Capacity Building Project

APRIL 04 Issue 2.0

LIMITED EDITION

It's now almost two years since the project completed the transition into an independent limited company and it's proved to be a case of so far so good. The project has continued to evolve and diversify its activities and, from humble beginnings some 14 years ago, the project now fulfils a significant role in a number of aspects of community life in Craigmillar.

We now have a total of 12 staff dealing with the main project activities, running Craigmillar Credit Union and managing the Niddrie Mains community centre which also provides permanent accommodation for Caring in Craigmillar and Phonelink, as well as providing a satellite base for the Homelink Partnership and Craigmillar Community Arts.

The transition was lengthy, time consuming and, surprise, surprise, bureaucratic, but two years on it has proved to be a very worthwhile development for everyone concerned.

GRAND DESIGNS

As reported in the last Foundations, work on the Joint Venture Company's ambitious fifteen year plan to regenerate Craigmillar is finally underway. Amongst the first of many projects, is the Urban Design Framework. The aim is to set out an overview of how the area should be developed. This will include consideration of road layouts, housing densities, green space, facilities and services - everything involved in determining the sort of place Craigmillar will become.

Craigmillar's community reps have been working closely with JVC staff, consultants Llewelyn Davies, council officers and others to review progress and consider a range of issues in relation to urban design. The process will also involve wider community participation and should be complete by this summer.

CASHING IN £££

CBP recently succeeded in securing money from the European Social Fund for a new Research Skills pilot project. The first years' funding will pay for a new member of staff and set up the project which will research the training and learning interests of local activists and volunteers. Following this, a two-year programme of courses and events will be devised to meet the requirements identified in the research. We aim to get the project underway by the middle of the year.

HAPPY TO HELP

Remember that we're here to provide you with the services you want. If you've any ideas or suggestions for things you'd like us to help you organise then please let us know. If there's anything we can do to assist we'll be more than happy to help. If it's not something we can be involved in directly we'll still be happy to provide you with assistance and advice to help you with help you with you activities. Just give us a call



TAKING A BREAK!

Many of you will probably already have noticed by her absence that Claire Neilson is not around at the moment. After getting married last December, Claire has taken a year's unpaid leave to spend time with her husband, Bjarne, in Denmark where he comes from, and also to complete her PhD. Claire intends to return at the end of January next year.

In the meantime we welcomed Claire's replacement, Catherine Scott. Catherine recently completed her studies at Queen Margaret University College and is delighted to get the opportunity to put her training to good use here in Craigmillar.



Claire Neilson



Catherine Scott

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Our 'Empowering Communities' initiative has just entered the final year of its three year programme, but early indications are that further funding might be available to extend its lifespan. If so, that would be a great endorsement of the impact the Scottish Executive - funded programme has had in Craigmillar and other SIP areas throughout Scotland.

Certainly, locally, Empowering Communities has made a huge contribution to supporting the voluntary participation of community representatives on the SIP Board. But more than that, it has significantly enhanced procedures and processes for more meaningful involvement in community affairs - not only for the reps but also for other sectors in the community such as older people and youths - which is particularly important during the ongoing local regeneration process. Call Dave Maguire on 661 0200 for more details about what the Empowering Communities office is working on.

On The Right Lines?

Craigmillar Community Council was recently given a presentation on proposals for a new tram line system to serve the south east of the city. TIE, a council-owned company set up to drive forward the citywide tramline proposals, spoke in some detail about all aspects of the initiative including costs, routes, frequencies, designs and so on, and drew on a number of existing European examples of successful urban tramways. The current plans for the south east would include services to Cameron Toll, the Royal Infirmary, Craigmillar/Niddrie and Fort Kinaird/Newcraighall. Whilst it is projected that it would be around 2011 before any system was up and running, the presentation detailed the timetable for progress which shows work could start as soon as 2007.

TIE gave an undertaking to ensure as wide as possible a public consultation process to make sure that final designs are reflective of the views of residents in the communities the new system would serve. Get in touch with us if you'd like to know more about the current proposals or the consultation timetable.

WHIZZ KID

Congratulations to Lisa Anderson on her great achievement in completing all seven modules of the European Computer Driving License in super fast time. Lisa, who works with Craigmillar European Programme, took part in the course through the CBP, and in only five half-day sessions whizzed through all the modules. The high quality training, which comes with an internationally-recognised certificate, or 'Driving License', covers everything from basic skills, word processing and file management through to spreadsheets, databases and presentations. Lisa is the latest of many students who've gained their license with us. If you'd like to be next give us a call for more details.



Well Done to Lisa Anderson

ITALIAN JOB

We are currently working out the details for playing host to a number of young business students from the south of Italy. The Italians made contact with us as they are particularly keen to visit Craigmillar and Edinburgh, and have secured financial support from the European Union to help with the costs of coming here.

As well as the formal sessions we'll also make sure our new friends got the chance to see our city and enjoy a couple of social events as well. Although, we don't expect they'll be asking us for any tips on footie or rugger!

PERFECTLY FEASIBLE

As we told you in our previous newsletter, a report was prepared by us on behalf of Newcraighall Miners Welfare Club to highlight its current difficulties and put forward a number of options for reviving its fortunes. The club, which has been at the heart of village life in Newcraighall for decades, has suffered a significant decline in income as a result of a dwindling membership base. However, the report made a strong case for finding some form of additional assistance for the club with a view to getting it back on a viable footing. Thankfully the report has acted as a catalyst for further discussions between the club, local politicians and the city council. There is consensus on the importance of the asset to the local community and signs are that agreement might be reached soon to give the facilities a new lease of life. We continue to be involved in formulating more detailed redevelopment proposals, and the next stage is the commissioning of a formal feasibility study to explore the options.

WORTH THE WAIT

Better late than never! As is often the case with property developments, things can take somewhat longer than anticipated (think Scottish Parliament!). However, after many months in the pipeline, the Credit Union will soon be on the move to new premises on Niddrie Mains Road. The former Luca's ice cream shop will be fully renovated to meet the requirements of the credit union, and from mid-summer members will be able to carry out all their business in smart and comfortable surroundings. The move fulfils a long held ambition of the board to provide members with a top quality service they deserve and can be proud of. It also lays the ground for an expansion of the credit union's range of services and, more importantly, its hours of business, to suit the requirements of every member.

'POLISHED' PERFORMANCE

A further exchange visit took place between representatives of Café K and their new-found friends in Poland. Following on from last November's initial visit to Zamosc, Café K reps returned for a couple of days in March to finalise plans for a Polish delegation to visit Craigmillar and play an international five-a-side friendly. This has been arranged for June and during their time here the Poles are eager to find some examples of community development work that could benefit their own communities back home. Call Scott Fraser on 657 1595 for more details.



'FINAL ANSWER?'... 'PHONE A FRIEND?'

As always, we try our best to organise a number of interesting, stimulating (and even fun!) community events throughout the year. This year is no exception with a number of things lined up for the coming months. First and, for many, foremost is the annual Adult Learners' Week Quiz Night in May. Now in its seventh year, the quiz seems to get bigger and better each time so, round up your team mates, start sweating up, and - don't forget the 'carry-oo!' Watch out for more details soon.

