



Community Governance well on track!



Elizabeth Ball, Paul Davies and Carl Towner, consultants from Development Trusts Association (DTA) are providing advice and training to Highfields Community Association (HCA), the Interim Strategic Management Board (ISMB) and Leicester City Council to establish Community Governance of Highfields Centre (HC). DTA are also assisting other pilot authorities in the national Asset Transfer programme.

Progress towards Community Governance was given a further boost when the ISMB met on 9th April and agreed phase 1 transfers should be completed by December 2008!

This means the transfer of Highfields Centre, equipment, Arts, Sports and Community Services to HCA.

Phase 2 will deal with other services and resources based at HC.

Say Hello to the new Gladstone electronic membership system.

A brand new system is being introduced at HC which will not only allow us to book facilities we want to use but at the same time, it will instantly make us members of HCA as well!

Membership brings benefits and opportunities for greater involvement in HCA.



Cllr Abdul Razak Osman is Chair of HCA and now Deputy Leader of the City Council. Congratulations!

**Page 1: Community Governance, Gladstone System
New Deputy Leader**

Page 2: AVAPAC Open Day 17 May, L-CLAC & IAS services

Page 3: Sports Open Day 24 May, Highcross – 2000 new jobs, DTA Showcase event

**Page 4: H-MAC Official launch, Banner Theatre performance
25 years of service- well done!**

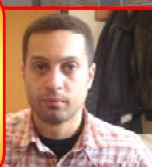
H CAN Edited by Pravin Patel, Centre Development Officer
pravin.patel@highfieldscentre.ac.uk

Open day

for Audio Visual and Performing Arts Centre



Meet the AVAPAC Team.
Saqib Deshmukh - Co-ordinator (pictured left) and Piers Hill – Technician (pictured right)



Sat 17th May 2008
 12mid-day to 10pm
 Entry: Free!
 All Welcome!!!!

12-2pm
 2-5pm
 7-10pm

We look forward to seeing you! ☺

Tours of the new arts facilities which include music, video production and digital arts suites.
 Poetry & digital arts taster sessions and a Question and Answer session with actor **Shahid Ahmed** (Yasmin, Syriana, 28 Weeks Later)
 Premiere of Active Youth Group's HIGH-FI project film made in association with Mediaworks & performance with **Lennox Carty**, international dub poet



Leicester Community Legal Advice Centre

The newly opened Community Legal Advice Centre will be providing a **community based weekly advice service at Highfields Centre on Friday afternoons between 2 – 6pm** across a range of Social Welfare issues (such as debt, housing, welfare benefits, employment, community care and family law) as well as for general legal issues.
 L-CLAC's main office is at 60 Charles St, Leicester (opposite Connexions) and open for drop in advice Monday to Thursday between 10.00am and 4.00pm and also contactable by calling 0845 456 0074.



Immigration Advisory Service

We are the leading charity in providing legal advice about immigration and asylum problems and we are independent from the government and as a charity, we do not profit from our services.



We will now be holding regular advice surgeries at **Highfields Centre on Mondays between 4.00pm – 7.00pm**. If you need help on Immigration and asylum law, please attend the surgeries, with evidence of how you are supporting yourself. If you are unable to attend the surgery, then please telephone (0116 262 9899) our office (09-11 Millstone Lane, Leicester, LE1 5JN).



Sports Open Day
Sat 24th May 2008
11am to 3pm
All Welcome!!!!!!



- Badminton
- Table Tennis
- Basket Ball
- Trampoline
- Cricket Nets
- Yoga
- Fitness Suite (Men Only)

Women Only Activities

- Aerobic sessions
- Fitness Suite
- Stretching

Junior Football

Girls and Boys

- 5 to 8 years old
- 9 to 11 years old

And much much more – please see notices on the day and ask Jarvis or Jay or Jeff.....All are most welcome!!!! ☺ ☺



Jarvis D'souza

Senior Sports Development Worker



Jay Patel

Highfields-Saffron Sports Link Worker



Jeff Simon

Sports Development Worker



2000 New Jobs – Highcross Leicester

WORK HIGHCROSS ROADSHOW Highcross Leicester opens in September bringing exciting new stores & over **2000 new jobs** to the city. Learn more about the job & training opportunities by visiting the **RoadShow** between **10am and 4pm** at **Highfields Centre (car park), Saturday 17th May.**



