



## MY NEIGHBOURHOOD



AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

### Bishopston, Cotham, Redland NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014

**Report of:** Andrew McGrath – Communities & Neighbourhoods

**Title:** Area Co-ordinator

**Contact Telephone Number:** 0117 9036436

#### The NP is asked:

1. **To note** the updates from the recent 'Super Forum' held on 10<sup>th</sup> May
2. **To note** the Neighbourhood Management Service update, including the Neighbourhood Partnership Review update
3. **To note** the latest meetings schedule and **advise** the AC in its updating
4. **To note and discuss** the most recent update on the roll-out of the Cotham North and Redland Resident Parking Schemes
5. **To note** the brief update on the recent meeting between residents and the two university Vice Chancellors
6. **To note** the non-devolved S106 funds relating to the BCR NP area

## 1. BCR 'Superforum'

Super Forum – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014

The welcome was given by Chair of the NP, Nick Clark. An explanation of the NP was given, with examples of what the NP has achieved.

The Forum had two special guests – Kris Donaldson, Director of Bristol Green Capital; and Stephen Williams MP, Member for Bristol West.

**Kris Donaldson.** Kris has an international CV and has a track record of working on high profile projects, including Liverpool City Council's celebrations as European Capital of Culture and the Sydney Olympics.

We are looking to include as many aspects of the green agenda as possible in 2015 – food, energy conservation, green energy, tackling pollution, promoting green lifestyles, and holding numerous local, national and international events.

We want every part of Bristol to be involved, and will be looking to visit all the NPs in coming months and year to promote the Green Capital to local communities. We will be working with many organisations – public, cultural, educational, as well as industry, to ensure the event reaches as many parts of the city as possible.

There will be a fund, held by Quartet, which local groups can bid in to for projects. The project team is looking for innovative ideas to improve the environment and promote green living in Bristol. So far Bristol Green Capital has raised £7m from BCC and central government. Negotiations are on-going to increase that amount significantly, via sponsorship from local high-tech industries. Announcements are due soon.

The main goals for the project are to: work with communities, neighbourhoods and organisations across Bristol; to build on Bristol's international profile as a green city; and for Bristol to become a leading centre for sustainability and green industries and science.

**Stephen Williams MP** is Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The minister is responsible for:

- integration and race equality
- localism, decentralisation and community rights
- building regulations and standards
- empty homes
- climate change and sustainable development

Stephen discussed aspects of the Localism Act that are likely to be of interest to active communities.

**Neighbourhood Plans.** There are 5 underway at present in Bristol. These are a way for local people to say how they want their neighbourhood to develop. They involve a referendum, which often have a very high turnout. Once it's been agreed, this document then has legal standing and has to be referenced in any planning decisions locally. NP areas with Neighbourhood Plans have a higher payment of Community Infrastructure Levy money available (25% rather than 15% for other NPs). Neighbourhood Plans can't include design guidelines at present.

**Assets of Community Value** - This recognises community use of local facilities. This means that when a building or site becomes available, communities have the right to bid to buy the asset. There is no legal obligation for the sellers to sell to them but the sale can be delayed to give communities the time to develop their plans for the site (and raise the money).

**Community Asset Transfer.** Local authorities can transfer the ownership (or lease, rental) of land and buildings to communities for less than their market value. This change of ownership of assets from local authorities (and other public organisations) to communities features in the Localism Act and helps secure assets of community value for the continued benefit of local communities. There are many places in the country, including Bristol, where this is happening.

**Right to Challenge.** Communities can take over services currently run by local authorities. This hasn't been used often but is likely to be tested and become more common in the future. Interested organisations such as community/voluntary organisations can provide an expression of interest that the local authority is then required to examine. The process is complicated as it will involve detailed costings, business planning and proper procurement processes.

Other interesting developments include - **Community shares** – involves the sale of shares in community enterprises serving a community purpose, such as food cooperatives, community assets, renewable energy companies etc. **Crowd Funding** – usually involving investors online, is a way of raising either commercial or not-for-profit funding for projects and campaigns. All of the above are examples of the government trying to free the ways in which communities can use new methods to raise funds or secure assets for the benefit of the community.

