

AGENDA ITEM 6

BCR Street Scene Group Report Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting - January 2014

	The NP is asked to :- Note the contents of this report.
1	Street scene group
1.1	<p>It has been a busy and productive six months for the Street Scene group since the last NP report. The group meets monthly. It's regular members are :- Liz Kew (Resident Chair) Cllrs Fi Hance, David Willingham, Daniella Radice, Trudy Feeney- Waste services, Martin Lawrence -Enforcement, Andrew McGrath Area Co-ordinator, Lyn Parfitt Neighbourhood Development Officer, Mark Owen, Area Environmental officer.</p> <p>It is anticipated that there may need to be changes to the group during 2014 when BCC Budget is finalised and the A&S Police implement changes following the consultation on " A new shape for Avon and Somerset Police "</p>
1.2	<p>The effectiveness of the group, as reported in June 2013, has been hampered somewhat by:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The non availability of a work force for certain types of projects due to the loss of Clean and Green (C&G) team and MG graffiti removal contract but the advent of Neighbourhood Working should improve matters as already shown by the A board work. ▪ The frequent change in police personnel and thus poor attendance at the monthly meetings ▪ No participation from Community Safety during 2013 ▪ Temporary AEO appointments with their main emphasis on Parks ▪ The NDO being given a wider remit and so has less time for Street Scene work
1.3	<p>The Resident group (Street Champions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This group of 50 residents is developing well. Residents are starting to come up with constructive suggestions. ▪ They are invited to a meeting twice a year and an e- newsletter is sent every two or three months. ▪ Street champions are welcome to join the Street Scene group, but so far only a couple have attended a group meeting.
2	Budget report
2.1	Funding was a Well-being grant of £3,300 and the Clean and Green allocation of £1,500 for 2012/13. Total £4,800
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By October, both were fully allocated as a second "hand removal of graffiti" course was planned for March 2014. ▪ In November it was agreed cancel plans for second course due to uncertainties about future NP budget allocations. It was felt that recruiting participants, funded by other NP, might prove difficult.
2.3	Money remaining in the well being allocation is £1,083 (this includes £576 recharges from the graffiti removal course, yet to be received). Possible uses for this money are:-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If 2014/15 Well-being budgets are restricted or Street Scene is not deemed a priority in 2013/14 then this money could be rolled over, which would allow the volunteers to continue to have supplies in 2013/14 ▪ Application of AGC either on Gloucester Rd, where some of the original 2011 applications need a repeat application, or elsewhere within the NP. ▪ Graffiti removal from key locations for which May Gurney are not contracted. ▪ The above two options are only possible if Nordic Pioneer have been contracted to do work elsewhere in Bristol. ▪ Pay for further sessions of Community payback.
3	Neighbourhood working. (NW)
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hayley Ash, Neighbourhood Working co-ordinator has attended the Street Scene meetings on occasions to discuss NW issues. ▪ Issues such as commercial waste, A Boards, pavement obstruction are areas that the Street Scene group have been working on but are now NW priorities, which will be reported on by Hayley Ash. Those will not be repeated in this report.
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Liz Kew has asked John Atkinson / Hayley Ash if a City-wide Street Scene Forum can be established. Similar to the Tree and Parks Forums. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This networking of officers and volunteers would enable sharing of good practise and innovation , facilitation of education and training of volunteers, which can only assist with improving our streets whilst Council staff and budgets are reduced.
4	Achievements
4.1	Network Rail Cheltenham Road Arches bridge. After three years of sustained effort by the enforcement officer, Network rail painted out the graffiti tags on the upper section of the bridge and repaired the nets underneath the bridge where pigeons were living.
4.2	Hazel Ave (Cotham) Removal of graffiti from maintained lanes which are used as a walk to school route and the reactivation of the NW.
4.3	Ist Muslim Scout Hut – Muller Road. Street artist, Greg Minto, was commissioned to work with the Scout group and their parents to produce Street Art for the long side wall which borders the cycle path. Full report available on request.
4.4	Draycott Rd open space. (Bishopston) Narcissi and crocus planted.
4.5	Residents support information / Student information flyer Due to the usefulness of the Chandos Rd student flyer that Gay John had produced for several years, she was persuaded to apply for both UofB and UWE community grants to produce flyers. These were designed primarily to inform residents, particularly outside of the main student enclaves, how to welcome students as neighbours but also what help was available to them. These have proved very successful.
4.6	Promenade £10,000 project. The project is nearing completion with the new trees being planned as this report is being written.
4.7	Snow wardens: Residents were encouraged to train as Snow Wardens at a Street Champions meeting , all three forums and via local societies emails and web sites.
4.8	“First steps” letters have been designed for Street Champions to initially take the first step by informing fellow residents about an issue without the need to take up

