

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

Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Neighbourhood Partnership (BCR NP)

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Title: **BCR NP Sustainable Travel Working Group Report**

Date: 24th September 2015

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) The **Neighbourhood Partnership be asked to note** the following report on progress made by the BCR NP Sustainable Travel Working Group.
- 2) From our currently allocated budget of £5000, the **Neighbourhood Committee is asked to approve spending up to £2000 on Minor Signs and Lines** - to be spent on schemes chosen by the working group and agreed with BCC Highways Department (see section 2.3 below)

1. Sustainable Travel Working Group progress report

This report is the first by the newly formed Sustainable Travel Working Group to the BCR Neighbourhood Partnership. It therefore provides more background detail than we anticipate including in future reports.

1.1. Meetings, remit and members

The Sustainable Travel working group was formed in June 2015 to take over the work of the previous Highways group and to extend it to include other items, such as walking, cycling and public transport, as set out in the Neighbourhood Partnership Plan.

At its first meeting on 2nd June 2015, Roger Gimson was elected as Chair. At this meeting the remit of the group was agreed to be as follows:

To enable ease of travel in the BCR area by walking, cycling, public transport or private motor vehicle, taking into account ability, health, safety and the protection of the environment.

We have recently been meeting on the first Wednesday of every month, and to date have held five meetings. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 7th October 10am-12noon at the Horfield Quaker Meeting House. New participants are welcome.

So far, regular participants in the group (attending at least two meetings) have been: Martin Fodor, Fi Hance, Jenny Hoadley, Matt Jones, Liz Kew, Viv Lindow, and Gavin Spittlehouse. Chrissie Decker, Neil Howe and Anthony Negus have attended one meeting each. In addition, we have welcomed members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team and Bristol City Council Highways team for specific meetings.

1.2. Progress to date

Detailed meeting notes are available on request for each of the meetings held so far (and will be put on the BCRNP.org.uk website). The table in Section 3 is a summary of progress to date, shown against the tasks in the Neighbourhood Partnership Plan for which the group has responsibility.

Our work to date has included two days working with the Neighbourhood Policing Team. The *Road Safety Day of Action* on 10th June focused on driver and cyclist behaviour at the Gloucester Road/Zetland Road junction and on Speedwatch monitoring on Whiteladies and Hampton Roads. The *Parking Day of Action* on 6th August focused on obstructive parking particularly around Bishopston and north Redland.

In addition, we have been using the Bristol City Council (BCC) Traffic Choices website to track road issues. There was a backlog of issues to deal with, which we are gradually working our way through. The creator of the website, James Coleman, came in June to give us a briefing on how it works. Rob Grieve, BCC Principal Highways Officer, has now been to two of our meetings to provide updates on ongoing works and to advise on possible further works we could request. See the next section for further details.

We have had one meeting to discuss the BCR Walking Strategy, for which this group has taken responsibility from the Street Scene group. Given the current commitments of members of the working group, we felt it would be better to focus first on dealing with problems that affect walking routes, and not to attempt at this stage to develop new routes. We noted the need for better local reporting of problems that affect walking, such as pavement obstructions, for which a wider network of Street Champions would be welcome.

2. Traffic Choices road-related issues

Traffic Choices is the Bristol City Council website, trafficchoices.co.uk, used to track road-related issues and the works that may arise from them. Progress on road schemes chosen for implementation by our Neighbourhood Committee is shown on this website.

In our area, there are currently 11 issues on Traffic Choices that have works associated with them, but a further 29 issues that are pending. This is down from the 44 issues that were pending when the working group was re-established in June, but the working group still has much to do.

2.1. Status of approved road schemes

The following schemes have previously been approved by the BCR Neighbourhood Committee. The Issue numbers refer to the entries on the Traffic Choices website, where further details can be found.

Issue 641: Sustainable Bishopston Project - Benches on Hills

This scheme is almost complete, with all six benches installed. However, following objections from a resident, one is to be moved from near Egerton Road to near the Morrisons store, it is hoped.

