



Agenda item 7

Greater Bedminster Community Partnership (GBCP)
7.00 pm on 30 March 2015
at The Southville Centre, Beaufort Road, Bristol BS3 1QG

Present:

GBCP Board

Councillors:

Councillor Sean Beynon
Councillor Charlie Bolton
Councillor Mark Bradshaw
Councillor Colin Smith

Voluntary / community / faith group representatives:

Ben Barker (chair for this meeting)
Robin Clapp
Lesley Collins (Airpoint Resident)
Celia Phipps (Friends of Greville Smythe Park)
Les Potter (BS3 Churches)
Tess Green (Fiducia Press)
Alan Baker (Green Party)
Helen Moody (Friends of Marksbury Road Library)
Peter Smith (Bristol Sport)

Statutory Sector and Observers

Suzanne Ogborne, Bristol City Council (BCC), Democratic Services
Andrew McLean, BCC Neighbourhood Partnership Co-ordinator
Dan Judges, BCC Neighbourhood Officer
Richard Guise, Context 4D
Sandra Manley, Visiting Research Fellow, UWE

Apologies:

Helen Thomas; Stephanie Brammer (Way Out West); Flo Marshall; Matthew Symonds (Chair) – SDCA/Front Garden Competition;

1. Welcome, Apologies and introductions
(Agenda item 1)

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introduced themselves.

2. **Declarations of interest** (Agenda Item 2)

There were none.

3. **Green Capital recommendations** (Agenda item 3)

Ben Barker introduced this report.

The Neighbourhood Partnership agreed that the following schemes be approved:

1.	Way Out West	Parson Street Station	£2800
2.	Matthew Tree Project	Foodtures at the Vale	£840
3.	Good Gym/Patchwork Group	GoodGym/Patchwork	£1059
4.	Bristol Natural History Consortium	Festival of Nature Outreach Project	£1986
5.	Bedminster History Cooperative	Bedminster History Walking Maps	£1600
6.	GBCP	Making Bedminster Bristol's First Age-Friendly Neighbourhood	£599.70
7.	GBCP	Blooming Bedminster - Growing Community Festival	£325
8.	Luckwell Improvement Project	Chessels Community Garden	£750
		TOTAL approved	£10,000

4. **Access in Bedminster** (Agenda Item 4)

Sandra Manley and Richard Guise introduced this item and referred to their slide presentation (attached). They explained that their project is concerned with getting better access into the shopping areas of Bedminster. They have focussed on the shopping areas from Bristol Bridge, along East Street through to Mark's Bakery on North Street, totalling 2¹/₄ miles. This has included looking at the experience of older people, disabled people and people with buggies. The first stage started in November and was completed in March.

As part of this, they have undertaken an audit of the streets in a systematic assessment - they have looked at the Bedminster shopping area as an entity to see how it performs. They were surprised at the large number of people flowing through the Bedminster streets.

The purpose of the audit is to provide a base of evidence to see how things are performing, looking at streets and buildings providing services and looking at how people could get in and out. Hopefully this might form the basis for an action plan for change and improvement. It has been generally recognised that improved accessibility can make a big difference to the commercial viability of an area – there is evidence from two big retailers, Boots the Chemists and B&Q.

The team also mentioned that they are carrying out Street Access Notation – this is the process of putting a symbol on a map to identify where there is an issue or a problem.

The final stage of the project is to consult the public and highlighted the importance of including everyone, the elderly, parents of children and disabled people. It is also very important to include people in the findings of the work. The team would like some guidance from the NP on how it would like them to engage with the community. The suggestions are to hold a public meeting, carry out ‘voxpops’ with local people and perhaps ‘walkabouts’ with local groups.

