

# Marsh Community Centre Funding Restored

The City Council's proposed removal of funding for evening activities at the Marsh Community Centre has been abandoned for a year after protests from local councillors and community members. Councillor Jon Barry explained:

*"Since the community centre opened in 2003, the City Council has contributed money to pay for three evening sessions a week by qualified youth workers, throughout the year. However, we successfully suggested that the City Council could find money from its housing budget, instead of the Council Tax budget."*

The centre is currently on a funding drive to pay for staff and the running expenses of the building. Manager, Rebecca Novell, was recently successful in a 'dragon's den' event at the Boy's Grammar School – where she received £2,600 from money raised by the pupils.

## Market Square Trees Saved!



After a magnificent campaign by local people, backed by Green councillors, the 7 lime trees have a stay of execution for 18 months whilst alternative options to remove slipperiness are looked at.



## Crime Rates Halved in Marsh Ward

Police say that from December 2015 to February 2016, crime figures in Marsh ward have fallen by 45% compared to the previous year.

*"This is wonderful news,"* says Corinne Kemp, the Education, Training and Employment Worker at the Centre. *"The 16 to 25 year olds who use the centre have been working really hard finding jobs over the last few months and most of them are now in full-time work or on an apprenticeship. I really believe that has had an impact on crime rates in the area."*

The Centre is currently in discussions with local PCSOs to develop a programme that will tackle Anti-Social Behaviour.

## Marsh Buses Lose Evenings and Sundays

County Council budget cuts means that, from April 2016, there will be no services on Sundays and that the last bus to the Marsh in the evening will be at 6.55. Cllr Rebecca Novell said:

*"This is really bad news for the Marsh. Sadly, the campaign by residents and councillors two years ago was only able to delay the cutbacks."*