



AGENDA ITEM NO: 4

**MEETING OF THE CABOT, CLIFTON AND CLIFTON EAST
NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP
28TH MARCH 2012
THE PAVILION, 1 HANNOVER QUAY, BRISTOL BS1 5JE**

PRESENT:

Members of Partnership

Councillor Woodman and Councillor Dr. Wright (Cabot)
Councillor Cook and Councillor Martin (Clifton East)
Malcolm Baker – Oakfield Residents Association
Dennis Gornall – Hotwells & Cliftonwood Community Association (HCCA)
Pauline Allen - Kingsdown Conservation Group/Ashley House
Community Liaison Group (KCG/AHCLG)
Nicolette Vincent – Friends of Brandon Hill
Rosemary Chamberlin – Clifton and Hotwells Branch Labour Party
John Rippon – Equalities Representative
Anne White – Richmond Hill Residents Association
Mary Bannerman – Castle Park User Group
Julian Jones – Cabot Forum Co-Chair
Ben Appleby – Cabot Forum Co-Chair
Richard Whitburn – Clifton Forum Chair

Bristol City Council Officers

Nick Christo - Area Co-ordinator (07585 909030)
Patricia Jones - Democratic Services Officer (0117 92 22883)
Neil Terry – Transport Area Manager (0117 90 36824)
Andrew Whithead – City Transport (0117 903 6797)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made. Councillor Cook chaired the meeting in the absence of Councillor Blythe who was wished a speedy recovery.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Blythe, Councillor Janke, Fraser Bridgeford, Stuart Pattison, Lorna Heaysman.

It was noted that the officer presenting the transport update was unable to attend due to sickness. In the absence of a representative from transport, the NP was unable to take the report.

AGREED – that the Chair write to Peter Mann, Service Director Highways to advise that the NP was unable to take the Transport Update due to the absence of the reporting officer. It would be emphasised that in the event of sickness, it was the expectation of the NP that another officer would attend to present the report.

3. MINUTES - 24TH JANUARY 2012

AGREED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabot, Clifton and Clifton East Neighbourhood Partnership held on 24th January 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to:-

- The amendment of Alma Vale to Ambra Vale at pages 13 and 14
- James Smith to read James Wood at page 5.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Statements were circulated in advance of the meeting and submissions were heard from the following people:-

Maggie Shapland (CHIS) – NP Issues

MG raised a number of concerns relating to the operation of the NP and the role of the partners. With regard to funding, it was suggested that the criteria for funding was unclear, and that applications were often circulated late and lacked the detail required to make a considered decision. It was proposed that the needs and requirements of the respective wards should be established in the form of a plan that the partners could work to when allocations were being decided.

The Chair acknowledged the frustration but pointed out that only the Neighbourhood Committee (NC) has delegated authority to take spending decisions. Whilst the NC is expected to take these decisions as part of a meeting of the NP and to take into account the views of the partners, it was emphasised that only the councillor members can legally take such a decision.

However, there was general agreement that it would be helpful to get applications at an earlier stage to enable the NP to consider proposals in detail and to enable councillors to assist and guide applicants where necessary. The feasibility of introducing a tiering system specifically for Section 106 funding was discussed and considered to be a positive way forward.

AGREED:-

(1) Councillor Janke's statement setting out the criteria for funding to be re-circulated.

(2) The deadline for funding applications to be reinstated. In future, applications to be circulated with the agenda papers and therefore must be received two days before despatch (to allow collation and copying).

(3) High value applications for Section 106 funding to be staggered for consultation and more detailed discussion. The councillors to work with the Area Coordinator to establish how this will work in practice.

(4) Future reports on devolved budget allocations should include a running total in the table and distinguish between the different sources of funding.

Maggie Shapland – Boyces Avenue

MS stated that the new pedestrianisation scheme had restricted the operation of Boyces Avenue and Kings Road, was dangerous to pedestrians and vehicles on Kings Road and damaging to businesses.

