Community Communication Network
Springs into Life for Edwinstowe

Edwinstowe is to have its own ‘Community Led’ hyperlocal news and information network as a result of a successful application for a substantial Big Lottery Grant by Edwinstowe United Community Association.

This is a community venture allowing community involvement at every stage. With full web access, a printed newsletter for those who do not have internet access and an audio version for anyone registered blind, our aim is to reach every corner of our community. We want to include the sort of news and information you want to hear.

The residents and businesses of Edwinstowe will be able to participate at all levels from editorial decision making, submission of articles to local delivery.

Exclusive pages are available, in the newsletter, for our younger people to have their own space to shout about what matters to them. They can be a part of the design, decision making and the steering group if wished.

See more details Page 7

Contact:- inedwinstowe@btinternet.com
Story of the Community Action Plan

Edwinstowe United Community Association received approval from Central Government in 2015, for their group’s own development plan. A major aspect of that plan was to be a listening group with an aim to find out what people in Edwinstowe think about the future of the village and what interests or concerns them in the face of so much change.

This is not a ‘One size Fits All’ project and just as our own interests and needs change, creating our own unique life story, so does the needs of our community.

As Edwinstowe faces some important milestones, many opportunities and challenges arise. The closure of the colliery and how the site will be developed, the new Visitors Centre, the proposed change of status of the Forest to a Regional Park and the prospect of re-connecting the village to the rail links through the Robin Hood line. Opinions in the village will be many and varied, each of us with our own reasons. All of these issues need your input if we are to have any chance of influencing the decision makers.

By declaring an aim to listen to what the people of Edwinstowe think, and be guided by their wishes in our actions and decisions, we were selected to conduct a community survey and develop a ‘Community Action Plan’ from the responses we were given.

A copy of that plan will be delivered to your home.

Why it’s called a story

The community action plan starts as a snapshot of things people of Edwinstowe told us they are interested in and concerned about. This is a living document that will grow and change as the needs of our community grows and changes as it has since the beginning.

If you live in Edwinstowe you are playing a part in weaving the never ending story of life in our village just by being here. Why not choose to play the part you would like and join in helping to create and steer the path that the Action Plan takes. A Story that began in 633 AD when King Edwin was killed in battle.

Government Ministers say Edwinstowe Community Action Plan is “outstanding”
Some of the things you talked about

It was clear that the majority of people like living in Edwinstowe and think highly of the village. However, there were some concerns about the following issues.

1. Traffic, parking, transport and the state of the roads and pavements.
2. The ongoing loss of buildings and places that have played a big part in the social and recreational life of the community.
3. The lack of variety in our shopping areas.
4. Over crowded schools with no secondary education in the village parameters.
5. No dedicated youth centre and little for the older children.
7. Danger of using busy streets as playgrounds for ball games, skate and scooter practice.
8. Employment.
9. Social isolation for carers and the people they care for.

We have ensured that Edwinstowe has a voice in the ‘Conversations’ currently taking place, about the changes coming our way through devolution, by forming working partnerships with other groups, agencies and local authorities. Many of the planned changes will affect the way we access services and the ‘Conversations’ are giving residents a real chance to have a say about decisions that affect our lives. Decisions that will involve everyone, including the public, private and voluntary sector bodies, working together to take shared responsibility for the delivery of many of these services. We are involved in those conversations.
Edwinstowe United Community Association

`In Edwinstowe` aims to provide comprehensive up-to-date information about Edwinstowe and the surrounding area through a local website and printed newsletter. A version can be ordered for anyone who is registered blind as we want to reach everyone in the community.

‘Drop-in and Have your Say’ sessions will allow you to tell us in more depth about the things that matter to you and get your ideas about how to make things happen. Occasional questionnaires will show us what you want the next stages to be.

We will continue working with the government’s community rights programme to improve the social, economic and environmental health and wellbeing of our community, in line with the National Plan.

We will also actively engage with the public, private and voluntary sectors to ready ourselves for forthcoming changes that will affect our lives and the future of Edwinstowe.

Thank You for working with us and helping to make this happen.

Community Action Plan Next Steps

1) Publish `In Edwinstowe` community newsletter May 2016
2) Launch `In Edwinstowe` community web site June 2016
3) Continue to listen to the community and work together in deciding how to address the identified local ambitions and issues
4) Work with the community and delivery partners to achieve identified projects.

