

**BCR NP Gloucester Road Street Scene report - January 2013**

**The NP is asked to note progress with 2<sup>nd</sup> year objectives**

Progress has not been as good as anticipated , particularly in relationship to waste issues as there have been unavoidable changes to the core group. The Area Environmental Officer has only been able to attend one meeting , and there has been no Community Safety input since Jenny Dean left. The police have been having difficulties scheduling someone to attend the meetings.

**1 Objective : to remove any residual graffiti ( excluding high roof top graffiti) and remove new graffiti within the week, if possible.**

- Target being met unless the rain has stopped painting!
- Liz Kew keeps a record of exactly what graffiti has been removed, from where, how and by whom in case of any complaints and in consideration that there is no public liability. Copies of signed Indemnity forms are recorded.
- Street art is targeted by graffiti taggers as well. Community pay back and Liz Kew has successfully repaired Portico Play and Metro café. Plans are in progress to repair the art on the Bristol Flyer and 195 Gloucester Rd ( Bolton lane)

<b>GLOUCESTER ROAD Graffiti removed 2011 - 2012</b>					
<b>Year</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>No of Properties cleaned</b>	<b>Cleaned by Volunteer</b>	<b>Cleaned by BCC</b>	<b>Cleaned by owners included BT and PO</b>
<b>2011</b>		291	133	162	16
	Percentage	100%	<b>39%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>2012</b>		372	197	164	35
	Percentage	100%	<b>53 %</b>	<b>44 %</b>	<b>9 %</b>

Figures in 2011 relates to multiple volunteers but 2012 to a single volunteer who cleans and reports graffiti.

**2 Objective : to establish sustainable methods of working to move from volunteer led fly poster and graffiti reporting and cleaning to property owner and BCC led responsibility.**

- Liz Kew has been cleaning the **GPO red post boxes and telephone boxes** along the Gloucester Road as leaving graffiti for eight to ten weeks is working against the successful strategy of changing behaviour patterns by removing graffiti and flyposting quickly.

If improvements are to be maintained, either a city wide initiative to encourage BT and Post office to improve their response time to cleaning requests or for BCC, in conjunction with May Gurney, to negotiate a contract with BT / GPO to do their graffiti and flyposting cleaning within the city is needed.

- In November, the first **joint newsletter from The Gloucester Road Traders Association and the NP Gloucester Rd Street scene group** was delivered to all businesses along the Gloucester road .

The following advice was given in the letter. “ ***It has been shown that if a community works together to improve an area, there are longer lasting improvements to that area than would be achieved if the Council works alone***”

*“If you have your property repainted, do remember to ask the decorator to give you exact details of make and colour of the paint. Try and keep some spare paint so if the tag cannot be easily removed with a graffiti removal spray then it can be painted out so it looks like there never has been any tagging. Unfortunately “taggers” will tag Street Art as well as blank walls so again know what paint your street artist has used. The volunteers have just repaired the street art on Portico Play that was being badly tagged. Trying to match the original colours was interesting!*

*Where possible the council will assist with graffiti removal but they cannot guarantee a colour match. “*

- Volunteers have completed another **two week count of fly posters removed**, to compare with last year’s survey. The numbers show there is a real reduction in the incident of flyposting. The Enforcement officer will be requesting the NDT to close the fly posting PSP
- Successful **prosecutions and enforcement** helps with reducing and deterring graffiti and flyposting. During the first year there were several high profile prosecutions but none during this second year. The group has been exploring whether the existing **CCTV coverage** could be better utilised.

It has been established that there is a “dead “spot “within the CCTV coverage, and two additional cameras are required.

It has not been possible to either accurately have the crime figures for the BCR section of the Gloucester Road or for the CCTV images to be obtained for known crimes.

So at present there is no valid case for requesting funding for more cameras unless or until the existing CCTV coverage can be demonstrated to assist with successful police prosecution and or council enforcement.

