AUGUST 2005 MAILOUT
FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS

New plans for the city

Plymouth City Council in common with all local Councils have had to establish a Local Development Framework. This will cover planning what can go where and the process for individual developments. Back in February 2005, 16 documents were produced - known as Issues and Options Papers. Some of these have now been developed further and will be out for consultation for a 6 week period from 29 July 2005. These relate to:

- the overall strategy
- waste development
- Devonport
- Millbay/Stonehouse
- North Plymstock

Also there is a document called the Statement of Community Involvement which is the way the Council propose to consult with residents and others in planning matters. A task group from the Network have been involved in commenting on various sections of this Statement as it has been put together and will continue to do so now that the complete draft has been produced.

For more information view the Council’s website or ask to see the documents at your local library http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/yourcouncil/environment/planning/planningpolicy/ldf.htm

Single Parent Action Network (SPAN)

Do you run a single parent group?
SPAN are offering 3 free accredited distance learning courses:

- Managing your self-help group
- Making changes - developing the confidence to represent single parent concerns and influence change.
- Certificate in Community Volunteering

SPAN also offer workshops, support, advice and information to single parent groups and those supporting one-parent families. Contact Jacqui Linton on 0117 9514231 or email: jacquie@spanuk.org.uk

Does your group need a computer or IT support?
You can get a free reconditioned PC for your group with internet access and link to local IT support and training.
Contact Chris Gaine on 0117 9514231 or email: chris@spanuk.org.uk

PCP Information
Copy date deadlines for Mailout articles
26 August for September issue
27 September for October issue
26 October for November issue
Autumn 2005 Monitoring & Evaluation Training Schedule

This training is FREE to any voluntary organisation or community group based in or providing services to people living in Barne Barton, Ernesettle, Honicknowle, North Prospect or Stonehouse.

Understanding & Using an Outcomes Focus
27 September 2005, 9.30am - 4pm & 18 October 2005, 9.30am - 4pm
This 2 day training course is being run as part of the National Outcomes Dissemination Programme. It aims to equip you to introduce an outcomes focus within your organisation. There is a gap between the 2 training days to enable participants to apply what they have learnt.

Implementing PQASSO Training
4 October 2005, 10am - 3pm & 22 November 2005, 10am - 12.30pm
This course which runs over 2 sessions looks at introducing and implementing PQASSO (Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations). It outlines the different steps involved in self-assessment and explores the process of establishing a sustainable quality assurance system.

Basic Monitoring Workshop
11 November 2005, 9.30am - 1pm
Do you know who is using your service? Or how? Where clients are coming from? Are they happy with the service you are providing? Can you prove it?
This workshop is aimed at organisations who would like to start collecting this information for the first time.

Basic Evaluation Workshop
18 November 2005, 9.30am - 1pm
How accessible are the services you offer to your users? Are you running them at times to suit your members? Do you know what your clients, members or users think of the services you are providing?
The Basic Evaluation Workshop is particularly suited to those who have already attended the Basic Monitoring Workshop as it builds on ideas already discussed.

Monitoring & Evaluation Planning Workshop
29 November 2005, 9.30am - 1pm
This practical hands-on workshop will help you to design your own Monitoring & Evaluation Action Plan. It will look at: what needs to be monitored in more depth, what are you already collecting? Who is responsible for doing what?
You will need to have attended the Basic Monitoring & Basic Evaluation Workshops before attending this one! There will be a limit of 4 participants to enable individual projects to be discussed.

For more information and to book a place on any of these workshops, contact:
Nicky Wilson, Monitoring & Evaluation Support Worker, Voluntary Sector Development, Plymouth Guild of Voluntary Service. Tel: 01752 241054/201766 or email: nicky@plymouthguild.org.uk

Please note, the training is FREE but we do ask for a small booking fee to reserve places which is refunded following attendance.

This Plymouth 2020 Local Strategic Partnership-funded project is supported through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.
Funds climb while abseilers descend

Victim Support Devon are calling all brave daredevils who are willing to take the plunge for charity in a fourth annual abseil event.

