

# Heart of Efford News

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Issue 2

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## Efford Community Festival – what a day!

Loads of fun was had by all at the Community Festival on Saturday 1st October. Lots of local residents (somebody estimated 1,000) turned out for the day and enjoyed a range of free activities such as break-dancers, live music, bouncy castles, bungee run, tea dancing, face painting, junk modelling, T-shirt printing and much much more. MP Linda Gilroy opened the celebrations and balloons were



released to mark the official beginning of the Efford regeneration project. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress also attended the event (*pictured here with Steve Payne*)

to mingle in the crowds and congratulate those involved on the good work done so far.

The day was aimed at launching the Building Communities Initiative, celebrating the hard work done so far and raising awareness of the project that we, the Heart of Efford Community Partnership, are leading in partnership with the South West Regional Development Agency and Plymouth City Council. This Initiative seeks to make positive changes to the neighbourhood and to regenerate Torrridge Way, which, as you can already see, has started. It's also about creating a vibrant community that feels happy with where we live and the services that we use.

On the day we also got some of your views on the preliminary plans prepared so far, as well as your feelings about where you live and the community around you. Your comments and concerns will be fed into the wider planning and consultation process that we are about to begin.

So, a big thank you to everyone for your hard work in making the day such a success. Thank you also to Kim Dorian-Kemp, head teacher at



Highfield Community School for letting us use the school premises for most of the Festival. We hope local people enjoyed the event and will continue to stay interested in the work we are doing for Efford. So, keep a look out for future events and opportunities for you to get involved with and have your say.



### Inside this issue:

- Partnership update and what next
- Torrridge Way regeneration update
- Building communities – how it all began
- Get set for our Efford Christmas Party

Heart of  
**Efford**  
Community Partnership

South West of England  
Regional Development Agency

City of  
**Plymouth**

# Heart of Efford Community Partnership Update – the constitution is ready!

Members of the Steering Group have been working hard on writing a draft Constitution that the Partnership will soon be asked to adopt. We are all about local people taking the lead on the regeneration of Efford (both physical and social) and we are keen to encourage everyone to understand and 'own' the Constitution as this will be the 'set of guidelines' that the Partnership will be working to. It needs to be in place first before a Committee can be elected to run the Partnership.

## What is a constitution?

*It is a 'set of guidelines' governing how an organisation will be run, how the members will work together and what they are working towards.*

**The Heart of Efford Community Partnership is yours so you need to feel happy about how it is run and what it is going to do.**

The following points give you a flavour. Please get in touch if you want a copy of the full or summary version of the Constitution sent to you, or if you have any comments or queries.

## The Partnership's DRAFT Aims and Objectives:

**Aims:** To further the interests and improve the quality of life of all who live or work in the Efford Neighbourhood.

### Objectives:

- To listen to, consult and share information with the people of the Efford Neighbourhood
- To promote and implement initiatives to further the Aim of the Partnership
- To be the lead body for all consultations relating to the Efford Building Communities Initiative and other local regeneration issues
- To become a focus for life of the community



### Membership:

- Everyone living within the Efford Neighbourhood boundary (*see picture*) is automatically entitled to be a full, voting (Category 1) member of the Partnership.
- Everyone 'engaged in a business or non-statutory organisation which provides a local service to people in the neighbourhood' is automatically entitled to be a full voting (Category 2) member.
- Full members will be eligible for election to the Partnership Committee as set out below.
- Representatives from Statutory authorities and other organisations may be Associate members but will

not be entitled to vote or be able to become Partnership Committee members.

### The Partnership Committee:

- There will be a Committee to administer the affairs of the Partnership consisting of a maximum of 10 people: Up to eight from Category 1 and two from Category 2 membership.
- The Committee may co-opt (invite) a maximum of 6 additional people to bring in particular expertise or knowledge, these people will carry no voting rights.

This will ensure that the Partnership Committee is always RESIDENT LED.

## Heart of Efford

# ★ Christmas Party ★

**Wednesday 7th December 3.30 to 7pm**  
**Highfield Community School Hall**

Come along and join the festive fun. Plenty for the kids to do including bouncy castle, festive craft and Santa's grotto. Parents can relax, have a mince pie (or two) and find out what it means to be a Heart of Efford Community Partnership member.

**Information... consultation... find out more... get involved...  
meet people already involved... bring your family and friends!**



## Torrige Way Regeneration Update: New Extra Care Scheme



Plymouth City Council in partnership with Sarsen Housing Association successfully bid to build a state of the art 'Extra Care Scheme'. This will be a 40-bed unit for the elderly to go on the existing St Paul's Church site on Torrige Way. The St Paul's Church will be demolished next year to allow building work to begin.

