

# Community Voices

## Newsletter

Volume One : Issue One

SEPTEMBER 2006

### About the Community Voices Programme

**Welcome to the first edition of the Community Voices Programme Newsletter.**

The aim of the Community Voices Programme is to get local people involved in the regeneration of some of Midlothian's most disadvantaged communities. Midlothian's Community Planning Partnership has a three year agreement with the Scottish Executive to invest £300,000 in projects that will improve the quality of life in Mayfield and Easthouses, Woodburn and Gorebridge. The themes of this 'Regeneration Outcome Agreement'-or ROA- are **Engaging Young People** and **Building Strong, Safe, Attractive Communities**. The Community Voices Programme is linked to the ROA. This newsletter will give community groups funded through the ROA, local residents and others an opportunity to share their news, experiences and successes.

### What is Community Planning?

Local authorities have a statutory obligation towards Community Planning, which involves Midlothian Council co-ordinating a strategic vision for the whole area. This co-ordination involves partnership working with statutory organisations such as the Police, Fire Service, Health Board as well as Voluntary sector and Community Groups/Organisations. Community Planning aims to increase community involvement and leadership in the decision making processes which would allow them to benefit their local community. For a copy of the Community Planning Partnership Structure contact: Midlothian Voluntary Action on **0131 663 9471** or go to [www.mvacvs.org.uk/com\\_plan.html](http://www.mvacvs.org.uk/com_plan.html). Which includes links to Communities Scotland website – **National Standards for Community Engagement** and the **Community Planning Toolkit** or you can use this link <http://www.midlothian.gov.uk//Topic.aspx?TopicId=44>.

### National Standards for Community Engagement

Communities Scotland have recently launched the National Standards for Community Engagement. They are about increasing participation so that people become active members in the events which effect them. They are underpinned by principles of good practice that have been highlighted by community and agency representatives across Scotland to promote equality and fairness. There are ten standards and for further copies and information contact: **Community Engagement Team on 0131 313 0044**

### About the ROA Themes

#### Engaging Young People

The projects in this theme seek to provide meaningful activities for young people between 11 and 18, including designing and planning their own skateparks, learning media and broadcasting skills, and many others. Many of the projects also aim to encourage young people to deal positively with issue that affect them, including drug and alcohol misuse, sexual health, bullying and antisocial behaviour, and to help them get better access to training, education and quality employment.

#### Building Safe, Strong, Attractive Communities

These projects aim to improve quality of life by reducing crime and fear of crime, and by improving physical and social environments for local people.



## Projects funded through the ROA

1. **Woodburn Playgroup and Nursery**  
*Into Partnership Project*
2. **Mayfield and Easthouses Community Association**  
*Mayfield Safety Lighting Initiative*
3. **Gorebridge Community Development Trust**
4. **Midlothian Community Safety Partnership**  
*Midlothian Mobile CCTV Initiative*
5. **Mayfield and Easthouses Youth 2000 (Y2K)**  
*Young Men's Project and Skatepark Project*
6. **Dalkeith Integration Team**  
*Stepping Up Youth Project*
7. **Midlothian Community Media Association**
8. **Dalkeith Community Association**  
*Woodburn Youth Development Project*
9. **Midlothian Youth Justice Strategy Group**  
*Befriending Programme*
10. **Gorebridge Opportunities**

## What the Projects are Doing

### 1. Woodburn Playgroup and Nursery

This project aims to help the Playgroup and Nursery become a Childcare Partnership Provider, which allows it to access grant funding for pre-school children aged 3 and 4. The Playgroup and Nursery seeks to offer affordable childcare for low income families. The service operates from 9.15am – 12.15 pm 50 weeks of the year. It is the only group of its type to open throughout the school holidays and offers an extremely important service to working parents.

The nursery has had a very exciting year with lots of new developments. The status of the nursery has changed and we are now working as a partnership centre with Midlothian Childcare and Early Years Partnership this means that we can now offer funded pre-school places.