Questions to Stephen Williams:

**Q. Can you register someone else's land as a community asset? For example, could the Bristol Tree Forum challenge BCC on its tree policy?**

Yes, this is a good example of a discrete service. Is a tree a public asset? Not in a garden but on public land – yes. It is important to note that rights are evolving, so we don't yet know exactly where we stand on all these issues yet.

**Q. Is the treatment of the Memorial gate disrespectful?** Not necessarily. The pillar is to be preserved. Some may have particular views on whether a supermarket on the Memorial Ground is disrespectful. This is a matter of personal preference.

**Q. Do you have a view on commercial organisations hoarding property?** We need to be building houses. This is one of our biggest national needs. Encouraging property companies to release land will mostly be based on commercial considerations.

**Q. How is a community defined according to the Localism Act?** A community can define itself. This is not prescribed.

**Q. Who can purchase a community asset?** Whoever sets up a community/voluntary organisation. The legislation is not prescriptive. A community/voluntary organisation must be formally constituted and be a formal body, with the usual elements of such a body.

**Q. What role will Bristol have in the World War One commemorations?** Memorial stones to all Bristol's VC winners will be laid. Medal awardees' graves will be identified and commemorated. Bristol children are taking part in a national programme of visiting battle sites in France and Belgium. There are many other ceremonies across the city as well.

**Q. Can the Whiteladies Picture House be listed as a community asset?** No. This is a hugely complicated story. It has the added burden, from a community perspective, of being a very valuable asset – at least £2m.

## **Carousel**

Following the first speaker, attendees were invited to visit the topic tables to discuss issues of concern. The following issues were discussed:

### **Neighbourhood Partnership & New Ideas**

- Replacing wooden bollards on Redland Green – Abigail (H&S issue as they are sharp)
- Part of RCAS (bank account)
- Re-positioning of NPs needs to be consulted on

### **High Streets**

- Loss of retail units to residential accommodation (e.g Redland Road)
- Loss of rear service yards of retail units to residential accommodation (e.g 6 bed to rear of 100 Whiteladies road)
- A-Boards (other furniture) blocking the pavement
- Differences between Whiteladies + Glos Road
  - Rents? Units? Population (more transient around Whiteladies)
- Cotham Hill street party next Sunday
- Glos rd central Mayfest last Saturday
- Chandos Rd street party next month
- Commercial bins issue ('housing' suggested)
- Recycling inefficient (wind, improper use, lids/bags)
- Fly posters

## Highways

- Cars blocking pavements in Ashley Down area
- Car sales (illegal?) taking place in Ashley Down area
- What about parking at the new surgery on the Gloucester Road
- Commercial bins continue to be a problem on the Promenade
- Redland Park pavement build-out is ridiculous. It causes more problems than it could ever solve. Needs to be removed.

The Area Coordinator and Neighbourhood development Officer will try to resolve what issues they can and report back to the respective Neighbourhood Forums

## 2. Neighbourhood Management Service update

A briefing note was sent to Neighbourhood Partnerships in early May to update you on our staffing changes. As promised, more details about this are provided here.

Across the council, services are working to a three area model based on the neighbourhood working areas (north, east central, south). This is to enable better delivery of services within neighbourhoods. Some partners such as the police are also working to the same three area model.

A number of staff within the Neighbourhood Management service have elected to take voluntary severance, and this has resulted in some changes in personnel within the teams that work with Neighbourhood Partnerships. Our new structure, with details of the jobs and the people who will now be doing them, is detailed below:

Your area [north] will be managed by an **Area Neighbourhood Manager**, Hayley Ash. The responsibilities of the area manager are as follows:

- Bringing together shared agendas and improving shared services across the neighbourhood area [north, east central, south]
- Manage staff in the neighbourhood area and a cross city team [business support/street scene enforcement/community development].
- Lead on one of three cross cutting citywide themes for the team:
  - Governance (including the neighbourhood partnership review)
  - Improving service delivery
  - Community development and active citizenship

The lead officer for your Neighbourhood Partnership is Andrew McGrath, the **Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator**. Each NP Coordinator will manage two neighbouring NPs.

The community engagement and neighbourhood priority delivery in your area will be carried out by **Neighbourhood Officers**. These officers will support the forums and other community engagement for the NP, and will also undertake community engagement, problem solving and priority delivery for your neighbourhood priorities. Some interviews still need to happen for these posts, currently the officers allocated to the north are Paul Griffiths, Julia Pullin and Gary Brentnall.

