

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

Greater Fishponds Neighbourhood Partnership

Report of: Abdulrazak Dahir

Title: Neighbourhood Partnership Annual Achievements Report

Introduction

This report is a summary of some of the achievements of the Greater Fishponds Neighbourhood Partnership in 2011-12. The achievements are examples of how the partnership can deliver improvements to the area through its Action Plan / Priorities. This report highlights the work of a variety of different partnership members who have worked together, including local residents, community groups, Councillors and other partners.

Project 1: M32 Junction 3 Roundabout Clean Up



Action Plan Priority:

Improving and enhancing local environment, including local parks and open spaces, fly tipping, littering and graffiti.

This project aimed to enhance junction 3 of the M32 roundabout also known as Eastgate roundabout. For sometime this roundabout was neglected and was in an eyesore state with large amounts of litter, graffiti,

overgrown grass and moss on the pavements.

It was first identified at Eastville Neighbourhood Forum and the Environment subgroup members helped to develop the project. In 2011/12 a concerted effort was made by council officers and residents to make some improvements.

A clean up took place with deep cleaning of the subways, hanging baskets were installed and trees planted. Following a successful funding application to the city's Clean and Green fund, the railings around the roundabout will soon be

repainted and plans are underway for the planting of a flower meadow. Community Payback recently helped to clear almost 1 tonne of dumped rubbish along the riverbank, at the rear of the Tesco car park, which had become both a dumping ground and local eyesore.

NP Action Plan Aim: Improving and enhancing local environment.

Resources used: £720 of devolved Clean and Green, influencing SITA contract, officer & community volunteers time

Additional benefits included:

- Securing further £6,220 from Central Clean & Green Budget
- Generating local interest

Equalities aims addressed:

Before the cleanup people from all sectors of the community were unable to use the subway underpass due to filth, revolting smell and fear of crime. Now community members, including mums with prams and disabled community members are able to cross safely using this underpass.

Other environment improvements we have done in the area include:

- Lodge Hill Public Right of Way (PRoW), where we have cleared brambles and planted winter bedding and bulbs

Before



After



- Rubbish was cleared twice from the East Park estate and East Park Residents group were supported to put up hanging baskets in order to enhance the estate using the Wellbeing Budget.
- Spring bulbs in Hillfields Park
- Elton Rd rear lane clearance
- For more information on supported projects aiming to enhance the environment see agenda item 9, under Clean and Green.

Project 2: Grove Rd Youth Club



Action Plan Priority: Anti-social behaviour associated to young people.

Young people tell us that there is nothing for them to do in the neighbourhood. There is general consensus that there is lack of community provision including young people. When an application from Grove Rd Youth Club was granted for a start up cost, it provided young people from the neighbourhood a safe environment to meet and

socialise with their peers.

In addition the NP played a pivotal role in negotiating to move the BMX track originally allocated inappropriate site in Eastville Park to Hillfields Park. This as a result retained desperately needed provision for young people and investment for our parks.

NP Action Plan Aim: Lack of local of provision for young people.

Resources used: £1000 spark plug and £3,200 of Wellbeing Budget and Volunteer time. In addition we have managed to keep £16,800 of Cycling City money, which was going to be diverted to other parts of the city.

Additional benefits included:

- In short period of time 34 young people between the age of 10 to 16 year olds registered with the club and 7 occasional users.
- In total 200 attended over 10 session In total 200 attended over 10 session
- The project attracted 16 volunteers and
- The Hillfields Park BMX track is open for young people.

Equalities aims addressed: Provided young people an opportunity to play in safe environment.

Project 3: Ham Lane Road closure



Action Plan Priority:

Traffic management issues, including speeding, noise and parking restrictions.

This project was supported from the devolved Local Traffic Scheme's budget. The problem was first raised at the Neighbourhood Forum, but according to local residents, they have been calling for the council to close Ham Lane since 1970s. Ham Lane was used as a rat run to avoid and jump traffic queue, particularly during the rush hours, on Frenchay

Park Rd. Parents dropping off and picking up children from Begbrook School also used Ham Lane as a short cut to the school. The lane was not designed to take this level of traffic and caused nuisance for residents living in Ham Lane and endangered families walking their children to school, due to the limited width of the lane.

NP Action Plan Aim: Traffic nuisance.

Resources used: £3,686.87 of devolved Local Traffic Scheme funds.

Additional benefits included:

- The lane is now much safer and pleasant for local residents and parents walking their children to and from Begbrook School.
- Ham Lane is part of conservation area and BCC highways team have agreed to resurface the lane using aesthetically suitable material without any cost to the Neighbourhood Partnership.

Equalities aims addressed: This is a public road open to all users

Project 4: Community Fun Days:

Action Plan Priority: Providing or improving community facilities, activities and services for all ages of the community.



Some of the community events held in Fishponds area include the Vassall Centre Community Open Day in Frome Vale ward, 999 Community Fun day in Hillfields, St George Tea Party in Fishponds Park and Fishfest to name a few. The good news is Hillfields ward has been awarded £33,000 of Community First Match Funding from central government via Community Development

Foundation. An independent panel to assess applications has been set-up, website to promote the funding initiative have been set-up.

NP Action Plan Aim: Providing and promoting community provision and activities.

Resources used: £8,830 of Wellbeing Budget and community volunteers time to organise community events.

Additional benefits included:

- In total 11 community events have been support using this money. Al inspiring and increasing number of local residents in volunteering in local projects
- Event used to consult on the Greater Fishponds Area Green Investment Plan.
- Enhance community cohesion, which is another NP priority by bringing together people from different backgrounds and encourage their children to play together.
- Increased use of Community Centres
- Enhance communication about community activities available in the area and information about service providers, eg Fire Services.
- Enhance community sprit, local residents feeling valued and belonging in their community

Equalities aims addressed

Stalls aimed at raising awareness about local community activities and services for all sectors of the community.