

Headington Committee for Development Action

Annual General Report July 2003 - October 2004



1. Background

Headington Community Development Association (HCDA) provides a meeting forum and links between organisations operating in the Headington Area. This includes residents' associations, employers, businesses, police, schools, health, local councils and churches. It is not a forum for individuals, but for representatives of organisations.

HCDA was established as a legal entity in September 2002, and was registered with the Charity Commission in July 2003 when the current constitution was also formally adopted.

2. Meetings

From July 2003 – October 2004 there have been 14 meetings of HCDA. There have also been regular meetings of sub-groups working on the festival and the information leaflet.

Invited speakers who have attended the meetings:

- Parks Department, Oxford City Council
- Oxford University Student Union Vice President for Charities/Communities
- City Works, Oxford City Council
- Cowley Carnival Co-ordinator
- Oxford Inspires

The Chair and Vice Chair also attended a community networking event on behalf of HCDA. The Committee have also met with the Grants Officer at Oxford City Council to discuss accessing external funding for projects.

3. Membership

Current membership stands at 19 members and 2 co-opted members with 4 new memberships since July 2003 (see Appendix1):

- Headington Community Association
- Central North Headington Residents Association
- Wood Farm Church
- Friends of Quarry

4. Key projects

a) Headington Festival

The first Headington festival in June 2003 was well received and a second festival was held in June 2004. This is a two day event with the first day focussed on music and dance events throughout Headington and the second day centred on Bury Knowle Park and a range of activities held within it. During the year a bid was submitted to Awards for All to support the festival and although this was unsuccessful, HCDA have worked with Oxford Inspires to bid for funding from the Arts Council's Urban Cultural Programme. This has been successful and HCDA have been awarded £1500 towards the festival for 2005.

The festival was evaluated by distributing comments forms over the two days and 40 evaluation forms were returned. The general issues arising were:

(i) Organisational issues: larger rubbish bins; more help for front gate of park on the Sunday; signs at the front of the park; give out programmes whilst setting up as people in the park all the time

(ii) Future issues: some discussion over having a one or two day festival; link into Artweek; have a promotional event in autumn and/or produce a promotional brochure; try and get more shops and the library to open on the Sunday

The agreed way forward was:

- Continue to have a festival over two days
- Programme for the same weekend in June
- Produce a directory of groups/contacts
- Develop publicity and media interest
- Explore possible links to Artweek through Oxford Inspires
- Explore involving more music groups for Sunday
- Hold a promotional event in Sept

The chief issues for HCDA to address in order to continue the festival are: additional organizational assistance, more sponsorship, and greater publicity.

b) Sculpting tree in Bury Knowle Park

The initial idea for developing a project to sculpt the tree within Bury Knowle Park was discussed in July 2003. The project has moved forward through liaison with a range of organisations The Parks Department and Arts Officer of Oxford City Council worked with HCDA to address some key operational issues. A proposal has now been developed with a local artist and a model of the proposed sculpture was commissioned in order to consult with local residents and also to attract possible sponsorship.

At the promotional event in September, Oxford Brookes pledged £2,500 towards the sculpture. The model will now be displayed in some key public places in order to get views from local people.

c) Developing an action plan

The group have been working on an updated action plan of projects to develop for the future. This follows on from the work with Oxford Brookes students on the retail centre of Headington.

d) Information book on Headington

A working group has been established to take forward the ideas raised regarding an information leaflet for Headington. The group have developed the ideas further and an information pack is the preferred way forward particularly aimed at new residents. Further work will be carried out regarding funding for this project.

e) Working with partners

- a. **Headington Business Association** – continue to work in partnership on the Christmas event in Headington
- b. **Oxford Brookes University** – links with students union for volunteering opportunities. Also developing with Public Relations a student information pack to include information on residents associations and local facilities
- c. **Oxford University** – links with students union for volunteering opportunities
- d. **Oxford Mail** – publicity on projects/events
- e. **Oxford, Swindon and Gloucester Co-op** – provide support for HCDA generally and especially with the Festival
- f. **Oxford City Council** – provide support for HCDA primarily through links to the North-East Area Committee

5. HCDA reception evening (October)

The aim of this reception was to inform as many local groups as possible what the group have achieved so far, to outline plans for the forthcoming year and to encourage more involvement in local projects. The event was very successful and many representatives of other local and organisations attended. During the reception a model of the tree proposed to be sculpted in Bury Knowle Park was displayed and comments invited, together with appeals for sponsorship. As outlined above, Oxford Brookes pledged £2,500. There was a power-point presentation of last years Headington Festival together with pictures of the tree model and painting of the underpass. There were also display boards with similar photographs. In addition to informal discussions with guests there were also comment forms for guests to take away and it is hoped that people will come forward in due course to be further involved.

6. The way forward

The objective of HCDA is to improve the quality of life in Headington, for the users and residents of Headington. This is principally to be achieved by encouraging cooperative working, to ensure good communication between stakeholders, and by preparing events and services for the people of Headington. Over the past year the increase in membership and range of

projects being developed shows that HCDA is a forward thinking organisation and is benefiting the local people in the Headington area.

Appendix 1

HCDA Members – October 2004

First Name	Surname	Organisation
Sue	Baker	Headington Schools Partnership
David	Bartrip	Wood Farm Community Association
James S	Bloice Smith	Churches representative for Headington
Bob	Clarke	Headington Business Association <i>(Vice-Chair)</i>
Angela	Cristofoli	Oxford City Council – Officer <i>(Secretary)</i>
Jill	Cummings	Headington Christmas Events Officer <i>Co-opted</i>
Paul	Cunningham	Headington Community Association
David	Edwards	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals Trust
Tim	Chapman	Oxford City Primary Care Trust
James	Gagg	Oxfordshire County Council – Officer, Environmental Services
Mary	Hope	New Headington Residents' Association <i>(Chair)</i>
Janet	Isaac	Highfield Residents' Association
Stephanie	Jenkins	Website link <i>Co-opted</i>
Tony	Joyce	Oxford Civic Society
Kathrin	Luddecke	Oxford, Swindon and Gloucester Co-op
David	Rundle	Oxford City Council - Councillor
Susan	Tolman	Oxford Brookes University
Mike	Stranks	Media/Public relations <i>Co-opted</i>
Sylvia	Tompkins	Oxfordshire County Council - Councillor
Arthur	Treherne	Co-ordinating Committee of Headington Residents' Associations <i>(Treasurer)</i>
Marie	Vickers	Co-ordinator of Friends of Quarry
Jean	White	Central North Headington Residents Association