Issue 57: Vehicles turn at high speed at junction Halsbury Rd & Cairns Rd

Issue 637: Concerns over traffic speeds and pedestrian safety -Effingham Rd

Issue 638: Request pedestrian improvements at Chapel Green Ln / Redland Rd

Issue 640: Improvements at the junction of North Rd and Cromwell Rd

The above four schemes have completed public consultation, and await final design changes before the TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) formal notice process takes place.

Issue 696: Junction safety improvements in vicinity of Glos Cricket Club

This scheme, using S.106 (Section 106 development) funds, is in public consultation which will end on 27th September. Further schemes, under the same funding, are pending for better pedestrian signage and the handling of road closures on match days around the cricket ground.

Issue 62: Safety concerns over mini roundabout at Cotham Brow / Redland Rd

Issue 555: Speeding vehicles on lower slope of Sommerville Rd

These two schemes await specific proposals from BCC Highways.

Issue 636: Request to increase the amount of parking on Gloucester Rd

This scheme was approved several years ago, and £6000 budget allocated to it. However, on further review by BCC it was not felt that there is any scope to increase parking on Gloucester Road without negatively impacting on cyclists or bus lanes. We hope to consult with the GRTA (Gloucester Road Traders Association) to find out if there are specific issues that could be individually addressed, but otherwise the scheme will have to be shelved and the funding reallocated to address other BCR issues.

2.2. Handling pending road issues

The pending issues on Traffic Choices range from reports of problems, such as speeding traffic, that may be addressed without road works - for example by requesting Community Speedwatch in the problem spot. Other issues may be solved by minor changes that can be requested during the year. These may be so small that they come under the Minor Signs and Lines category, and can be requested from a pre-approved budget (see the next section). Alternatively, they may count as Minor Works that require explicit Neighbourhood Committee approval. For larger schemes, typically those that require statutory consultation such as a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), BCC Highways currently limits us to choosing one scheme per year. We have already chosen our schemes for 2015/16 and 2016/17.

2.3. Minor Signs and Lines

In previous years, the NP was able to choose minor road works under the 'Minor Signs and Lines' category to a value of £1500.

We are starting to identify, from the issues on Traffic Choices, several potential works in this category.

So far, the working group has identified 3 pending issues that can be solved within the Minor Signs and Lines category, as follows:

Issue 48: Parking around junction of Kellaway Ave / Bishop Road

Painting white lines at the corners to discourage parking would cost around £100.

Issue 666: Vehicles mounting the pavement (corner Coldharbour/Harcourt Rd)

This could be solved by installing a bollard at a cost of around £250.

Issue 829: Parking causing obstruction to footway/cyclepath on Elton Road

It is hoped to place cycle stands on the island between the road and the cycleway, funded by the BCC cycling team, to prevent cars crossing the island to park on the pavement. However, this would be more effective if augmented by 1-2 bollards, costing around £500.

We have more issues still to assess and expect that several more pending issues may fall into this category. We would like to address as many as we can using the funds already allocated to the group.

So, including the cost of £850 for the above, **we request that the Neighbourhood Committee approve the spending of up to £2000 on Minor Signs and Lines** from our currently allocated budget for this year of £5000, and that this can be spent on any schemes chosen by the working group to respond to local needs, and agreed as suitable with BCC Highways Department, from issues reported on Traffic Choices.

Once approved, the completion of any works will still depend on the availability of BCC Highways staff to provide engineering support and delivery. In the past there have been delays due to lack of staff capacity.

2.4. Extension of Traffic Choices to all road schemes

Martin Fodor has asked Peter Mann at Bristol City Council whether all road schemes could be included on Traffic Choices, including those, for example, implemented by BCC but funded from the Department of Transport. This would allow residents to get a better overall view of improvements in their area. However, to date there has been no response.

