



Investing in Communities in Exeter

Dawn Rivers
Community Involvement & Inclusion

England
2015



Exeter
City Council

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Community Involvement Officer role

Role – working in partnership with community organisations and groups, providing information and guidance and helping build capacity to develop opportunities for co-design and co-delivery.

Main areas of work : Community engagement, Devon Local/Exeter Local, Neighbourhood planning, Member support and advice, Voluntary sector support, Community resilience/emergency plans, Health & Wellbeing Board, Major Grants/New Homes Bonus, City & Ward Grants, Exeter Board, Community Health planning.

Building Stronger Communities

- Promote a more joined up approach with Exeter's communities to encourage collaboration, enterprise and innovation in line with local needs
- Respond positively to approaches from communities wishing to work in a different way & consider how decision making and/or funding could be delegated to a local level where there is appetite and capacity to use it

- Consider where funding may be aligned or pooled to promote better value for money, better outcomes for communities and avoid duplication
- Encourage co-design and co-delivery of services and prioritise these initiatives for funding or ‘in kind’ support.

Funding opportunities

- Ward grants - £2,000 each ward
£36k total (NHB funds)
To encourage volunteering and support communities to address issues in their neighbourhood
- City grants – £20,000
Applications up to £2,000 to support cross city initiatives or across several wards

New Homes Bonus Local Infra Structure Funding

For the last three financial years a Local Infrastructure Fund was made available from the New Homes Bonus, most recently set at £250,000 a year, to which local organisations could submit bids, for consideration by the Major Grants and New Homes Bonus Panel. Over this time 12 projects have been completed, 4 are underway and 3 are looking for additional funds.

Organisation	Project	Amount	Status
Alphington Church	Improvements to building	16,000	Complete
Bury Meadow Residents Assn	Improvements to park	7,000	Complete
Exeter CAB	Improvements to premises	10,000	Complete
Exeter Community Centre	Community garden	66,990	Complete
Exwick	Improvements to building	50,000	Complete
Ride On	Bike refurb charity	5,000	Complete
Topsham Rugby Club	Clubhouse extension	50,000	Complete
St Thomas Social Club	Replacement roof	25,000	Complete; underspent by £8,005
Exe Water Sports Assn	Feasibility study for new centre	50,000	Feasibility work complete
Exeter St James Forum	Acquisition and improvement of open space	10,000	Feasibility work complete
Park Life Heavitree & 2 nd Scouts	Prep work towards urban village hall	15,000	Feasibility work complete
Football in the Community Trust	Feasibility study to redevelop community building	19,800	Preparatory work complete; underspent by £13,800

Organisation	Project	Amount	Status
Newcourt Community Association	Set up costs of running new building	90,860	Under way
Devonshire Place Residents Assn	Improvements to park	25,000	Under way
Exeter Gymnastics Club	Extension and improvement of building	40,000	Under way
St Sidwells	Improvements to premises	50,000	Under way
Wear United	New community building	120,000	Applications pending to vary nature of project
Alphington Community Association	Part rebuild of village hall	50,000	Fundraising in progress
Newtown Community Association	New community building	120,000	Fundraising in progress

