

**Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Neighbourhood
Partnership
2nd April 2012**

Tabled Reports

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BISHOPSTON, COTHAM AND REDLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

ACTION SHEET – 25TH JANUARY 2012

Agenda Item No.	Title of report and description	Action	Person Responsible	Progress/ outcome
3.	Public Forum	Councillor Negus to chase up installation of the yellow lines outside Redland Minimarket.	Councillor Negus	To liaise with Highways
5.	Minutes of 24 th October 2011	Andrew McGrath to contact the Executive Member for Transport to request that Bishopston, Cotham and Redland (BCR) be the first NP area to role out the 20 mile per hour scheme.	Andrew McGrath	DONE. Tim Kent contacted. Bev Knott following up
"	"	Andrew McGrath to clarify the situation regarding BCR NP's eligibility to apply for Clean & Green funding.	"	Update pending
6.	Police Community Safety Update.	Andrew McGrath to contact Avon & Somerset Constabulary to formally request that ASB statistical data be collated in a much more reliable fashion.	"	Responsibility has now passed to Insp Keith Rendle.
"	"	Nigel Colston to provide full details of the number of burglaries affecting 'hotspots.'	Nigel Colston	As above
7.	New Primary School in Redland Green	Andrew McGrath to ask officers to halt the planned highways scheme at Elgin Park junction until the school transport plan had been redrafted.	Andrew McGrath	Work will now be done in conjunction with the other highway changes relating to the school
"	"	Clive Stevens to convey that 'BCR NP raise the lack of satisfaction with the draft (transport plan) proposal and urges Skanska to come up with a more satisfactory process.'	Clive Stevens	DONE + follow up letter following 22/2

"	"	<p>Andrew McGrath to invite the following people to the meeting of the Highways Forum that would take place between 7pm and 9pm on 22nd February 2012 at the Friends Meeting House;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Residents from Clifton East, Cotham and Redland; and 2. Alan Berridge, Bristol City Council's Senior Area Engineer; and 3. A representative of the Safer Routes to School team. 	"	DONE. Successful meeting held
8.	Area Co-ordinator's Report	Andrew McGrath to seek clarification regarding the S106 funding for rebuilding the scout premises at Bartholomew Road.	"	Developers are minded to sign a deed of variation to allow expenditure on the scout hut. This has not yet been signed
"	"	Clive Stevens to raise the NP's concerns regarding insufficient officer resources to progress the NP's spending decisions with the Leader of Bristol City Council; the Executive Members for Transport and Neighbourhoods; and the Service Directors for Transport, Neighbourhoods and Communities.	Clive Stevens	DONE – apparently discussed at Cabinet?
"	"	Andrew McGrath to chase up installation of the bin on Draycott Triangle.	Andrew McGrath	DONE. Installed
"	"	Andrew McGrath and Jenny Hoadley to consult officers in the City Council's department of Social Services and also the NHS to ascertain their opinion on other areas that could be added to the wellbeing priorities. An update is to be provided at the next meeting of the NP.	Andrew McGrath and Jenny Hoadley	Met with Contact the Elderly and still to meet social services. Jenny been in contact with GP commissioning in the area

"	"	Andrew McGrath to amend the definition within equalities communities as follows; 'an increase in provision and facilities for older people, and young people and those facing disadvantage' to be amended to 'an increase in provision and facilities for older people, and young people and those facing disadvantage including the unemployed.'	Andrew McGrath	Criteria to be adjusted for new year
"	"	Members of the NP to submit any further suggestions for headline priorities to Andrew McGrath.	All	This is still open to members to do
9.	Prioritising Investment for BCR's Parks Improvement Plan	Alison Bromilow and Rob McGovern to liaise with the parks groups and report back to the next meeting of the NP	Rob McGovern and Alison Bromilow	BCR has no cover for Rob McGovern who has returned to planning. A new appointment is awaited
10.	Task Groups Update	Clive Stevens to oversee preparation of 5 highways options to be brought to the NC for consideration at the meeting on 2 nd April 2012.	Clive Stevens	DONE (although there are 9!)
11.	AOB	Andrew McGrath to add consideration of Nick Clarke's request to become a member of the NP to the agenda for the meeting on 22nd April 2012.	Andrew McGrath	Please see AC's report
"	"	Andrew McGrath to arrange for BCR NP to respond to the consultation regarding the Great Western franchise replacement.	"	Cllr Willingham to respond