	<p>officer time. Topics are recycling, graffiti and parking. Although ready in June, the parking letter was held back, due to the general upset about the resident parking scheme, until this autumn. It is now being piloted in Bishopston, away from the Resident Parking Scheme areas. A second, more graphic version, may be used in January.</p>
4.9	<p>Walking Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A project to implementation recommendations within 2011 BCC Walking Strategy has been started. ▪ Many of the recommendations are being tackled within BCR but in a piece meal fashion. ▪ The concept is to systematically map prioritised streets to see what issues need to be addressed which should also provide guidance to NP, BCC officers and Neighbourhood Police when making decisions on resource allocation. ▪ To produce a map of the Redland / Bishopston area not included in the map being produced by Sustainable Redland. ▪ This will target provision of information about the easiest and most accessible walking routes, including where seats are located etc.
4.10	<p>Gloucester Road in Bloom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪The group, it's community supporters along with Bishopston Matters worked with the Gloucester Road Traders Association (GRTA) to organise both the purchase of 26 hanging baskets and a forecourt display competition. ▪ Four NP (Street Scene) / GRTA newsletters were produced to promote Glos Rd. in Bloom, NP Forums and police initiatives. These were written by the Street Scene group with a forward by the GRTA Chairman. These were delivered to each shop by members of the street scene group, volunteers from the Bishopston Society, GRTA Secretary, and PCSO's. ▪Unfortunately it has been decided, at present, not to precede with "Gloucester Road in Bloom 2014 ". The current preoccupation of the new GRTA Board with the BID process has meant that the GRTA does not been feel able to participate in this initiative.
4.12	<p>Eastleigh Rd / Kingsley Road- Awaiting Network Rail to repair boundary fences and removal fly tipping from their land promised for the next fiscal year. The two roads have always been a little tatty, a magnet for fly tipping, old accumulated graffiti , over hanging vegetation , upswept leaves , with a rusty old utility box which aids access onto the NR land. These problems are being tackled so the roads look better and hopefully reduce fly tipping.</p>
5	<p>Challenges ahead</p>
5.1	<p>Graffiti Removal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The standard of MG graffiti removal has diminished over the last 6-9 months. This may be partly due to MG's financial position, so sometimes certain paint / graffiti removal supplies are not always available and partly the original contract specification. ▪ The contract did not specify colour matching so there have been interesting colour variations even on such things as utility boxes!

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is no removal of overhead height graffiti and the men are not supplied with extending painting poles. ▪ The local, experienced MG operative is retiring at the end of December. A concern is that it is understood that his replacement who started mid-December will only be trained by the retiring operative, not professionally by Nordic Pioneer, who trained the original Sita team. ▪ This retiree, who has worked with Liz Kew for five years, was involved at the start of the Gloucester Road project. Indemnity forms have always been signed prior to graffiti removal, technically valid for 6 months, but both know the shops that had originally signed indemnity forms so have continued to use them as valid. This is also true for hot spots all over the NP. ▪ There may need to be some discussion about ID forms being valid for longer and certainly a campaign to get renew ID forms
5.2	<p>Concerns about graffiti removal can be partially ameliorated by :-</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the Street Scene Group contracting Nordic Pioneer to do some work. It was Nordic Pioneer who trained the original Sita team. This is not a cheap option and can only be used very sparingly. ▪ the use of the community pay back team. They are available to work on a Sunday which allows projects not only on Gloucester Road but elsewhere in the NP to be effectively done when the streets are quieter. The work is agreed by the Street Scene group but organised and supervised by Liz Kew. The down side is that a project is not always suitable for as many as 5-8 men when really only 2 -3 are required. Parking the welfare vehicle and trailer can be a challenge. ▪ In April, it is proposed that the Avon and Somerset Probation Service will change to a Community Rehabilitation Company , and be merged with South Gloucestershire and Wilshire. This will then be subject to bids to run the service. So the long term future of community pay back availability is not assured ▪ continuing to professionally train volunteers to hand remove graffiti. When the BCR Graffiti removal course was being planned, both MG and the Parks department were offered places, unfortunately both declined this offer ▪ engaging with GRTA for traders to take more responsibilities for their own premises. Although some do, the majority do not, which caused the original accumulation of graffiti tagging. ▪ by volunteers, who like MG are not allowed to use ladders, using a long extending pole to paint over high graffiti.

Liz Kew
Resident Chair, BCR NP Street Scene Dec 20th 2013