

Connected and Collective

Connected and Collective is the first edition of an easy guide to social capital. The guide has been completed by the North East Social Capital Forum and explains social capital; discusses why it is important; how it can benefit communities; and gives some ideas of ways that you can get connected and act collectively. It includes a list of other information and support on social capital. The Guide is available from the North East Social Capital Forum micro-network on www.ignite-ne.com under reports and publications.



Social Capital Case Studies

The North East Social Capital Forum are to produce a collection of case study projects considered to be rich in social capital.

The aim is to capture the 'secret ingredients' that can be transferred to areas with low social capital and help build stronger communities. The case studies will explore examples of bonding, bridging and linking social capital in various communities. For each case study, different projects will be visited to gain an insight into the main factors that contribute to the success of the project in displaying social capital.

The first six case studies will be completed by June 07.

If you would like to know more, please contact sara@regenerationexchange.org

What's coming up

Regeneration Exchange Re-Launch

Regeneration Exchange will be holding a re-launch soon to provide you with an update of our future direction, but most importantly collect your ideas and needs.

NE Social Capital Seminar: 'Why Neighbourliness Matters'

The next NE Social Capital Seminar is to be held on 7th June, 4-6 p.m. The speaker is Kevin Harris, who is a community development consultant who focuses on the ways in which people communicate and interact in neighbourhoods.

Section 106 & Regeneration

This event is being arranged for early summer and aims to examine ways Section 106 agreements and can be used to aid regeneration. Speakers experienced in this field will discuss a number of different approaches to providing a range of community benefits from new developments.

North East Regional Residents Forum

The next Regional Residents Forum is planned for 19th May and will be hosted by Newcastle New Deal for Communities

Please contact Regeneration Exchange for more information or if you wish to be involved in any of these events.



The EXCHANGE

the newsletter of Regeneration Exchange

May 2007

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REGENERATION EXCHANGE TO TAKE A NEW APPROACH TO DELIVERING SERVICES

A NEW WAY Forward



Lyn Dodds, the new Co-ordinator for Regeneration Exchange

After a few rapid changes in personnel and consultation with yourselves, a new Co-ordinator has been appointed, and a new approach is in store for Regeneration Exchange.

Following the departure of the previous Co-ordinator, David McGuinness to another job, we can now report that the post of Co-ordinator of Regeneration Exchange has been filled by Lyn Dodds. A researcher for 6 and a half years at Sustainable Cities Research Institute, Northumbria University, Lyn has a wide experience of issues within the regeneration landscape. Much of her research has been around community involvement and the VCS. This has ranged from localised involvement in the original research for Financial Inclusion Newcastle to reporting on the participatory practices of Newcastle New Deal for communities to a European project on urbanism (Urbact).

Lyn is now looking forward to taking Regeneration Exchange forward in light of the results of the market research many of you kindly took part in, the full break down of which appears inside this newsletter. Areas for development highlighted through this survey include; information advice and signposting service around regeneration issues, updates about the latest developments in regeneration and related policy, facilitating training, and working with IGNITE.

We will be evolving our current services to work more closely with those in the network (and those yet to join us), as well as developing more links between network members. Further details of how we aim to achieve this are being finalised and will be available in the near future.

INFO SERVICE

The Exchange is the newsletter of Regeneration Exchange. Regeneration Exchange promotes communication and networking between regeneration partnerships, partner agencies and groups in the North East. The project is steered by a management group made up of practitioners from initiatives across the region.

Regeneration Exchange can:

- support and arrange conferences
- facilitate visits between projects
- provide a help desk and signposting service for regeneration practitioners
- refer to other relevant agencies and contacts for resources and information

If you would like to contribute to The Exchange, or if you have ideas for us, please contact us at:

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REGENERATION EXCHANGE
networking best practice in the north east

FAITH INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

February saw us revisit the issue of faith communities and how they relate with local strategic partnerships.

The event was hosted by Durham County Council and chaired by Paul Southgate of the Churches Regional Commission.

The purpose was to build on the event held last year in Darlington and two subsequent national reports; Faith in LSPs by the Churches Regional Network and a report on Faith Representatives on Local Strategic Partnerships by the Church Urban Fund.

