



**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9**

**GREATER BRISLINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP  
8 DECEMBER 2014**

**Report of:** Ariaf Hussain, Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator,  
Neighbourhood Management

**Title:** Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinators' Update Report

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**RECOMMENDATIONS – to note the updates on the following:**

- 1. Forum Stocktake & Development**
- 2. BMX Track**
- 3. Play Area Hungerford Road**
- 4. St Annes Woods**
- 5. Grounds Maintenance**
- 6. NP City Wide Event**
- 7. Equalities Training**
- 8. Mayors Visit**
- 9. NP Plan**
- 10. Bristol Budget Consultation for 2015/16**
- 11. Bristol's Libraries Consultation**

**1. Forum Stocktake & Development**

The Neighbourhood Management Service has been looking at how well the neighbourhood forums in each area are being delivered against certain key criteria.

A meeting was held with 28 October 2014, with Police colleagues and some local residents who are regular Forum attendees

The purpose of the meeting was to assess the current performance of the forums against criteria which are relevant to the world of today.

We are no longer compelled to have forum for a fixed frequency a year – we do however want to achieve meetings that are well run that encourage active

citizenship and effectively engage with local residents.

The forum is no longer just somewhere for reporting issues. Issues should be reported as they happen through the calls centre and websites and collected through engagement work.

The Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator will use the information to have a conversation with NP's about future engagement work in the area as part of the neighbourhood plan process, which is described later on in this report.

## **2. Arnos Court Park BMX Track**

The BMX track should be nearing completion in early December but this is of course weather dependent.

## **3. Play Area Hungerford Road**

Work to the play area started on site Tuesday 11th November 2014 and is due to be finished before Christmas, about a 4 week building programme. The broken benches are to be repaired and fitted with pins (or rods) to make them secure and stable. The remaining benches that have not been vandalised will also be upgraded to the same structure.

## **4. St Anne's Wood & Nightingale Valley Path & Entrances**

The path and entrance renovation work being carried out in St. Anne's Wood and Nightingale Valley over the past months is now coming to an end. The following few items of work are still outstanding and due to be completed by the end of November:

- Tarmac repair works in St Anne's Wood around the entrance off St. Anne's Park entrance; the entrance on Lichfield Road opposite Kingfisher school; and a base course of tarmac is to be laid on the steep slope running down from the Coop entrance towards the well.
- Although the artist blacksmith's entrance features and archways are now all installed, the 4 noticeboards are being fixed into their frames this week, ready to take laminated posters, etc. The final finishing touches of tying the new railings into existing railings (where needed) and highlight painting of the features will be carried out.
- The entrance to St Anne's Wood opposite St Anne's Park has its new kissing gate entrance and railings, but there is need for some adjustment to the railings to make them fully secure. Also in Nightingale Valley at the Birchwood Road/Woodcroft Road Allotment entrance to the woods, there is to be a new wide kissing gate to be installed here to replace the existing field gate.
- Fingerposts directing people between St Anne's Wood and Nightingale Valley entrances are to be located on Newbridge Road close to the new

entrance and at the top of St Anne's Terrace.

## **5. Grounds Maintenance**

We had hoped we would be in a position by now to work with you to influence the grounds maintenance service for 2015. But getting our staff team up to strength since we restructured has taken longer than we anticipated. So we are not yet ready to have the conversation with you.

We need to focus on bringing the contract inside the council and once we have done that we would like to come back to you in March 2015 to agree how you can influence the new service moving forward.

We're sorry that the timing hasn't worked out but we will make sure we keep and build on all the great input you have given us so far. – Tracey Morgan, Service Director Environment & Leisure”

## **6. NP City Wide**

City Wide Neighbourhood Partnership Event 7 February 2015

On the 15 October the Citywide Event Working group, discussed and agreed the following:

The Citywide NP event will:

- Take place on Saturday 7 February 10am – until 4pm (lunch will be provided)
- Be limited to people involved in NPs and NP working groups, with approximately 150 spaces offered on a first come first service basis
- Be held at Circomedia, St Pauls Church, Portland Square
- Be strategic in nature and will be made up of several workshops/discussion forums, such as planning, CIL, communications and marketing NPs, transport planning, sharing best practice.
- Participants will be able to take part in several different discussions/workshops throughout the day and the Mayor has been invited to take part in part of the day.

The working group will be meeting several times before Christmas to firm up the agenda and finalise the activities, and your representative on the working group will be communicating with you to keep you in the loop at all times.

If you are interested in attending the event on the 7th please pencil in the date, and your Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator will be sending you

the link to book your ticket in mid-December.

## **7. Equalities Training**

Neighbourhood Partnership equalities training will take place in the New Year. Details will be shared when they become available.

## **8. Mayors Visit**

It is being proposed that the elected Mayor undertake a further visit to the NP area in 2015.

The format is different to previously, it is suggested that it will be a meet/greet/conversation in a static location and then a visit to a school and then a couple of other identified key sites/projects that the NP would like the Mayor to visit.

The Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator will liaise with the Mayor's office and the NP to help organise and facilitate the session.

## **9. NP Plan**

It was agreed at the last NP meeting that the partnership would develop a refreshed action plan covering the next three years.

This plan would:

- Identify the partnerships aspirations for the area and some challenging goals;
- Contain all of the partnership's priorities and the evidence underpinning them in one document;
- Be clear about what the partnership has to do, what it would be nice to do and what the partnership can and cannot do;
- Direct the allocation of funding and resources managed by the Neighbourhood Partnership towards the achievement of partnership priorities;
- Guide the partnership's work over the next 3 years;
- Identify where central or additional support is needed to help the partnership achieve its priorities;
- Identify where Neighbourhood Partnership alliances can be formed and resources shared to address common priorities;
- Help us to know what we have done well.

