



MY NEIGHBOURHOOD

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

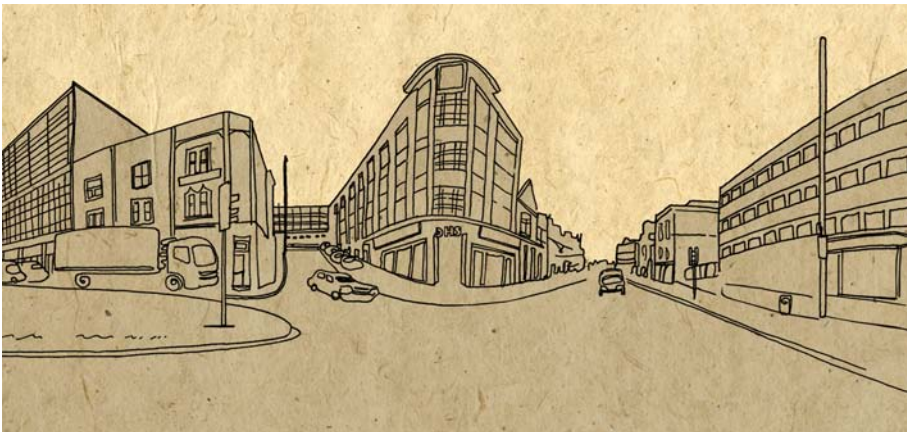
Report of: Ashley Easton and Lawrence Hill Neighbourhood Partnership

Title: Neighbourhood Partnership Annual Achievements Report

Introduction

This report is a summary of some of the achievements of the Ashley, Easton and Lawrence Hill Neighbourhood Partnership in 2011-12. The achievements are examples of how the partnership can deliver improvements to the area through its Action Plan / Priorities. This report highlights the work of a variety of different partnership members who have worked together, including local residents, community groups, Councillors and other partners.

1. Stokes Croft



Action Plan Aim addressed: improving the local environment, improving community safety and economic development

Resources used: St Pauls Neighbourhood Management Team, Area Coordinator, Community Safety

Following disturbances on Stokes Croft in spring/early summer of 2011 and concerns about the planning process a community survey was carried out at different times of the day and at different locations on Stokes Croft. The aim was to gauge opinion – how were people feeling now, what were the prevailing views about Tesco and what was most important to people. In addition we organised two Neighbourhood Forum meetings which gave

people the opportunity to ask questions of Councillors and senior Council and Police officers.

- 271 people contributed to the survey. People welcomed the fact that representatives of the Council were on the streets talking to people.
- 140 people attended two Neighbourhood Forum meetings which clarified events and the role of the City Council in the planning process.
- A number of priorities were identified and have been progressed including improving the environment, the Carriage Works group and a traders group supported by Destination Bristol.

Equalities aims addressed:

Lots of different communities use Stokes Croft in particular people from very different socio economic groups – people with very low incomes and people with above average incomes. St Pauls has a high Black and Minority Ethnic population. These different communities have different needs. In the survey we were proactive in making sure we spoke to the diverse communities.

2. Stapleton Road Working Group



Action Plan Aim addressed: Tackling Deprivation, Poor Quality Environment and Crime and Community Safety and Economic Development.

Resources used: The NP agreed to establish a formal Working Group made up of residents, traders and other organisations based on Stapleton Road, ward councillors and other neighbourhood partnership members. The working group is supported by the Service Director Community Safety and Drug Strategy, Neighbourhood Inspector Avon & Somerset Police, the Area Coordinator. Bristol City Council has allocated some funding to support the work of the group.

The Neighbourhood Partnership allocated £2,000 to enable the working group to meet.

Some projects including an annual survey and bi monthly news sheet have been delivered by Easton and Lawrence Hill Neighbourhood Management a local resident-led voluntary organisation.

A team of City Council and Police personnel carry out monthly visual audits and make contact with traders.

