

**St Thomas Community Association
Meeting Minutes & Decision and Action Log**

Meeting type: Community

Date: 29-Apr-2018, 18:00hrs

Place: Trefoil Lodge

1) Attendees

Committee

Rosalind Johnson (RJ), Chairperson
Lizzie Groves (LG), Communications
Joe Levy (JL), Youth Coordinator
Laura Ruiz (LR), Secretary
Danielle Wootton (DW), A Team Volunteer Coordinator

Community

Lena Western (LW)
Khaled Wakkaa (KW)
Maggie Bonfield (MB)
Karl Zumar (KZ)
Sue Taylor (ST)
Chloe Pooley (CP)
Gen Gat (GG)
Will Malcolm (WM)
Sue Collins (SC)
Samantha Snell (SS)
Tim Snell (TS)
Caitlin Channon (CC)
Alan Chapman (AC)
George Reynolds (GR)
Christine Lethbridge (CL)
Tony Lethbridge (TL)
Laura Wright (LW)
Hannah Baker (HB)
Clemence Scalbert (CS)
Khaled Wakkaa (KW)
John Taylor (JT)

2) Apologies

Ruth Adams (RA), Treasurer
Mary Ann Jennings (MJ), Fundraising
Lars Lauridsen (LL), Festival Coordinator
Mary Dinham
Paula Grebot
Mike McMillan

3) Update from the Chair (Appendix 1)

4) New Business – GR and JL – usage of the St Thomas Railways Buildings

- GR spoke about his links with the church and thoughts on possible future use of the buildings that are currently in a bad state of repair.
- GR mentioned his interest in linking up with the STCA with a view to the building being used as a community space.
- WM (St Thomas Police Community Support Officer) brought up the need to research the legality and ownership of the building as well as the community's opinion about any ideas for using it.
- JL discussed interest in pursuing the current situation of the building, but emphasised a need to create a community space as a separate issue to pursue in tandem.
- JL briefly mentioned the progress on the issue of a community space made through a meeting with the ECF, which he attended along with MJ and HT. Their report back to the committee is attached. (Appendix 2 with actions)

5) Update from Associated Groups:

- **Bloom in St Thomas (ST) (Appendix 3)**
- **Friends of Merrivale Park (SS) (Appendix 4)**
- **Newman Road Allotments (SS) (Appendix 5)**
- **St Thomas Emergency Group (JT)** Verbal update:
 - a) Now sharing garage on Merrivale Road with STCA,
 - b) Meetings held every 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Methodist Church at 5.30pm,
 - c) Defibrillators now in place in the health centre, the Riverside Leisure Centre, Boots Exe Bridges and they are working to have one installed outside Age UK (TBC).
 - d) They will be speaking at the next community meeting at the end of June to tell us more about what they do and how you can be involved.
 - e) RJ mentioned need to improve the group's online presence.
- **Community Builder update (CP) (Appendix 6)**
- **The Meet Up Group (LW) (appendix 7)**

6) Festival Update (LL) (Appendix 8)

7) Volunteer Update (DW) (Appendix 9 - pending)

8) Guest Speaker – Tony Lethbridge from St Thomas Local History Group.

- Tony gave a fantastic summary of the history of Cowick Street and his family background with many very interesting photos of the changes around the area.
- Tony invites anyone who is interested to come along to their monthly meetings at St Thomas Library on the 1st Friday of every month at 7-9pm.

9) Close of meeting with the next community meeting set for the end of June. Date TBC and guest speaker Dave Hubbard from St Thomas Emergency Group.

Appendix 1 – Chair’s Report

The last period has been very productive and every member of the committee has been working very hard on their various roles. Thank you so much to them for all their help.

Our co-secretary, Sarah Spaul, has now had her baby son, Tobias. She reports that having a new baby and a toddler is understandably filling much of her time at the moment, so she’s passing the full role to Laura Ruiz for the rest of the year but would still very much like to volunteer at the festival and help where time allows. Best wishes to her and her family.