The team highlighted the following issues:

- (a) Bedminster has a lot of character and great heritage assets, including the striking Salvation Army building (Edwardian) on Dean Lane, the Tobacco Factory on North Street and tobacco related buildings on Bedminster Parade, quite a few of the pubs have strong, urban qualities. This character can be built on.
- (b) The streets gently curve and the Bedminster area has a sense of robustness and solidity.
- (c) There are lots of small, local businesses and more and more people want to shop in an area with distinctive local assets
- (d) If the pedestrian access can be improved it not only improves the physical access but also how people feel about a particular area
- (e) Some of the new shop frontages are making accessibility worse – the premises owners should be complying with the Equality Act 2010 and making ‘reasonable adjustments’ to their premises to ensure access for all.
- (f) Perhaps a guidance note could be prepared for café owners in relation to the above
- (g) There are good shop fronts around in Bedminster who could be used as good practice examples
- (h) Some of the pavements are very narrow, less than 2m wide, but even the narrow pavements are filled with bins, signs and clutter of all sorts causing trip hazards
- (i) In places, the poor quality of pavement surfaces, a plethora of seating in East Street but not much in the rest of the shopping frontages, you are really pressed to find a good seat
- (j) The mid part of North Street between the Hen and Chicken, Co-op and North Street Green, is the point at which the pavements are at their narrowest and vehicles move quite fast. This is an area which could have a real sense of ‘place’ and improve this side of the street.
- (k) There are lots of problems with parking, particularly on narrow pavements
- (l) The streets are degraded by litter and poor quality street cleaning. Rubbish containers and wheelie bins are too prominent and can be an obstacle, particularly on narrow pavements.

The following comments were made:

- (a) Ben Barker explained that in East Street the Town Team is trying to get a single contractor to arrange for sacks to be removed on a daily basis. However, individual shopkeepers have refuse collection contracts that they are committed to for a number of years.
- (b) Its important to make incremental change to nibble away at problems and make a real difference.
- (c) There is concern about certain aspects of lighting in the area which creates a slightly threatening atmosphere.
- (d) The public realm needs organisation – various agencies are working in silo
- (e) The councillors expressed concern that West Street has not been mentioned and the team confirmed that this was not part of this particular project

- (f) Cashpoint machines – a problem with sills in front of cashpoints was highlighted as well as the height of cashpoint machines
- (g) Parking on pavements is a major problem and there is no enforcement
- (h) The junction of West Street onto Cannon Street - traffic patterns and pedestrian crossings are confusing
- (i) Ben Barker confirmed that there will be money available through MetroBus to invest in improvements to Bedminster Parade
- (j) Cllr Bradshaw confirmed that he is on the programme board for MetroBus and there are proposals to remodel part of the junction and to provide a new improved crossing

Next Steps

Ben Barker confirmed that the project team will report the findings of their report to the Town Team shortly. In relation to the public consultation, Ben explained that there is no simple way to engage with the public but once Sandra Manley and Richard Guise's report is received, the NP can consider who should be consulted.

The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator commented that one of the priorities in the GBCP plan (being discussed as part of Agenda item 7) is to make a major difference in accessibility in both the residential and retail streets.

5. Environment Sub Group – Environment Section 106 Recommendations (Agenda Item 5)

Dan Judges introduced this report of the environment sub-group (ESG) and explained that the group has been working hard in terms of re-establishing itself and working to outline some proposals to try and spend Section 106 monies. He explained that the report contains details of the 12 proposals received just before Christmas and this totals £354,743 against an actual budget of £261,059.89, giving a funding gap of £93,000.

However, Dan Judges referred to the Appendices 1 and 2 attached to the report which outline the criteria for spending Section 106 monies and a note on use of Section 106 monies secured for parks and open space improvements. There has been discussions with the Planning Obligations Manager (see appendix 2) as it has been highlighted that there is a problem with the original recommendations from the sub-group. Three projects did not meet the criteria (details in Appendix 2) so the revised recommendations from the Environment Sub-group are appended as Appendix 3.

