

Heart of Efford News

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Issue 1

October 2005

Published on behalf of Efford Building Communities Initiative Steering Group

Torr ridge Way regeneration – it's started!

Three years ago our local Community Forum (The DELL Forum – representing Deer Park, Efford, Laira and Lipson) applied for help to make the centre of Efford a better place to live and work. Now, we've got it, and we're beginning to see some action!

The regeneration of Torr ridge Way is part of a government-funded programme of redevelopment called the Building Communities Initiative. (For more about this see page 2.)

So what's happening then?

An outline plan has been agreed with the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) which could provide up to two million pounds worth of investment in the heart of Efford. And it's we, the people of Efford, who will decide what will or won't be done with it. This is a pilot project, one of only four in the West of England, and if it works it could become a model for many others all over the Country.

The Royal Marine has gone! There are plans for 24 flats on the former

pub site and outline planning permission has already been given.

St Paul's Church has got the green light for demolition. New church facilities will be provided nearby, perhaps in conjunction with a larger Community Centre with all sorts of other facilities for the neighbourhood.



The St Paul's Church site might be used for a £4 million pound Extra Care Scheme in partnership with Plymouth City Council and Sarsen providing accommodation for elderly people.

Highfield School has been scheduled for a complete rebuild, by Plymouth City Council, and hopes to become a modern 'extended school' with more and better community

facilities.

The Efford Library would like to move into bigger and better premises.

... and so it goes on

Over £300,000 has already been released for a major consultation and planning process, which will soon begin (and finish at the latest by this time next year). All of us will be able to have our say on what we want included, so look out for opportunities that will be coming up shortly.



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Building Communities Initiative

As the name says – it's about building communities and here in Efford we feel it's about putting the heart back into the Efford community.

The Building Communities Initiative (BCI) is funded through the South West Regional Development Agency which has invested £240,000 to enable a plan to be drawn up for the improvement of the area. It will be delivered in partnership with the Heart of Efford Community Partnership and Plymouth City Council. We feel that local people MUST be in the driving seat because we will be living with the changes! For the moment this is in the hands of the Efford BCI Steering Group – read about changes we're making over the page.

The Initiative focuses at present on the redevelopment of Torridge Way as a main feature. This has already started but it is wider than that. It's also about creating a vibrant community that is happy with where we live and the services that we use.

The project will also therefore focus on building and enhancing community activity and ensuring that we, the local people, young and old, have access to appropriate local services. For example, that young people have a say on what they would like to see in the area, that families are happy with the local play facilities,

that older people are happy with the health services, and so on.

Although a new **Heart of Efford Community Partnership** is emerging to take the lead on this development, we can't do it alone. We will be working alongside all sorts of other

agencies, like the local health and education services, the police, the City Council, and other investors in the area, but most importantly we need local people to be involved. So, please, we need you too: your views are essential.

Here is a flavour of the Building Communities Initiative in South West RDA's words:

The past 30 years have seen a decline in many of the region's neighbourhood centres.

The Building Communities initiative aims to reverse this decline. Focusing on a small number of exemplar projects, this initiative will pilot a new approach. It will create vibrant, attractive, and sustainable developments that offer a range of facilities and services that cater for local needs.

The new developments will be designed to enhance the quality of the built environment and will have a major catalytic effect in terms of uplifting the image of the surrounding area.



Les Roper, South West RDA operations consultant (Community Regeneration), said: "There is a real need to help regenerate local neighbourhoods like Torridge Way and that is why we are investing in this plan. We want to help neighbourhoods such as this to once again become strong, vibrant and economically sustainable communities, where unemployment is reduced and skills levels are raised."

"The plan will look to bring together all the new building projects taking place in the area and co-ordinate these with the improvement of the Torridge Way environment."



Building Communities Programme Manager Peter Hopkins, Chair of Heart of Efford Community Partnership Steering Group Steve Payne, and Steering Group member Michael Bridgwater.

New name, New heart, New start



Heart of Efford Community Partnership is the new name chosen by the Efford Steering Group to reflect who we are and what we stand for. The Partnership will be driving the Building Communities Initiative forward and will be concerned with representing the community and ensuring that the redevelopments will benefit those living and working here to the maximum.

We will need to consult with you every step of the way and will be encouraging every local resident to have a say and to get involved. One way of consulting is through this Newsletter but we also hope to meet and get to know many more of you before too long as well.

