



**PARTNERS UPDATE
JANUARY 2008**

Hot news

Big Lottery Success!

Keystone has been awarded £114,000 for 2008-2011 to continue the work of TAVO (Thetford Association of Voluntary Organisations).

St Johns Community Land Trust (Mildenhall)

Keystone was awarded a Building Communities Fund bursary (EEDA) to undertake detailed planning for the St John's Community Land Trust Project. An application for a £750,000 contribution was submitted to EEDA in January. The proposed £13 million development includes housing, retail space and community facilities.

Forest Heath District Council and Keystone become a 'Quirk Demonstration' project

Forest Heath and Keystone were successful in becoming one of the twenty national demonstration projects working on asset transfers from local authorities to the third/ community sector.

National Community Forum

Keystone's Chief Executive (Neil Stott) has been appointed to the Department of Communities and Local Government's National Community Forum. This is an advisory body of 25 individuals (residents and professionals) drawn from deprived areas across the country.

Mobile Workers, housing and growth report

Keystone will be publishing a major report on mobile workers and housing issues across the eastern region in February. This report is part of the work commissioned through an EEDA Building Communities Bursary Award. The project team has included colleagues from King Street Housing Association and Anglia Ruskin University/Public Policy Consultancy Group.

Imagine Arts Project funding extended

The Monument Trust has awarded Keystone £40,000 to extend the successful Imagine Project for another year.

Department Work and Pensions funds META

The DWP has funded META (Mobile Europeans Taking Action) £11,000 to provide Saturday support sessions focusing on financial issues – with the support of CAB.

Children and Youth

Big Sitting Rooms

Due to funding limitations, Abbey Big Sitting Room will be finishing at the end of January; the Barnham Cross BSR will continue to March.

Keystone and the Barnham Action Group will apply for funding to continue the Barnham Big Sitting Room. A weekly youth arts club will be opening soon at the Abbey Centre.

Young Parents Project

Workshop Development

A 'Healthy Living Day' has been organised by the Thetford Sexual Health Steering Group, this will again target year 9 students from both High Schools.

Prevention Work

The sexual health steering group has been working hard to coordinate good sexual health services in Thetford for young people. This now includes Barnham Cross Big sitting room where condoms can be accessed and trained staff are on hand to offer advice and signposting to other services.

Young Parents Group

A project has been organised with The Ancient House Museum for the forthcoming term. Young parents will get to see how different their lives would have been being a young or single parent over the ages. The aim of the project is to raise the self-esteem of the young parents.

Keystone Community

Community Group Support

A £10,000 application has been submitted to the Football Foundation to undertake football training in Thetford.

An application was also submitted to O2 and £1,000 awarded to undertake a community garden project involving Charles Burrell High School and the Barnham Cross community. Work has also been progressing with the regeneration plans on the Barnham Cross Estate through Peddars Way.

Connecting Communities

Hotline service

Out of the total number of 202 phone calls in the last quarter of 2007, 154 phone calls were from the East of England region. People inquired mainly about welfare and employment issues. The most frequently used languages were Polish, Portuguese and English.

The META Hotline number has also been advertised on www.migrantgateway.eu website.

Drop-in service

The service is provided 3 days a week and is extremely popular. In the last quarter of the year, META provided 589 individual consultations and recorded 942 enquiries.

Workshops, events, activities

- Two workshops were held for the Norfolk Constabulary with the aim to provide information about cultural differences between migrant communities and local English communities and improve the community cohesion.
- Between October and December, 5 sessions were held with the Department for Work and Pensions. Altogether 202 people applied for a National Insurance Number.
- In co-operation with Suffolk Police 2 awareness events were held in Brandon.

- A Brazilian music concert Caratinga was held in Thetford. The event brought together 85 people from different communities living in Thetford.

English classes

Due to funding reasons, pre-ESOL English courses will finish by the end of January 2008.

Keystone Buildings

Abbey Neighbourhood Centre

The Abbey Neighbourhood Centre has several confirmed bookings for 2008 including, Bingo, The Portuguese Church, Norwich and District Mind and The Matthew Project. The Abbey has hosted the Big Sitting Room over the last year but this will be ceasing on Monday nights from the end of January, however, this will be replaced by an new evening Imagine youth art sessions.

Norfolk Adult Education have booked a Drop in Session to invite the local community in for a cup of tea and to hear about the various courses available, if successful the ANC may be used for delivering the courses.

The Café is under new management and will be open to public from the 4th February. It will be run by two Abbey Residents who have been busy planning and promoting this new venture

The Limes

Meridian East have now occupied 2 rooms on the first floor.

Innovation Centre

The lease in respect of the top floor was signed and completed on 5 December 2007 and the tenants, Salans, are now operating.

We have also signed a lease for a small office on the first floor and the new tenants, Dancor Acoustics Ltd, took occupation shortly before Christmas.

The building is now **85.46%** occupied with three rooms remaining

Enterprise Factory

A new tenant, Giant Marcoms Ltd, has signed a lease and will occupy Unit 3A with effect from 1 February 2008 and we have also received strong interest in Ground Floor office 3.

Keystone Enterprise

Green Ventures

Green Ventures has continued to experience good sales figures and items diverted from landfill.

Total sales during October, November and December amounted to £8,780, an average of almost £3,000 per month. The total tonnage collected and diverted from landfill during these months was 10.67 from a total of 391 items collected.

GV relocated to the Keystone shop unit on Abbey during December and are now trading fully from that location.

Local Food Group

The LFG continues to experience good sales in all areas of business and the new tenants at the KIC have helped to boost activity in the café since the New Year.

The Food Box Scheme has now commenced and the deliveries are being made on a weekly basis.

Keystone Consultancy

The consultancy is currently working on the following contracts;

- Kent Police – Youth gatherings and gangs research
- HALO Development Trust (Harlow) – trust set up and interim management
- Social Enterprise East of England - lecture tour on community asset development
- Critical friend review of an asset transfer in Peterborough