

COMMUNITY ORGANISERS

www.sneinton-alchemy.com



ABOVE: THE TEAM REFLECTS ON PROGRESS

LEFT: AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE ORGANISERS AT TRACS

A busy 6 months for Sneinton's organisers!

Welcome to Sneinton's first Community Organising newsletter.

Here you'll get to:

- **hear about the scheme** and what the Organisers have been up to so far- read on below!
- **meet your local organisers**- turn to pages 2 and 3 for some personal stories from your team
- **find out how to get involved**- turn to the back page

Community Organising is a way of helping people play an active role in

their communities, doing projects that improve their area, streets and lives. It's all about LISTENING to people's concerns and hopes, and it has a proven track record in improving neighbourhoods and empowering people. Along the way it builds strong connections between neighbours and local groups.

The team has already held in-depth 'listenings' with hundreds of local residents, and they will go on to listen to hundreds more. Common themes

are emerging, with concerns around our dirty streets, anti-social behaviour and crime. However, many people love Sneinton for the diversity and community spirit, closeness to the city centre and range of shops and facilities. Project ideas are also beginning to emerge that tackle the problems, but also - importantly - build on what people love about Sneinton and the strengths and abilities of local people.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and look forward to listening to you soon.



OUT AND ABOUT AT LOCAL EVENTS AND HOUSE MEETINGS



HUNDREDS OF LISTENINGS

PAUL, VOLUNTEER CO



I first became aware of the work of Community Organisers when a guy walked into our 'Sunflower Cafe' at Church which we run each week for local residents. I agreed to do a listening and was enthused to hear that things were happening and had the potential to happen in Sneinton.

I grew up in this area, went to school here and my parents and Church friends live locally. Having moved away to Derby to study, marry and become a Dad of two, I ended up coming "home" a couple of years ago.

SNEINTON HAS CHANGED A LOT, AND SINCE BECOMING A VCO EARLIER THIS YEAR IT HAS BEEN GREAT TO MEET PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE WHEN DOING LISTENINGS.

A lot of positive stuff is happening! My initial project idea, along with a mate, came when I'd heard of a lady whose hanging basket had been stolen. Amazingly a new one was replaced by some 'good samaritan' who left a note saying they had 'Done an Alyn?' How great it would be if folk did kind gestures for each other to build Community Spirit!

DEE, VOLUNTEER CO



Being a volunteer community organiser has been a brilliant experience. I've met so many people who live in my area but I have never spoken to before for any reason.

NOW I FEEL ABLE TO ASK HOW PEOPLE FEEL ABOUT SNEINTON - THE GOOD AND BAD. WHAT CAN WE DO AS A COMMUNITY TO MAKE THINGS BETTER FOR ALL RESIDENTS.

I feel privileged to be able to listen to people and possibly make a difference to help my community make a change in everyone's lives for the better.

Being a volunteer gives a valuable insight into many areas we never think about every day even though we live here.

GARY, VOLUNTEER CO



I had been talking with friends on how our neighbourhood and community life could be improved, when I was introduced to Community Organising.

IT WAS GREAT TO KNOW THEY HAD THE SAME PASSION FOR SNEINTON AS I DID.

Becoming a VCO gave me the platform, enabling myself to reach into the crevices and alleyways of Sneinton. Empowering all, the opportunity to share likeminded views, concerns, hopes and aspirations for its residents and future.

There are exciting projects on the horizon which as a resident and VCO I am proud to be a part of- and so can you.

Community Organising has its challenges, but the rewards for Sneinton could be great

In many ways, Community Organising is a rewarding job: for example when a long-term resident said to me that “it’s the first time I’ve have been asked about my vision for Sneinton”.

And when I watch members of the community coming together to start projects aimed at tackling local issues I feel a sense of pride to know I have played a small part in making it happen.

But the role is also very challenging. For the Community Organising programme to be effective it must attempt to listen to most residents, and reaching a diverse cross sections of this transient community can be very difficult.

NOT ALL RESIDENTS WANT TO ENGAGE IN LOCAL MATTERS FOR MANY REASONS. IN THE PAST, THEY MAY HAVE TAKEN PART IN A CONSULTATION THAT LED TO NOWHERE OR MAY SIMPLY HAVE LOST CONFIDENCE IN POLITICS.

Prior to the community organising programme, you could inform those in power of your views by attending councillor surgeries and local issues meetings but if these were not for you, you may have been left frustrated that decisions were being made without your views being represented.

Since April I’ve been out and about listening to Sneinton with my ever-expanding team, some of whom have never engaged in community issues before. We have been knocking on doors, organising house meetings, and listening at bus stops and youth clubs.

You have been sharing your concerns and several projects ideas and leaders have emerged. I am witnessing the residents of Sneinton taking charge of issues such as supporting new and emerging communities, youth activities, revamping our parks, supporting the elderly, tackling litter and bike workshops, to mention just a few...

On a personal note I have great hopes for Sneinton’s future!

Stephen, Community Organiser

MEET THE TEAM



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We think listening matters and Sneinton people matter too.

Sneinton Alchemy is a Community Interest Company that is run by and works with local people. We listen to hear what needs to change - and support local people to make it happen.

We are out and about in Sneinton looking to meet people who want things to be different and to do things differently...

If you'd be interested, we'd love to meet you.



Sneinton's very own Community Organising team is here to listen!

As a Trainee Community Organiser I am here to listen to what you love and value about where you live; any concerns you have about the area and any ideas that you have to make positive changes within the community. I work for you!

TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE COMMON GOALS AND MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO THE SNEINTON COMMUNITY. HOWEVER, THIS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY HAVING YOUR SAY; YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

I can see the beauty and challenges that lie within Sneinton and hope to build your trust so that together we can

mobilise positive action within the community from ideas that have come from residents themselves.

You will find our team out door knocking in Sneinton. If you see one of us knocking please take this opportunity to have your say. We're not here to raise your expectations and promise you the world but we are here to help build on your vision for Sneinton.

We've had some doors slammed shut in our faces; residents telling us that no-one cares about the area and people losing hope - but please know that we are here to listen to everyone.

We come with no agenda of our own and are a tool for you to use to voice your concerns, views and project ideas. How do we know what we can achieve until we try?

Already I have met some wonderful people who care so much about Sneinton and want to be a part of the growing movement of positive change. You could be one of these people too!

Shabana, Community Organiser

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