

## Press Release

29<sup>th</sup> November 2016 - For Immediate Release

### Putting the community in control

We are very pleased to announce that Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (CAVA) have successfully completed the transfer of day to day management of a long established and much loved community asset from Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC).

The Borough Council has been working with the charity Warwickshire CAVA for some time to transfer the management of the Newtown Centre in Nuneaton town centre. By transferring this centre into community control it will help Warwickshire CAVA to better deliver its core support to community and voluntary organisations across the Borough, to attract funding, recruit volunteers and provide training whilst simultaneously assisting the Council to save funds. Each year the amount of funding that Warwickshire CAVA supports to be brought in to the county increases, last year this was over £3.5million, as does the volume of volunteers supported, which in 2015/16 was 2,431.

Joanne Shine, Chair of Warwickshire CAVA, said:

*"I am thrilled that we have the opportunity to take on the management of the Newtown Centre with a 25 year lease. Our vision since our merger eight years ago has been to ensure that the Third Sector in Warwickshire has access to high quality support. Our local bases in every district and borough across the county ensure that we can respond to the increasing expectations and demands of our sector."*

Paul Tolley, Chief Executive of Warwickshire CAVA said:

*"This is a great achievement for us as an organisation but also for our whole sector, especially across Nuneaton and Bedworth. We will continue to support all of the fantastic organisations and activities operating at the Newtown, from the Stoke Club, Talentmatch and the Womens Resource Centre, to the Healthy Living Network and Chater Dance Academy. The centre helps to make our services even more accessible to the community, and helps us to continue to develop essential services for priority communities in partnership with others."*

Cllr Gwynne Pomfret, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Central Services said:

*"It is good to see WCAVA taking on the management and development of the Newtown Centre. This will help maximise the use of this community facility by new, as well as current users. CAVA with its knowledge of the communities in the Borough is well placed to enhance the building and its use by local residents"*

Cllr Julie Jackson, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council' Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities said:

*"This is a great opportunity for CAVA to develop this fantastic facility so communities from across Nuneaton and Bedworth can get the support and advice they need. This move will also enable CAVA to develop its range of services and draw in additional funding in an environment that is much more community friendly."*

The first few months will see Warwickshire CAVA undertake some small building works to accommodate its local team of 5 staff and hopefully a launch party in partnership with the Healthy Living Network, but there will soon be regular volunteer drop-in events, surgery sessions on funding and governance for community groups, and some more internal building work to make better use of this exciting space and increase community access.

ENDS

#### NOTES TO EDITORS

- For more information about this press release, please contact Alison Thompson on 024 7638 5765, email [alison@wcava.org.uk](mailto:alison@wcava.org.uk).
- Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action is the leading local infrastructure and support organisation for the voluntary and community sector in Warwickshire. For further information visit [www.wcava.org.uk](http://www.wcava.org.uk).
- This month Warwickshire CAVA launched its countywide dedicated volunteering portal, hosted on its re-branded and re-launched website which can be found at [www.wcava.org.uk](http://www.wcava.org.uk).