

Proposal for Chaddesden Park Café

- **Background to the Derby Association of Community Partners**

The Derby Association of Community Partners (DACP) is a voluntary organisation that has existed in Derby since 1995 that works in partnership with Derby City Council, and Derby Homes, amongst other statutory and voluntary organisations.

The DACP aim to improve the quality of life for tenants, leaseholders and local residents through consultation with service providers to review and improve services delivered throughout Derby.

The DACP manage a variety of projects that employ community development techniques to both empower local communities, and individuals to achieve common objectives and shared visions.

- **Proposal for Chaddesden Park Café**

The DACP would like to propose that they take on the lease of Chaddesden Park Café with a view to developing a facility which will not only bring together the local community in Chaddesden, but also act as a resource for local agencies and groups that deliver services for local people.

- **Proposed Services & Facilities**

The DACP propose that the café will offer:

- A range of affordable hot and cold refreshments
- A range of affordable snacks, confectionery and ice-creams
- A range of Hot Food available during the football seasons, and other key dates in the parks diary

It is proposed that the facility be available as:

- A base for the Youth Service to operate detached youth work
- A venue for Derby Homes to offer informal Housing Surgeries*
- A venue for local Councillors to offer informal Councillor Surgeries*
- A venue for local Police to offer informal Police Surgeries*
- A venue for other voluntary and statutory organisations who wish to consult with local people
- A venue for the DACP's Community Project to operate light lunches and afternoon teas for local older people (transport will be provided FREE for those who wished to attend)

* Should an issue be raised during a surgery that requires a degree of confidentiality, a more appropriate meeting would be arranged.

It is further proposed that in time the facility offer:

- FREE unlimited Internet Access that can be used to research Derby Homes, Derby City Council and other statutory and voluntary services

- A FREE phone for people who wish to contact Derby Homes, the Police or the Council through Derby Direct
- A 'Kidz Korner' playhouse facility for parents or guardians of very young children who wish to access the café
- A small 'Book Bank' providing FREE reading material for people accessing the café
- Information Boards & a Leaflet Display updated weekly promoting local activities, services and general useful information
- **Proposed Opening Times**

As part of this proposal, the DACP have researched the usage of Chaddesden Park, and provisionally propose the following opening times:

Summer Season

Monday - Friday
10am - 8pm

Saturday & Sunday
10am - 8pm

Winter Season

Monday - Friday
3pm – 7pm

Saturday & Sunday
10am – 4pm

Football Season

The café will be open from 8am at weekends during the football season offering a specialist Football Menu.

The DACP intend to carefully monitor trade and will adjust opening times to maximise the facility for park users.

- **Youth Café**

Discussions continue with the Youth Service and other stakeholders regarding how often the facility could be opened as a Youth Café during the evening, to link in with detached youth work currently taking place.

- **Management of the Café & Partnership Working**

The DACP intend bringing together key stakeholders, including the Youth Service, Friends Group, Councillors and Derby Homes to implement the vision for the café and contribute towards the long term sustainability of the project. Although the DACP will take overall liability for the management of the café, the DACP intend engaging with other local voluntary community groups in the day to day running.

Essentially this will bring together a variety of different local groups, who share similar aims and objectives in the area.

- **Refurbishment & Rental Arrangements**

The DACP will create a relaxed and friendly environment, and intend refurbishing the café to a modern, clean and high standard. The DACP have successfully managed a Resource Centre in the City Centre for over 10 years, which is viewed nationally as best practise within tenant and resident involvement. The DACP have a proven track record in managing and developing projects for the benefit of local people.

The DACP are also proposing that all works be completed by us through a Community Action project, which would involve local businesses, again creating a sense of local pride and ownership of the facility.

The DACP would invite the Council to instead consider investment in the toilet facilities on the park which would undoubtedly compliment the investment we would be making in the café, together providing an improved park facility and enjoyable experience for local people.

The DACP would operate the café as not for profit, and therefore invite the City Council to consider this when calculating rent for the unit. The DACP recognise the need for the City Council to generate income from such units, and therefore suggest an Open Book accounting system to include a capped rental limit. If the Council is in favour of this approach, this would form the basis for negotiations surrounding the rent of the café.

The DACP propose that any profit, after ongoing investment costs of the café, be spent exclusively on Chaddesden Park on projects such as environmental, landscaping or park facilities or towards the ongoing development of the BIG 1 event held annually. Consultation on which projects would benefit from any profit would be thoroughly conducted through the café and various forums, and the allocation of funds would be decided by the Managing Committee, which would include the named stakeholders.

This could have a positive impact on future funding of park events, as well as contributing towards a sustainable long term action plan for Chaddesden Park.

- **Local Support**

We have been fortunate enough to view the unit with Dawn Dagley and Councillor Sara Bolton, and plans for the proposed renovations are well underway, including identifying the necessary funding. We also have the full support of both Cllr. Bolton and representatives from the key stakeholders. Hopefully this will demonstrate how genuine and committed we are towards making this initiative a great success.

- **Summary**

The DACP strongly believe that this project will bring together the local community, and provide a much needed facility on the park. We also believe that the proposed concept of operating the café would be both innovative and sustainable, and one

which could be considered in time for other facilities around the city. We hope you view our proposal positively and favourably and welcome an opportunity to discuss it with you further.