Once we began holding events to allow you to ‘Drop in and Have Your Say’ you came to tell us what you thought.

At that point our story started to become the story of ‘Our Community’ with YOU the people becoming co-authors.

You can continue to ‘Have Your Say’ through themed questionnaires on the `In Edwinstowe` website and forthcoming ‘Drop in’ events. We will let you know when dates are arranged.
‘In Edwinstowe’ sprang to life when Edwinstowe United Community Association took part in a year long, government funded ‘Community rights’ programme ending in February 2016. Many people had difficulty in knowing what was happening in Edwinstowe until after the event, or where to look for information. Most local reports are about what has happened and not what is to come.

A successful bid for a substantial grant from the ‘Big Lottery Awards for All’ allowed us to develop a ‘One Stop Web Portal’ and ‘Community Newsletter’ which will have all the information we can gather for the people who live, work or visit our area.

Professional Web designers GWB Web Solutions C.I.C. actively engaged with us to design an easily accessible website that could bring all the information we may ever need into a single point of contact. Together we created a site that can grow and change as our community will grow and change. Availability on all smart phones and portable appliances, allows you to log in whilst on the move. The Principal Councils are working with us to make the site more comprehensive, as are many of the organisations that deliver vital services, organise events or conduct their business in or around our village.

Listen to Mansfield Radio, check bus routes and timetables, find advice and support, tax your car or see what’s on during the school holidays or weekends. We hope you will make this your first port of call, or even your home page. If you find something missing, let us know and we will endeavour to correct the omission. This is a community venture that will bring the information you need, tell you ‘What’s On’ and keep you informed about what’s happening whilst also providing links to essential services.

We welcome anyone who wants to be a part of this venture, whatever role you would like to play.

For more details of how to get involved, or to talk to us about any ideas you may have to make ‘In Edwinstowe’ more community based, please contact us.

Email: inedwinstowe@btinternet.com
Tel: 01623 824762 and leave a message

Website
https://inedwinstowe.co.uk/

Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community.
Anthony J. D’Angel
Edwinstowe United Community Association

is an all-inclusive, non-political, community group. We are residents and our actions are based on the methods and strategies of the Community Organising movement which is positively changing lives all over the world:

**You can read more about Community Organising on page 10.**

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**Edwinstowe United Community Association**

Aiming for a better future

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**We Are Fully Supported by Central Government**

Wednesday February 3rd was a ‘Red Letter Day’ for our Association. We received a visit from John Connell, Head of Local Transformation Services and Tracey Foster ‘First Steps’ Liaison Officer, of HMG Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). They came to support the work we were doing with the Community Action plan. Which was our project for their National Community Rights, ‘First Steps’ Government Initiative. Discussions over lunch at Edwinstowe House were very informative and encouraging and we were told that our first draft of the community action plan was “brilliant.”

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**Whitehall Travel the Country to**

**Listen to What Community Organisers Think.**

The Cabinet Office held activity based workshops on April 7th in Nottingham. They wanted to listen to our views about how to grow the community organising movement and we were invited to this exclusive event. They are committed to vastly increasing the number of Community Organisers by an extra 10,000, setting aside funds for a 3.500 addition in the next 3 years. The main agenda is the role of listening, to ordinary people, and raising awareness about community rights and powers, given in the Localism Act 2011.

This has led to talks taking place all over the country to create collaborative partnerships, between public, private and voluntary sectors, for the delivery of local services. We are ensuring that our community has a voice in those talks about the changes coming our way through devolution. Some of our questionnaires will be focused on the topics under discussion and we will keep you informed about this.

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**Meeting the Community Organisers Board of Directors**

To find out more, or to become involved in this venture, see Edwinstowe United contact details on the back page.
Youth of Today; The Voice for Tomorrow

Are you:

1. Under 25yrs of age

2. Interested in:-
   - trying your hand at community journalism
   - Wanting to learn about journalistic photography and video making for ‘In Edwinstowe’
   - Discovering what others your age want for the future
   - Sharing your ideas about the things that matter to you about where you live
   - Learning about becoming a community organiser
   - Interested in political and social change

If you think that young people of today should have a say about what happens in their communities and play a part in making it happen, let this be a place to start.

The middle pages of this community newsletter could be the place for the younger people in the village to have their say.