Intrepid souls will be raising sponsorship money to abseil from the top of Plymouth Civic Centre, which is approximately 200 feet high. This event has been hugely popular and successful in past years, with fundraising topping the £2,000 mark. All age groups and abilities are welcome, and fancy dress is very much encouraged.

The event will be held on Saturday 10 September, and the assembled crowds will be entertained with live music and other attractions.

If you are interested in taking part in the abseil, please call Carol or Jo for a registration form on 01752 313225.

What is Victim Support?

Victim Support is the independent national charity which helps people to cope with crime. Trained volunteers based in local branches offer free, confidential support and information. In court, the Witness Service can offer emotional support and practical information to victims, witnesses and their families and friends before, during and after a trial.

Conference facilities

Wolseley Trust would like to inform users that the Main Hall is again now available for hire. The extension to Get Up and Go Nursery has now been completed.

Wolseley Trust - Hire Charges
Community Building Main Hall £9.50 per hour exc VAT
Conference Room £10.50 per hour exc VAT

For further information telephone (01752) 607449

Jan Cutting Healthy Living Centre
Multi-purpose Hall £15.00 per hour exc VAT
Conference Room £5.50 per hour exc VAT

For further information telephone (01752) 203670.

TREASURER WANTED

The Neighbourhood Voluntary Support Service (NVSS) are looking for a Treasurer to oversee their finances and attend bi-monthly committee meetings.

NVSS's finances are managed at Rosary House, Exeter (Plymouth RC diocese) although they are not a church organisation.

For further information please contact Joan Watkins on 01752 225802 or email: nvvs@plymouth1.freeserve.co.uk
Stone Soup Storytelling

Stone Soup continues its monthly last Wednesday series at the Art Garden Café, The Parade, The Barbican, Plymouth on 27 July. The family-oriented evening is entitled Rabbit Feats, and features tales of Rabbit and Hare, who somehow manage to get themselves in, and out of, the stickiest situations. Doors Open 6:30pm - Stories from 7 to 7:50 and 8:10 to 9 - Suitable for All Ages - Admission FREE - The Hat will be passed around - Further details on this, and future events is available at www.stonesouppstorytelling.org.uk

Stone Soup Storytelling will be appearing at the Maker Sunshine Festival over the weekend of 28-31 July. The festival will take place at the Maker Heights Centre, Rame Head, Cornwall. The Blacksmith of Bodmin Moor, featuring Storytellers David Doyle and Nik Brooks, and Musician Duncan Hind, will be performed on the Sunday afternoon. Further details on www.stonesouppstorytelling.org.uk or www.maker.ik.org/

Stone Soup will also be continuing its Adult Storytelling evenings at Joint Café, 92 North Hill, Plymouth, on Wednesday 3 August. This event occurs on the first Wednesday of every month. Doors Open 7:30pm - Stories from 8 to 10 - Suitable for Adults Only - Admission £3 - Further details on this, and future, events is available at www.stonesouppstorytelling.org.uk

PLYMOUTH MIND
in partnership with local community groups, organisations, and individual supporters
present
PARKLIFE
A Big Day in the Park
Freedom Fields, Plymouth
Saturday 20 August 2005
11am onwards

Music · Entertainment · Sport · Stalls
Healthy living · Kids area · Park café

Table top sale space/available

More information, tel: 07884258598 daytime, or call in café at freedom fields park

National Conference
Racism, Violence & Human Rights
Thursday 27 and Friday 28 October 2005
9.30am - 5pm
at Friends House,
173 Euston Road, London

For further information contact:
The Conference Secretariat at
The Monitoring Group on
020 8843 2333 between 10am-6pm
Monday to Friday.
Hello Alistair,

Below is a copy of the regular email bulletin "Update" which I send out weekly. This one went out to 175 email addresses and includes a brief version of the information you sent me about the current PCC consultations.

best wishes
Fiona

Please scroll down for the following items - received outside of the dates for inclusion in our newsletter - which might be of interest to your organisation. If you do not want to remain on this email list please reply and let me know or, if you know anyone who would like to be included, ask them to contact me.

