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### **Joan's Story**

Nick Johnson, development director, Urban Splash tells Joan's story:

"When we first met Joan at one of the regular three-weekly consultation meetings, she regaled us with stories of sleeping on top of her kitchen.

Joan, quite literally, had a flat pack kitchen beneath her bed which her husband Bob, a builder(!), refused to put up due to uncertainty about the future of their house.

At those public meetings Joan would take us to one side and say "all I want in my new house, is a big kitchen" - we always knew she liked to cook.

It wasn't immediately apparent that she also had entrepreneurs blood in her veins.

She approached the client group at the end of last year - she had an idea to open a butty van to feed the builders who were going to be working on site.

So with a little help from the partners to point her in the right direction, a little business training and a little seed funding, the snack shack was born in the Spring of 2004.

Wearing her trademark 'Licensed to Grill' pinny, Joan's red van is now, a permanent fixture in New Islington's ever changing scene.

Flushed with her success, Joan wants to open a Latte Bar in New Islington, when its all finished. In it she'll have photo's on the wall of the Snack Shack.....where it all began."

Joan Turner and her daughter Sharon Felton run the Snack Shack. Their family has been living at New Islington and its different persona's for a staggering eight generations.

Joan's story is just one that features in a book by Manchester based photographer, Len Grant. Cardroom Voices pictures some of the original residents of the Cardroom Estate, now known as New Islington and documents their hopes and fears for the future.

Cardroom Voices was commissioned by Urban Splash, English Partnerships and Manchester City Council to document the community that existed prior to the redevelopment and capture their "warts and all" views.

"In many ways it's an unusual move, to be so open, but we have worked hard over the past two years to gain the trust of the community and in that time we have developed relationships and we felt that celebrating the sense of community and the strength of some of the characters was the proper thing to do," said Nick Johnson, development director, Urban Splash.

More follows

*Joan's Story Contd...*

Cardroom Voices is published by New Islington Client Group and will be available from 9 July 04.

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**For Further Information Please Contact**

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