Issues discussed at the event included:

Representation: who represents and what do they represent, their community or their faith?

Resourcing: how much time is needed, what training and support is there, who pays for it?

Reason: what is the role of faith representatives on LSPs?



Religious Literacy: not just what the dietary requirements and festivals are, how does faith affect everyday life.

If you would like to read a summary report of the event, please contact the Churches Regional Commission on 0191 3735453.

The Faith in LSPs report is available from <http://cte.churchinsight.com/Publisher/Article.aspx?id=63910>;

The report on Faith Representatives on Local Strategic Partnerships is available from www.cuf.org.uk/default.asp?id=147

EXTREME MAKEOVER FOR PARKFIELD / MILL LANE HOUSING

In February, the North East Regional Residents Forum visited Parkfield/ Mill Lane Neighbourhood Management.

The meeting focussed on a tour of the housing developments in the area, and in particular, the facelift approach adopted by the partnership.

This approach looks at demolition only as a secondary answer, and instead focuses on refurbishing the homes already built in partnership with the tenant.

Alex Bain, Chair of the Parkfield / Mill Lane Neighbourhood Management, hosted the tour and gave other examples of where little changes have made a big difference. *If you would like to know more about the work of the Parkfield / Mill Lane Neighbourhood Management Initiative, please contact the Partnership office on 01642 528337.*

END OF THE PIG

February also saw the final meeting of the Programme Issues Group (PIG).

This meeting involved presentations from York Consulting on the Regional Evaluation of SRB Projects and Government Office North East of the EU Article 4 Model for Project Monitoring.

As SRB was ending in March and most members have since moved on, it was agreed the group had run its course served the need it had been set up for. Regeneration Exchange would like to say a big thank you to all those who have attended and participated in the PIG over the years and wish you all the very best in the future.

THE EXCHANGE FEATURE

Market Research Results

Last year we asked you to help us develop the services we deliver, to make them more suitable to your needs by completing our market research survey.

We'd like to say a big thank you for a great response, and here is a summary of the research findings.

The research was conducted by Ark 19 Consultancy and was sent to all organisations and practitioners on the Regeneration Exchange database, totalling over 1,300 contacts. There were 181 completed surveys returned giving a good 14% response rate.

The Exchange Newsletter is our most frequently used service (95), followed by the Events programme (80).

76% of respondents thought the services provided by Regeneration Exchange were excellent or good.

74% of respondents would prefer to receive further information by email.

The five most popular areas of future interest included:

1. Latest developments in regeneration (63%)
2. Sustainability (59%)
3. Local Area Agreements (53%)
4. Sharing Good Practice (48%)
5. Strategic Planning (43%)

You told us the services most useful to you in the future as:

- A quarterly e-mail update covering all Regeneration Exchange activities (57%)
- An information advice and signposting service relating to regeneration issues (54%)
- Information updates about the latest developments in regeneration (48%)

You recommended that we continue to provide and promote the current level of activities including facilitation and support of regeneration events, support to networks, information and advice service, information updates, address list and contact info, facilitation of good practice visits.

Other recommendations included The Exchange Newsletter be available to be distributed electronically (upon request) with an Annual report produced summarising the years activities. In addition information on all Regeneration Exchange services and events to be distributed electronically through e-mail.

Respondents indicated that they are interested in a range of regeneration related topics, policy and initiatives and it was recommended that Regeneration Exchange explore the provision of training in regeneration issues as a facilitator not a provider.

It was recommended that Regeneration Exchange continue to work with IGNITE whilst retaining their own identities and roles.

Regeneration Exchange should look to continue to assist in promoting social capital and the forum to the wider regeneration audience.

The results of this research will be used to develop a new approach to our service delivery and the topics that we cover.

We'd also like to ask you to keep us informed of your current issues. This way we can keep up to date with the issues that are relevant to the North East regeneration community.

LISTENING TO YOU

If you would like to receive future copies of The Exchange Newsletter electronically (in PDF format), please send your full contact details to office@regenerationexchange.org

Note: in order to read PDF documents, your PC will require Acrobat Reader, which is freely available to download from www.adobe.com.