Peter Newbery – Boyces Avenue

PN acknowledged teething problems but welcomed the pedestrianisation scheme and extended thanks to BCC officers for their efforts.

PN stated that pavements were not wide enough to take the volume of pedestrian traffic and suggested the parking situation would be greatly improved by the installation of rising bollards at the entrance to Boyces Avenue.

A Clifton Village trader acknowledged the benefits of the pedestrianisation but commented that the consultation regarding the scheme had failed to consider the community as a whole. It was suggested that the removal of parking spaces had impacted greatly on the village and that it was not conducive to look at one fragment of the village without taking traders and residents into account.

There was a brief discussion regarding a residents parking scheme in Clifton. The Chair made the point that £300K had already been spent on consultations and a further exercise could not be entered into lightly. People with concerns were invited to email or petition local councillors.

AGREED: that bollards were included in the pedestrianisation scheme agreed in 2010/11, and that discussions would follow outside the meeting to progress the installation.

The Chair agreed that public forum submissions from Henry Shaftoe, Bryan Thomas and Julian Jones would be heard prior to the Bear Pit Item.

4. AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

The AC confirmed that the kerbside collection of mixed plastics and waxed cartons would commence May 2012. Boxes would be delivered a week in advance.

Only 2 of the inaccessible premises identified by John Rippon as part of his access survey in the BS8 area, had responded to the letter that was sent highlighting the issue. Face to face visits would be undertaken in an effort to progress and work with the premises.

With the assistance of the Police, every trader in the NP area had been contacted regarding the new A Board guidelines. A new series of inspections in the Broadmead and Park Street areas had identified a number of infringements. The further report would be brought to the June meeting, by which time the impact of the enforcement exercise would be clearer.

There were mixed reports about the performance of May Gurney (MG), the authority's new waste contractor. Representatives of MG had attended the last round of forum meetings to open lines of communication. It was noted that Mall Gardens Residents Association were in discussions with MG regarding a pilot to replace bins with canvass bags.

Residents with any concerns were encouraged to contact their local councillors and the issues would be raised with MG. The action plan for the central area was available from Nick Christo (NC) on request.

It was suggested that a formal report on waste should have been brought to this meeting to enable the NP to provide a collective response to the consultation that runs through to the 28th April. The Chair stated that he was hopeful that the NP's comments could still be incorporated into the MG review.

The NP discussed the issue of agenda setting meetings. It was agreed that it was important for the NP to continue to communicate about the content of the agenda in advance of meetings. There was agreement that in future, the draft agenda would be circulated by email approximately 4 weeks in advance of the meeting, ensuring everyone is kept informed and allowing time for any issues arising from the forum meetings to be incorporated.

AGREED:

(1) A report on waste to be brought to the June meeting for a more detailed discussion.

(2) NP draft agenda to be circulated by email approximately 4 weeks in advance of the meeting, ensuring everyone is kept informed and allowing time for any issues arising from the forum meetings to be incorporated.

6. FORUM UPDATE

Ben Appleby provided an update for the Cabot Forum:-

- A discussion table with May Gurney to resolve problems – litter bins at Hanover Quay not being collected and difficulties with collection at Capricorn Place.
- Enforcement activity escalated in the Park Street and St Augustine's Parade areas arising from cleanliness issues and bins on the highway.
- Highways – positive discussion round CPZ proposal.
- Stokes Croft Gateway enhancements – work agreed to improve the health and economy of the area.
- Policing – concerns about drug taking on Brandon Hill and problems with skateboarders in Cathedral Walk.
- Councillor Wright reported that plans for a traffic regulation zone for Brandon Hill had become part of a wider review of the central area, hence the delay.

AGREED: Councillor Cook to contact officers in the traffic section regarding the progress of a traffic regulation zone for Brandon Hill.

NC provided the following update for the Clifton Forum:-

- Bristol Water attended to discuss the impact of the resilience scheme.
- May Gurney were made aware of the increase of broken glass on pavements, and their responsibilities when collections were missed were clarified.
- A flyer was made available regarding the Celebrating Age Festival 28th-29th June. A table discussion had focussed on what the forum could bring to the festival. Ideas to be emailed to Lorna Heaysman.
- The new Chair of the forum, Richard Whitburn, was introduced.

