

## Building firms deny safety failures over worker's death

TWO building firms have pleaded not guilty to alleged safety failures which led to the death of a worker at a site in Dawlish.

John Small, of Liskeard, died after he was run down by a forklift truck while working on a project at Secmaton Lane in Dawlish in June 2013, Exeter Crown Court was told.

Steve Hoskins Construction, of Pensilva, Liskeard, and Cavanna Homes, of Torbay, both deny failing to ensure the safety of workers.

Steve Hoskins Construction also denies failing to carry out a risk assessment.

The charges were brought under the Health and Safety at Work Act. The companies were accused of failing to ensure that workers who were on the site were safe from contact with vehicles.

Judge Erik Salomonsen adjourned the case for trial next April.

He set a timetable for the exchange of expert reports from both prosecution and defence.

Mr Andrew Oldland, QC, defending Cavanna Homes, criticised the length of time the case has taken to come to court and asked for any expert report from the Health and Safety Executive to be served as soon as possible.

# Volunteers sow the seeds for idea of city farm

by Ed Oldfield  
@Ed\_Oldfield

[eoldfield@expressandecho.co.uk](mailto:eoldfield@expressandecho.co.uk)

A group of volunteers is seeking support to set up a city farm in Exeter.

The volunteers want to create a community hub to bring people closer to nature.

The farm would feature livestock, a community garden and a wildlife garden and would be open to the public with events throughout the year.

The group hopes that its small-scale farm would have space for chickens, pigs, ducks, sheep and goats, along with small pets and ponies.

Fruit and veg would be grown in the community garden. Special areas would be provided for a children's garden and sensory garden and there would be raised beds for use by older people or those with physical disabilities.

The wildlife garden would give visitors ideas about how to encourage wildlife at home.

The farm would offer courses and workshops as well as clubs, toddlers, youths and the elderly.

The group says its aim is to provide "a thriving community hub, a place of recreation, education and therapy for the local community".

Project organiser Naomi Taylor said: "We want to give local people the opportunity to learn about animals, food, nature and the environment and to create a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can come together to socialise, learn and thrive."

"We want to provide a wide range of services, facilities, workshops, activities and events for the whole community, from children, families, young people and schools to adults, older people and those with



**Farm friends:** Front row, from left, Sarah Drury, Naomi Taylor; back row, Julie Valentine, Gwendolyn Bluck, Carmen Talbot, Louise Brown, Farzana Chaudry Wise

learning difficulties or physical disabilities."

The Exeter City Farm and Community Garden Project has grown from an allotment group set up a few months ago called Women in Wellies.

There are now 35 members and they want more to show their support, join a steering group or become a trustee.

The group is looking for a site of at least three acres in the Exeter area. It must be accessible and on or near a bus route.

The ideal site would have space for parking, disabled access, toilets, a cafe, shop, picnic area, play area, community and crafts room and an area for outdoor education, including a kitchen, log cabin and fire circle.

The volunteers have set up a charity and have applied for support from a community business fund. A steering group will meet representatives of Exeter City Council to seek support.

The team is setting up a Farm Friends scheme for supporters to sign up to on the project's website on <http://www.exetercityfarm.org.uk/>.