best wishes
Fiona

Fiona Sheaff
Voluntary Sector Development Co-ordinator
Plymouth Guild of Voluntary Service
Ernest English House
Buckwell Street
Plymouth PL1 2DA
Tel: 01752 241056
fiona@plymouthguild.org.uk
www.plymouthguild.org.uk

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*Funding*

Comic Relief

Funding raised from Red Nose Day is now available for bidding for 4 programme areas for 2005-06. Applications can be either for grants of over £5,000 in the main grants area and up to £5,000 for small grants. The 4 programmes are: 1. young people (three areas under this programme are i) young people with mental health problems, ii) young people with alcohol problems and iii) young people abused through prostitution and trafficking), 2. older people (two areas under this programme are i) promoting older people's advocacy and campaigning and ii) small grants to tackle isolation and loneliness), 3. mental health (two areas under this programme which are i) advocacy and campaigning and ii) small grants (maximum of £1,000) for user-led mental health groups), 4. refugees and asylum seekers (two areas under this programme are i) supporting vulnerable women and ii) building community links), 5. domestic violence - the focus of this programme is on young people affected by domestic violence - and 6. disadvantaged communities - a maximum of £5,000 per grant for this programme, open to local community groups or community enterprises. For full details go to the Comic Relief website at www.comicrelief.com
**Advice/Support/Training Sessions**

Startupbiz Ltd (www.startupbiz.org)

Business advisory surgeries for anyone who has a disability and would like to start their own business. If you want to know about availability of assistance with business planning, funding and training, there will be a business advisor on hand at surgeries on Tuesday 26th July and Tuesday 9th August (afternoons only) at DIAE, Ernest English House, Buckwell Street, Plymouth. For more information or to make an appointment call 07979 604131.

**PCO (PQASSO USERS GROUP)**

Are you interested in coming along and talking to other people who are using PQASSO (Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations)? If so, the next lunchtime seminar will be on Wednesday 19 October, 12 noon - 2pm. The theme will be ‘Communicating Progress’ with PQASSO. This support group is for voluntary organisations and community groups in Plymouth who already have the PQASSO Work Pack, have attended an ‘Implementing PQASSO’ training at Plymouth Guild of Voluntary Service or are receiving PQASSO support from PCP.

For more details and to book a place contact: Nicky Wilson at PVVS (201766/nicky@plymouthguild.org.uk) or Brenda Thompson at PCP (02392/7289/brenda@pcp.org.uk). Both Nicky & Brenda are licensed PQASSO Mentors.

**Project Planning Training**

Places are still available on three OCHSW accredited training modules in project planning, running in the autumn. For these sessions only, the normal training costs and accreditation fees will not apply and training will be free. To give more information and a flavour of the course content and teaching methods, two taster sessions are also running. The first of these will be on Tuesday 2nd August from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. and the second will be Thursday 1st September from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. For more information or to book contact Avril Lacey on 341875.

Closing date for 2nd August taster session is 11.00 a.m. Friday 29th July.

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**Consultations**

**Plymouth City Council will be consulting on the following between 29th July and 9th September:**

Draft Statement of Community Involvement - the guidelines for how the city council will conduct community consultation and involvement, including 'hard to reach' groups, on the Local Development Framework and consultation on planning applications.

There are also 5 preferred options planning documents open for consultation - Waste Development Plan (location/provision of waste management and facilities to deal with the city's waste), North Plymstock Area Action Plan (future development including new settlement at Sherford), Millbay/Stonehouse Area Action Plan (future development and regeneration), Devonport Area Action Plan (future development and regeneration), and Core Strategy Preferred Options (spatial vision and strategic options for Plymouth to 2016).

For information see Plymouth City Council's website www.plymouth.gov.uk

This should have updates on the consultation process, meetings etc as well as the documents concerned. Response forms are available for consultation and will be recorded, as well as any comments at consultation events etc - these will be considered before the preparation of further documents which will be the subject of another consultation.