*Children enjoy a picnic in the garden*

### 2. Mayfield and Easthouses Community Association

A street survey highlighted local residents' concern about safety due to the lack of adequate lighting in Mayfield and Easthouses. Funding from the ROA has so far provided street lighting in Mayfield in the area between Scotmid and the Leisure Centre, and will provide further lighting around the public park and the tunnel which links Mayfield and Easthouses. It is hoped that this lighting will significantly reduce the fear of crime and worries about safety in the local area.

### 3. Gorebridge Development Trust

The Gorebridge Development Trust aims to raise community capacity and empower local residents to take responsibility for economic, social and environmental aspects of village life. To date, the trust has completed a public consultation exercise to allow residents to give their priorities for the Trust's work. The two top projects were the establishment of a Motocross facility and the development of a community café. The Trust is also involved in a Community Calendar project which will feature the artwork of local primary school children. Ongoing consultation encourages community members to voice their opinions by placing comment notes on a map of the area in order to highlight locations and issues they feel need attention.



*Gorebridge Community Development Trusts Launch Day.*

#### **4. Midlothian Community Safety Partnership**

This project has provided mobile CCTV cameras in Woodburn in order to reduce levels of crime and antisocial behaviour

The Woodburn area has suffered from intensive vandalism disorder and disturbances for several years and as a result of funding through the ROA two CCTV cameras were erected in May 2006, one on Woodburn Road and the other directly outside Dalkieth Community Centre. Both units have roving cameras that patrol a sequence of identified hotspots such as the take-away premises, shops in Woodburn and entry/ egress areas used by youths to avoid detection. Since the cameras have been installed we have seen a 50% reduction in recorded crime within the area, we have been able to link a local break-in with a series of break-ins at business premises throughout Edinburgh. Additional evidence was also provided in relation to an assault outside The Miners Club.

#### **5. Y2K Young Men's Group and Skatepark**

Y2K's Young Men's Project seeks to encourage young men to deal positively with issues such as alcohol and substance misuse and antisocial behaviour, and to provide alternative activities to a Friday night 'drinking session'. Around 26 young men have been playing football regularly and have played against teams from Ormiston, Tranent, and Musselburgh. They competed in the Mayfield Gala Day football tournament (but unfortunately didn't win!). This project has helped contribute to a drop in levels of vandalism within the area over the summer holidays.

Y2K is also working with a number of young people to develop a skatepark, which will be located in the Mayfield public park near the graffiti wall. Y2K and the young people have worked with divisions of Midlothian Council and with Councillor Jenkins and the Police to decide on a location and design for the park, and have worked to raise the extra grant funding needed to allow the building work to go ahead. Presently Y2K is waiting to receive planning permission for the skatepark.

#### **6. Dalkeith Integration Team**

This project aims to work with a group of young people who have 'disengaged' from school and other local activities, and who are at risk of antisocial behaviour. The young people will take part in groupwork, residentials and outdoor education, and will be encouraged to explore opportunities that are available to them.



#### **7. Midlothian Community Media Association**

This project seeks to establish a community radio station, 'Black Diamond FM' and to offer young people training in radio production and broadcasting skills. So far, 12 young people have attended a course in radio skills at Jewel and Esk Valley College and have taken part in training to produce short programmes for Festival FM. Black Diamond FM has received its broadcasting licence, is preparing to go on the air sometime this autumn, and is looking for volunteers to make, present and help administer programmes for the station. Anyone interested should contact the office on 0131 663 4811 or email [admin@blackdiamondfm.com](mailto:admin@blackdiamondfm.com).

#### **8. Dalkeith Community Association**

This project seeks to develop new activities and opportunities for young people in Woodburn. To date they have run bicycle repair and maintenance workshops and are working toward the development of a bike and skatepark for Woodburn.

#### **9. Midlothian Youth Justice Strategy Group**

This project aims to provide a mentoring/befriending service to young people involved in offending and antisocial behavior. Children 1st has employed a development worker to run training for volunteer befrienders, and hope to recruit up to 25 volunteers who will work directly with children and young people to increase their confidence, self-esteem and their range of interests and activities.

#### **10. Gorebridge Opportunities**

The GO project seeks to work with young people in Gorebridge and to provide a range of new activities. GO has held a range of youth groups and discos, and ultimately aims to start up a dedicated youth centre in Gorebridge.

