



## A new voice for the neighbourhood

Residents living in the Barton and Tredworth areas of the city now have a new way of influencing how services within their neighbourhood are delivered.

A new Neighbourhood Partnership has been set up to provide local people with the chance to have their say about the things that affect them most, such as environment issues, crime and community safety, health and wellbeing, etc. Coming together in this way will enable residents to help shape and improve local services and ensure their voices are heard.

Since that initial meeting, a number of other public sessions have been held, attracting residents from across the Barton and Tredworth area. From the numbers attending and the enthusiastic contributions made, it was clear that the proposal to set up a Neighbourhood Partnership would be warmly welcomed.

### The way forward

Different Neighbourhood Partnerships adopt different structures and so various options were outlined and considered at a public workshop in December. Residents voted to work with Gloucester VCA, Gloucester Voluntary and Community Action, to help set up the Partnership.

Since then, Gloucester VCA has been helping the group to become established, and to recruit its part-time worker, although the direct work of the Partnership is still being led by residents. Gloucester City Council's Neighbourhood Partnership team is also providing support and funding.

### Now it's your chance to get involved

If you're interested in finding out more about how you can get involved in the new group and play a part in improving your neighbourhood, then please get in touch. Our contact details are on the back page, along with details of the official launch of the Partnership on Wednesday 20th May.

### *You are invited...*

...to find out more about the new Barton and Tredworth Neighbourhood Partnership by coming along to the Barton and Tredworth Community Fun Day in St. James' Park on Saturday 25th April, between 11am and 4pm.

Members of the group will be on hand to answer your questions, listen to your comments, and tell you more about how you can get involved.

### The story so far

Residents were invited to discuss proposals to set up a Neighbourhood Partnership at an initial meeting last September. The meeting was organised by Community Counts, the Neighbourhood Management programme which was set up to help develop good working relationships between residents and key agencies and to emphasise the importance of developing services to better meet residents' needs and priorities.



*Residents discussing the options for forming a Neighbourhood Partnership for the Barton and Tredworth area.*

### In brief...



#### Who's New?

Meet Ismael Rhyman, the new Community Involvement Worker for Barton and Tredworth, who'll be helping to set up the Barton and Tredworth Neighbourhood Partnership.

page 2

#### Inter-Faith Project

Find out about a new project which is encouraging residents to put aside their differences and explore their cultures together.

page 4

## >> *Introducing...*

### Ismael Rhyman, Barton and Tredworth's new Community Involvement Worker



The role of Community Involvement Worker has been created to bring together residents and existing community groups within the Barton and Tredworth area and to help develop the new Neighbourhood Partnership.

Funding for the new part-time post was provided by Community Counts, the Neighbourhood Management programme which ended earlier this year. The post is being managed by Gloucester VCA, Gloucester Voluntary and Community Action.

Ismael took up his new role at the end of February, having previously worked in the legal profession as a criminal solicitor and barrister. He has lived in the Barton and Tredworth area more than 17 years and so is already very aware of many of the issues and concerns facing the neighbourhood. He has previously worked as a volunteer with the Friendship Café and at the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

The cost of taking the Bar exam was funded partly through the Community Champions scheme and this is one of the reasons he has been inspired to take up this new challenge.

Ismael comments: "I'm really pleased to have this chance to give something worthwhile back to the community. This is a one year post so I want to make sure that I use this time to help build a strong foundation that will last in the future."

To contact Ismael, call 332424 (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays).

### New Partnership to Launch in May

The new Barton and Tredworth Neighbourhood Partnership will be officially launched next month and residents living in the area are invited to stand for election for the various roles that have been created. In the meantime, Gordon Barrington has been elected interim chair of the new group.

For more information about the launch, see page 4 of this newsletter.



## FACT FILE

### *Neighbourhood Partnerships*

#### *What are Neighbourhood Partnerships?*

This is the name given to organisations that are set up and managed by local residents. Neighbourhood Partnerships don't usually have paid staff or office space or own any community buildings. They hold regular public meetings and/or consultations throughout the year aimed at improving local services and involving local people in things which affect their neighbourhood.

#### *Who else is involved?*

Neighbourhood Partnerships are set up and led by residents but partners can include all kinds of other local organisations, such as schools, churches, housing associations and businesses, as well as local authorities, police and youth and community groups.

#### *What can they achieve?*

Neighbourhood Partnerships can provide a useful way for local people to have a say and to get involved in issues that affect their area. Neighbourhood Partnerships can challenge local councils and agencies to improve their services and to better meet local needs.

Being resident-led means that Neighbourhood Partnerships can focus on the particular needs of a community, for instance, crime and community safety, the local environment, health and well-being, jobs and training, etc.

#### *What about the rest of the City?*

There are eight Neighbourhood Partnerships in Gloucester already. The first to launch was the Three

Bridges Partnership in 2001. This covers the Tuffley, Grange and Podsmead areas.

The Kingsholm and Wotton and Westgate Partnerships followed soon after and, in February 2007, partnerships were set up in the Matson and Robinswood and Barnwood wards. The Moreland Partnership was launched in October 2007 followed by Elmbridge and Longlevens.

#### *Want to know more?*

You can find out more about Neighbourhood Partnerships by visiting the Gloucester City Council website – [www.gloucester.gov.uk](http://www.gloucester.gov.uk). There's a Neighbourhood Partnerships link on the home page.

## The Barton and Tredworth Neighbourhood Partnership

### How will it work?

A key aim of the Partnership is to provide local residents with a say in what happens within their neighbourhood. That's why any residents living within the boundary of the Barton and Tredworth electoral ward will automatically be a member of the group and enjoy full voting rights.

