

Beeston Community Resource

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Newsletter No 3 April 2015

Beeston Community Resource CIO — Registered Charity No. 1160885

Middle Street Resource Centre



UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT!

On 1st April the County Council transferred the management of the Centre to the newly registered Beeston Community Resource CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). BCR has been established by a group of users and supporters of the Centre in order to ensure its survival to continue to serve people who have, or have experienced, mental illness, and also the wider local community.

This event is the result of five months intensive work on the part of the BCR steering group, and members and officers of the County Council, taking us from a point last October when the Centre was at risk of closure, to a new and innovative arrangement under which this vital local resource will be managed by the local community for the local community.

Despite its existing importance, the Centre is an underused community asset open to new complementary initiatives, including use during evenings and at weekends; all of which will help pay its way in the future.

We are holding an open morning on Saturday 25th April to celebrate the new departure and explain our future plans; see the back page for details.

Middle Street Resource Centre – the new arrangements and how they came about

Many people will remember that after the Centre was reprieved from complete closure in 2011, it was closed for refurbishment in 2012 and re-opened in Spring 2013. Many regular users returned to enjoy the renewed facilities, some old activities and support groups resumed and new ones were established.

Whilst life at the Centre continued very much as before, change was still in the air. The Centre was released from County Day Service use, and although the County's excellent Mental Health Co-Production team continued to operate at the Centre, and took on its management for the time being, direct management of the Centre by the Council ceased altogether at the end of March 2015.

Faced last summer with the prospect of closure, BCR emerged as a steering group of people involved in the Centre and committed to its survival, and Beeston Community Resource CIO was registered by the Charity Commission on 13th March 2015. In our first newsletter of October 2014 we identified our challenge as being to convince the County of the need to retain the Centre, convince them that BCR would be able to manage it effectively, and reach agreement for the relevant part of the building (which excludes an office area retained in County Council use) to be made available to BCR on affordable terms.

The County Council responded positively by putting forward an outline proposal last October, BCR submitted a Business Plan at the end of November, and friendly and constructive negotiations ensued. These resulted in a resolution by the County's Finance and Property Committee on 23rd March to approve the granting of a one year Licence and Service Level Agreement to BCR to occupy the Centre, noting that if the licence is successful consideration will be given to the continuance of the arrangement by the grant of a lease.

The report to the Committee recorded BCR's intention to maintain the existing activities of music, gardening, crafts and educational courses together with a widening range of support services, and to make the Centre available and used by the local community. It refers to BCR's vision for the Centre to welcome and support anyone in the local communities who is suffering from mental illness or distress, is experiencing social exclusion for any reason or who requires assistance in developing the capacity and skills to overcome social disadvantage.

The report regarded BCR's vision as supporting the County Council's new approach to delivering services to local people through innovative service models. It describes the option for BCR to take over the management of the Centre as being the preferred option "because it establishes an innovative partnership arrangement which encourages beneficial voluntary sector activity, which supports the strategic aims of the Council, and has the potential to reduce the costs to the Council over time."

BCR is very grateful to the Council for the support which it is providing by making the Centre available to us free of any rental charge, by continuing to pay the overheads of the building for the first year, by enabling BCR to retain monies received from the hiring of rooms, and for grant aid towards wage costs as we begin to employ staff.



Left to right: Kate Foale, Graham Machin Paul Walsh

A Message from Kate Foale

Many congratulations once again to the Beeston Resource Centre Steering Group. BCR successfully negotiated with the County Council a licence to occupy the building **free of charge** for a year to enable them to make the centre a going concern. Making this happen has been a great joint effort and I have been pleased and proud to play a small part in it.

I admit to being quite emotional when the County Finance and Property committee agreed in March to give BCR the licence, especially as I was made a temporary member of the committee and so could speak about it and vote for it. Graham Machin and Paul Walsh came along to County Hall to watch the proceedings which made it even more special. My role has been to work with officers at County to enable this to happen, and from working with BCR I know it will be an even greater community asset than it has been in the past. That is because it is led by a great community group especially set up to deliver services for the community. It is a great, tailor made model of service delivery well supported by partner agencies and groups including Mindset and it is one council members and officers are very excited about.

So a new stage in the interesting and varied history of Middle Street has begun. I want to pay tribute to BCR, and Graham Machin in particular, for their vision and determination. We all now need to support them and raise awareness; we need to get as many members of the community using the centre, especially those who have mental health problems or are suffering from social isolation. I know there has already been a lot of interest from potential user groups keen to look at Middle Street, a really good sign that it has a wonderful, sustainable future.

Very best wishes to BCR for a long and successful future, I will continue to support you however I can.
Cllr.kate.foale@nottsc.gov.uk

A Message from Angela Darby about the Stained Glass course at Middle Street

Three times a week Stella Chadwick runs a brilliant stained glass workshop at the centre. Groups of approximately 8 learn to create beautiful stained glass objects, from window panels to light boxes, lanterns to garden sculptures. Groups are run in a social, supportive way – sharing ideas, encouraging confidence in trying out new techniques – all underpinned by Stella’s extensive knowledge and practice.

“It’s given me so much confidence”

“It’s the highlight of my week”

“It’s changed my life”

“I love learning new skills with the support of my friends”

The Workshop is fully equipped and materials are at cost price.





An invitation from Beeston Community Resource CIO

to our

**Open Morning
at Middle Street Resource Centre**

74 Middle Street, Beeston

on

Saturday 25th April 2015 at 10.00 to 12 noon

Colin Slater MBE

will be present to open proceedings

There will be an opportunity to hear about our plans and hopes, look round the Centre, ask questions, make comments and enjoy complimentary light refreshments.

We are expecting to welcome other valued members of the community and supporters including John Holmes of Radio Nottingham and his wife Kate, and Shane Meadows, subject to his commitments

All interested people are welcome

Beeston Carnival

This years Beeston Carnival will be held on Saturday 11th July.

Pat and I are amazed that the Carnival is in its 10th year, where has the time gone! We are as usual continuing the ethos of 'Bringing the Community Together' by having the pleasure of a partnership with BCR which will help raise some funds and promote the work that is being done to establish a future for this great centre. As with all events we hope that people will volunteer to help BCR on the day to make the most of this opportunity. Beeston Carnival has a Facebook site so please feel free to post comments and promote BCR.

So as we start to prepare for this annual event we look forward to working with you all.

Best Wishes

Lynda and Pat Lally

BEESTON MEMORY CAFÉ

In September 2014 Beeston Dementia Friends set up a Memory Cafe. The cafe is for people with dementia living in the community and their supporters. It meets on the second Thursday of the month at the Middle Street Resource Centre from 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. and sessions include social activities, information and the opportunity to meet and get to know new people.

Our next meeting is on May 14th. when the theme will be music and dance plus reflexology massage. Following this, on June 11th. the theme will be holidays plus entertainment from a ukelele group.

For further information contact - Mobile 07960 398700 or e-mail:

beestonmemorycafe1@btinternet.com

Looking ahead with BCR

If you would like to know more, or become actively involved in shaping the future at Middle St, we would be delighted to hear from you. At the moment our contact details are:

Address:

Middle Street Resource Centre, 74, Middle Street, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 2AR

Telephone: 0115 9252516 (weekdays 9.30 – 4.30) 0115 9179025 (at other times)

Email: graham.machin@ntlworld.com