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## Examples of projects within other Communities

### **Moray Fair Travel Scheme**

#### **Project purpose**

To encourage young people to adopt a healthier, drug and alcohol free lifestyle by reducing the cost of public transport to encourage them to travel to local leisure facilities

#### **Brief description**

The Fair Travel Scheme was launched following consultation with the young people of Moray who identified the cost of public transport as being a significant factor to them drinking alcohol and using drugs in their local environment. Many said they preferred to spend £5 on alcohol than £10 on transport and entrance fees to leisure facilities in the area. The 'Fair Travel Scheme' aims to reduce the cost of public transport to young people, encourage them to use leisure facilities, reduce young people's consumption of alcohol and drugs, reduce the incidence of crime and disorder in the area and encourage healthier lifestyles amongst young people.

**For more information go to :**

**<http://www.moray.gov.uk/Fairtravel/index.htm>**

# UP & COMING EVENTS IN MIDLOTHIAN

## **Midlothian Social Enterprise Christmas Fair**

Christmas with a Conscience! The Social Enterprise Alliance for Midlothian will be hosting a **Social Enterprise Christmas Fayre on Wednesday 29 November from 11am to 3pm at the Dalkeith Arts Centre**. Local social enterprises and charities will be selling goods and gifts, and all profits will be invested in good causes. Admission is free, so come along and find that special present.

## **“Your Health Matters” – Healthy Lifestyle Group.**

Join us in getting fitter, slimmer and healthier on Tuesdays at **Easthouses Miners Welfare from 9.15am-11.15am or on Wednesdays at Dalkeith Community Centre from 27th September, 9.30am – 11.30am**. Each week try something new with our taster sessions, Complementary Therapies, Tai Chi, Healthy Eating, Assertiveness or Walking back to Happiness!!!

**Free Creche - booking is essential.**

**To book your place contact Sandra on 0131 660 5055.**

## **“Lift your Spirits at our Christmas Event”**

How to stay healthy throughout the 12 days of Christmas and beyond!

**14th December 2006**

**10am - 3pm at Greenhall Centre (Main Hall)**

**Gowkshill, Gorebridge**

**For more details contact Sandra on 0131 660 5055.**

# MIDLOTHIAN WELCOMES YOU

*Midlothian would like to welcome the following new workers to these exciting new projects, part-financed through Community Voices and the Regeneration Outcome Agreement.*

**Regeneration Development Team:** Sarah Turnbull - Regeneration Officer responsible for co-ordination of Community Voices Programme. Contact her on 0131 271 3452

**Community Radio Project:** Marla Cohen - Community Radio Development Worker and Ian Shemilt - Training Officer. Contact them on 0131 663 4811 or email - [admin@blackdiamondFM.com](mailto:admin@blackdiamondFM.com).

## **Communicating Loud and Clear**

**Information published by Midlothian Council can be provided on request in many of the community languages eg Cantonese, Punjabi, Urdu and also in large print, Braille or audio tape.**

**For further information contact 0131 270 7500**

Are you caring,  
energetic and enthusiastic?

Are you interested in working with children  
and young people?

Can you spare about 3 hours per week after  
work to spend time with a child on a  
one-to-one basis?

**bfriends** needs friendly new volunteers to help a child who is having difficulties at home, at school or in the community. We can offer training, ongoing support and out of pocket expenses. **bfriends** has resource bases where volunteers and young people can go to play games like pool and board games, do arts and crafts or cooking. As well as making a positive difference to a child's life, you can also gain valuable experience and skills, and have fun! Our training courses run one evening a week for eight weeks. We have a course starting soon; details are contained in our volunteer information pack.

**To request a volunteer information pack,  
please contact:**

**Jill Gawish on 0131 654 9540 or**

**E-mail: [jill.gawish@children1st.org.uk](mailto:jill.gawish@children1st.org.uk)**

**or check out our web-site: [www.bfriends.org.uk](http://www.bfriends.org.uk)**



Midlothian

If you or anyone you know would like to become a member of a sub-group that will be involved in producing further editions of this newsletter could you please contact:

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