

Season's Greetings

From the Capacity Building Project

Why not start the New Year out right by becoming a member today. All you have to do is sign up ...
call 661 0200 for more information.

ROOM AT THE TOP



Just a wee reminder - we still have office space available for rent on the top floor of the community centre. There are two separate office rooms, kitchen and toilet/shower room and ample storage. Tenants would also benefit from priority access to other meeting facilities in the centre. The rooms are available for immediate use and are ideally suited to the needs of a small to medium sized organisation with four or five staff or volunteers. Give us a call if you'd like to see what's available or to discuss details.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

We have been busy updating the Craigmillar Directory. We have been asking you all to send us updates - please try and get changes to us before Monday 10th January.

The Directory is available on line at the Capacity Building Project website, where you can download and print off your own copy onto A4 paper. Go to the resources page and click on directory list: www.craigmillarcapacitybuilding.org/resources

If you don't have access to the internet we can print off a copy for you. Just call the CBP on 661 0200.

VOLUNTEERING

Craigmillar is becoming a more and more international community, but do we know our new neighbours? do they know us? In Gorgie/Dalry they have been running a welcoming group, with English classes, craft workshops and talks about different cultures. There have recently been some suggestions that it would be good to run something like this in Craigmillar. If you would be interested in taking part or volunteering to help get this set up, please contact Claire on 661 0200 or Sue on 661 7463.

Drivers needed ...

Still more drivers are needed for a variety of projects locally - especially the East Edinburgh Older People's Forum. If you could spare just one Friday afternoon a month to drive a minibus please get in touch with Stacy on 661 0200. All you need is a full driving license and to be willing to attend minibus driving training which we will pay for.

Arty Farty? ...

If you have any arts or crafts skills, your skills would be more than welcome at Craigmillar Community Arts. Contact Mike Greenlaw on 661 0200 for more information about how you could volunteer in the arts.

Computer Literate?

If you are, then maybe you would like to join the new computer club and add some of your expertise to the group.

FOUNDATIONS

The Newsletter of The Capacity Building Project

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A TOUCH OF FROST?

The recently-formed Craigmillar Future Society has been given a seasonally frosty reception by the local community which has reacted angrily to a number of comments issued by the society during its launch. Residents and workers were particularly aggrieved at comments describing Craigmillar as little more than a home for the drugs trade, suggesting the wholesale housing regeneration programme is a waste of time and the community was controlled by a ruling 'cabal' which spent most of its time and made most of its decisions sitting in pubs and restaurants!

In response to these controversial claims the new group has been roundly censured by Craigmillar Community Council and

Back On Track



The Craigmillar Joint Venture Company is finally ready to get started with its ambitious project to regenerate the area over the next fifteen years. The JVC can now begin work on a whole range of fronts, including:

- o The Urban Design Framework
 - o 300 housing units at Wauchope Square
 - o The Feasibility study on Cairnrows Park
 - o cleaning up parts of Niddrie Mains Road
 - o setting up research groups with the community
- General Manager, Regeneration, John Quinn said, "This is an exciting time I believe for the people of Craigmillar, for the people of Edinburgh and for ourselves as a company".

Craigmillar Community Regeneration Forum, both of which are formally recognised as the representative bodies for the community. Both unanimously endorsed motions wholeheartedly condemning the comments made by Craigmillar Community Information Service manager, Andrew McDonald. In view of the apparent conflict arising from his directorship of the new society which condemns local regeneration efforts, and his managerial position within a SIP-funded organisation charged with making a positive contribution to local regeneration, the motions also request that the Partnership immediately reviews its funding arrangements with the project.

HAYS 2 Community Communications Network

will be the name of the proposed new state of the art information and communications technology centre at the new Hays 2. All going well, the centre should open its doors to local residents next spring. As well as computing facilities and internet access, the centre will act as a hub for European information and offer certificated training courses. It will be aimed primarily, but not exclusively, at the younger age group. The new centre is supported by a partnership of local organisations including the Capacity Building Project, Café K, the Craigmillar Chronicle, the Craigmillar European Programme, Craigmillar Partnership and Castle Rock.

computer users to try out new software, catch up on news and do some problem solving ... At CBP we think this is a great idea, so we'll employ a 'techy' to be there for the first few meetings, and if enough people are interested, we can see where things will go from there. At the same time the new Hays 2 business centre is reserving a whole floor to the development of a new computer suite. We hope to run some of our courses along there and are looking for people to help decide how that space will be run.

Computer Club



Local residents, and project users, Freda and Robert Duncan recently approached the Capacity Building Project to start up a computer club that will give local people the chance to come together and meet with other



PARK PREFERENCE

Capacity Building was able to support a project by Edinburgh City Council recently by recruiting seven local people to carry out a consultation about the future of Craigmillar Castle Park.

The local recruits were trained by Scottish Participatory Initiatives who were commissioned by the council to do a consultation about proposed improvements to be made to the park.

During four days of walking the streets of Craigmillar and the Inch, these local recruits collected opinions from over 500 people.



'MINER' DIFFICULTIES

The Capacity Building Project recently produced a short report on behalf of the Newcraighall Miners Club. The purpose of the report was to highlight the importance of the club as the only significant community asset in Newcraighall village, despite the fact that it is experiencing financial difficulties which threaten its future survival. It is hoped that the report can make the case for some form of assistance and stimulate higher level discussions aimed at finding solutions to the current problems. For almost 80 years now the club has been the social focus for people from Newcraighall, and beyond, and we were happy to produce the report as the first stage in hopefully reversing its fortunes.

ACTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Capacity Building Project are still supporting the Youth Service Providers' Forum (YSPF) which is proving to be a place for dynamic new ideas to develop. About three months ago a subgroup was formed to look at creating a streetwork project in the area. In record time the idea has become a reality with a new project called 'Oot 'n' About'.



Oot 'n' About works alongside young people on the streets of Craigmillar. They meet with young people and get to know them, their hopes, dreams, issues and concerns and assist them in making changes for themselves and their community.

Another subgroup was formed to continue the work which started with the youth conference looking at how to get sustained involvement from young people in decision making processes in the area.

The latest area of work that YSPF will look at is young people being excluded from school. A great deal of debate and, more importantly, action to look at this spiralling problem is required urgently. A subgroup will be formed from YSPF to work in partnership with staff from the local schools.

Naturally Confused

As many of you may recall the CBP held a Seminar last year to help residents of Newcraighall and the surrounding areas to discuss the potential of creating a nature reserve or biodiversity park on the land to the east of the village.

Since then a lot has been happening in the background and some recent developments have given us both cause for concern, but also reason for some optimism that this project could come to fruition.

Lets start with optimistic developments first. After some weeks of discussions, CBP has managed to get the Greenbelt Trust to set aside some money to undertake a feasibility study in the communities surrounding the proposed area. This will allow us to assess the level of interest in the idea and get a better understanding of the type of things that local folk would like to see happening in the park.

In terms of concerning developments, we have recently been informed that the Scottish Executive has overturned a City Council planning decision and given developers authority to construct houses on greenbelt land at Wanton Walls Farm, a key historical site in the proposed biodiversity park. This is a real kick in the teeth to the local community, Community Council and the City Council Planning Committee, who all unanimously opposed this development. So much for involving communities in the planning process.

Party with the Provost

The East Edinburgh Older People's Forum is ten months old now, and to celebrate they had a big Christmas party to thank everyone who has volunteered with and supported the Forum.

The Lady Provost was invited down to see the good work that is being done, and to meet and speak with members. Mary Tully who, at 90 years old, is the oldest forum member, presented the Lady Provost with flowers and Mary in turn was presented with flowers by Lady Provost.



DOBRE, DOBRE, DOBRE (good x3)

Recently the Craigmillar European Programme set up a study visit to Poland. The purpose of the visit was to see if we could set up an exchange between young people in the town of Zamosce and Craigmillar. We visited a training school set up to train young people between the ages of 14 and 21 in trade skills. The highlight of the visit was an informal talk with the young people themselves who wanted to know about young people and the services provided for them in Craigmillar.

We all felt that there is a real opportunity here for young people and youth workers in Craigmillar and Zamosce to learn from each other, develop new skills and learn about another culture. Lots of friends were made and emails exchanged. We were made very welcome and look forward to putting in the work needed to ensure the visit is fruitful for both Craigmillar and Zamosce.



Any Questions?

Thirteen local workers and activists visited the Scottish Parliament on Thursday 13 November. The visit, organised by the CBP, was hosted by local MSP, Susan Deacon, Parliamentary Assistant, Ann Henderson and Constituency Assistant, Anne Davies.

First on the agenda was First Minister's Questions and the Craigmillar delegation had front row seats as Jack McConnell fielded questions from Messrs. Swinney, McElchie, Sheridan et al.

Next up was a meeting with Susan and staff. Susan answered a variety of questions on how the Parliament works and on what it has achieved so far. After lunch in the canteen, the group were then back in the chamber for Executive Questions. This time, Ministers dealt with a number of questions on a wide range of issues.

Everyone who took part agreed that the day had been a learning experience and they all thanked Susan, Ann and Anne for making it such a success.

TOP OF THE COURSES

Over the past few years the Capacity Building Project has run a series of certificated courses that help people develop their career prospects, access employment opportunities, encourage personal development and enhance community involvement. Although we run a wide variety of courses and workshops ranging from half-day to week-long training, this top ten of certificated courses shows how many people also get recognised for their improved skills:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 - First Aid - 51 | 6 - SAGE Book Keeping - 17 |
| 2 - ECDDL - 45 | 7 - Welfare Rights - 15 |
| 3 - Child Protection - 41 | 8 - Counselling - 11 |
| 4 - Food Hygiene - 40 | 9 - Minute Taking - 10 |
| 5 - MIDAS Minibus Training - 37 | 10 - ACT Foundation - 8 |

Local Council

Craigmillar Community Council continues to play an important role in the regeneration process in Craigmillar. Its regular meetings give members a chance to receive updates and discuss current local issues such as housing, transport, community safety, and so on.

Despite having to tackle sometimes contentious issues, the council, which has two seats on the SIP Board of Directors, has consolidated its recognised position as a key consultative body over matters concerning the area and its residents. Now in its second term, the council comprises 16 elected individuals and up to 8 affiliated local organisations, and is sponsored by the City Council through its city-wide Scheme for Community Councils.

You can see more information about all of Edinburgh's community councils on their 'CAPinfo' website.



The long-anticipated move for the Credit Union recently took a major step forward, with full planning permission being granted for the conversion of the former Lucas' ice cream shop on Niddrie Mans Road.

The way is now clear for the shop to be fully renovated and kitted out by the new owners, EDJ, in time for reopening as Craigmillar Credit Union early next year. The new premises will prove a great new asset for the credit union and its members - current and future. Everyone involved with the credit union is excited about this positive move. Margaret Evans, Development Officer, said "This will be the culmination of a lot of hard work by a lot of people. From the very beginning the credit union recognised the need one day for this to happen and now that it's almost a reality we can't wait to get in and get open. We're sure all our members will be very impressed with what they see". Find out more from Margaret on 661 9942.