## **What happens next?**

The Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator will organise a meeting to focus on:

- What are the priority issues that the partnership needs to focus on?
- What geographical areas does the partnership need to focus on?
- Are there areas such as shopping districts that need a special partnership focus?
- Are there particular streets that the partnership needs to focus on?
- Are there communities in the area that the partnership needs to focus on?

Additional task focused meetings can be held as are needed.

Meetings will be organised in January/February 2015 to prioritise and complete the plan prior to the NP meeting in March 2015.

## **10. Bristol Budget Consultation for 2015/16**

People in Bristol are being invited to have their say on Bristol City Council's budget proposals for next year.

Released on Monday 17 November, the proposals mark the start of a process towards setting the council's budget for the 2015/16 financial year. They include savings required to meet the council's three-year financial strategy, which was approved last year and includes just over £80m of savings due to government funding cuts and an increasing demand for services.

There is good news for the coming year as a one-off pot of £3.9m is available because more Council Tax than expected was collected this year. This is mainly due to a review of single person discounts in the city. Because future forecasts will take this into account the money is only available once, making it unsuitable to commit to ongoing running costs.

Bristol Mayor George Ferguson will be presenting options for this and asking for other ideas as part of the consultation. The consultation won't be asking for detailed rankings of all savings proposals for the year, as these were discussed as part of last year's budget conversation and remain in place as part of the three year strategy. There have been no savings proposals added.

In line with the council's three year plan, there is a proposed Council Tax increase of 1.95%, about 50p per week for an average B and D home.

Today's published proposals include the Mayor's initial proposals for spending the £3.9m, taking in to account that it will only be available once, making it less suitable for running day-to-day services in the long term:

### **Mayoral Commissions - £1.6m**

During 2014, four independent Mayoral Commissions on Fairness, Education and Skills, Housing and Sport made recommendations for improving these areas. They joined the Mayor's continuing Women's Commission.

Some of the recommendations would have a one-off cost attached, and the Mayor proposes to use this fund to translate those recommendations into action.

The recommendations are currently being assessed, and over the next few months the Mayor will discuss further how the money can be allocated.

### **Libraries For the Future – Investment of £1m**

The council is currently taking part in a city-wide consultation on shaping Libraries for the Future. This is a real opportunity for the people of the city to influence how the service moves forward to ensure it better meets the needs of Bristol's communities.

This is a one-off investment to support the outcomes of this process, ensuring the council can invest in the ideas that come from it.

### **Bristol 2015 - European Green Capital Legacy £0.5m**

Bristol is European Green Capital for 2015. This would create a £500,000 grant programme specifically targeted at legacy projects across the city. Suggestions as to how this might be invested are welcomed.

### **Closer joint working across the city region £0.3m**

This funding would support opportunities to join-up more council services across the wider Bristol and Bath city region, helping make more joined-up decisions across borders to ensure better value, take advantage of national funding opportunities and to make the most of local services.

### **Supporting better rail links for the city – Development of Business Case £0.3m**

With the MetroWest project underway, the ongoing development of rail links into Bristol is an important aspect of the city's infrastructure. This proposes £300,000 funding for a feasibility study/business case for development of local rail, including the Henbury Loop.

### **Bristol 800 Celebrations £0.1m**

2016 is a year of many anniversaries, including the 800th anniversary of the first Mayor of Bristol and 250 years of the Bristol Old Vic. In this year of great

significance for the city, our aim will be to celebrate the anniversary over 50 weekends which will take place in all Bristol's communities. This will be a year the whole city will own.

### **Feasibility Study for Further Development of Colston Hall £0.1m**

Propose to allocate £100,000 to support the Colston Hall Trust, by funding a feasibility study into the restoration and further development of the hall - focussing not just on opportunities for development, but also the ability to secure third party external funding.

People can take part in the consultation by visiting [www.bristol.gov.uk/budget](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/budget). Paper copies are available in local libraries and Citizen Service Points across the city. They can also be requested by post by contacting 0117 922 2848.

## **11. Bristol's Libraries Consultation**

The consultation on the future of Bristol's Libraries started on 11 November 2014 and runs until 2 February 2015. The consultation is to enable the residents to have their say on the future design of the city's libraries.

Although Bristol libraries are well loved and highly valued only 6% of residents use them so there is a need to see what can be done to make them more useful and relevant. This discussion is framed by the proposed reduction in the library service budget of £1.1 million by 2016/17.

Bristol City Council would like your ideas and suggestions on the future of the library service including how to develop improved flexible, modern spaces for communities to learn and socialise in.

At this stage there are no proposals on what could or should happen to libraries and no decisions have been made to that end.

### **How to get involved?**

The BCC website has information about the current library service and plenty of inspiration from other cities to help stimulate ideas. Visit [www.bristolfuturelibraries.co.uk](http://www.bristolfuturelibraries.co.uk) for more information on the consultation and to take part in the survey.

Meetings have been held at libraries and specially organised Neighbourhood Forum session for this area. Details are available on the website and also in each library.

### **What happens next?**

When the consultation ends the feedback will be used to shape option based proposals which will be discussed at Cabinet in March 2015. Phase 2 of the consultation based on options will run until May 2015 with the final plan for the library service agreed in June 2015.

**What we would like the Neighbourhood Partnership to do?**

- Consider the future of libraries in the NP area.
- Get involved in the formal public consultation.