

# Newsletter

February 2008

## Working with Stakeholders

Thanks to everyone who attended the stakeholder event on 29 November 2007. It was great to see so many people there and to feel the buzz and enthusiasm afterwards. Since then we've made considerable progress and received lots of encouraging feedback and promises of support.

Some questionnaires have been returned by churches and other organisations who want to be involved. If your church or organisation hasn't returned a questionnaire or otherwise let us know how you want to be involved please contact Julian Lomas (details below). With broad support it will be easier to raise funding and recruit volunteers to make these projects happen.

Since the November 29<sup>th</sup> we have had positive discussions with many church leaders, the Police, Borough Council, Town Centre Manager and other stakeholders. Please don't feel left out if we haven't yet been to see you to hear your views – we will and we'd love to know what you think.

## Fundraising

We are hopeful that funding for the development of these projects will come from bids submitted to Guildford Together, the Safer Guildford Partnership and the Bishop of Guildford's Foundation.

We must now focus on fundraising for the ongoing costs of the projects. Even at this early stage a few churches have made firm funding commitments (£15,000 so far!). If your church or organisation is willing to contribute funds either on a regular or ad hoc basis please let us know.

In-kind support (such as office space or equipment) is equally valuable. Please let us know if you can help.

## Working with the Police and Borough Council

Both the Police and the Borough Council are very supportive of these projects in principle. We have submitted the business case to the Police. A summary of the proposals with examples of Street Angel type projects is attached to help you to tell others about these programmes. Following approval of the business case, we will work closely with the Police to agree the operational details, in particular for the Street Angels project. These will be formalised in a written agreement with the Police.

## Seeing for ourselves

In the next few weeks we hope to take small teams out onto the streets of Guildford (day and night) to get a better understanding and feel for the situations Chaplains and Street Angels are likely to face. If you are interested in joining this please let Julian know.

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The Police have also offered, once they're happy with the business case, that a small team could accompany their neighbourhood patrols in the town centre on Friday and Saturday night to experience the town centre from their perspective.

## A new charity

Over the next few weeks we will be setting up a new charity to manage the projects. This will also help with fundraising by ensuring that we can reclaim gift aid from any individual donations we receive.

## Prayer support

We believe that prayer support for these projects is essential if they are to succeed. If you can organise prayer (e.g. in your church) to support this work please let us know and we will make sure that you receive regular prayer requests and feedback on responses to your prayers. Right now the key prayer needs are:

- Give thanks for the progress made and support promised so far
- For the Police to approve the business case.
- For approval of the funding requests for the development phase.
- That the Christian Community in Guildford will once again show its generosity in pledging the

remaining funding and raising up volunteers when the time is right.

- For wisdom and discernment for Julian and the Steering Group as they develop these projects further with partners.

## The next milestone

Our aim is that by Easter we will have:

- secured Police agreement to the business case and the key operational issues; and
- secured sufficient promises of funding to give us confidence to press ahead with recruitment of the Town Centre Chaplain, Street Angels Coordinator and volunteers.

If those recruitments are successful then we should be able to commence training in early summer and have both projects underway by early autumn. To some this may seem like a long way away but it will come more quickly than we think and it is vital that we secure stakeholder support at every step on this journey.

## Contact us

If you're interested in participating in or supporting these projects, or just want to know more, please contact **Julian Lomas** on **07802 957938** or at [almondtreeconsulting@ntlworld.com](mailto:almondtreeconsulting@ntlworld.com)

We look forward to hearing from you.