

## **COVERING LETTER from OCSET – Oxford's Social Centre**

**28<sup>th</sup> June 2004**

To the East Oxford Community Association Management Committee

We are writing from OCSET, Oxford's Social Centre, to present afresh our proposal to rent the ex-Claimants' Union space in EOCC.

Firstly, we have good news. Since we met first met with you on June 1st we have been successful in our bid for the £10,000 grant we told you we were applying for. This makes our proposal to rent the EOCC space financially secure. Because we are an entirely voluntary organisation with few overheads, and we will be running regular revenue-generating events (the community cafe, indymedia screenings, etc), most of this grant money will be available as capital for essential equipment and refurbishment of the space. We would like to offer at the outset to rent the space for two years, but our plans are for a sustainable project which would enable us to renew the contract if offered. Please let us know if this is not acceptable, as we are confident that alternative arrangements regarding the contract could be made.

OCSET already has a bank account, and is in the process of constituting itself with a Memorandum of Association.

A summary of our planned activities is included in the accompanying proposal. We feel that OCSET would contribute a lot to the life of EOCC, and would like to emphasise the following aspects:

- the range of groups using OCSET and the range of activities there would contribute a great deal to the vibrancy of EOCC as a community centre.
- Activities initiated at OCSET which were too large for the OCSET space would seek to hire the Main Hall or the upstairs room in the main building, where available. The same would apply to groups using OCSET as a meeting space, who would see the main EOCC building as the natural port of call for anything larger than a small meeting. This would increase revenue to the EOCC and use of it as a community space.
- Use of the Social Club bar would increase, as people would gravitate there after meetings and events.
- OCSET and Oxford Indymedia would seek to collaborate actively with existing groups located at EOCC, such as Fusion and the Rap Yard. (In fact Oxford Indymedia has already run a number of workshops with the Rap Yard at its previous premises).
- OCSET would welcome the ex-Claimants' Union space to be used as a drop-in centre or meeting space by other EOCC volunteers.
- We would encourage all participants in the OCSET project to become members of EOCA and to become active in it.

Overall, we are confident that we can add significantly to the maintenance of EOCC as a successful autonomously-run community centre, representative of the residents of East Oxford, into the future.

Many thanks for your attention.

Signed:

On behalf of the OCSET collective