The following issues were highlighted:

- Tess Green commented on the tremendous amount of hard work put in by Dan Judges and other officers at the Council and expressed her disappointment that Bristol City Council's rules go against some of the recommendations. She would like the partnership to consider whether it would like to challenge the City Council's decision, especially when the area is very short of public green spaces.
- It was pointed out that Dame Emily Park was getting the biggest allocation due to the overall state of the park – it has had no Section 106 funding for 8 years. The park is well used by the residents who live around the park and the high usage has contributed to the wear and tear on the footpaths etc. The footpaths and entrances also need remodelling to take account of the pedestrian flow.
- Ben Barker declared an interest in Dame Emily Park as he is on the board for this.

Resolved:

The Neighbourhood Committee unanimously agreed to fund those bids that had been recommended for approval:

1.	Windmill Hill City Farm	Creation of a garden	£6500
2.	Dame Emily Park	Multiuse games area/ Paths and entrance Improvements	£101,559.89
3.	Greville Smyth	Pavilion	£8,000
4.	LiMP	Fencing and gates	£11,500

The Neighbourhood Committee agreed not to fund those bids that had not been recommended for approval:

5.	Railway Green (MACA)	Improvements to street scene – Bartlett's Bridge
6.	Mill Lane/Dean Street/Church Road	Pocket Park
7.	Southville Centre	Community Garden
8.	Hebron Burial Ground	Master plan
9.	South Street Park	Lighting
10.	Gores Marsh	Disabled Play Equipment

Key points raised/noted in the discussion included the following:

- Dan Judges pointed out that with respect to the applications that could not be funded, there is £50,000 in the CiL pot
- Ben Barker suggested that a small group of 2-3 people is formed to talk to relevant council officers with the aim of working out how to release the CiL money in some way, with a target of having a recommendation to take to the June meeting of the Neighbourhood Partnership
- Cllr Mark Bradshaw confirmed that he is supportive of this proposal but is on the Board for CiL
- Tess green commented that the decision was devolved to the Partnership to make and now the NP is being told that it cannot go ahead with the recommendations
- There was discussion in relation to Railway Green and improvements to street scene on and around Bartlett's bridge -
 - This will need to be funded through CiL
 - It is also linked to the Parson Street Application for signage
 - There is a need to get something agreed, so the money can be spent
 - The summer months are key in terms of painting and physical works that need to happen on the bridge, particularly from Network Rail's point of view

ACTION: The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator to set up a small group to resolve the funding issues as quickly as possible in relation to the bridge improvements and the

developments in East Street. The group to consist of Ben Barker, Tess Green, Charlie Bolton, Dan Judge, Lesley Collins, Celia Phipps and Helen Moody.

6. Neighbourhood Co-ordinator's Report (Agenda Item 6)

Andrew McLean introduced this report and explained that the key item is in relation to Section 106 expenditure to undertake the necessary upgrade to Camera 277 on Cannon Street. Dan Judges explained that this is a request from the Police.

The Neighbourhood Committee agreed to:

1. To **note** the Neighbourhood Budget update
2. To **agree** Section 106 expenditure on Camera 277 on Cannon Street
3. To **note** a MetroBus update
4. To **note** the update on the Neighbourhood Partnership Equalities Training
5. To **note** the update from the Mobility and Transport Sub Group
6. To **note** the contents of the Community Safety update
7. To **note** the Libraries consultation round 2 update

Action: Andrew McLean

7. Greater Bedminster Community Partnership Plan (Agenda Item 7)

Andrew McLean introduced the draft Partnership plan (see page 21 of the papers). He explained that the plan is based on 8 themes relating to the Mayoral priorities for Bristol. The Neighbourhood Partnership is being asked to:

- (i) agree the Vision for the partnership plan
- (ii) consider if there are any particular gaps in the plan, anything that should be included or taken out of the plan
- (iii) give own partnership a steer on what you feel the priorities are in relation to the objectives in the plan

Andrew McLean introduced the NP to the exercise which was to consider each of the objectives and consider their priority.