Following an hour of discussion we considered the following schemes made up a possible and coherent group of work which only require 2 TROs (and thus cost efficient). This is NOT a decision as that can only be made on the 2nd but it is the view of the attendees on Monday 26th. If you feel this is a stitch up please let us know ASAP (It's not, but I recall Halina felt that way a year ago)

TRAFFIC

Please refer to pages 18, 19 and 20 (pictures on pages 23 - 34 and forum comments on pages 39 - 41)

Note the numbering T1 refers to our location #6 so some cross referencing involved)

Keeping R1 and R2 from last year (£6k needed from this year - see s11.12 minutes of meeting of 24/3/11)

T1 and T3 (sharing one TRO so only £14k in total)

T4 and T9 (also sharing one TRO so £5k total)

Plus the £2.25 minor signing & lining TOTAL = £27.25

Traffic Dept. will let us know how much is unspent on the Elgin Park scheme (over £5k) and we can decide what to do with that.

PAVEMENTS (FOOTWAYS)

Schemes 1,2,3 and 6 seem to fit the bill. Noted our budget was cut from £66k last year to £63k

CARRIAGEWAY DRESSING

We would like the pot hole report please.

Other subjects briefly discussed were Well-being grants and whether S106 (Parks) could be used for some thus increasing the carryover. We reviewed the actions sheet and as always gave Andrew lots of work to do!

**Dear BCC Traffic Officers – This is a personal report by the Chair of the Task Group – to date I have seen no comments from the other members of the group (despite their getting copies of a draft 2 weeks ago). I’m mildly miffed but will have got over it by Monday night.
Kind regards – Clive Stevens**

This report focusses on the processes that support our annual decision making on the Devolved Traffic Reports produced each March. I feel that having gone through a slowly improving process for three annual reviews now the time is right for a Bristol wide review.

1) Local traffic schemes:

On the whole I feel this is now working fairly well. There are some areas for improvement I would like to discuss with you please, after all you can’t expect the system to be perfect yet?

- The source of these traffic scheme ideas. I feel residents’ suggestions should have an initial evaluation when they come up during the year rather than Highways Dept collating them and presenting them all each December.
- I feel that we could make more of minor works e.g. cross hatching, as these can often bring a good benefit without much cost. The Hartington Park/Redland Rd junction is a good example of this and is the subject of our first (and only?) video praising Highways Department !
- It might be better to have a longer term perspective e.g. 2 or 3 years plus knowledge of what else is going on. Here is my reasoning: A major cost is the TRO legal process for each scheme, a longer term perspective could enable more of these to be combined and thus less money for lawyers and more for actual works. Secondly, other things are going on like new schools and bus routes, and a longer term perspective will enable better “joined up” thinking.

2) Carriageway surface dressing:

By way of contrast I am completely dissatisfied with this process. This is not a criticism of our local Highways Officers. It is a criticism of policy. The devolved budget is essentially planned maintenance. The budget for fixing the roads is held centrally as it is a statutory responsibility. Planned maintenance is the way by which you minimise the overall costs of road maintenance. Why you have given away control of the ability to maintain our roads efficiently seems illogical. Residents can’t judge which road surfaces need a fresh “coat” to reduce future damage. What we are interested in, is having good quality road surfaces (as measured at its most basic by lack of potholes and bumps, especially those near the kerb as these are a danger to cyclists) and making sure you do this at the best cost. We are therefore interested in the number of potholes outstanding at any time and the time you take to fix them (and whether they are caused by poor services work). BCR NP first raised this point in Nov 2010. We have had 2 monthly reports since then but only after asking. This is a Bristol wide issue and so you probably can’t do anything for us specifically, but 18 months on, it is time to raise this issue again. Until it is considered the Chair of the Highways Task Group is stepping back from Carriageway resurfacing decisions.

3) Footway resurfacing:

Yet another contrast; compared with the first two, I am unclear whether policy needs to be changed or not. Therefore I limit myself to making the following observations:

3.1. - In March 2011 the NP summarised the resident feedback we had from the local publicity done in Jan and Feb 2011. Residents identified 6 locations with either serious trip hazards or where the pavement was too narrow e.g. due to lifted tarmac due to tree roots. Only 1 of those 6 were on the list Highways Dept provided us for the March 2011 NP meeting. The good news is that you have now fixed 4 of these, added a fifth as a possible new scheme (F12 – South Terrace) and the sixth is not a straightforward repair and may well need a series of buildouts. So I am encouraged by this and

with your permission will propose to the NP that we publicise “dodgy pavements” again later in the year for residents to identify more impassable/dangerous pavements.