Contact us or send your contributions to:-  inedwinstowe@btinternet.com

Or call us on 01623 824762 and leave a message
ODEF (Ollerton District Economic Forum) has again scored success with their ‘Feel Good Foods Sherwood Social Farmer’ horticultural project. Set in the heart of Sherwood Forest, next to Sherwood Pines, providing an idyllic setting for individuals and families to learn how to grow, cook and eat fresh produce, using organic growing methods. Families, small groups and individuals, who participate, share the work and rewards of the communal spaces in the orchard beds and poly-tunnel. There are individual raised beds for them to grow produce of their choice and some beds are accessible for wheelchair users. Picnic tables and benches are well used for that welcome break and get together over coffee or lunch and the on-site building, with classrooms, toilets and kitchen facilities, provides a good place when the weather lets us down.

Wildlife is in abundance, which is enchanting and challenging. Organic methods of control are used and crops are protected with barriers rather than chemicals. Insect hotels abound and flower and nectar beds are planned to attract natural predators with natural habitats for them to feed, and breed. It’s a battle of wits at times, as the unwelcome wildlife does occasionally win a battle, but it keeps everyone on their toes.

Outside speakers, craft workshops and cookery demonstration, add to the experience of belonging to the Feel Good Foods community. They were featured in the Federation of City Farms and Gardens https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/org/public-profile/48135 for their ‘Grow Well’ case studies, conducted by their Horticultural Ranger Clare Heyting. With staff guidance the project seems to go from strength to strength. Visit them on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/FGFSherwoodSocialFarmer/ contact by email at carol@odef.org.uk for details of how to get involved.

Feel Good foods Sherwood social Farmer

Another ODEF achievement
Assets of community Value and Interest
The Localism Act 2011 allows people to identify local places and buildings that are of special value or interest to the life and heritage of their community. These places can then be nominated for inclusion on the register of ‘Assets of Community Value and Interest’ held by Newark and Sherwood District Council. Edwinstowe has two such assets on the register, Ollerton road Allotments and Jubilee Park, nominated by Edwinstowe United Community Association. This protection means they cannot be disposed, or undergo a change of use, without the nominee group being informed; allowing the opportunity to see if the residents want to own and run them for the benefit of the community.

“Why did the Government introduce these provisions
Over the past decade communities have been losing local amenities and buildings of great importance to them – the village or housing estate shop or pub or community centre or village hall. On average nearly 300 pubs and 400 village shops have closed each year. … All too often community organisations find themselves without the time to prepare a bid before an asset is sold.

We know that many communities, both urban and rural, have lost the use of buildings or land that were important to them because they were sold privately or without an interested community group having time to raise the necessary funds. We want to give many more communities the opportunity to take control of assets and facilities in their neighbourhoods by levelling the playing field by providing the time for them to prepare a proposal.

What the provisions do
“These provisions give communities a right to identify a building or other land that they believe to be of importance to their community’s social well-being. The aim is that, if the asset comes up for sale, then they will be given a fair chance to make a bid to buy it on the open market. If the nominated asset meets the definition of an asset of community value, the local authority will list it” … If declined they must provide clear reasons for their decision.

Reference from Government website - https://www.gov.uk/government
‘Assets of ~Community Value—Policy Statement: September 2011 Department for Communities and Local Government’

How Can You Help?
We are looking for people who can photograph the place, research the history and help to put the nomination together.

If you would like to be involved in helping to identify and nominate places and buildings that are of value, or historical interest, to Edwinstowe please contact us.

Email: inedwinstowe@btinternet.com
Telephone: 01623 824762 –leave a message
What is Community Organising?

Community Organising involves relationships and networks within communities to activate people and create social and political change, and address local issues, through collective action. Finding common values and visions is an essential factor which serves to strengthen community cohesion and increase the power of their united voice. It is changing lives, improving unity and reducing strain on the public purse through ‘Community Empowerment’. It is actively supported by all levels of the Government.

Community organizing is NOT a technique for problem solving. Those who ignore the democratic involvement of the people deciding which issues matter and seek solutions that affect their communities, are called demagogues, gaining power by arousing people's emotions and prejudice. On the other hand, Community Organising achieves it’s objective by empowering people in a way that humanises them through engagement; involving them in identifying issue, searching for solutions and ways that they can contribute to those solutions. Community Organising facilitates groups and individuals in these actions and ennobles the efforts they make.

