

Agenda Item 6 – BCR NP – Monday 12th October 2015

C&E report on the Community Fair for NP meeting 12 October 2015.

The Community Fair 2015 held on September 19th, was aimed at bringing in a number of people who did not usually attend forums in order to increase awareness of the Neighbourhood Partnership and the community groups in the area and the opportunities for influencing decisions in the area. The Little Grants for Big Ideas programme was set up to encourage wider community participation in the NP, and activities and entertainments aimed at children were included, to encourage parents of young children to attend.

All 5 Parks groups and 4 local organisations on the NP were offered the opportunity to have a stall at the fair. RCAS and the Bishopston Society took up the offer, together with the Sustainable Travel, Tree and Small Grant NP working groups. A number of organisations were invited to attend to test the interest of local residents in other opportunities eg the Fishponds Repair Café and other local groups such as the Gloucester Road Central and BCR energy groups had stalls. Groups and individuals applying for Little Grants for Big Ideas were also asked to present their projects on a stall as well as in a short presentation. There were 25 stalls and activities in total, and 3 workshops.

153 people completed the sign in forms. (We do not yet have the figures to assess which of these people had not previously been on the NP mailing list.) People surveyed said that they had been made aware of the Fair through all of the publicity methods, social media, posters and articles in local press, as well as emails from the NP and from community groups to their members. There were also a number of people who did not come into the hall but visited the stalls and activities outside the hall- say 20-30.

The cost of the event was within the £2,000 set aside for the 'Superforum' (brought forward from last year's budget). £1000 was used for the 'Little Grants for Big Ideas' grant programme and £650 for the entertainments and activities providers, (LitterARTI £250, Bikeman £150, Misfits Theatre group £250. Refreshments cost £45.50). Workshop presenters and Redland Green Choir did not charge. Total is approx. £1,700.

Hall hire and poster/ leaflet production was covered under the C&E forum budget which is held by BCC for NP administration.

The grants allocation process generated a good deal of interest with grant applicants encouraging their voters to attend to support them. The 4 successful applicants were

Window Wanderland. A magical walking trail that lets you see your neighbourhood in a new light, inclusive, creative and fun. 150 votes

1st Bishopston Scouts- to hold a local beer festival with live local music and local pies to eat to help raise money for 1st Bishopston Scouts Votes: 117 votes

Chandos Road Community Association: start-up funding for the Chandos Rd Community Association whose inaugural meeting attended by 30 local residents was held on September 2nd in St Saviours Hall, Woodfield Road, Redland: 74 votes

New Works Ballet Theatre: New Works Ballet theatre is the UK's newest ballet company and unlike any other companies before, it promises to actively include as many people as possible market we are passionate about bringing arts to Bristol in a wide range of affordable and fun ways to suit everyone: 56 votes

The two unsuccessful applicants were:

Send a Happy Thought. (Helen Makes Paper) Sometimes, just reading a nice phrase or a positive note can make you smile and change the course of the day. I want the help of local people to exchange happy thoughts to surprise and inspire each other: 50 votes

Meet the parents: (Next step North Bristol). Informal evening to connect parents of local junior school children with parents of local secondary school children: 27 votes

The overall feedback has been good and the format seems to have met with approval. Although, because of the location, the predominant area represented was the Bishopston area (Redland and Bishopston wards) people from the rest of the NP area did attend the Fair. The format/layout allowed the volunteers manning the group stalls to interact with each other, as well as being able to be engaged with the entertainments and voting.

22 feedback forms were completed, mostly in discussion with EL

- only 5 of the 22 had never heard of the NP, but only a few of those who were aware of it were regular attendees or otherwise closely involved
- supporting grant applicants had clearly got some people there - and seeing the MP (3); a general sense of community interest was the most common reason given
- lots of people mentioned the Misfits as something they'd particularly enjoyed, though this was partly to do with the timing of talking to them; otherwise, the community feeling was the thing
- the local issues most on people's minds were nearly all traffic related - parking, parking on pavements, speeding, lack of 20mph enforcement, rat running.

We are still assessing the volunteer man hours involved in setting up and running the Fair but the figure is likely to be in the region of 156 hours for the fair committee. BCC officer time was approximately 74 hours.

Alison Bromilow

Community Fair committee/ C&E group