Summary of projects and benefit for the NP

- Deployment of police and city council resources to tackle immediate problems including people feeling unsafe, 'edgy' atmosphere and litter.
- Plan agreed between authorities and local community (residents, traders, groups based on Stapleton Road and is being implemented.
- Reduction in crime and improvement in the feel of Stapleton Road.
- 'Anything goes' being addressed through parking enforcement, actions to tackle illegal trading in khat (buying and setting khat is not illegal but you must have a legal trader – not operating out the boot of the car without a licence.).
- Residents created a sign appealing for support which has gone up on the lamp posts of some side streets.
- Window stickers and bags 'Love Easton Please Respect our Neighbourhood' have been printed.

Equalities aims addressed:

This part of Easton has a very diverse population. Many people feel they get a 'raw deal' from the authorities. The project is about building confidence and taking positive steps to improve the wellbeing of people living in the area. The businesses people on the road reflect the diversity of the resident population. We have taken positive steps to make sure the working group reflects the diversity which is improving. The diversity of the population has implications for everything we do. Many traders, for example, speak little English. We make every effort to build relationships through one to one contact with people rather than relying on written communication. There are a number of complex equality issues the group is grappling with as part of its work. This is reflected in the action plan.

3. Window Boxes – Stapleton Road side streets



Action Plan Aim addressed: Tackling deprivation, Improving the local environment, Crime and Community Safety, Bringing people together from different backgrounds

Resources used: Neighbourhood Partnership devolved Clean and Green budget was used to buy plants and window boxes from Blaise. Easton and Lawrence Hill Neighbourhood Management worked with the local residents to make up the window boxes.

Residents made up 98 winter flowering window boxes. Having leafleted the area in advance residents were pleased to get involved and take up the opportunity. Benefits include:

- Real improvement to the environment over the winter months which can be particularly difficult.
- A small but positive step to show residents in the area that other people do care and are listening so beginning to build up trust.
- Residents meet neighbours they wouldn't otherwise meet and have the shared task of watering and maintaining the boxes.

Equalities aims addressed:

This part of Easton has a very diverse population. Many people feel they get a 'raw deal' from the authorities. The project was about building confidence and taking positive steps to improve the wellbeing of people living in the area. It was also about bring people together from diverse backgrounds – people who wouldn't otherwise meet.

4. Community First



Action Plan Aim addressed: Tackling deprivation, improving the environment, supporting young people, Economic development

Resources used: Led by St Pauls Neighbourhood Management for Ashley and Easton and Lawrence Hill Neighbourhood Management for Easton and Lawrence Hill wards. There is no funding from Government to support this.

Summary of projects and benefit for the NP (including contribution to equalities aims)

- Three resident panels established, average of 6 resident panellists
- £118,685 of Government Funding secured to support community projects over the next four years
- Priorities reflect the Neighbourhood Partnership priorities.
- 17 projects funded in the first year

- Residents with different priorities and experiences debate and consider what's important for the area.

Equalities aims addressed:

Positive steps have been taken so that the panels reflect the communities they serve. Priorities the panels want to address with the funding include:

Projects bringing together people from different backgrounds.

Projects bringing together young people and adults.

Projects that give people a voice/influence over how decisions are made.

Equalities aims addressed:

The target areas, St Pauls has a very diverse population with high numbers of Black and/or Minority Ethnic residents and high levels of deprivation. This campaign will improve the wellbeing of everyone who lives in the area.

Other projects include:

- **4 'walkabouts'** organised in response to resident complaints about anti social behaviour, community safety or environmental issues.
- **12 neighbourhood walkabouts** by City Council and Police to speak to residents and carry out a visual audit.
- **'Wellbeing' small grants panel** – panel of up to 9 residents (3 from each ward who are not on the Neighbourhood Partnership) who met twice in the year to consider applications to the small grants fund and make recommendations to the Neighbourhood Partnership.
- **Bellevue Road Park** - Community survey in and around Bellevue Park following complaints to the Neighbourhood Forum about anti social behaviour and adults 'taking over' the park every evening and preventing young people from using the play area. A plan was agreed to tackle the problems that were identified.
- **Organised one-off** meeting to discuss traffic and transport priorities for the whole Neighbourhood Partnership area to inform decisions about the NP devolved budget.
- **Meetings** in Easton and Lawrence Hill and in St Pauls to consider and respond to the 'Central Area Action Plan' and 'Site Allocations' consultation.