Cllr Patrick Kitterick



Priya Thamotheram



Alistair Reid

Development Trusts Association convened a national event on 30th January 2008 in Melton Mowbray to promote the findings of a government review on Asset Transfer and used Leicester and Highfields Centre as a way of showcasing partnership-working. Speakers included Cllr Patrick Kitterick, Cabinet Lead for Transport and Regeneration, Priya Thamotheram now the Head of Highfields Centre and Alistair Reid the current LCC Interim Director(Adults & Housing). Officers from Leicester City Council and HCA representatives also attended workshops to contribute and gather learning from others involved in the journey leading to securing asset transfer!

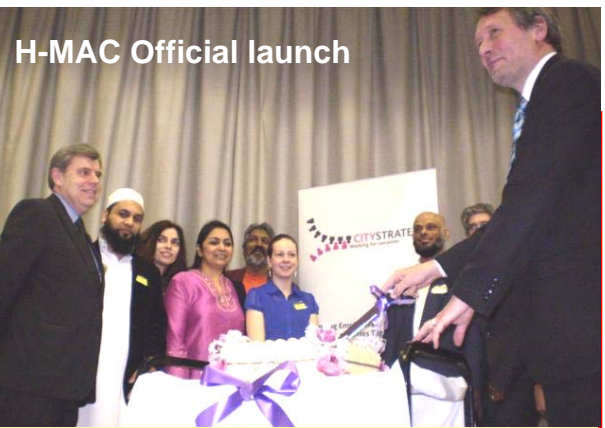
Introducing more new staff

Linda Castanha
Receptionist

Erika Forster
H-MAC
Administrator

Sara Ansar
Learning
Pathways Worker

More details to follow in the next edition.



H-MAC Official launch

Sir Peter Soulsby (MP) as chief guest and Cllr Patrick Kitterick presided over the official launch of **H-MAC** (Highfields Multi-Access Centre) on 25th February 2008, a major new project funded by the City Strategy initiative. Leicester City Council's Culture and Regeneration Department provides the lead on this initiative. Celebrating the launch also included speeches from Priya Thamotheram, Head of Centre, Jim Connelly, District Manager of Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Jobcentre Plus and Chris Minter, Head of Adult Skills and Learning Service, Leicester City Council.

Staff team consist of a Personal Advisor, Advice Officer, Employer Engagement Officer, Adult Learning Coordinator and administration assistant.

Advisors will support local people residing primarily in the Spinney Hills area because it is in the top five per cent of the most deprived areas in the country. It is characterised by high levels of social and economic deprivation.

H-MAC aims to support people who have or are facing particular difficulties in entering the labour market. Specialist advisors are available to help overcome barriers that people face when looking for jobs, including childcare, disability, transport, immigration or benefits.

Please contact **Aiyub Zamakda (Team Leader) and his team: Yasmin Nathani, Nelda Kappia, Fatema Burani and Mushtaq Dakri at Highfields Centre. Monday to Thursday 10am to 5pm. Friday 10am to 2pm.**



They get free mobiles....don't they?

Sat 23 Feb 2008 They get free mobiles...don't they

Leicester Civil Rights Movement hosted this multimedia documentary theatre production from Birmingham-based Banner Theatre which sets out to bust some of the myths about refugees and asylum seekers. Combining music, song, video, film and theatre, it speaks for asylum seekers in their quest for safety

and security after fleeing war-torn lands in Africa and the Middle East. It tells the human stories of people in the wrong place at the wrong time, and cuts through the myths and prejudice surrounding the search for sanctuary in England's green but sometimes not so pleasant land. Adults and young people took part in a discussion after the performance to explore what it means for them and Leicester. "We have to support our fellow human beings" said one contributor.



Alistair Reid (Leicester City Council) presents Priya Thamotheram and Pat Gardner 25 Years Service Certificates. Congratulations!

Meet more new staff

Premises Officers



Shabir Sidat



Sukhvinder Sian

Centre Development Officer



Pravin Patel

Cllrs Surgery at Highfields Centre on first and fourth Friday of the month



(Left to Right) Cllrs Dr Shofiquil Chowdhury, Mohammed Dawood and Hanif Aqbany – the latter is the new Cabinet Lead for Housing. **Congratulations!**