The police and BCC officers on the Glos road / Street scene group will continue to build the case for additional cameras.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Enforcement.</b> The Enforcement officer reported that the BCC enforcement team is asking for further legal advice about removing blue tacked posters on street furniture and charging back the costs for removal .</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Willingham asks for A1 and A0 conditions to be applied when club venues submit planning applications. The enforcement team feels this helps them.</p>
3	<p><b>Objective: to tackle the problem of lamppost advertising stickers.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers have reported that it has been much easier to remove the <b>lamppost advertising stickers</b> along the Cotham and Redland sections since the application of an AGC.</li> <li>• An application has been submitted for part funding from the wellbeing budget for Nordic Pioneer to clean, repaint, and apply an AGC to the lampposts from Berkeley to Rudthorpe roads in spring 2013.</li> </ul> <p>This would complete the work along the BCR Cheltenham and Gloucester Roads</p>
4	<p><b>Objective : to continue sustainable improvements to trade and domestic waste and street litter.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall there has been an improved but there are still particular hotspots .</li> <li>• <b>Cromwell Road and North road</b> : The improvements reported in June in Cromwell Road , rear of Cheltenham Rd shops, has not been sustained. The situation has deteriorated on all fronts. Increased graffiti, trade waste issues, fly tipping and street litter.</li> <li>• <b>Zetland road</b> – rear of Noosa head. This continues to be a problem area which waste services and enforcement are trying to tackle yet again.</li> <li>• <b>Promenade - Trade waste.</b> The enforcement officer has met with traders who have bins on the Promenade. A second meeting is scheduled for January.</li> <li>• <b>Promenade “ BCC bins on street “ initiative,</b> which is an Area Environmental Officer’s responsibility, has had to be deferred as he has been off sick. It is hoped this can be started in January with the residents living in the flats above the shops.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Objective : to complete £30,000 improvement project to the lower end of Gloucester Road</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No discernible progress since June 2012. There have been three changes of officers, since the start of this project.</li> </ul> <p>20/12/12 Excerpt from email from Mark Sperduty to Cllr Hance <i>“Given the fact that Francis (Mann) had not reached the stage of a confirmed scheme for the parking changes before he left, these cannot be completed this financial year. However, Nigel</i></p>

*(Lapworth) is working on ways to do any non-TRO dependent changes this year, and swap funding around with other schemes in the area (non-NP again) to ensure that the funding is in place for this element next year. “*

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**Objective : to develop an agreed operational policy for street scene volunteers working with BCC and the police**

- Liz Kew has written a draft policy but there is no point in taking this any further until progress on public liability and training requirements is resolved.

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**Objective : to seek public liability for the street scene volunteers.**

- The need for BCC to extend its Volunteer Public Liability policy to cover lone working volunteers ,using graffiti removal sprays and painting over graffiti, was originally raised by Liz Kew in Nov. 2012 with Guy Poultney , then Exec member for Neighbourhoods
- Liz Kew subsequently raised the issue at BCR NP meetings, with Jo Holmes, (previous BCR Area co-ordinator) Stuart Patterson, Community Confidence Manager, Safer Bristol and Richard Fletcher Neighbourhood Engagement Team Manager all seem to understand the issue, indicated their support but with no results.
- More recently Andrew McGrath, Area co-ordinator has raised this issue with Gemma Dando and other senior officers. There is a policy but it still in need of updating but the rule of thumb used currently is that if volunteers are undertaking voluntary work on BCC land/property, they are insured if they are accompanied by a BCC officer. The updated policy needs to reflect the fact that not all voluntary activity will always take place with an officer present.
- At time of writing this report, this issue is still not resolved. So there are still only two volunteers who clean graffiti and remove glued on fly posters. One around the Zetland road / Promenade area and Liz Kew for the rest. No new cleaning volunteers have been recruited since mid-2011, which seems a waste of potential.
- Some new Street Champions have expressed a wish to be able to remove graffiti. If the public liability issue can be sorted then a certificated basic hand removal of graffiti training course could be organised that may satisfy any training requirements for public liability.
- With the possible planned NP activity week in May, which could usefully include street scene projects involving removing graffiti, there is some urgency it getting this matter of public liability resolved and a training course organised.

The NP committee is asked to agree the following proposals, to be funded from the 2012/13 Clean and Green funds. (Remaining money £1,050 as at Dec 2012 )

1. Two sessions of Community pay back - £200
2. Paint and sundries for the following projects - £ 350

#### Projects

3. **Cotham ward** - Redland Rd to Elm road , a maintained lane, which is a walk to school route for new primary school site at the old police station
4. **Redland ward** - Rear of Cheltenham Road shop (Cromwell road / North Road)

#### Notes

- Richard Fletcher has informed Liz Kew that there is no money left in the central budget for community pay back sessions.
- These projects will be dependent on obtaining property owner's permission and or the successful execution of a detrimental to area notice.
- PCSO's Megan Emery and Nadine Horton have agreed to assist with obtaining indemnity forms from Cotham and Redland residents respectively.
- If inclement weather means that painting cannot be done, then it is hoped to have identified alternative work such as epicormic growth removal, vegetation cut backs, waste bin washing, litter picking etc.
- This would leave £500 to be allocated at March NP meeting.
- If the issue of public liability was resolved then this £500 could be used to part fund a basic hand removal of graffiti course. ( see Gloucester Road report)
- This, certificated, basic hand removal of graffiti training course would be run by Nordic Pioneer for 15 participants. The cost per person is £84 so the total cost would be £1,260. The plan would be to jointly fund this with one or more other Neighbourhood Partnerships or to try for sponsorship. The course would be best run in early spring so participants have the light evenings to practise their new skills!

**Liz Kew Jan 2013**