

Agenda Item 6
Bishopston, Cotham and Redland (BCR) Neighbourhood Partnership (NP)
Street Scene Group Report March 2015

The NP is asked to:-

- 1. Note the contents of this report.**

- 2. Agree that 2014 -15 £1,500 Clean and Green funding be allocated to the BCR NP Street Scene Group – DECISION REQUIRED**

1	<p>Reorganisation of the Street Scene group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ During 2014 the organisation of the Street Scene Group (SSG) become unsustainable. There was only one resident member, who acted as both chair and secretary. There was loss of NP officer and local police participation due to reorganisation. Therefore the group did not meet for several months although the practical work continued with the much appreciated support of Trudy Feeney Area Waste Services Manager. ▪ As the Police were in the midst of organisational changes which in turn affected the ability of the police to attend meetings, Sgt Sean Underwood, the last officer to have regular contact with the group, invited Liz Kew to become a Police Volunteer. This has made it easier for her to continue to work with Clifton and Cotham policing team. ▪ In September 2014 there was a restructuring of the SSG. Liz Kew invited three residents to join the group. Rob Umphray, Mon Lougee and Alison Bromilow. For the first time, the group had an active Neighbourhood officer in John Atkinson. He has now been replaced by Matt Jones. Rob Umphray has taken over as chair of the group. ▪ The new resident members have each brought new skills and energy to the group
2	<p>Public Liability Insurance (PLI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The NP and the SSG has unsuccessfully lobbied the BCC for several years to include the Street Scene volunteers in the PLI that Parks volunteers enjoy. ▪ Due to the lack of response from BCC, PLI for BCR Street Scene volunteers has been successfully negotiated by Rob Umphray with Tennyson Insurance for £75 funded by the NP Street Scene grant. ▪ This will enable more volunteers to be recruited instead of relying upon NHW volunteers who have Public Liability via National Neighbourhood Watch, which is the way it has been for the last few years.
3	<p>Trade waste/ bins on streets / fly tipping (illegal dumping including bags of rubbish)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the major Street Scene issue across all three wards • With the notable exception of some street Champions, the take up of some simple measures such as marking the house number on bins, encouraging the use of nets, and directly talking to other residents has been smaller than hoped. • A more systematic approach of targeting particular groups of houses or flats may be the way forward with volunteers using the “first step letters” waste calendars, and booklets. Recently this approach has been used successfully both with traders and flats above

shops but it takes team work with volunteers and officers working together.

- Rob Umphray has been pursuing a combination of approaches with Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO). The process starts with capturing the evidence weekly including pictures, informing the letting agency every couple of weeks with evidence, escalating to the owner, if students are tenants then the university and ultimately the private housing team. As the process escalates, he copies everyone lower down the chain with the emails so they have every chance to help address the issue *before* it gets to Bristol City Council (BCC) private housing and to Cllr. level. It has yielded some successes.
- For some years Liz Kew has been sending in photo evidence both to the BCC Enforcement Officers and the police but this evidence is “lost” overtime and is only accessible to one officer making knowledge transfer challenging. Neither BCC nor the police are allowed to use “Drop Box” so John Atkinson has found a system whereby both BCC and police officers and named individuals can share information using an Alfresco account. This is a new piece of work which initially will be used to target problems with trade bins.
- Matt Jones has worked with Enforcement officers to help resolve the problem of bags being left on Blackboy Hill by making use of No fly tipping / max fines notices and “CCTV in operation” signs on a lamppost. It is hoped that these signs will become more available.
- The residents or traders who do not have English as their first language present a particular challenge. The method of waste collection can be quite foreign to them (actually for anyone new to Bristol as well!). The SSG is working with the Enforcement Officer to produce a simple pictogram to make it easy for people follow the correct waste procedures.

4 Street Champions/ Volunteers /Action days

- There have been 5 successful action days since September. A combination of litter picking and vegetation cut back. Photos have been posted on the BCR NP web page, on Litteraction, a CPRE website, on Keep Britain Tidy’s Big Tidy Up website, the BCR NP facebook page, on our neighbourly page as well as on Twitter.
- Street Champions (approx. 50) have continued reporting issues to the different agencies and have been supported by newsletters and emails. There was only one meeting of the group last year in November. Further meetings are planned for the spring.
- Liz Kew is working with two other Neighbourhood officers to update the city wide street champion’s guide.

