



## **PARTNERS UPDATE**

**MARCH 2009**

### **Hot News**

#### **National Migrant Portal success**

Keystone is part of the HTK Ltd consortium to deliver the national portal on behalf of the Department of Communities and Local Government and EEDA. Keystone is providing support to project development utilising the Trust's extensive experience of work with European migrants.

#### **West Thetford community work – Peddars Way Housing support**

Peddars Way have committed to extending their support to the West Thetford community work programme delivered by Keystone for another year.

#### **Thetford Healthily Town**

Keystone will be delivering projects on behalf of the Healthy Town project through META, Local Food Group and Green Ventures. Projects will start from April 2009.

#### **Keystone's 2009-10 Business Plan**

The Business Plan will be published at [www.keystonetrust.org.uk](http://www.keystonetrust.org.uk) and available on request from 1/4/09.

#### **Trust performance 2008-09**

During 2008-2009 the Trust built on the move from primarily public funding to significant earned income. Keystone consolidated its portfolio and staff to meet the new demands and to ensure a balance between achieving financial sustainability, meeting social needs and capacity to develop new projects.

Achievements included;

- £138,500 secured in grant income

- £80,000 grant income secured for local community groups
- £56,152 income generated from new contracts
- 15603 visits to our social projects
- £460,000 income generated from property and social enterprises
- Keystone Innovation Centre achieved 93% occupancy
- £70,000 income generated by Keystone Research and Consultancy

### **Anglia Ruskin University – Visiting Research Fellow**

The Chief Executive has been awarded a Visiting Research Fellowship at ARU for 2009-2012.

### **National Community Forum**

The Chief Executive was appointed to the DCLG's National Community Forum in 2008. During 2008 he contributed to the 'White Poor' and 'Gangs and Guns' groups. In 2009 he will be joint chair of the 'Community Anchors' group.

## **Children and Youth**

### **Young Parents Project**

Keystone support to YPP will continue until the end of March by which point Homestart will be able to sustain the project. An advice and support event for young parents has been planned for Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at the Abbey Centre to coincide with other planned activities including; a Table Top Sale, launch of the new credit union collect point at the Abbey Neighbourhood Centre and a litter-themed arts and crafts session delivered in partnership with Breckland Council as part of Breckland Pride.

### **Kollectiv**

The monthly rehearsal and practice sessions continue to take place at Connexions on the first Tuesday of each month and led by Steve Rowe and Tina Warren. Plans for gigs and other activities in 2009 will be publicised shortly.

## **Imagine / Community Arts Project**

The regular Tuesday Arts group continues to do well with nearly 60 children and young people aged 5 – 15 attending every week. Volunteer helpers have steadily been increasing. The Tuesday Club will continue until the end of March when it is hoped ANCHOR will be able to access funding to sustain the project

ANCHOR has obtained some funding to provide activities at the club, including money to create a courtyard garden with the children at the front of the Abbey Centre. O2 have donated £1,000 and have arranged for a 'celebrity' to present the cheque at Tuesday Youth Club on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. £750 has been awarded through the Green Grants scheme.

## **Charles Burrell Community Garden Project**

The Heritage Lottery project has progressed with on-site planting sessions, trips to nurseries to purchase plants and workshops at Fulmerston Church. Work with the artist will soon be commencing, which will engage the young people, their families, local residents near the site and the wider community. Further engagement with the Charles Burrell Museum will also take place.

## **Abbey Table Tennis Club**

This project began in February and takes place every Monday at the Abbey Neighbourhood Centre and is already attracting its target audience. The group is supported by two sessional staff and two volunteers, the volunteers include a KDT Board Member, Brenda Canham and a young man from the estate who is keen to get involved with youth work and is providing an asset to both Table Tennis Club and the Tuesday Youth Group

## **Keystone Community**

### **West Thetford Community Work / Community Group Support**

The 'Community Work Report' detailing work on Barnham Cross over the last 12 months is now complete. The community work project supported by Peddars Way has shown how effective networking of local agencies and communities can make a real impact on neighbourhoods. Residents and community groups have seen tangible results and responded well to community engagement.

The project has also brought considerable added value though bringing extra funding, support in kind and a higher positive profile for local communities.

Key achievements include;

- Over **£80,000** of **additional funding** brought in
- Over **180 hours of additional youth work** will take place on the Barnham Cross Estate
- A derelict piece of land at Staniforth Road has been **transformed**
- A total of **205 Peddars Way households** have directly been involved with this project
- An immeasurable number of residents and tenants have benefited from 'estate wide' projects and work addressing 'common interest' areas, such as Pine Close
- A community newsletter was produced and distributed to **1500** homes

### **Connecting Communities (DCLG)**

The META team in Thetford continues to be extremely busy with clients experiencing difficulties around employment and housing. An increasing number of cases of homelessness are being brought to the team and the Trust is working with regional partners to explore short and longer term solutions. The team are working with HTK on information for the National Portal, assisting the Equalities and Human Rights Commission with an inquiry into Meat and Poultry processing and developing a training manual for staff.

The META is undertaking consultancy for Forest Heath District Council on migrant worker populations in Brandon & Mildenhall.

### **Suffolk META progress**

Suffolk META continues to be well received in Ipswich & Newmarket with fewer clients seen in Felixstowe, Sudbury & Stowmarket. Increasingly clients are accessing the service to enquire about jobs and training in addition to ESOL classes and queries around housing and financial matters.

### **KAVO (Keystone Area Voluntary Organisations)**

KAVO is planning a training course for the Voluntary and Community Sector so local organisations can achieve Level 2 Food Hygiene certificates. A number of groups have been assisted with funding applications including; a local Scout troupe, the Thetford Leg Club and the Thetford Twinning Association.

## **Green Grants**

The second tranche of Green Grants have now been awarded through the Moving Thetford Forward scheme. Funding is to be allocated to a number of groups and societies working in the Thetford Area

## **Shadwell update**

This scheme continues to be very successful with over 25 families receiving a delivery of fruit and vegetables each week and enthusiastic comments received about the scheme. The Fast Track Furniture Scheme has also been of real benefit to a number of families and 2 awards now approved for the Next Step Bursary Scheme

## **Keystone Buildings**

### **The Limes**

The Limes continues to provide the base for the Trust and accommodates the many visitors of META, Norfolk PCT and Meridian East.

### **Innovation Centre**

The centre is 93% occupied. During January and February there were a total of 56 meetings/conferences attended by 736 delegates.

### **Enterprise Factory**

The building remains 62% occupied with three units vacant, there are prospective tenants for all the remaining units.

## **Keystone Enterprise**

### **Green Ventures**

Total sales during January amounted to £2,183. The total tonnage collected and diverted from landfill during the month was 3.1 tonnes from a total of 167 items collected.

Further discussions have been held with Norfolk CC and Green Ventures is now able to claim recycling credits on the furniture and white goods sold.

## **Local Food Group**

Total sales for LFG during January amounted to £7350, and due to the amount of conference catering. February was a relatively quiet month, due to school half-term holidays and less conferences with £4966 in sales.. Revenue that the LFG produced in February amounted to £4966. The sandwich van is starting to pick up, averaging £50 takings per day.

Research is continuous into new products that can be offered customers, with ice cream shakes and smoothies being considered for the summer. Outside catering is being promoted.

## **Keystone Research and Consultancy**

The consultancy has been exceptionally busy in recent months finishing work for the Northstowe Project. Kent Police and Peterborough City Council as well as new contracts on behalf of the DTA Pool, Social Enterprise East of England and the DTA Asset Transfer Unit.