

**AGENDA ITEM NO: 8**

**Greater Fishponds Neighbourhood Partnership  
(GFNP) Report**

**Date: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

**RECOMMENDATIONS: The Neighbourhood Partnership (NP) is asked to:**

- 1- Note Neighbourhood Partnership Review update (Kurt James)
- 2- Note Environment Subgroup Update (Denise James)
- 3- Note progress from Traffic and Transport subgroup (Abdulrazak Dahir)
- 4- Note Stapleton AFC & Begbrook local resident's meeting update (Katie Haydon)
- 5- Note Active Neighbourhood Transport Grant update
- 6- Note Neighbourhood Forum Update
- 7- Agree proposed NP meetings

**Part 1: Neighbourhood Partnership Review**

- 1- As you will know there were a wide range of findings from the Neighbourhood Partnership (NP) consultation we undertook earlier this year.
- 2- The further development and implementation of some of the findings around governance and devolution have not been actively progressed due to the timing of both the Bristol City Council 3 year budget and the Boundary Commissions Boundary Review of Bristol.
- 3- The Boundary Commission will, following the conclusion of their review recommend future ward boundaries and councillor numbers that take into account changes to the city's population and the introduction of the mayoral governance model.



- 4- We are inputting the perspective of Neighbourhood Partnerships into these wider discussions but clearly cannot progress anything independently of such significant citywide reviews.
- 5- However, there are areas of the review findings which the team have worked on which can be progressed within the current context:
  - Training for NP members
  - Using resources more effectively
  - Making forums work better.
  - Improve equalities understanding and performance
- 6- We will work with partnerships over the next period to deliver the above.

## **Part 2: Environment Subgroup Update**

- 7- The Environment Sub Group met at Robinson House on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December. The group were given a presentation by Teija Ahjokoski Horticultural Improvements Officer on locations that had previously been identified by the group. After discussion, the group proposed that flower meadows be developed on Snowdon Road Open Space, Quadrant West, Begbrook Park Green and M32 roundabout. If approved, this project will be funded through the Wellbeing Grant (see agenda item 6).
- 8- Denise James (AEO) advised the group with regards to the £43,569.70 of S106 funds from the Mallard Close development, which had been allocated to improve the MUGA at St George Park. As the funds will be reimbursed to the NP from Council funds, it cannot be guaranteed that these funds will still be available to spend in the 2014/15 financial year. Therefore, the group were advised to allocate these funds for expenditure by the end of this current financial year. After a long discussion, the group proposed to allocate the funds to pathways which had been identified for improvements and also a gate improvement scheme, all of which formed one of the priorities of the AGSIP to improve access to parks and open spaces. However, the group felt that they had been put under pressure to allocate this funding, as the original report dated 27<sup>th</sup> September 2012, did not state a deadline to spend the funds once it had been reimbursed by the Council.
- 9- The group also discussed the proposed East Park Play area and were disappointed that despite requests made that no plans had been forthcoming and that the group were still waiting for guidance on sourcing external funding streams. As a result the group will be writing direct to the Children's Play & Youth Officer, to express their concerns.



- 10- Denise James also advised the group on progress with regards to the new Children's Play Ground at Ridgeway Playing Fields. This has now been completed, however concerns have been raised with regards to the standards of top soil used to reinstate the former play area. Officers are still waiting for clarification. The group were advised that the play area is being well used, however some concerns have been raised with regards to noise issues.
- 11- The group were asked their views on the recent installation of a kissing gate at Wickham Hill, as the current installation was not to the original design brief. The group were unanimous in that the original wooden gate should be installed, as the metal design was not within keeping of the semi-rural environment.
- 12- Mark Logan advised the group of the importance of taking part in the Budget Consultation Survey and urged everyone that this can be done on line or by visiting their local library. Mark also updated the group on HEFs Hillfields, Eastville & Frome Vale in Bloom, there is a need to develop a small sub group as more focus is needed ahead of next year's national entry into Britain in Bloom.
- 13- The group were also advised that the Fishponds Local Action Group (FLAG) committee has agreed to make £10,000 available for improvements to Hillfields Park. They had initially identified that there was a need for provision of additional childrens play equipment inside the play area. However, the sub group have asked that they consider to allocate some of the funds towards the path improvements proposal.

### **Part 3: Traffic and Transport subgroup update**

- 14- The Traffic and Transport subgroup met on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013. The group met with Helen Wigginton. Helen is responsible for the 20mph roll out. Helen explained her team identified roads, which require treatment offered as part of the 20mph roll out and would be happy to co-ordinate their works with the NP highways programmed works.
- 15- Helen explained a proposal for the Bristol East area, which includes the Greater Fishponds and the St George NP areas have been put forward based on the preliminary discussions undertaken at the Traffic and Transport subgroup meeting and public displays held in September and October 2013.
- 16- A postcard was sent out to households in the area at the end of October to raise awareness of the proposals and asking for comments. The deadline for comments is Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.