With the introduction of new data protection legislation (GDPR), we’ve developed a new data protection and privacy policy and have refreshed our mailing email list which is hosted through MailChimp. To do this, we sent a final email to everyone on the old mailing list, inviting them to join the new one by clicking through to an online form that allows them to specify what their interests are and clearly agree to receive emails. I’m happy to report that we have 131 subscribers at the time of writing and that this is steadily increasing. We can still take people’s email addresses at meetings and events, but they agree to only receive one email inviting them to join the mailing list. If they do not confirm, they will not be registered to the official list.

Lizzie, Communications Officer, and I have been continuing to try and publicise events and activities that are going on in St Thomas through our STCA website, Facebook Page, Facebook Group, Instagram and Twitter. We’ve also been populating our online calendar of events at every possible opportunity. I’ve tried a couple of different events website apps and we are currently using an embedded Google calendar. One of my actions for the coming period is to see whether we can improve upon that with something more visual, eye-catching and easier to print out. I’d also like to step up our offline promotion of events as well, so ideas for that are very welcome. (LL now publishing event calendar in noticeboard outside the chemist on Cowick Street).

Since the last meeting, I have written to Exeter City Council to report the dangerous state of the old Christmas lights in the trees at the Cowick Street bus stop by the shopping precinct. The city council indicated that the trees are owned by Devon County Council and suggested that I contact them. I haven’t taken that step yet though because Cllr Rob Hannaford has agreed to help take this forward.

I have also spoken with the contractor who does the city centre Christmas lights to see what we could get for our £2k Investing In Devon funding grant and he is putting together some options in writing for us to consider. His most affordable suggestion was proper weather proof, purpose made festoon lighting that would be fixed to the trees all year round and would only need a small amount of annual maintenance.

I’m feeling very encouraged and inspired by all the various community groups in St Thomas that we’ll be hearing from in a moment, plus the newly forming Friends of Cowick Barton. For that reason, we felt it was time to refresh the look and feel of our logo and letterhead. The logo we have chosen represents unity, equality and working together – many hands make light work and by sharing our knowledge and resources we can achieve far more for St Thomas. We will be retiring the ‘A-Team’ brand and instead will be empowering individual groups with distinct identities to run events with independence and share volunteering resources with one another without any feeling of

overall control. Working together for a better St Thomas is still our key goal after 6 years of the STCA.

Appendix 2 – JL, MJ and HT – Report from ECF meeting on March 6th

1a. Exeter Community Forum- attended by Mary Ann and Joe.

MA raised the issue of STCA desire to build/create a community space. There was a very positive response and there was expertise offered to help in the process.

What came out of the reflection on the meeting was that STCA need to develop or be clear on our raison d'être, what is our mandate, shall we re-visit our constitution.

Funding streams and resources, expertise and support is available within the forum.

JL suggests we re-visit our constitution to re-define our goals.

One criteria is that the area is under resourced. If we carry out a consultation there are 11,500 households in St Thomas, this is what we would base any bid upon.

MJ we need to consider who would be responsible for the running of the Centre. At Newcourt it is run by a separate Trust not a volunteer Community Assn.

JL advised us to invite Diana Moore from the Community Forum to speak to us.

The outcome of the meeting was empowering for MA and JL to go forward to formulate a plan to conduct a consultation.

JL suggested applying for funding for a division grant, which is up to £10K. This would be funding to pay for someone to carry out the consultation due to the scale of the project.

Action Joe Levy to set up a meeting between Diana Moore and STCA by mid June due to pending local elections.

Action Mary Ann & JL to set up a funding time line for the project.

Appendix 3 - St Thomas in Bloom update – Sue Taylor

Bloom In' St Thomas is a very informal group of local residents who volunteer for activities like litter picking, tree planting, wildflower seed sowing, and weeding around the green spaces in St Thomas.

We don't have a committee as sit under the umbrella of the St Thomas Community Association, set up five years ago, the group entered the Royal Horticultural Society south West in Bloom awards for three years and in 2016 St Thomas was awarded Gold in the RHS "Pennant" Award, which recognizes horticultural work, community engagement and environmental aspects of an area. The group was also nominated for a Community Award in the autumn 2016.