5 Anti-Litter campaign

- Rob Umphray has spearheaded the anti-litter campaign. Initially around Ashley Down Road area but then across the three wards with the action days.
- He is using twitter (Captain tidy @ KeepBristolTidy) to connect with other groups in Bristol such as Neighbourly, BS5, and Friends of Stoke Park. Outside of Bristol useful connections have been made with Keep Britain Tidy, Keep Wales Tidy and Zilch
- Using the “nudge theory” concept, a pilot is planned about using pavement footprints towards a litter bin outside the Ashley Down Co-operative store by the City of Bristol College. The store has indicated it will help fund the pilot. Similar schemes have

	<p>increased litter bin usage by 60-70%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some litter pickers and bag hoops have been purchased for residents who are regularly litter picking. More will be purchased when funds are available.
6	<p>Graffiti and flyposting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The rapid removal of flyposting and graffiti by volunteers either cleaning or reporting or overpainting continues throughout the week, especially along Gloucester road. It is clear that the “war” is slowly being won after a three year period. There is marked reduction in both tagging and fly posting. ▪ There is some graffiti that is best removed but does not fit the Kier contract, usually because it is above head height. In the past that normally had to wait until the Doncaster based Nordic Pioneer company was contracted to do work. Use of a Bristol based graffiti cleaning company is proving successful and more timely. ▪ Fremantle Lane. The removal of graffiti from the 14 rear garages and properties is nearing completion and the residents will be enabled to keep the lane clear of new tags.
7	<p>Response to planning applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nigel Butler, Manager, Planning Enforcement Team was invited to the December meeting to discuss planning enforcement in particular adequate waste storage in the initial plans and enforcement of conditions. • Rob Umphray with Alison Bromilow’s support has been submitting vigorous responses to planning applications with an emphasis on adequate bins storage being incorporated into the original plans. We have also requested that conditions are applied that bins are labelled and not left on the pavement. This has met with some success. The aim is to design the problem out in order to reduce the challenges of dealing with the problem afterwards.
8	<p>Social Media.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing the use of Social Media (Facebook and Twitter) is needed to improve communication with younger residents who use it as their normal mode of communication, • Rob Umphray has demonstrated that using Twitter can get the attention of organisations such as estate agents when they are not being environmentally responsible as well as a good way of getting quick action from national chains. • A Social Media workshop is planned for Tuesday May 12th (evening) at Gloucestershire Cricket Club. This is to encourage more use of the BCR NP Facebook and twitter to improve both networking within the NP and with other groups. The workshop will be a joint venture with Bristol Neighbourhood Watch Network who also want to use social media to communicate with NHW co-ordinators.
9	<p>University Liaison</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SSG is represented on the Universities Community Liaison Group.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “Resident Support “ and “Student Welcome” flyers were produced with a grant from the University of Bristol. They are well received and have proved useful again this year. • The majority of University funded resident / Student welcome parties take place in the autumn, It has been noted by the university that some students stay in Bristol to work in the summer. All the new student flat leases start on July 1st However, the “Love where you live“ team do not start visiting until after Fresher’s week in the autumn and often not until the end of the year. • A pilot project is planned to hold a “welcome to the community” event for the BS7 UWE students in July. There are over 436 properties housing over a 1,000 UWE students in the Bishopston Ward alone. The underlying purpose is to give them information about the waste collection dates and details. A community grant application will be submitted to UWE.
10	<p>Traders and Business Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloucester Road Business Improvement District: Cllr Fi Hance and Liz Kew attend the monthly BID management meetings. • Gloucester Road Traders Association (GRTA) – Cllr Daniella Radice attends the quarterly meetings and maintains links with Sarah Thorpe of Glos. Road Central • There is no regular liaison between the Whiteladies Road and Cotham Hill Traders and SSG.
11	<p>Walking Strategy & Neighbourhood plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BCR NP Walking Strategy was agreed at the at the March NP meeting but has now been superseded by the Neighbourhood Plans which should incorporate the agreed elements from the walking strategy. ▪ The Bishopston Map project, funded by the BCC Active Travel Fund, has been carried out by Cllr Daniella Radice, Liz Kew and Mick Broggio. Useful survey tools have been developed that can be used in surveying roads for “walkability”.

Liz Kew
On behalf of BCR NP Street Scene Group

March 2015