The **Community Development team** has been designed as a citywide team, and will retain a clear connection with neighbourhood partnerships to deliver community development which supports NP aspirations, as well as broader community development work across the city. The work programme for this team is currently being designed, and we will share the plans for this team when they are ready.

The **Street Scene Enforcement team** has joined the neighbourhood management service and will deliver against neighbourhood priorities as well as undertaking hotspot work based on analysis of cleanliness and crime data.

### **Neighbourhood Partnership Review Update**

At your March meeting you received an update on the NP review which included a summary of the first steps which we were proposing:

- Un-ring-fencing the devolved budget.
- Implementing a neighbourhood services charter
- Identify and implement efficiencies for improved delivery
- Implementing a programme of citywide events

### **Update:**

- The removal of the ring fence for the devolved budgets (Local Traffic, Clean and Green, Wellbeing) is a Mayoral decision and a paper is being submitted to the Mayor in June. Confirmation of the decision will be provided for you verbally at your meeting or via your NP Coordinator if the decision hasn't yet been made by the date of your meeting. Removing the ring fence doesn't mean that your NP has to change the way that you currently allocate your money. However, if you would like to spend money on some different things, you may want to start talking about what you would like to change. Your NP Coordinator has some guidance available to help with this.

- We would like to invite representatives of your neighbourhood partnership to the first citywide event on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2014** in order to work with us to progress some of the above. We would be grateful if you could identify some reps from you NP to attend. Ideas of things to cover are:
  - Neighbourhood partnership plans - what is the best type of plan and how will they be used to allocate the neighbourhood (unringfenced) budget?
  - Neighbourhood services charter – which services would you like to work with first?
  - Improved and reduced paperwork and reporting
  - Improving communications
  - How do we show that NPs are effective and good value for money?
  - Developing a 3 year programme for citywide events

### **Parks approach to Grounds Maintenance Service – proposal for NPs**

Last year as part of the Neighbourhood Partnership review questionnaire we asked what should be decided or influenced locally in the future. 3250 responses to the survey were received. Parks and green / open spaces was the third most frequent response to this question. Additionally, in the consultation focus groups, you told us that you wanted to be able to influence the design of the services and contracts that are provided by the council.

#### **Proposal from BCC's Parks department**

The council's parks department would like to adapt the council's grounds maintenance service to respond to the priorities of the Neighbourhood Partnerships.

*Definition of Grounds maintenance service: Grounds maintenance, grass cutting, litter picking, shrubs, maintenance of assets within green spaces*

Parks would like to work with NPs to influence and prioritise what is important in relation to grounds maintenance in their area.

There will be a clear budget to pay for grounds maintenance services and we will use that as a guide to assist you in sharing your views with us on priorities.

**We will reshape the service according to your priorities in each of the 14 NP areas. From this we will be looking at what are the services that we will deliver the same across the city and what may be more tailored to each NP according to priorities.**

Whilst we are working with you in the next year/18 months on this, we will also be considering how we can deliver a longer term service which delivers to your needs

for the next 5-10 years. This will include considering who the best provider of the service will be.

### What we are asking from NPs

1. Each NP to tell us whether they want to be involved and to give their initial thoughts and comments
2. NPs to decide how they want to progress this within their NP area (e.g. through an environment subgroup, special meeting, themed forum...)

### Budget context

Parks has been impacted by the £500k saving it has to make from 2015/16, and also from the staff reductions as a result of the council-wide restructure. We are taking this opportunity to bring services together (e.g. caretaking, estates, parks) to achieve greater flexibility and speed of response, as well as economies of scale.

### 3. Meeting Schedule

	<b>Meeting round 4 2013/14</b>	<b>Meeting round 1 2014/15</b>	<b>Meeting round 2 2014/15</b>	<b>Meeting round 3 2014/15</b>
<b>Neighbourhood Partnership / Committee</b>	7.00pm Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June Redland Green School	7.00pm Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October Venue tbc	7.00pm Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> January Venue tbc	7.00pm Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March Venue tbc
<b>Neighbourhood Partnership Pre meeting</b>	9.00am Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June Venue tbc	9.00am Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October Venue tbc	5pm Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> January Venue tbc	9.30am Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March Venue tbc
<b>Informal Neighbourhood Partnership meeting</b>	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
				