3.2. – Also in March 2011 the NP approved the Chandos Rd resurfacing for £24k of pennant paving repair/replacement. This was done in April 2011. I noticed at the time that some tarmac work was being done too, on Chandos Rd, Elliston Rd and Kensington Rd. I told the Highways Engineer that he was doing the wrong bit and he said “This is being done from another budget”. Similarly Clyde Rd pavements (near Hampton Rd) have also been done presumably from this other budget too? Having two budgets rather devalues the devolved decision making process?

- Additionally we are told that the shopkeepers on Chandos Rd were not warned of these pavement works.

3.3. - In March 2010, the recommendations for Footway resurfacing included Kellaway Ave, Redland Rd, Springfield Ave, and Salisbury Rd. The NP didn’t prioritise these and so they came up again on the March 2011 recommendations. The costs had changed and so had the points score. Again the NP didn’t prioritise these in 2011, so we would have expected to see them in 2012 papers? Although Kellaway Ave is there (a much cut down proposal perhaps due to finished repairs to the water mains?), The Redland Rd scheme has been changed now to be North of Manor Rd instead of South of it whereas the 2010 & 2011 proposal has disappeared altogether. So what has happened so that it now doesn’t need money spent on it? Salisbury Rd similarly has disappeared too although I see a patch by the tree at #30. Springfield Ave is still on our list still but its points score has dropped again (was firstly 90, then 80, now 75).

3.4. - Additionally some of the new schemes in your list for 2012 (Cotham Brow, Coldharbour Rd and the new Redland Rd scheme) have appeared from nowhere. Since the points score is necessarily subjective I understand differences will occur, that may also affect the length of pavement you wish to repair and thus the cost? But it is highly confusing to us and leads me to suggest some improvements to your Bristol wide points scoring system (e.g. width of pavement and footfall). Have you benchmarked your scoring system with other local authorities?

3.5. - Our budget for pavement resurfacing has fallen from £86k, to £66k to £63k. Yet the mileage of pavements is the same (49 miles). Have you now a cheaper method of repair? (The speed at which you resurfaced Elliston and Clyde Rd looked pretty impressive). The NP is keen to ensure that the footway resurfacing is financed on a sustainable basis.

So for footways it seems to be a mix of things we can do locally (which residents can spot like dangerous or narrow pavements). But I think there is a need for a Bristol wide approach to incorporate best practice and review the points scoring system.

4) Conclusion

Please do not waste time investigating all of the specific issues we raise. The issue I think is that there is a need for a Bristol wide review to discuss and debate those Devolved Traffic Report issues that I have raised above, those that are not in the control of or relevant to the Neighbourhood Partnership itself. Do you agree?

Clive Stevens (Chair BCR NP Task Group)

Sustainable Redland at 30.3.12

Sustainable Redland's aim is to support each other in living low energy lifestyles, to encourage everyone in our community to do the same, to keep ourselves informed and to find as many ways as possible to enable low energy, sustainable living to happen.

Our biggest and most successful activity has been the Farmers' Market, which most of you will be aware happens on the first and third Saturdays of the month at the junction of Whiteladies and Apsley Roads. We gave this a big boost a year ago by using a Well Being grant to employ a Markets Manager, which through good publicity and specially organized events greatly improved turnover. The Market is well established now, limited by space and an absence of more high quality stall holders like the ones we already have, who would be able to increase existing diversity.

We're involved with other community groups such as RCAS, the Green Doors Project, the Neighbourhood Partnership and the Community Farm at Chew Magna. We respond to events in the community that affect us, such as the opening of the Sainsburys on Blackboy Hill. We organized a well attended public meeting, out of which several actions grew, including a Bristol Independents campaign. This is very much about raising the question of who feeds Bristol and encouraging local people to value and use independent traders.

We received a NP grant to run a project we call BS6 Open Streets to encourage temporary street closures for street parties, playing out events and anything else residents might want to get up to. I have flyers about it, so if you haven't already got one, please come and collect it. Sustainable Redland's interest in this is localism – getting people to look at what's going on around them, rather than jumping in the car and heading off outside the city for entertainment.