Plans for the Extra Care Scheme have been presented and are available for comment (*picture above*). The building will incorporate some space for a new library facility that will replace the current Efford library.

### New Church on Library site



A new St Paul's church will be built on the current library site (*pictured below*). This will incorporate community facilities also. Designs have yet to be agreed but building work could start in 2006.

### 'Master-planning' process

Consultants are due to be appointed by mid December this year to start a 'master-planning' process. This will begin with in-depth consultation ensuring that the community's views are taken on board regarding various aspects of the physical regeneration, including options for the improvements to Torrige Way, a new school and other sites for development.

The Master Planners will also consult with residents regarding wider issues in Efford, and will assess how to improve local people's quality of life, access to services, health, crime, education, employment, skills and training. This process is due to start in January and will last approximately 7 – 8 months with a final report expected by the end of August 2006.

## How it all Began...

In December 2002, The DELL Community Forum (representing residents of Deer Park, Efford, Laira and Lipson – the electoral ward of Efford and Lipson) under the chairmanship of Cllr Andy Kerswall (*pictured*) made a submission for money available to create 'sustainable neighbourhood centres' in areas of 'economic and social deprivation'. This was supported by Plymouth 2020

Partnership, statistics collated on social deprivation, a MORI survey of the Efford Neighbourhood and information collected at local community consultations. We were in competition with the whole of the South West of England and by mid 2003, we heard that Efford's bid had been chosen – one of only four in the South West.

Thanks to the hard work of people, like Andy, who have spent years campaigning for change and ways to bring regeneration money and investment to Efford, the vision for a newly developed Torrige Way and improved opportunities for local people are now becoming a reality.



## Heart of Efford Community Partnership – what next?

We have already held a mini-consultation inviting those who expressed an interest at the Festival to come and share a coffee with us and chat to us about the Constitution, the Community Partnership and the Building Communities Initiative. This event (held on the 4th November) was a great success and we thank all of you who came along for your interest and hope to see you again!

Next will be a Christmas Party to launch the draft constitution more widely and we will be publicising this event throughout the community in every way we can. Again, we hope that local residents will come along and share a mince pie with us and get involved with what's going on!

## Building communities: how can YOU get involved?

The Heart of Efford Partnership are looking for residents to get involved, especially if you feel strongly about life in Efford. This might mean helping out organising events, offering assistance with publicity or becoming a Committee Member.

An election will be held early next year when volunteers will be invited for election to the Partnership Committee. This might sound daunting but there will be plenty of support from others already involved, people who work in the neighbourhood and from the Efford Team at Plymouth City Council, and any training that might be needed. See our next Newsletter for further details or come along to the Christmas Party to find out more.

# Help us to reach you!

Highfield Community School have kindly offered to distribute information through the school. So, watch out for regular Torridge Way updates that will come through your Highfield School Childs book bag.

Is there any other organisation that can do the same for us? We are struggling with getting regular information and updates out to the community and are always on the

look out for new ways to reach you.

How about a web-site? Is there anyone with web-based skills or interested in training in web-site design who has the time and interest to develop and maintain an Efford web-site? We might be able to access some funding for you to undertake some training.

Are there any other ideas that will help us improve communication?

## Festival competition winners and thanks...

Thanks to all the young people who took pictures for our unique Photo Wall which we hope to keep on display and use at more events. They provided a very interesting arena for discussion as they depicted children's views on places in their community they thought were good, bad and ugly!

Thanks to all who designed and printed their own T-shirts. There were many entrants and the winners in each category each received an MP3 player. The winner of the Balloon Race, who will also receive an MP3 player will be announced in the next edition of this newsletter. Thanks again also to the Plymouth and South Devon Co-op for the donation of all these superb prizes!



## Loose weight – feel great!

A new slimming World consultant, Francesca Baylif, has opened a new slimming World session at Plym View Primary School in Blandford Road.

**Open to all: Wednesdays – 6.30 to 8.00pm**  
For more details call Francesca on 01752 250167

## Get in touch... tell us what you think?

- Tell us if you want to get more involved, ask us how?
- Ask us what's happening
- Ask us for information and updates on the Building Communities initiative
- Tell us your views on the Building Communities initiative
- Tell us if there are any issues you think need to be addressed in Efford
- Give us ideas on how best to consult with you – when, where and how
- Tell us what's been going on in Efford for the next newsletter
- Advertise your events or meetings



## Contact Details

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### Elected Ward Members

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### The Efford Team at Plymouth City Council

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