

Agenda Item 7 (d) – BCR NP Monday 12th October 2015

BCR NP Street Scene Group Report - October 2015

The partnership is asked to note the content of this report

The SSG holds regular meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Gloucester Old Spot which are well attended. The Alfresco information sharing system reported in June has been slow to realise. Additional training has been organised for SSG group members and officers. Information, photos and reports are now being uploaded.

Trade waste, bins on streets & fly tipping

- The 'Commercial Waste Duty of Care' document is being shared with trader's organisations. The document has been approved by BCC officers. We are awaiting publication on the BCC website and then inclusion in the 'High Street Toolkit'
- The group has also produced an easy to understand poster guide for traders which is being trialled at a number of sites across Bristol. If this proves successful, our plan is to offer this to other NPs that face similar issues.
- We have also produced a pictogram that shows residents how to present their waste properly. This will be particularly useful for residents whose first language isn't English, students and residents with poor eyesight that may struggle to read current BCC leaflets.
- The final weeks of 'The Big Give' proved difficult in two locations with side waste accumulating and not being collected. The collection process and these locations will be reviewed next year.
- We have seen an increase in fly tipping, particularly along Ashley Down Road.

Anti-litter campaign

- From May 2015 to September 2015 (17 weeks) the SSG has collected 54 sacks of litter. Notably, this figure does not include street champion tidy ups that are not formally recorded. Whilst we are seeing a reduction in some areas there is still too much litter on the streets. The group would like to encourage, retailers to take more responsibility for the litter that they produce by having their own bins on the forecourt. This approach has been successful at Premier Stores and Bishopston Fish Bar.

Planning comments

- Since the last report, we have had numerous successes where designs have been changed including the New Church in Redland and a major residential development on Ashley Down Road. This is part of our strategy of avoiding problems before they happen.

Graffiti and flyposting

- As part of our Ashley Down Road Project, the group has been working on a major graffiti project covering an area that is on one of our ward boundaries. The funding for the materials came from Ashley, Easton & Lawrence Hill NP. The group, led by Liz Kew provided the

management, organised the indemnity forms and co-ordinated residents and community pay back. Liz has also made a huge contribution with the painting.

- Special recognition and thanks for the major graffiti project should go to Liz Kew and BCC Officers Matt Jones and Neil Burwell all of whom have worked extremely hard to ensure the success of this major project.
- The rapid removal of flyposting and graffiti is still a core activity of the group. We are seeing an increase in the number of tags across the ward. Liz, Monica and Alison have tried out a new graffiti kit that does not require formal training and will try and recruit more cleaning volunteers.
- We have seen an increase in the number of fly posters along major transport routes such as Gloucester and Ashley Down Road as well as in residential areas with heavy concentrations of students. Last October, the usual flyposting enforcement programme did not happen. The SSG feels that this may be one of the reasons for the increase.
- We have been reporting tagged post boxes and phone boxes to Royal Mail and BT. Despite publicised rhetoric about getting tags removed quickly, both of these organisations move at a very slow pace. The group is concerned that if left, these tags encourage more tags in the local area.

Street champions and volunteers

- A street champions meeting was held in July but unfortunately attendance was not that good. An additional meeting planned for October 10th. One of our new volunteers has learning difficulties and is able to take part in various activities. This helps confirm our belief that there is something for everyone in the group; irrespective of background or ability.
- Following our stand at the BCRNP Community Fair we have had three expressions of interest from residents either as spotters [those that report issues to a core member or councillor], reporters [those that report directly on the BCC website] or volunteers [those who are happy to undertake the practical work].
- We have a stall at the UWE Volunteer Fair at the end of September where we hope to sign up some student volunteers and we are speaking at the Bishopston Society AGM.

Student welcome event

- We are holding a student welcome event at 'The Bishops' on Cheltenham Road. This event is aimed at students from the Lower Gloucester Road, Cheltenham Road and Zetland Road areas. We anticipate that the event will be funded by University of Bristol & UWE. The purpose of the event is to help make the students feel welcome and provide information about neighbourliness, waste and rubbish and home and cycle security to new residents in a warm, collegiate environment. If this is successful, we plan to expand these into areas not already covered by existing welcome parties from residential associations.

Damaged media boxes

- There was a severely damaged media box on Bishop Road very close to Bishop Road School. Whilst the box has now been repaired it took a great deal of time (over 12 months) to get any action from Virgin. Numerous letters were written to the CEO of Virgin Media who stepped in to help get the box repair actioned.