Since January this year, we have met up four or five times. The aim is to meet monthly on the second Saturday of the month depending on what needs doing – littering around St Thomas is a constant problem for example so there is always plenty to do. The weather has been quite challenging this year, and I am always amazed how many people will turn up when it's pouring with rain to participate.

The next planned event will be working in Pines Gardens for a tidy up on the morning of the 12th May 2018, the day before the Pines Wisteria Celebration which is being held on the 13th May.

There is a website bloominstthomas.org, Facebook page www.facebook.com/BloomInStThomas/ and Twitter account @BloomInStThomas

In 2016 the group developed a St Thomas Tree Trail which is available on line or pick up a copy in the St Thomas Library; there is also an activity leaflet which can be downloaded. We also have a new Tree Detective who has started to research some of the more iconic trees around the area – you can find his blogs on the Bloom In' St Thomas website.

It's always great to meet new people so if you want to get involved just drop us an email at stthomasinbloom@gmail.com.

Appendix 4 – Friends of Merrivale –Samantha Snell

Hi I'm Sam and I'm the Secretary for Friends Of Merrivale Park, and my husband Tim is the Chairman. Our aim is to re-vamp the park, to make people aware of our park and to put our park on the map, it is surprising that quite a few people do not know where we are.

We have 3 events planned and another in the pipeline, the 3 events are : On Sunday 27th May at 11am , where everyone brings a picnic and have some family fun with bouncy castles , face painting and refreshments. : On Saturday 28th July we are doing a Table Top Sale at Trefoil Lodge at 11am , if you have any jumble I will gratefully take it off your hands. We are hoping to do this monthly. : On Saturday 11th August we will be hosting a Family Companion Dog Show with rosettes and prize bags. with refreshments and a raffle

If you would like to know more please ask

Appendix 5 – Newman Road Allotments –Samantha Snell

Hi I'm Sam and I am the secretary of Newman Road Allotments and my husband Tim is the Rep, we are one of the smallest Allotments in Exeter with 16 plots, at the moment we have just finished sorting out the ground for the new communal hut which should be going up this week , weather permitted, then our next stage will be putting in a composting toilet, decking making the site safe because our main goal is to make the site safe so we can start workshops for primary school children to learn about growing fruit and vegetables and helping the community

If you have any questions please ask

Appendix 6 – St Thomas together and Community Builder Update – Chloe Pooley

Ongoing projects – On April 19th there was a meeting between around 30 local residents and councillors for the planning of the International Celebration which will be held at St Thomas Methodists on July 28th between 1-5pm. Volunteers will meet again - Thursday 17th May around 7 pm – Scout hut off Emmanuel Road. There will be singing, dancing, food and entertainments in July.

Pinces Garden Party- May Sunday 13th 1-4pm. This event is coming along very well, and it looks like it will be very fun – also with a theatre piece being performed written by our very own Von and Julia. I'll be doing pop up games and talking to people but I understand there will be cakes, children's activities etc.

Exmovement- a physical theatre group based in Exwick are doing three sessions in Exwick and three in St Thomas.

Space – Actively meeting up with young people in Cowick Barton playing fields on Monday evenings at 7pm until 9pm. Also once a week they are going into to Westexes to promote

what they do – ‘detached youth work’ i.e. not in a youth club or centre but outside using a van with kit in it to play games etc.

Hangout with the Grandparents in Exeter Library on May 2nd 1.45-2.45.

A free arts and crafts event for people to make a bit of art with their grandchildren. We would like to recruit volunteers to run this in the future as I’m just doing this as a ‘taster’ to see if there is any interest. Many people asked me about it when I advertised something that Age UK – who will also send some volunteers hopefully too. So we felt there was a need for it....I will just see how it goes.