We've just run an event at Redland Green School with Sustainable Bishopston. It was based around an excellent video called Beyond the Brink, and we used it to promote discussion between a mix of students and adults from the community on sustainability issues, and what actions we could implement straight away.

Redland & Cotham Amenities Society: report to NP April 2012;

RCAS committee meets every 6 weeks approximately. The officers report back on and discuss what has happened over the previous 6 weeks, and agree actions.

The planning group has been involved in the pre application discussions with Skanska about the main issues on the school site at Redland Police Station and helped agree the process for public consultation through the public meetings which Skanska held in the Friends Meeting house. RCAS also involved Sustainable Redland in those discussions. Other planning applications and pre applications are responded to on a regular basis; usually we only respond to applications which affect the wider community, so not back garden extensions for instance.

RCAS planning group members are working with Clifton and Hotwells Improvements Society, St John's Residents Association, Oakfield Residents Association and Bristol Civic Society on a pre application response to the proposal to redevelop the Territorial Army site on Whiteladies Road with a large Waitrose and 4 floors of student accommodation. The developer has refused to discuss the proposed scheme at the pre application stage and asked that the information be kept confidential by the BCC planning department since last July. The information has now been released and the local groups are coordinating a response.

RCAS tree team respond to applications to do works to trees. As many of these are in the conservation area, permission is usually required to do work so we are able to make suggestions about appropriate levels of cutting back or felling which the tree officer takes account of when making his decision about whether to impose a Tree Preservation Order.

RCAS is funding new children's play equipment at Redland Green; it was decided that the annual May Fair collection from last year would go towards a new piece of equipment. A cone climber was chosen and agreed with the councillors and Redland Green Community Group. This was discussed with the play officer and a location agreed. An order was placed. It was hoped to have the piece of equipment in place by May 7th this year. However at the last RGCG meeting, a request to reconsider the location was made. The new location that was suggested will be more expensive than the agreed location. RCAS had agreed to fund the installation costs with the May Fair fund paying for the equipment. A total sum of £7,500 was agreed. I understand that the play officer is now costing up the alternative location. This will set the programme back unfortunately.

RCAS is starting up a Friends of Cotham Gardens group; though so far we have had few takers. The group who got together to do the improvements back in 1995 have all moved on and we need some more parents of younger children to get involved to help guide what they want to happen in the park, as well as the older residents and near neighbours.

RCAS is also hoping to get two notice boards / history boards / traders information / place marker structures installed on Whiteladies Road at the junction of Cotham Hill and Whiteladies Road, called Whiteladies Gate, and at the junction with Apsley Road where the Farmers Market is held.

Discussions have been held with Cotham Hill traders and Sustainable Redland who are both supportive of the proposal. The highways officer is going to be the point of contact. Conversations about design and content have been held with the conservation officers who are happy to help with the history board content.

RCAS has earmarked £5000 from its current funds for this currently. An additional sum of money may be sought from the Neighbourhood Partnership when costings are obtained.

The request for RCAS Gold Star / Green Star nominations has gone out in the latest newsletter; this year we are starting earlier so that people can give their opinions before the decisions are made. The awards are then made at the AGM in November this year. Any ideas for suitable candidates are welcomed.

Last but not least, RCAS is running the 36th May Fair on Monday May 7th, through the May Fair committee. The Neighbourhood Partnership is having a stall at the Fair and we will need volunteers to come and talk about the NP and how people can get involved in it. Lynn Parfitt is circulating a rota for people to sign up to come up for an hour; please do help out.

Sustainable Bishopston

Sustainable Bishopston has been very active in the New Year. In February, we hosted a talk from Resources Future concerning future waste collections. In March, we held a gathering of some other groups in Bishopston with a Bristol Green Doors presentation at Bubalu on the Gloucester Road.

Then, with Sustainable Redland and Sustainable Westbury-on-Trym, we supported a seminar at Redland Green School Post-16 in the Green Schools Revolution week. A DVD made by an 18-year old was shown, Beyond the Brink. Thereafter we helped students to discuss and pledge under headings of transport, energy, food&waste and culture for their own sustainabilities.

Finally, Sustainable Bishopston took part in consultations concerning the purchase by Sainsbury of the Memorial Ground and intended developments of Gloucestershire County Cricket Ground.

Ian Baker, Hon. Sec.