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## Get ready for Beeston Carnival!

Broadgate Park, Saturday, July 9

THE sixth Beeston Carnival takes place this year on July 9.

The success of this, our very own carnival, can be measured by the fact that it has already reached its sixth year of existence, having been resurrected by Cllrs Lynda and Pat Lally back in 2005.

Before the 2011 carnival gets under way, we should remember to say a big 'thank you' to Cllr Lynda Lally, always diligently supported by husband Cllr Pat Lally, for making sure we have this popular community event to look forward to again this year.

The 2011 Beeston Carnival will begin in the Square at 12 noon with a welcome from solo artist Maxine, who will sing a selection of songs from the 1950s. Maxine will be followed by music from the Nottingham Youth Band, the Hope Gospel Choir, solo rapper Amal, the winner of Beeston Mecca's 'Got Talent' and conclude with a brief fashion show.

At 12.30pm, carnival sponsors will crown not one but two carnival princesses this year. Cherise and Olivia both attend Round Hill School, Foster Avenue, Beeston.

The carnival parade will start at 1pm, setting out for Broadgate

Park. Traditionally led by Beeston Pipe Band, the parade will be made up of dancers, musicians and lively representatives of local clubs, groups and businesses. Following on from last year's success, firefighters from Highfields Fire Station will again perform a charity Fire Engine Pull.

At Broadgate Park there will be plenty of fun and games, which will include activities for the children, displays and demonstrations, and stalls run by local groups and businesses.

Cllr Lynda Lally said: "We hope that the people of Beeston and visitors will again support our efforts in making this another successful year.

"The carnival has four main sponsors this year and, without their support, we would not be able to run this annual event. We thank them all very much.

"Smaller sponsors and other contributors have also helped towards making our carnival princesses look great on the day. They're no less important than the main sponsors, and we'd like to thank each and everyone one of them," Cllr Lally added.

"Just make sure you're there to see it all happen!"

## Middle Street Resource Centre not to close

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE County Council has announced that it will not close Middle Street Resource Centre, but will retain the building for a new model of 'supported volunteering' where volunteers work with mental health services to support other services users."

The Middle Street Resource Centre in Beeston was thought to be high on the list for potential closure when the county council announced last summer that cuts had to be made to its mental health service provision. Day service centres right across the county were lined up against the wall, ready to be shot.

The Middle Street centre currently provides a critical backbone of support for people living locally who have poor mental health. Service users at the centre will have been referred either by their social worker, GP or psychiatrist. They find that the centre provides direct access to resources that range from the therapeutic support provided by professional mental health workers and their peers, to a means of regaining access to education, employment and training.

After the cuts were announced and campaigns to fight the proposals were launched, NCC issued a consultation questionnaire seeking the views of day service users across the county.

Even so, the consultation document stated: "The use of the current buildings as a place to provide day services will not continue... the funding that keeps the centre open will be used to provide personalised services for people," leading to doubt as to its true intent.

Understandably, Middle Street service users feared the worst.

### Changes announced

NCC announced on June 21 that it is "poised to launch a £4 million modernisation programme that will keep new-style day centres open for 50 weeks of the year,

but available for use by the local community at evenings and weekends."

It will continue with its plans to close a number of existing day centres, but alleges that it has had to look at "fundamentally changing the nature of day care to offer more modern, flexible and cost-effective services that meet the needs of all its users."

The county council estimates that the changes made to day service provision will save it £5 million each year, which will go towards the £42 million that is to be reinvested in "additional services needed to care for a rising number of vulnerable people in the county."

Middle Street appears to have been given some sort of a reprieve. Good news on the face of it, but the council will still be implementing fundamental changes to day care that will profoundly affect service users.

Middle Street advocate Karen Medd, who has campaigned tirelessly for the past year to keep the centre open, said: "We've been surprised this week by the county council's decision to retain Middle Street as its only specialist mental health day centre.

"We are delighted, of course, because it's the result that we've been campaigning for for the past year. But we remain cautious because the decision will not be approved by councillors until June

30, and we have no details yet on how the centre will be financed and staffed in the future, although there is a clue in the paragraph, which is in Agenda No 18: 'Reconfiguration of Mental Health day services to offer a Supported Volunteering (co-produced) model, allowing for people who may not be eligible for services to access a service, in order to continue to receive support whilst sharing in the management and operation of the services'.

Karen continued: "This seems to be the way that people with less substantial difficulties, who will not be entitled to one of the new personal budgets, could still receive some level of support. But how many of the present Middle Street members will actually benefit is unclear."

### Day care at Bramwell

In February, the county council announced its decision to transfer day services based in council care homes to new bases from September this year.

Day services at the Bramwell care home in Chilwell, which has an excellent reputation for helping both day care and residential patients with dementia and Alzheimer's disease, will be axed.

Ken Burton has been leading a campaign group in an attempt to save the valued resource that Bramwell provides.

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