Bishopston Forum	Shared 'super' forum Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> May St Michael & AA	7.00pm Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September The Pavillion GCCG	7.00pm Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December Brunel Fields?	7.00pm Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February Venue tbc
Cotham Forum 5	Shared 'super' forum Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	7.00pm Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> September St Peter's & P School	7.00pm Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December Colston School	7.00pm Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February Venue tbc
Redland Forum	Shared 'super' forum Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	7.00pm Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September Redland Green Bowling Club	7.00pm Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December Redland Green Bowling Club?	7.00pm Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February Venue tbc

#### 4. Resident Parking Scheme update

Following careful consideration of all objections received during the statutory consultation period (Friday 31 January to Monday 24 February 2014), the decision was taken on 9 May 2014 to proceed with implementing the Redland RPS with minor amendments to the advertised proposals.

The updated plan of the Redland RPS area can be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/transport-and-streets/redland-rd-residents-parking-scheme>

All organisations and businesses based in the area will receive a permit application pack by the beginning of June 2014. If you have not received a permit pack by 16 June, please contact Parking Services at [parking.permits@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:parking.permits@bristol.gov.uk) or call 0117 922 2600

Pay and display machines are currently being installed. The contract for the signing and lining works is due to be let imminently and it will then be possible to refine the construction programme and announce the start date of the Redland RPS. Barring unforeseen circumstances, the Council intends to start both the Redland RPS and Cotham North RPS simultaneously (NP Coordinator's underlining)

#### 5. Vice Chancellors meet the community

At a meeting convened by Anthony Negus at Colston's Primary School on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 60 members of the BCR community met with the two University Vice Chancellors to discuss the challenges and joys of sharing the community with students. (Full notes of the meeting available on request)

In a lively exchange of opinions and ideas, the main themes touched upon at the meeting included:

- Most residents agree that the majority of students make good neighbours
- It is the minority that seem to cause most of the problems that residents experience
- The main issues for residents with regard to student neighbours are noise, rubbish and waste, cars.
- Noise would appear to be the biggest single issue, both from within student houses and out on the streets
- It is clear that the VCs are taking the residents' concerns seriously
- A number of remedies are in place (or soon will be)
- These include community liaison staff, staff will visit problem household and individuals, university disciplinary processes can be used to deal with the worst offenders, the VCs offered to come out and talk with the students in the neighbourhoods with the densest populations of students
- The police have a role but can't always attend at short notice
- Educating students with regard to use of waste services, cars, public transport and being good neighbours has begun but has some way to go yet

It was clear from the mood of the meeting that residents felt the VCs had taken their concerns seriously.

## 6. Non Devolved S106 money

The NP will recall that it requested that all S106 pertaining to this NP now be shown. The usual devolved S106 funding table is in the NP Business Report.

<b>NON DEVOLVED SECTION 106 CONTRIBUTIONS HELD AT 30 APRIL 2014</b>						
<b>Permission / Site / S106 Code</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Dept with spending responsibility</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	<b>Current Contribution Value</b>	<b>Date to be Spent / Committed by</b>	<b>Purpose of Contribution / Comments</b>
10/00101 / 148 to 156 Gloucester Road, Bishopston / ZCD...A37	Bishopston	N'hoods	Richard Fletcher (Parks Operations Manager)	£4,111.86	11 Jan 17	The provision and/or improvement of citywide sports pitches
12/01237 / Glos County Cricket Club, Nevil Road, Bishopston / ...SB42	Bishopston	People	Bob Rutherford (Education Facilities Manager)	£25,979.79	12 Dec 18	The provision of education services within 1 kilometre of the development.
06/02256 / 288 Gloucester Road, Bishopston / ZCD...895	Bishopston	Place	Tim Southall (Enabling Team Manager)	£91,119.51	No Limit	The provision of affordable housing in the City of Bristol
06/04630 / Cotham Lawn House, Cotham Lawn Road, Cotham / ZCD...830	Cotham	Place	Alistair Cox (Strategic Transport Service Manager)	£1,703.91	No Limit	Car Club Contribution (see note at foot of spreadsheet)
06/03782 / 21 Dundonald Road, Westbury Park / ZCD...823	Redland	Place	Alistair Cox (Strategic Transport Service Manager)	£2,495.59	No Limit	Car Club Contribution (see note at foot of spreadsheet)