3. Progress in relation to Neighbourhood Partnership Plan

| | Task ID | Task Description | Priority | Progress |
|---|---------|--|----------|--|
| 2 Traffic and Transport (Keep Bristol Moving) | | | | |
| <i>We want sustainable travel options and safer pavements and roads</i> | | | | |
| 2.1 Highways | | | | |
| | 2.1.0.1 | Set up Sustainable Travel working group and hold regular meetings | High | Set up 2/6/2015, now meeting monthly |
| 2.1.1 Promote road improvements | | | | |
| | 2.1.1.2 | Identify problems and find solutions that can be negotiated with Highways as part of minor traffic or safety improvements | High | Two meetings so far looking at pending issues on Traffic Choices |
| | 2.1.1.3 | Investigate projects to improve road safety (including reducing speed) | High | Monitoring through Traffic Choices |
| | 2.1.1.4 | All working group members to learn to manage Traffic Choices website | High | Briefing received on 2/6/2015 |
| | 2.1.1.5 | Identify projects that need close liaison with cllrs, NP and officers. (Eg Colston's primary annexe, Dolphin school) | High | Waiting for Dolphin school proposals |
| | 2.1.1.6 | Influence prioritising of resurfacing and highways dressing schemes | Low | 2015 schemes now complete |
| | 2.1.1.7 | Engage with other NPs to help shape ideas to tackle traffic impact of Filton Airfield (S Glos) development | High | Waiting proposals from BCC |
| 2.2 Public Transport | | | | |
| 2.2.1 Promote local train network | | | | |
| | 2.2.1.1 | Investigate improved signage to/from local train stations (Gloucester Rd/ Whiteladies roads etc) and publicising train provision | Low | |
| | 2.2.1.2 | Support potential local rail improvements including Henbury Loop and Ashley Down station | Low | |
| 2.2.2 Protect and improve bus routes and service | | | | |
| | 2.2.2.1 | Ensure forums are a place to enable local people to campaign for the preservation of (or lobby for new) bus routes and improvements to the service | Low | Awaiting BCC Supported Service Contract review |
| 2.3 Safe and responsible road behaviour | | | | |
| 2.3.1. Protect safety of pedestrians and cyclists | | | | |
| | 2.3.1.1 | Action days with the police at 'hotspots' Agree process with Police. 1 per annum | Low | Road Safety Action Day carried out 11/05/2015 |

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| | | 2.3.1.2 | Communicate (and work) with identified schools to deal with parking problems and work on educating parents about parking | Low | |
| | | 2.3.1.3 | Action with PCSOs - cycling on pavements. 2 per annum | Low | Included in 2.3.1.1 |
| | | 2.3.1.4 | Investigate signage and other 'minor' actions to reduce nuisance and speeding | Low | Vehicle Activated Sign now on Ashley Down Road |
| | | 2.3.1.5 | Investigate education and safety programmes for cyclists | Low | |
| | | 2.3.2 Tackle dangerous and antisocial behaviour of all vehicles including cycles | | | |
| | | 2.3.2.1 | Grow Speedwatch programme in NP | Low | Speedwatch occurs already approx every 2 weeks |
| | | 2.3.2.2 | Work with police to identify possible 20mph enforcement activities | Low | |
| | | 2.3.2.3 | Sustainable Travel Working Group to identify potential capital projects for speed reduction | Low | See 2.1.1.2 |
| | | 2.3.2.4 | Encourage residents to use Traffic Choices (a Bristol City Council website) to highlight problem areas re speeding and antisocial driving and cycling | Low | Residents must report via BCC Officers |
| | | 2.3.2.5 | Problem parking on pavements. Education and enforcement of problem parking. | Low | Parking Action Day carried out 6/8/15 |
| | | 2.3.3 Promote increased number of active travel journeys | | | |
| | | 2.3.3.1 | Promote and enact the BCR walking strategy | High | Initial meeting held 5/8/15 |
| | | 2.3.3.2 | Promote Active Travel with other organisations | Low | |
| | | 2.3.3.3 | Promote safe cycle routes and provision of facilities eg cycle stands | Medium | No money available from BCC for hazardous Zetland junction |
| 4 Quality of Life, Families, Younger and Older People (Vibrant Bristol) | | | | | |
| 4.1 Health | | | | | |
| 4.1.1 Identify and reduce barriers to a high quality of life for all sections of the community | | | | | |
| | | | <i>Highlight air pollution caused by traffic?</i> | | |
| 4.1.2. Promote healthy activities | | | | | |
| | | 4.1.2.1 | Promote and enact the Walking Strategy | High | See 2.3.3.1 |