- 17- Officers will then analyse the responses and put together a further proposal reflecting these comments. This proposal will form the basis of the Speed Limit Order which is aimed to start in March 2014 with the formal consultation planned to take place during May and June 2014.
- 18- The group welcomed feedback from the Passenger Transport Team who are working on the Section 106 funded Bus Shelters in Whitefield Rd. Officers agreed to come-up with another proposal which does not involve “sticking out” bust stops. For more information see devolved Services report.
- 19- The group also discussed the traffic jam between Manor Rd and Hockeys Lane during the rush hour. Concerns were raised about the level of pollution post GBBN improvements. The group requested pollution report for this location.

#### **Part 4: Stapleton AFC and Begbrook Park local residents**

- 20- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013, two representatives from both Stapleton AFC and representatives from local residents affected by the football games met to discuss way forward. The meeting was chaired by Katie Haydon and was facilitated by Denise James. Richard Fletcher Parks Manager and the Area Co-ordinator attended the meeting.
- 21- The meeting lasted three hours and was the first meeting the two parties had discussed in detail issues relating to the football games. Residents highlighted their concerns, which were mainly anti-social behaviour including urinating, litter and retrieving balls from local resident's back gardens, without asking consent.
- 22- The club also explained the measures they put in place to ensure these issues were indeed dealt with appropriately, including clearing litter after each game, evicting club members who is caught urinating in the park and ensuring there were people stopping balls getting into local resident's back garden - the club agreed to monitor the situation and if necessary will purchase a net designed to stop balls going into houses nearby.
- 23- Both parties agreed to meet again on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013, in order to finalise reaching a suitable compromise for all the parties involved.



## **Part 5: Active Neighbourhood Transport Grant**

- 24- The third round of grants funded through Bristol's Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) as part of its Active Neighbourhoods Programme opens on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013 and will close 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014.
- 25- Applicants for grants as little as £500 up to a maximum contribution of £3,000 are encouraged.
- 26- This grant offers an opportunity to address long standing issues, which require capital funding, for example Public Right of Way improvements, improvements where there are cycle and pedestrian conflicts.

## **Part 6: Neighbourhood Forum update.**

### Hillfields Forum

- 27- The Forum was held at Hillfields Library on Weds 6<sup>th</sup> November between 1pm-2.30pm. This was the first time a forum has been held at lunchtime. We hoped to attract parents and older residents for whom evening meetings were an issue. Prior to the Forum we delivered leaflets to local schools and elderly persons residences in the area.
- 28- 10 local residents attended, of whom 3 were at a Forum for the first time. 1 Councillor was in attendance along with officers from the Police and Bristol City Council.
- 29- 18 issues were taken from the meeting including 15 which were picked up via the NP engagement activities.
- 30- Attendees were given the opportunity to comment further on the proposed roll-out of 20mph in the area.

### Eastville Forum

- 31- The Forum was held at Stapleton Village Hall on Weds 13<sup>th</sup> November from 7pm-9pm. Prior to the forum approximately 200 leaflets were delivered to households in the Alcove Rd area.
- 32- 20 local residents attended, along with 1 Councillor (Cllr Threlfall sent apologies) and supporting officers from the Police and Bristol City Council.



- 33- As a new, permanent agenda item Councillor Khan did a short report on his work in the area. Ellie Freeman did a short presentation on the “Playing Out” project.
- 34- Attendees were given the opportunity to comment further on the proposed roll-out of 20mph in the area.
- 35- In total 18 issues were gathered, including 11 which were picked up via the NP engagement activities. The issues of the swings in Eastville Park and the lane markings at Eastgate roundabout were raised again.

#### Frome Vale

- 36- The Forum was held at Frome Vale Academy on Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> November. This was a new venue for the Forum. Prior to the event approximately 200 leaflets had been delivered to households at the bottom end of Frenchay Rd and posters affixed to lamp posts.
- 37- 21 residents attended, of whom 5 were at a Forum for the first time. 1 Councillor was present along with supporting officers from the Police and Bristol City Council. Councillor Payne sent apologies.
- 38- As a new, permanent agenda item Councillor Alexander did a short report on her work in the area. There was a presentation from Care and Repair about their work with elderly home owners.
- 39- Attendees were given the opportunity to comment further on the proposed roll-out of 20mph in the area as well as a preview of the proposed overflow car park in Oldbury Court, which proved highly controversial.
- 40- 19 issues were gathered, including 17 from previous engagement activity. The Hockeys Lane turn was raised once again.

#### **Part 7: Proposed NP meeting schedule until December 2014.**

- 41- The NP team received a request from the St George NP members to extend the core NP meeting schedule for next year from June 2014 to December 2014. This way the NP core meetings will be set and planned at least one year in advance.



- 42- Draft NP core meeting schedule will be circulated before the NP meeting in December 2013 and will be followed by draft Community Engagement Plan in March 2014.

Put together by Area Co-ordinator 05/12/13