There was discussion about the issues raised at forum meetings and how they were subsequently progressed. It was accepted that there was a need to develop the forum and ensure people were seeing positive action. Residents with complaints were advised to contact the ward councillors who would pass the issue on to the appropriate officer.

AGREED – Councillor Cook to contact May Gurney regarding the following issues, previously raised at the forums:-

(1) SB’s complaint about the irregularity and quality of street cleansing, previously raised at the forum.

(2) NV’s issue of litter bins near Brandon Hill and The Downs – not emptied regularly enough.

(3) MS’s issue about commercial waste bins.

7. COMMUNITY PROJECTS UPDATE

The following was reported:-

- A herb garden and community orchard has been planted on Brandon Hill.
- 3,500 bulbs have been planted in the Clifton area courtesy of the Wellbeing fund.
- The missing tree in Leigh Road would be planted by November.
- RW placed on record his support for the Community Payback workers and the work that they did. He emphasised the need for a Portaloo for prolonged projects.
- Clifton Village traders reported on the Olympic flame route through Clifton on May 23rd. A proposal to light a beacon on Zion Hill on 4th June had been agreed in principle by the Downs Committee. The Avon Gorge Hotel have agreed to fund a firework display.
- Finalised landscape plans for the Cumberland Piazza would be available later in the year and details included in the HCCA community newspaper.
- The lack of disabled toilet facilities in the busy tourist area of Clifton and Clifton East was highlighted.

12. COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

AGREED: A report to be brought to the June meeting.

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13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

14. DEVOLVED TRANSPORT SCHEMES FOR 2012/13

The NC considered a report of the Area Manager, Highways and Traffic, Transport Service (agenda item no. 13) relating to the devolved transport budgets available to the Cabot, Clifton and Clifton East Neighbourhood Partnership (NP) for footway maintenance and carriageway surface dressing.

Footway maintenance

NT drew attention to:-

- The list at page 83 setting out the footways identified for resurfacing in the NP area, in order of need based on factors including condition and usage, and a budget of £63,000.
- Appendix 2 - a Condition Survey Assessment score for the footways listed. It was reported that Nelson Street scored highly.

Carriageway surface dressing

A needs based assessment had been carried out by the Highways Team. The aim was to address the roads most in need. Three roads in Cabot were included in the identified budget.

Below is a summary of the discussion that followed:-

- There were no plans to remove the bollards on the zig zag path in Clifton..
- MS to provide NT with further information concerning the pennant flags at 47a Princess Victoria Street that were causing a trip hazard.

- Officers were aware of the damage to the 18th century pavements in Berkeley Square. NT would meet with NV to discuss further. The Chair suggested raising the issue with the Executive Member.
- DG questioned the practicality of devolving these decision to NP level when the schemes had already been identified and the councillors were making the decisions.
- Councillor Woodman informed the NP that he discussions had taken place with Councillor Poultney (Executive Member Neighbourhoods) regarding the legalities of viring money across devolved budgets. Councillor Woodman proposed that any decision making should be deferred pending the outcome of these discussions. He added that it would be useful to have photographs to demonstrate precisely what the councillors were being asked to decide.
- NT stated that the report could be deferred but was clear about the threat of litigation in the event that footways were not maintained.
- AW added her concerns about viring money. She took the view that there should be a separate pot of money for Cabot given it has the city centre within it, and a separate pot for the individual communities. NT was in agreement that the NP should have a larger strategic maintenance budget. There was general agreement amongst the other partners that budgets should not be vired, particularly when officers had carried out a risk assessment and identified schemes.

Councillor Woodman's proposal to defer the decisions relating to footway maintenance was seconded by Councillor Martin, and on being put to the vote was unanimously agreed. There followed a proposal by the Chair to agree the decisions relating to the carriageway surface dressing schemes. This was seconded by Councillor Martin and on being put to the vote, unanimously agreed.

