

**BISHOPSTON, COTHAM AND REDLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD
PARTNERSHIP
22nd October 2012**

Report of : Jenny Hoadley, Chair of the Grants Task Group
Title: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ALLOCATION OF THE WELLBEING FUND

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) The following activities recommended to be funded amounts to a total of £2,120:
- a) The Bristol Storytelling Festival – the North Bristol Story Trail
To fund a series of events engaging with shops and local schools on the Gloucester Rd to co-incide with the Bristol Storytelling Festival in early 2013
 - b) Friends of St Andrews Park
To fund over a 3-year period the planting of the “sunny bank” area in St Andrews Park
 - c) Councillor Bev Knott – refurbishment of the Horfield Common Wildlife Pond
- 2) To vire the remaining **£2,000** for street planters for the Gloucester Road, agreed in 2009, to be spent on hanging baskets in 2013/14 along the Gloucester Rd

1 Grant applications

Below is a summary of the applications and comments by the Grants Task Group:

Organisation	Purpose	Priorities met (code in 2) below)	Targeted area	Amount requested
Bristol Storytelling Festival	The North Bristol Story Trail is to be part of the Bristol Storytelling Festival in early 2013. 10-12 shops on the Gloucester Rd have been linked to local writers who will write a story about the local shop/environment and incorporate local history into the storyline. This will be linked to the website where the stories can be downloaded and an opportunity for local people to add their own stories. Work is also being undertaken to encourage children in local schools to write their own stories about the locality, and there will be storytelling sessions in local venues.	4) 5i) 5ii)	Bishopston /Redland	£500
Friends of St Andrews Park	The funding is required to supply wildflowers to an area near the pond which currently is mown grass, and install fencing around the area to protect it from being mowed during the spring and summer.	3) 5i)	Bishopston / Redland	£460

Cllr Bev Knott	The wildlife pond was created some time ago from an ancient drainage ditch which forms part of the Common boundary. It has become blocked and a new hedge needs to be laid around the perimeter. The Council Woodland and Wildlife Team would undertake the work and provide a 15 year maintenance overview, working alongside local volunteers to ensure the site is properly maintained.	3) 5i)	Bishopston	£1,170
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1 Background to the recommendations

These are the only three applications received.

1.1 *Bristol Storytelling Festival*

This annual festival covers venues around the city and is targeted at both children and adults. The money requested here is just for events in the Gloucester Rd area and include

- Fees to storytellers and administration incurred in liaising with schools
- Advertising
- 2 storytelling sessions

An additional £200 is expected from advertising and sponsorship; many of the artists are volunteering their efforts or working on reduced fees. For a modest injection of money, the Grants Task Sub Group felt this was a creative project appealing to a broad spectrum of the community and the pride felt in the Gloucester Road area. This is the first application received for a community arts project which was likely to have broad support from local residents.

1.2 *Friends of St Andrews Park*

The Friends are aiming to increase the biodiversity already achieved by the development of the wildlife pond by the planting of perennial wildflowers on a steep area near the pond. The Parks Department has approved the project and can supply the plants. No additional money is being sought but local volunteers will put up the protective fence and plant the flowers.

1.3 *Cllr Bev Knott – Re-furbishment of the Horfield Common Wildlife Pond*

The state of the pond is outside the scope of volunteers alone to clear and improve so it is appropriate for the Council to undertake this work. **Friends of Horfield Common have been approached and will work with the Council to keep the pond clear of rubbish etc.** Although this application was received outside the deadline date of June 11th, it was agreed to put it forward for approval as the work needs to be done before the end of 2012; otherwise the project would have to be delayed a year. As it seemed to be value for money and there are sufficient funds, the Grants Task Group felt a delay would be inappropriate.

However the Task Group wishes the Partnership to note their concern about applications being processed outside the publicised deadlines (this is the second one in 2012/13, the first being the money for measures for the reduction of fly posting on the Gloucester Road area approved by an extraordinary NP meeting on Sept 3rd). There were good reasons for both of these cases but in the interests of transparency and fairness, the Task Group does not wish for community groups to feel that they are operating under different rules..

1.4 *The proposed virement*

In 2009 the street planters had seemed a good idea – a cheap and quick way of “greening” the local streets and involving local people in looking after them. However the difficulty has been in finding suitable places to put them – the streets in the Partnership area are notoriously narrow, and the planters might end up becoming suitable receptacles for flyposting, rubbish and cigarette butts. Consequently very little of the money has been spent. Hanging baskets, on the other hand, are not vulnerable to vandalism or rubbish-dumping and generally people like them. At current prices the Council can supply and maintain them at £90 each – at least 10 baskets could be distributed along the Gloucester Road. The Grant Task Group recommends this virement as it is close to the original intent of the allocation and is a contribution to supporting the economic activity of the Gloucester Road.

2 **Criteria**

The criteria are:

- (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
- (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 **The Wellbeing Fund for 2012/13**

- 3.1 An accounting mistake has been discovered which means that the Wellbeing Fund for 2012/13 stands at £41,463 (see the Co-coordinators report for more detail), rather more than was originally thought. If all of the applications are funded as recommended, and taking into account the grant approved at the September extraordinary NP meeting, the Wellbeing Fund will stand at £34,733. This money cannot be rolled over to 2013/14.
- 3.2 The next and final deadline has been publicised as November 26th, the allocation to be decided at the Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on January 21st 2013.
- 3.3 Articles have been published in both *Bishopston Matters* and the *Redland and Westbury Park Directory* advertising the November deadline, as well as on the Bishopston Society website.
- 3.4 The Grant Task Group is expecting known applications to the value of about £16,000 to be submitted for the November deadline. If approved, this will leave a balance of over £18,000 to be allocated by March 31st 2013. It is hoped that other

community groups will also putting in applications which can be approved. It is recommended that a plan to dispose of any remaining balance to be agreed at the NP meeting on January 21st 2013, which may include a further deadline for applications.