Friends of Merrivale – After a bit of a re-shuffle there is a new chairperson Tim Snell and the secretary Sam has remained in place. There is no vice chair or treasurer but for now Ruth Adams has agreed to mind what few accounts need doing for Friends of Merrivale in the Future. Events coming up Big Picnic on May 27th. This will be a picnic, but also a bouncy castle and facepainter in Merrivale park. Should be fun! The Easter Egg hunt was held in March and raised £292 so things are looking rosy for Friends of Merrivale. Residents are now concentrating on trying to improve the look of the park as the big priority. Other ideas have been a BMX track, benches and a fenced off area to be dog-free. Recently more bins have been put in place. Also there will be a tabletop sale on July 28th 11-1 at Trefoil lodge.

Police meeting- Just report it and I’ve bought some leaflets on how to report crimes as it seems a bit convoluted these days....

Trefoil Lodge- put in an application to refurbish the building and it has gone through to round 2 of Grassroots Grant grant decision panel. Fingers crossed!

Anxiety support aka ‘The Meetup’- trying to work out how to fund these two popular events Tuesdays 2pm at Jimmy’s and Thursdays at Zukis at 7-8pm. The groups are writing a few words and planning a few more activities but mostly they are happy to pop down and chat too. A recent event at Jimmy’s had 16 people, one dog and one small child! Mike from this group is also starting his own chess club – which will be Wednesdays at 1.30pm at Jimmy’s cafe. Chess set and help playing will be provided!

Appendix 7 – The Meet up Group – Lena Western

The group meets tuesdays at jimmys cafe next to wetherspoons the sawyers at 2 pm, for one hour every week.

The group also meets every Thursday night at Zukis turkish cafe in cowick street at 7pm for one hour.

We have started a guest book and donation pot for evidence gathering for potential funding, from ECC and other sources. This was advised to implement by local councillor Rob hannafor.

The group is an informal gathering to promote just getting out of the house and feeling less isolated. Too meet other sufferers.

We have set boundaries to not judge anyone.

Our attendees are welcome but if they feel they would not like to discuss anything, then this is ok.

We have a facebook page st thomas depression and anxiety, which i set up. I do talk to people privately on the message facility of the page, if they require. Too support, encourage, too make that first positive small step.

I am a sufferer of depression and anxiety myself, which is the motivation for me too lead the Thursday session. On Tuesday, Chloe community builder, leads and i assist. When she is unable too lead or is running late, i lead for her in her absence.

The group would like to join under STCA umbrella, this will help in future for funding rewards to bank through you.

I also am linking our group users to community activity like bloomin st thomas, Freemoovement, international forthcoming get together, bowling in pines gardens, and any other activities the group decide they would

Like to access. As i have done the community activators course through Freemoovement. Paul and i have talked about starting a beginners Freemoovement session to link the group to basic easy fitness.

Appendix 8 - Festival Update – Lars Lauridsen

The Marquee has been booked, i just have to fill out the forms and return.. but Ruth has put deposit down.

Johnny From Panache bar has said they will provide a full bar with 1 of each Lager, Cider and Ale... plus a few other drinks.. 2x members of Staff.. all the plastics and other bits and bobs.

i am in talks with a Sound Engineer for the Music Stage, it is agreed that Paul from Living Sounds should be able to do the Marquee Stage Music.

Lets bounce have agreed to work with us again this year and will give us 20% of profits.. not sure about sponsoring just yet.

i Am Meeting with Karl tomorrow to go through the applications for music and performance.. we want to get a nice variety. i will make an appointment with Laura to discuss her ongoing success at booking Stall holders.

i have contacted PRS/PPL.. they have a new pricing structure from July so we can't get one till then.. but i have a form to fill out ready to go.

i have spoken to Dan Saith from SWresponse and they are given us a quote for 1 x Security and 1 x First Aider along with other recommendations for our event.

City Vets have yet to get back to me, but have shown interest in doing another Dog Show.

A Sponsorship covering letter has been drafted up by Roz and i think we could get a lot of response from local businesses. Cartridges Law have agreed to Print the programmes again this year.

i have made some enquiries to both Radio Exe and Phonic Fm but not heard back yet, will chase it up!!..

Appendix 9 - Volunteer Update – Danielle Wootton