

BISHOPSTON, COTHAM AND REDLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD

PARTNERSHIP

25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2012

Report of : Jenny Hoadley, Chair of the Grants Task Group

Title: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ALLOCATION OF THE WELLBEING FUND

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 The funding criteria from the Wellbeing Fund should include the current Neighbourhood Partnership priorities (agreed on June 16<sup>th</sup> 2011) as well as the criteria agreed on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2011: the revised criteria are set in 2) below. The *Guidelines for Grants* will be amended so all applicants are fully aware of the revised criteria.
- 2 The following activities to be funded amounts to a total of £12,500:
  - a) Chess in Schools and the Community (£2,500)  
for providing a chess coach and teacher support for a full school year in Cotham and St Bonaventure's primary schools
  - b) The BC&R Partnership (£10,000)  
for a business support worker for the Whiteladies Road area (including Cotham Hill and Blackboy Hill) for 12 months, providing that the Cabot, Clifton and Clifton East Neighbourhood Partnership is prepared to match fund

**1 Background**

- 1.1 Three applications were received but it was agreed that the Horfield Quaker Meeting application should be deferred until the organisation has reviewed its budget in line with new information the applicant recently received about its proposal.
- 1.2.1 Of the remaining two, the Chess in Schools and the Community application clearly meets the funding criteria (4) as set out in 2 below (agreed on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2011).
- 1.2.2 However the BC&R Partnership application for a business support worker for the Whiteladies Rd area does not meet the current criteria. Nonetheless the Grant Task Group felt that its aims fell within the Neighbourhood Partnership's priorities as agreed at the NP meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup> 2011, namely  
(The NP)...*supports and encourages activities and projects that:*
  - *Improves relations and communication between local business and residents*
  - *Support the small business community. ...*and it was similar in concept to the Whiteladies Road Farmers Market development worker funded about two years ago from the Wellbeing Fund.
- 1.3 There is a surplus in the Wellbeing budget (currently £32,486). The Grant Task group felt that the Wellbeing Fund should be spent on projects which would promote those things identified by the local communities as important at the public forums and through other consultation methods, and which now form the backbone to the Partnership's Action Plan.
- 1.4 Originally, it had been expected that most of the Wellbeing Fund would be allocated to local non-profitable making organisations, although there has always been provision for the Partnership itself to commission various works for the benefit of the local community, and has done so eg the pedestrian crossing outside Cotham School. To date there has not been an overwhelming demand

for funding from local groups, despite attempts to advertise the existence of the Fund. At this stage it is difficult to be certain why this might be so.

## 2 Revised Criteria for the Wellbeing Fund

For the purpose of transparency, the Grant Task Group proposes that, in the light of 1) above, the criteria for allocation of the Wellbeing Budget should be enlarged to include the current Neighbourhood Partnership priorities. The *Guidelines for Grants* should be amended accordingly. The amended criteria would thus be:

- (1) Local traffic and transport
  - (2) Improving the built environment and street scene
  - (3) Parks and green spaces and trees
  - (4) Young people
  - (5) Improving the lives of people living in the neighbourhood, the main priorities for 2011/12 being:
    - i. neighbourliness
    - ii. local arts where they are likely to appeal to a wide section of the community
    - iii. provision and facilities which engage with people facing social disadvantage
    - iv. activities which support carers and the “cared for”
    - v. schemes about food sustainability to encourage people to “grow-their-own” fruit and vegetables
- (Additional criteria in the NP priorities)*
- (6) Improving relations and communication between local businesses and residents
  - (7) Supporting the small business community
  - (8) Enabling all people to feel safe in public spaces

## 3 Grant applications

- 3.1 The Chess in Schools and the Community (a national charity) is already working in a number of primary schools in north Bristol, so it is a scheme which has the support of both the Education and Library services. Westbury Park library currently hosts a Saturday chess club. Both St Bonaventure’s and Cotham schools volunteered to take part. The funding would be matched by funds sought elsewhere by the charity. The charity claims that it has evidence to show that children from all social backgrounds and those with challenging needs are able to benefit from the experience of learning how to play chess.

Organisation	Purpose	Priorities met (code in 2) below)	Targeted area	Amount requested
<b>Chess in Schools and the Community</b>	To promote the opportunity for all children in Year 3 to learn chess by a) establishing it as part of the curriculum b) the school developing a chess club for those interested to play more c) using volunteers to run a drop in chess club on Saturdays in a local library for players of all ages.	(4)	Bishopston Cotham	£2500
<b>BC&amp;R Partnership Business development worker for the Cotham Hill/Whiteladies Road area</b>	To employ a part time business support worker to a) facilitate the local businesses to set up their own trade organisation b) to work with the Council’s initiative to encourage small businesses to flourish c) facilitate a range of promotional events.	Meets the NP Action Plan Priorities, but not the current criteria	Redland Cotham	£5000 to be matched by Cabot, Clifton and Clifton East NP

- 3.2.1 The original application by BC&R was for £5,000 for six months. The Grant Task Group felt that the complexity and scope of the work and its importance locally in this current economic recession requires at least a paid worker for twelve months. The Task Group therefore recommends a £10,000 allocation, providing that the Cabot, Clifton and Clifton East Neighbourhood Partnership match-funds the project.
- 3.2.2 The project is wide-ranging and requires a degree of negotiation skills with the local authority as well as with local businesses and communities. Because it would absorb one third of the Partnership's annual Wellbeing Fund budget, the Grants task Group recommends that a steering group, to meet with the worker on a regular basis, should be set up prior to the appointment of the worker.
- 3.2.3 The Grants Task Group feels that if this project is successful it might be rolled out to other parts of the city eg Gloucester Road.

#### **4 The Wellbeing Fund for 2011/12 and 2012/13**

- 4.1 If the two applications are funded as recommended the Wellbeing Fund will stand at £15,506.
- 4.2 The next deadline is February 20<sup>th</sup> 2012, allocations to be agreed at the NP meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012.
- 4.3 The Grants Task Group urges the Neighbourhood Partnership to consider funding structural projects which would improve the quality of life for local residents, as suggested in its report to the Partnership in March 2011. The Task Group will also work with Council officers to explore whether Social Services and NHS colleagues can identify wellbeing priorities for the Partnership area.