

**BCR NP 22.10.12 – Agenda Item # 8**

**Recruitment of new volunteers for sub groups – Clive Stevens**

Introduction – for residents not familiar with the workings of the NP:

The Neighbourhood Partnership has been set up by the council, police and residents to improve local services like road and pavement repairs, parks maintenance, street cleaning and recycling for example.

The agenda is two-fold. Part is set by the council, where Councillors (The Neighbourhood Committee or NC) are asked to take devolved decisions and consult with residents and community groups. The other part is set by the people who raise particular issues and the NP tries to help get things done (e.g. pavement hazards, tree planting, older people's services) either by promoting action in the Council or via volunteer groups or awarding a grant or all of those.

In 2011 after extensive consultation, residents set a number of local priorities (to be reviewed in 2014) which are: parks, traffic management, local safety, improved neighbourliness, cleaner street scene, trees, local clubs and facilities for the young, old and others, local arts, local food and healthy local businesses. The NP seeks to make progress on these:

**Recommendation:**

**At the July informal meeting it was agreed to recruit more volunteers to help the BCR Street Scene Group (see 2 below). At a recent C&E meeting, the group requested some new volunteers too (see 3). The BCR NP Chair feels we need more people to make more things on our priority list happen. This paper is an update and an opportunity for the NP to formally agree this process.**

Volunteering Opportunities (maybe a couple of hours a month or more):

- 1) People who are particularly enthused by any of the priorities adopted in 2011 and want to make a difference.
- 2) Those who care about their local street scene (bins, graffiti, recycling, pavement hazards), they can join our growing band of street champions where you assist your neighbours to report issues to the council, chase them up and work with the new Street Scene sub group to prioritise Council and subcontractor activities.
- 3) Communication to the 30,000 people who live and work in our Neighbourhood is presenting a challenge and so we are looking for volunteers to run our facebook site and or other social media, run or

assist running the website [www.bcrnp.org.uk](http://www.bcrnp.org.uk) , write articles on local activities, possibly a newsletter or design posters and publicity.

### Publicity & activity

Announcements have been made at the Sept Forums, articles have gone in both local free magazines and the RCAS newsletter, Clive and Liz have attended coffee mornings and Clive will continue to do so about once a month. A specific street champion meeting was set up for 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct. by Liz.

A verbal report will be given on 22/10/12 about successes (if any).

Note: The SubGroups Protocol (Agenda item #15 at the end of the papers) is to help give clear rules which are even more important if more people “join up”.