

**BISHOPSTON, COTHAM AND REDLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD
PARTNERSHIP MONDAY 2ND APRIL 2012
PUBLIC FORUM STATEMENTS**

TO:

WARD COUNCILLORS:

Councillors Knott, Hance, Harrison, Negus, Townsend and Willingham

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PARTNERSHIP:

Alison Bromilow, Redland & Cotham Amenities Society
Jenny Dean, Safer Bristol Partnership
Jenny Hoadley, The Bishopston Society
Liz Kew, Resident
Angela Raffle/Hamish Wills, Sustainable Redland
Inspector Keith Rundle, Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Clive Stevens, Redland & Cotham Amenities Society
Max Wakefield, Bristol University

OFFICERS:

Andrew McGrath, Area Co-Ordinator

RECORDS: Minute Book and DSO

AGENDA ITEMS	SUBJECT	NAME	NO.
NA	The Ardagh & Horfield Common	Sam Thomas, Friends of Horfield Common	1.

Hi Clive,

Rather than sending a lengthy report with attachments etc, I would like to speak at the BCR NP meeting on Monday if possible on behalf of FOHC?

As I think that you are aware, we have discussed the issues and our ongoing concerns about the management of the Ardagh site & wider Horfield Common area, AGSP process and cross-NP/ward etc working with Councillor Poultney in his role as Director of Neighbourhoods & retain faith that continuing to engage in BCC planning/prioritising processes etc will achieve the outcomes that we are all trying to work towards in terms of sustainability of the full provision for sports, community and leisure at the site. We are confident that he has understood the issues and has demonstrated repeatedly an ability to view these holistically and deal with a number of issues pragmatically.

However - in relation to the BCR NP update regarding the issues & postponed from January's meeting - & in response to our wider discussions and work, we remain concerned that a lack of community-focussed, rather than administrative department-focussed planning at BCC has worked/is working against the aims that we – and many other groups – are aiming to achieve & specifically that we will be landed with the consequences of this (which has been evident on previous administration's 'watch' as well as under the current administration which is at least picking this up & attempting to deal with it) to the extreme detriment of the local area and local community.

Oddly and as a strange twist of fate, while writing this, I am sat in a café next to a table where BCC's Senior Tennis Development Officer is describing BCC Sports priorities to staff at Filton College's WISE campus. He is describing BCC's ambition to develop a legacy for sports – specifically tennis - in relation to the Olympics. He is saying that BCC would like to get people playing tennis in parks & then be able to forward them on to more specialist sports trainers (I am at Filton College's WISE Campus as I write). BCC's Officer is describing how important it is to get people access to grass roots sports facilities to encourage them to take part in Sports, to live healthy lives and to support well-being – in line with BCC's wider thinking about enhancing health and well-being in communities.

I AM SURE THAT THE IRONY OF THIS WILL NOT BE LOST ON YOU.

BCC's Sports Policies tell us there is no need for these facilities at the Ardagh, the Sports Development team will not run tennis coaching on the courts (and prevents others from doing so) despite there being significant and demonstrable demand in this area for coaching for children and young people

as well as adults. It is rather depressing to note that BCC's Sports Policies state that 20-30 mins travel time in a car is acceptable to access active sports provision, regardless of the conflicting policies connected with travel, sustainable and healthy communities, obesity and mental health etc. As it is arguably possible to travel to outside of the BCC area from any point within BCC's boundaries within 20-30 minutes by car, this means that there is never-ending flexibility in the interpretation of this.

The ridiculous fiasco around the public toilets at the Ardagh site are another example of this. I don't want to detail this here because it will send people to sleep but I would like an opportunity to come & update the NP about the key issues.

How 'hub-sites' for specific sports have been selected appears to raise significant questions about bias and lack of consultation.

Additionally, how and why decisions have been made to allocate (and withdraw) resource for improvements to children's play provision also raises significant questions.

Please let me know if you do need any further information from me prior to Monday evening?

Regards,

Sam Thomson,

Acting Chair, FOHC