The officer conducting the consultation is Alistair Magstaff, Planning Policy Officer, Floor 6 West, Civic Centre Plymouth PL1 2HE.
Planning for a better Plymouth

Introducing the Local Development Framework which is intended to provide a strong strategic framework to promote investment, guide development and safeguard the built and natural environment.

Each Council has to draw up plans which show what sort of activities are permitted in each location in their area e.g. industrial, housing and transport. These plans also need to provide for roads, rubbish tips and other services people might not want to be sited near them but are needed for the good of the whole community.

These “big picture” plans used to be called “Local Plans” and there was a major consultation about a new one in Plymouth in 2001-2002. However those plans were never finalised as it was known that Central Government was in the process of changing the planning system.

Regulations about the new system have now been published and Councils now have to produce a Local Development Framework (LDF) which is needed before the current Local Plan becomes outdated.

The Local Development Framework is different from the Local Plans because it includes a continuous process of consultation of which the Statement of Community Involvement is the first part.

The Framework itself consists of lots of documents e.g.

- A core strategy - the long term plan which will be in line with the City Strategy.
- Area studies leading onto Area Action Plans. Some of these areas will be where there is pressure for redevelopment or where the area is characterised by historic buildings. These studies will also be picking up on the work done for Local Neighbourhood Action Plans but it seems the areas may be a bit wider than the current neighbourhoods.
- Criteria based policies including guidance on affordable housing. These policies will/may include the design of developments when it is a major issue for the community. The quiduary for Councils is that they want developers to be free to use their own imagination and up to now have not had much scope to interfere but where there are strong feelings over colours and shapes of buildings the local Community should be able to influence these. PCN will be looking to ensure these policies do include design issues and that the community – including the Disability Action Network - are involved in these policies.
- A Proposals Map that identifies sites for housing, education or community use etc.
- Waste and Transport policies – PCN reps Wendy Miller and Niall O'Neill are starting to become involved with some preliminary work which relates to these as part of a steering group set up by the Environment and Sustainability Partnership. So if you want to comment on these two issues now you can contact Wendy and Niall through Liza Packer on 01752 202590 or email Liza.Packer@pcp.org.uk

However one of the first things Plymouth City Council has to do is produce a Statement of Community Involvement to show how the Community is going to be involved in the big picture plans and also the decisions that need to be made about individual developments. This Statement should be available for Consultation early in the New Year and PCN will send each member a copy. Eunice Halliday has had the opportunity to comment on a first draft of this document.

Current Consultations on roads and schools

Plymouth’s City Council is running a public consultation with local businesses, organisations and residents of Plymouth to make sure that the new Local Transport Plan focuses on the priorities of the people living, working and visiting Plymouth.

Key areas the Plan will cover are:
- accessibility to jobs and services without using a car
- air quality
- road safety
- levels of traffic congestion

To make sure your opinions are heard you will need to complete the consultation questionnaire found in the leaflet entitled ‘Your City – your move; how Plymouth’s Local Transport Plan is working for you’. The leaflet is available from local libraries, GP surgeries, Plymouth’s Civic Centre, by phoning 305494, and on the internet at www plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/yourcouncil/transportandstreets.htm?referer=yourcouncil

The City Council is also seeking views on the long-term broad strategy for school places. This consultation will end on 31 January 2005 and is not focussing on what should happen to specific schools. For full details visit www plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/yourcouncil/education/schools/schoolimplementationplan.htm? referer=schools Or contact Julie Poat on 01752 307505.
Shape of the future

Plans for the future shape of the city are on display to staff next week.

The first six preferred options for the city’s Local Development Framework will be on display at the Civic Centre and at Windsor House.

Staff can view the plans on the Civic Centre mezzanine level on Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 August. Contact numbers of planning officers will be provided to answer queries.

Windsor House staff can view the plans at main reception on Thursday 1 and Friday 2 September. Ali Wagstaff from planning services will be available to answer questions on Friday from 12noon to 4pm. The current six-week consultation period ends on Friday 9 September.