The following issues were highlighted:

- (a) Ben Barker asked if there could be a priority in relation to trees – the GBCP area has the least trees of all NPs.
- (b) The Focus on socially isolated older groups was mentioned and it was asked if it would be reasonable to put that in the plan. At the moment there is no organisation within the area that has come forward to pick up the issue of social isolation in lower age groups.
- (c) Celia Phipps felt that it would be a struggle to prioritise as some of the objectives are so broad and so wide. She also suggested that the NP might want to look at some of the activities going on to deliver a particular objective.
- (d) Helen Moody mentioned the 20mph limit around schools – in particular Parson Street does not have this. She would like to see the NP working with the Council to impose this around schools.
- (e) Ben Barker explained that the Council wants the exercise completed by 31 March. The plan will be reviewed at some point in the future.

Andrew McLean thanked everyone for participating and providing a steer – he summarised the outcomes from the exercise as follows:

Environment

1. Parks Investment Plan Priority improving Parks and open spaces; Play/ Habitats/ Accessibility
2. Improving the quality of the street scene environment
3. To develop new play/youth facilities for Ashton Vale
4. Review current provision of waste and street scene services
5. Reduce dog fouling incidents across the GBCP area

Traffic and Transport

1. Improving walking and cycling routes
2. To address the needs of people in communities with restricted mobility

Crime and Community Safety

1. Police and partners working together successfully to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour
2. Change the perception of crime in line with actual crime levels

Housing, Planning and Major Projects

1. All developments to deliver tangible benefits for local people
2. Improved engagement in planning pre-application process

Families, Younger and Older People

1. Improving the life for older people
2. Improving the life for younger people and achieving high quality of life indicators for children in the area

Employment, Training and Economic Development

1. Increase local business resilience
2. Increase job readiness of the unemployed

Addressing Inequality and Active Citizenship

1. Ensure that the Community Partnership reflects the community it represents
2. Work to ensure accessible services and facilities across the area
3. Active residents who can influence local decision-making
4. Supporting existing community events and groups to reflect people from all equality groups and emerging communities
5. Celebrate community volunteering

Community Buildings and Facilities

1. Maintain and Improve community buildings/facilities (standard, numbers and availability)
2. Promote/take advantage of community asset transfer opportunities, right to bid etc.

ACTION: The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator will send the amended plan to Di Robinson and Penny Germon and it will also be uploaded to the Council website.

8. Resolutions to the GBCP (Agenda Item 8)

The NP noted that there was one resolution received from Ben Barker. Ben explained that for the first 2-3 years, the Wellbeing Fund was transferred to the GBCP by cheque for £20,000. Bristol City Council then centralised the process and bureaucratised it by making

it more complicated and the administration was not handled well. Ben is therefore proposing that the partnership reverts back to being given a cheque which is dealt with by the GBCP.

The following issues were highlighted:

- Tess Green commented that perhaps we should ask for the money for the financial year 2015/2016, otherwise she is concerned that the NP could get into the process of awarding the money, before it actually gets the money.
- Ben Barker confirmed that the community chest timetable was distributed in the newsletter - decisions on awarding the funding will be made in June and cheques will not have to be paid out until after June.
- The resolution should be amended to put in 'starting in financial year 2015/16.'
- Cllr Bradshaw commented that there is a need for transparency over who holds the funds
- Cllr Benyon confirmed that he is happy to support the proposal
- The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Andrew Mclean, confirmed that as from 1 April 2015 the money will be held by the Council's finance department, but the community chest will be managed by himself and an administrative assistant to ensure efficiency in processing the monies.

AGREED: The Partnership agreed to submit the resolution to Bristol City Council

ACTION: Andrew McLean

9. Minutes of the meeting of the GBCP held on 19 January 2015 and 16 February 2015
(Agenda Item 9)

The minutes of the GBCP held on 19 January 2015 and 16 February 2014 were approved.

10. Any Other Business (Agenda Item 11)

There was none.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The Neighbourhood Partnership noted that the next meeting of the Community Partnership was scheduled for **on 27 April 2015 at 7pm** at the Ashton Vale Youth Club and that the next full meeting of the Greater Bedminster Community Partnership is scheduled for **24 June 2015 at 7pm** at the Windmill Hill City Farm, Philip Street, Bristol BS3 4EA.

The meeting finished at 9pm

CHAIR