The Heart of Efford Community Partnership name has been chosen to reflect its new role and growing responsibilities and we will soon be

developing a new Constitution. We want this to reflect the diverse needs and aspirations of all who live or work in Efford and others too who have an interest in its bright future.

In the coming months, as part of this task, we will also be looking to see how we can ensure that your (the community's) views are fully represented. So we will be seeking ways for local voices to become central to our Partnership. If you have any ideas please get in touch!



*Heart of Efford Community Partnership Steering Group member and local resident
Cindy Jennings*

Heart of Efford Community Festival

We're going to have lots of fun at the Community Festival on Saturday 1st October to launch the Building Communities Initiative in Efford. This is an exciting time for us here so let's celebrate what we've achieved so far and spread the word about what's going to happen. It's time to party – before the hard work really starts!

At the same time, we want to gain your commitment – in the local community - and encourage you the local people to get involved and participate in this really challenging opportunity at a time where you can really make a difference. We need to start collecting views on what you want to see happen in your neighbourhood so bring family, friends and neighbours along to have a say!

And it won't stop with the Festival – the Festival is just the start of it all!

Heart of Efford ★ Community Festival ★

Saturday 1st October 2005. 11am – 4pm.
**Torridge Way; Highfield School and
St Paul's Church premises**



We're looking for a local celebrity to open this massive celebration event. There will be loads of fun things to enjoy - like, bouncy castle, sumo wrestling, army abseiling, car mechanics, face painting, junk modelling, glass painting, karaoke, DJ mixing, TShirt printing, majorette performances, circus skills, singers, live music bands, IT bus, fire engine, and loads more!

Not to be missed. See you there!

'Efford Memoirs' photographic community memoirs project

Are there any budding David Bailey's out there interested in taking part in a photographic memoirs project.

Soon we are going to start to look at issues that people have with their community and we thought it would be a good start to get photos of things in the community that you like or dislike. That way we can then look after and learn about the things you like and to change the things you dislike.

We would like to display the photos at the community festival and reproduce them, and comments made on the day, in an 'Efford Memoir' – a publication the community can always look back on through changing times.

If you or a group you are working with or you know someone who would be interested in getting involved in this project please contact the Efford Team at Plymouth City Council on 01752 306521 and they will arrange delivery of disposable cameras and project guidance.

Introducing the Efford Team from Plymouth City Council



Meet the team... (from left to right, top to bottom) Sue Rouse, Healthy Living Network Co-ordinator; Peter Hopkins, Programme Manager; Debbie Burton, Neighbourhood Renewal Officer; and Judith Taylor, Administrative Assistant.

Peter Hopkins has been appointed as dedicated Project Manager to ensure that matters move ahead as smoothly and effectively as possible during the planning consultation and initial regeneration stages. Peter has covered a very wide range of housing and regeneration roles during his many years at Plymouth City Council. He is currently Programmes and Projects manager for the revival of the Prince Rock, Cattedown and Coadside areas based at the East End Renewal Team's offices in Mainstone Avenue. Speaking about his new job, Peter said, "I am delighted to have been appointed – and as many of you know – have already started work on the project. I look forward to working with the Heart of Efford Community

Partnership to ensure that the ideas for reviving Torrridge Way and their impact across the whole of Efford are successfully delivered."

Debbie Burton, a dedicated Neighbourhood Renewal Officer, has also come on board to work alongside the Heart of Efford Community Partnership on all matters relating to community participation so as to ensure that the 'community voice' is central to the regeneration. Debbie has recently moved across from the Chief Executive's Department in Plymouth City Council where she concentrated on working with Communities across the city, with particular emphasis on areas of high deprivation such as North Prospect and Stonehouse.

Next issue:

Got something you'd like to see included in the next edition?
Then please get in touch!



Contact Details

What you think of our Newsletter? If you have any comments or other issues or would like to get involved please let us know through:

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Local Beat Manager

PC6399 Kevin Morley

Neighbourhood Beat Manager for Efford. Tel: 08452777444 or email
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"My role is to deal with issues that affect the quality of life for residents of Efford."

Heart of Efford Community Partnership (Steering Group)

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Look out for our countdown clock and timer, counting down the days to the celebrations at the Efford Community Festival and the launch of the Building Communities Initiative...