Members of local organisations, such as churches, community groups or businesses, will also be encouraged to take part, along with other people who have an interest in the area such as statutory agencies, councillors, etc.

### Ongoing support

Gloucester VCA will facilitate the steering group until the Partnership is formally launched and is able to elect its own chair. Further support will be

provided by Gloucester City Council in the form of a development grant of £2,000. The city council will also ensure that the group is linked into the network of other neighbourhood partnerships in the city and so benefit from information sharing, training opportunities, etc.

### Taking action in the neighbourhood

As well as a main co-ordinating group, there'll also be a number of action groups set up to directly tackle issues that have been highlighted by the community.

Details of these groups have not yet been confirmed but are likely to focus on areas such as crime and community safety, jobs and training, the local environment, health and well-being, etc.

## Groups continue to flourish

Two of the groups set up by Community Counts to enable residents to influence neighbourhood policing and streetcare provision are going from strength to strength.

The Neighbourhood Policing Panel is now being co-ordinated by the Safer Communities Police Team. You can contact them on 0845 090 1234, extension 5174.

The Street Reps Scheme is working alongside Gloucester City Homes. For more information, or to find out how to become a Street Rep, call Lisa Ritchie on 0800 408 2000.



A meeting of the Neighbourhood Panel

## A community voice

We asked some of the members of the new Neighbourhood Partnership to share their thoughts on what's been achieved so far and on their ambitions for the future. Here's what they had to say...

**Tony Ward** (pictured right)

"I think it's a brilliant idea. Of course, it's early days yet but I'm very optimistic that this will be the platform we need to continue the work that Community Counts did to involve local residents in decision-making.

"It'll also help draw Barton and Tredworth together which can only be a good thing. Working together means that we can achieve so much more."

**Saj Patel**

"I think a lot of residents haven't bothered to come along to public meetings with agencies in the past because they feel that nothing is ever going to change. They don't believe that they can really make a difference.

"I'm determined that this new Neighbourhood Partnership will be different. I'm sure that, if we all work together, we can really start to see some key improvements in the area. It's important that we give people the chance to feel proud of their neighbourhood again."

**Don Jones** (pictured left)

"I agree that this will be a good thing for the community providing that we stay focussed on what residents want and involve them at every stage. It's important that we pick up from where Community Counts left off, rather than starting again from scratch."



**Sonia Friend**

"It's been great to see people from all walks of life coming together, as they often do in this area, to form this exciting new partnership. I wish everyone the best of luck and I hope that it keeps Barton and Tredworth moving forward."



# Barton and Tredworth Community Fun Day

Organisers of this year's Community Fun Day in St. James' Park are confident that it'll be another successful event with lots of fun activities and plenty of sunshine.

The Fun Day, now in its fifth year, will take place in the park and the neighbouring St. James' Church on Saturday 25th April between 11 am and 4 pm. Attractions will include stalls and bric-a-brac, music from local choirs and bands, exhibitions from organisations such as the Safer Communities Police Team and the Gloucestershire Fire Service, plus a wide range of food and refreshments.



## Find out more...

The event will also provide local residents with a chance to meet Community Involvement Worker, Ismael Rhyman, and to find out more about the Barton and Tredworth Neighbourhood Partnership and opportunities for involvement.

For more information about the Barton and Tredworth Community Fun Day, or to find out how you can take part, contact Tony Ward (Friends of St. James' Park) on 540979 or Don Jones (Tredworth Residents' Association) on 07972 – 192360.

*Left: Local residents enjoyed plenty of activities for all the family at last year's event.*

## Contact Information

You can get in touch with the Barton and Tredworth Neighbourhood Partnership...

### By phone...

01452 – 332424

### By post...

Ismael Rhyman

Community Involvement Worker  
(Barton and Tredworth)

Gloucester VCA (Gloucester  
Voluntary and Community Action)

75 – 81 Eastgate Street

GLOUCESTER

GL1 1PN

### By e-mail...

ismaelr@gavca.org.uk

## Inter-faith project travels to the Holy Land

A group of 26 youth and community workers from Barton and Tredworth have recently returned from a 9 day trip to the Holy Land. The project was organised by members of the St. James' Church, the Friendship Café and the Masjid-e-Noor Mosque in Ryecroft Street.

The group's itinerary included many of the famous pilgrimage sites such as Jerusalem and Bethlehem, as well as a visit to an orphanage and the Dheisha refugee camp.

The visit proved to be such a success that the group now plans to organise at least one trip a year as well as arrange regular meetings to encourage people of different religions to come together and celebrate their faiths. The next meeting is at the Friendship Café on Monday 8th June from 7.00 to 8.30 pm. Contact Imran Atcha on 07977 – 022393 for more information.



*Youth and Community workers from Barton and Tredworth on their recent trip to the Holy Land.*

## Here's your chance to get involved...

Are you interested in local issues? Would you like to see more being done to improve your neighbourhood? Do you have a little bit of spare time now and then? If so, then the Barton and Tredworth Neighbourhood Partnership would love to hear from you!

### Come to the Launch!

The Barton and Tredworth Neighbourhood Partnership will be officially launched at a public meeting on Wednesday 20th May at the Friendship Cafe on Barton Street. Everyone is welcome - please arrive 6.30 pm for a prompt 7.00 pm start.

For further information please contact Ismael Rhyman on 01452 – 332424 or complete the reply form on the right if you'd like to be kept informed of future meetings and developments.

**Everyone living in Barton and Tredworth is automatically a member of the new Neighbourhood Partnership so please get involved. Even a small contribution can make a big difference.**

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

e-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

*I'd like to be involved in the partnership, please contact me*

I can help deliver future copies of this newsletter

I would like to join an action group to help improve my neighbourhood

*My idea for improving Barton and Tredworth is...*