Exeter Community Forum

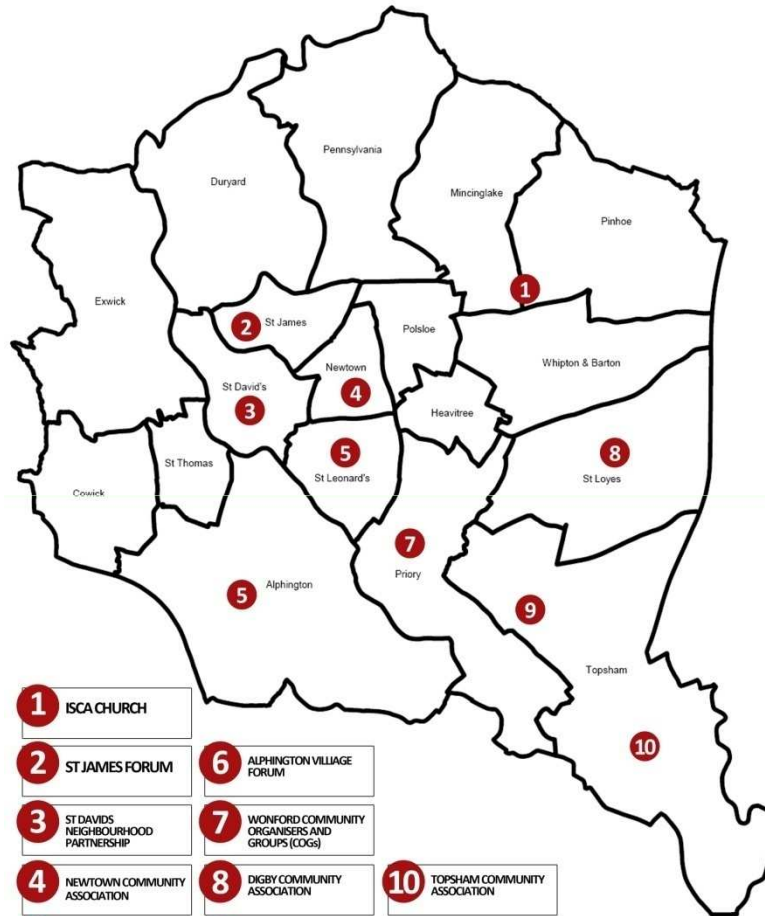
The Forum exists to:

- Give a strong voice to community groups across the city
- Inform the allocation of the neighbourhood portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) –projected to be £3.75 m to 2026 (15%)
- Support the creation of a community development strategy for the next 5 years

Exeter Community Forum May 2015



Exeter Community Forum Representation



- 1** ISCA CHURCH
- 2** ST JAMES FORUM
- 3** ST DAVIDS NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP
- 4** NEWTOWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
- 5** ST LEONARDS NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION
- 6** ALPHINGTON VILLAGE FORUM
- 7** WONFORD COMMUNITY ORGANISERS AND GROUPS (COGs)
- 8** DIGBY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
- 9** NEWCOURT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
- 10** TOPSHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



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Exeter Green Partnership

- Exeter Green Partnership is helping communities to improve their green spaces from the ground up!
- By supporting participation in the RHS Britain in Bloom programme, the partnership is enabling volunteers to improve green spaces, residential streets and business districts.
- Co-ordinator supported by Exeter Board grant



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TheExeterDaily
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#Exeter communities go for gold in this year's Britain in Bloom @_ExeterGreen theexeterdaily.co.uk/news/homes-gar...



RETWEETS
5

FAVOURITES
3



9:16 am - 14 May 2015



Charlotte Thomas @char_thomas09 · May 14
@TheExeterDaily @_ExeterGreen I recognise this little corner of Exeter. Love living here!



ExeGreenPartnership @_ExeterGreen · May 15
It really is beautiful @char_thomas09 @TheExeterDaily



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Communities taking the lead: Youth Centres > Community Hubs

- Phoenix Centre – transfer to Wonford Community Learning Centre
- Westside Centre – transfer to Exeter YMCA
- Knight Club – transfer to Isca Community Enterprises

All looking at a community hub model to meet the wider needs of their communities.

Community Organisers

Part funded by ECC Housing Revenue Account :
Sue Bulled – Community Organiser - Wonford
(Employed by Exeter Community Initiatives)

Paul Holborn -St James/Newtown –focus on elderly needs
(Employed by St Sidwells Centre)

Laura Robinson – employed by Active Devon focusing on
Cowick Barton Active Trail project in partnership with
ECC.



Sue Bulled
@SueBulledCO

Follow

@TheExeterDaily @ExeterCE
@_ExeterGreen Today's challenge
#growingtogetherinwonford



FAVOURITE
1



3:01 am - 16 May 2015



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Sue Bulled
@SueBulledCO

Follow

Some days a new phrase hits home in my #community, thanks to @Clive_Chilvers I found #photovoice #welcometownford



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The future

- Supporting councillors to work closely with communities to establish local priorities, strengthening engagement and help manage demand by promoting self-help.
- Work on a community strategy for the city in collaboration with Exeter Community Forum to identify priorities.

Community Engagement Champion & Leadership

Cllr Paul Bull



Cllr Pete Edwards



and all City Councillors