Community organizing is not merely a process that is good for its own sake. We all need to see results for our efforts as well as the potential for real benefit to those we care for and the things that matter. Our involvement must make a personal positive difference. Otherwise we will not engage.

It is not just a neighbourhood thing, The methods of Community Organizing is being applied across the world in situations as different as Solidarity in Poland, Welfare Rights in the US and 'communities del base' in Brazil. The simple principles are being applied right now in the barrios of San Antonio and in the ghettos of Baltimore. They are winning victories and building power. Our Government, and all major political parties actively support community organising nationally.

Community Organising is for all ages.

The Young Foundation :- Define community organising as “the process of supporting individuals to come together to improve their communities by putting pressure on institutions, businesses and governments to act. Community organisers work to identify local leaders, bring together local groups and develop campaigns and actions about local issues.”

http://youngfoundation.org/publications/growing-community-organising/

The Community Organisers Network :- Focus their work on building relationships and mobilising people in communities. Encouraging communities to take action that makes a positive difference. They are the national body, established to support the training and development of community organising in England. Their work on the ground by their members, together with partners at a local, regional and national level, actively built alliances and relationships that will help them to fulfil their objectives of building a more active and democratic society. One where all people feel able to participate in the world around them. They provide training courses and programmes that enable the study of the practice, theory, and techniques of community organising; work with people to build their collective power to tackle poverty and injustice. Promoting a more just society where people are able to challenge constructively for change. Places of education are utilising the strategies, empowering pupils and staff to build tolerance and teamwork, even at primary school level.

Web Link— http://www.corganisers.org.uk/about-us
Healthwatch Nottinghamshire is an independent organisation that helps people get the best from their local health and social care services. Visit our website and watch our short animation to find out more about what Healthwatch Nottinghamshire is, and what we do! 

http://www.healthwatchnottinghamshire.co.uk/about-us/

Tell us what you think about your NHS experiences and help to make a difference. We'll use your feedback and put it with what everyone else tells us to produce a report for local NHS organisations providing suggestions for a new action plan as to how these services can best meet the needs of people like you. We don’t ask for your name so you won’t be named in the report and any personal details you provide will be stored safely and securely.

Contact:- Byron Business Centre, Duke St, Hucknall, Nottingham, NG15 7HP
Tel:- 0115 9635179 email :- info@healthwatchnottinghamshire.co.uk
Useful Community Contacts.

GP Surgeries
- Major Oak Health Practice - 01623 822 303
- Middleton Lodge Practice - 01623 703266

Hospitals
- Kings Mill Hospital Sutton in Ashfield - 01623 622515
- Bassetlaw Hospital Worksop - 01909 500990

Schools
- King Edwin School - 01623 822111
- St Mary’s School - 01623 822518
- Dukeries Academy - 01623 860545
- St Phillip Neri - 01623 489010
- All Saints Academy - 01623 474700

Local Councils
- Edwinstowe Parish Council - 01623 824243
- Newark and Sherwood District Council - 01636 850000
- Notts. County Council - 0300 500 8080
- Mark Spencer M.P. - 0115 9681186 - London 020 7219 7143

‘In Edwinstowe
Your hyperlocal communication network

The ambition of the creators of ‘In Edwinstowe’ is that the communication network will grow into a self-sustaining venture that will encompass training and employment opportunities for the residents of Edwinstowe. As a ‘Community Enterprise’ all trading will be for the benefit of our society with any profits being re-invested rather than going to any shareholders. This is a project that is run for the local community by local people currently giving their time as volunteers in order to create opportunities for others to be actively involved in how ‘In Edwinstowe’ develops to benefit the village.

- Training to help manage the website
- Writing articles
- Designing pages for the newsletter
- Taking and editing photographs
- Chasing stories and interviewing people
- Proof reading articles
- Typing and collating information for print
- Being a part of the steering group
- Taking messages
- Helping with deliveries
- Keeping an eye on deadlines
- Giving moral support—even when it involves jolting someone into action

Any small way you would like to help will be most welcome as every small step helps the journey.

To discuss it further please contact us :-
Email - inedwinstowe@btinternet.com
Tel: - 01623 824762 Please leave a message

Edwinstowe United Community Association
Aiming for a better future
Email - edwinstoweunited@outlook.com— Tel: - 01623 824762