In conclusion, given the small amount involved, the NC unanimously agreed that the ringfenced sum of £457.00 should be made available from Section 106 funding for the purpose of providing cycle parking at or near the Caledonia Place/West Mall junction. Consideration would be given to additional funding if this amount proved insufficient.

RESOLVED:-

(1) that the decisions relating to the work programmes for footway maintenance be deferred to the next meeting.

(2) that the carriage surface dressing schemes be agreed

(3) that the prioritisation of Section 106 transport specific schemes listed at section 10 of the report be deferred (with the exception of the cycle parking scheme) pending the introduction of a tiering system and a more detailed decision making process for high value schemes.

(3) that the sum of £457.00 be allocated from Section 106 funding for the purpose of providing cycle parking at or near Caeldonia place/West mall junction.

15. DEVOLVED SERVICES REPORT INCLUDING UPDATE FROM THE AREA CO-ORDINATOR

The NP considered an information report of the Area Co-ordinator (agenda item no. 10) providing a devolved services update.

AGREED: that the report be noted.

16. BEAR PIT – SECTION 106

The NP considered a report (agenda item 11) relating to the allocation of £67, 500 in Section 106 funding to the St James Barton roundabout improvement project (Bear Pit). Public Forum statements were taken from Henry Shaftoe, Bryan Thomas and Mike Thorne in support of the allocation of funding. The NP heard that the project was not a commercial operation but a community interest company where profits are ploughed back for further improvements. It was emphasised that funding would provide the kick start to promote much needed activity in the area.

The NP also heard from Julian Jones who reported on behalf of the Environmental Working Group. It was noted that the group supported the desire for improvements in principle, however there was strong resistance to the spending of £30K on a plastic canopy and what was considered by the group to be a risky trading scheme. On balance, it was felt that the application needed more work before the group was prepared to fully support it.

Below is a summary of the discussion that followed:-

- The partners were generally not in favour of the scheme, and encouraged the NC to decline the application in its present form. It was suggested that the area lacked nature and greenery and as such, the scheme was not what the area needed.
- Councillor Wright reported that the area had been declared the first community action zone, resulting in the coming together of Stokes Croft and Broadmead communities. He considered it to be a genuinely led community project worthy of pump prime funding.
- The Chair praised the energy and commitment of the initiative, and drew attention to the willingness of the Ashley Easton and Lawrence Hill NP to commit one third of the funding required.

Following discussion and on being put to the vote, the Neighbourhood Committee unanimously:-

RESOLVED – that the St James Barton roundabout improvement project (Bear Pit) be allocated the sum of £45,225 for the purpose of delivering phase one of the project.

17. WELLBEING REPORT

The NP considered a report of the Area Co-ordinator (agenda item no.12).

The NP noted the funding approved at the last meeting, the current balance of the fund (£22,885.07) and the successful work carried out to date.

The NP considered the following applications:-

1. Hotwells and Cliftonwood Community Association - £3000 to produce and cost a new design for the Charles Place Play Park.
2. St. Johns Residents Association - £2000 to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee by holding a street party.
3. Kingsdown Conservation group - £273.00 for tree guards along the hedge on Montague Green.

4. Clifton Village Traders Association - £2,500 to support their Business Improvement District application.

Following discussion and on being put to the vote, the Neighbourhood Committee unanimously:-

RESOLVED –

(1) That £3000 be allocated to HCCA to produce and cost a new design for the Charles Place Play Park.

(2) That the application by SJRA for £2000 to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee by holding a street party, be declined in its present form but may be revisited for the funding of items that can be used on a legacy/repetitive basis.

(3) That £273.00 be allocated to KCG for the purpose of buying tree guards for the hedge on Monague Green.

(4) That CVTA be allocated the sum of £2,500 to support their Business Improvement District application.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Cabot, Clifton and Clifton East Neighbourhood Partnership is to be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 26th June 2012.

(The meeting ended at 9.15pm)

CHAIR