

## Greater Fishponds Neighbourhood Partnership (GFNP) Report

Date: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014

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

- 1- Note Neighbourhood Partnership Review update (Abdulrazak Dahir)
- 2- Note Environment Subgroup Update (Denise James)
- 3- Note progress from Traffic and Transport subgroup (Abdulrazak Dahir)
- 4- Note Neighbourhood Forum Update (Denis Wise)
- 5- 20mph Roll out (Helen Wigginton)
- 6- Real Economy Project (Beatrix Oliver)
- 7- Bristol East Youth Provision and Facilities Update (Bristol Youth Links Team)
- 8- St Matthias Site Update (Rebecca Collins from GVA)

### **Part 1: Neighbourhood Partnership Review**

- 1- Verbal update will be provided at the Neighbourhood Partnership meeting.

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

- 2- The Environmental Sub Group met on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, whereby they were updated on a number of projects currently taking place. The group raised concerns over the lack of publicity in respect of the Fishing Permit scheme, which was implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014. A request was made for BCC to work with local radio and press to promote this initiative. Claire Harbinson, Arboriculture Officer updated the group on the 'Tree Pips Project' – whilst the group supported the new project a number of concerns were raised, one being with respect to last year's tree planting programme whereby trees have failed due to lack of regular watering and maintenance programme. The group were updated on S106

funded projects and it was proposed to support any remaining unspent/allocated S106 funds within the 1 mile radius.

- 3- Mark Logan updated the group in relation to the HEFs in Bloom entry for this year and confirmed the NP will be entering the nationals in 2015. Mark advised the group that community groups are being asked to pledge support for this year's Festival of Nature and that events will be held in Oldbury Court Estate and Snuff Mills.
- 4- The Environmental Sub Group discussed the lack of Children's Play Facility at the East Park Open Space in Eastville. The group would like to support the development of children play facility for the area as a key 2014/15 priority.

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

- 5- The Traffic and Transport subgroup met on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014. The main topic for the meeting was to prioritise the 2014/15 Local Traffic Schemes. The subgroup's recommendation is present in the Highways Report, agenda item 6.
- 6- Local residents from Dunkirk Rd were given an opportunity to present and speak about the issues they faced as a result of new recent developed in Dunkirk Rd. In addition PCSO Alison Powell also talked about issues local residents in Abingdon Rd faced. These were taken into account as part of the prioritisation process. Albeit members were dismayed to hear that Neighbourhood Partnerships could only select one scheme per year.
- 7- Subgroup members previously requested for an Air Quality monitoring along Fishponds Rd. Hardcopies of this report was circulated at the meeting, although there was not enough time to discuss it in detail, the report showed slight improvement in the air quality post GBBN improvements.

### **Part 4: Neighbourhood Forum update.**

#### **Hillfields Forum**

- 8- The Forum was held at Crofts End Church on weds 12<sup>th</sup> Feb between 7pm-9.00pm. Prior to the Forum we delivered 200 leaflets to residences in the Speedwell Rd, Duncombe Lane/ Whitefield Rd area.
- 9- 8 local residents and 1 Councillor were in attendance along with officers from the Police and Bristol City Council. There was a presence from the City Council commissioned 'Healthwatch' scheme.

- 10- The Council took 3 issues from the meeting and the Police took 2 (both relating to traffic offences on Forest Rd)
- 11- Attendees were given a presentation on Active Community Travel Grants and were also given a preview of the proposed traffic schemes outside St Joseph's School and Minerva Academy.

### **Eastville Forum**

- 12- The Forum was held at Gads Hill Scout Hut on Weds 5<sup>th</sup> Feb from 7pm-9pm. Prior to the forum approximately 200 leaflets were delivered to households in the Fishponds Rd / Stapleton Rd/ Glen Park Area.
- 13- 25 local residents attended, along with 1 Councillor (Cllr Threlfall sent apologies) and supporting officers from the Police and Bristol City Council. There was a presence from the City Council commissioned 'Healthwatch' scheme during the breakout session.
- 14- The Council took 8 issues from the meeting, the Police took 2.
- 15- Attendees were given a presentation on Active Community Travel Grants as well as an opportunity to view the proposals for new paly area in Eastville Park

### **Frome Vale**

- 16- The Forum was held at Fishponds Baptist Church on Thurs Feb 6th between 7pm-9pm. Prior to the event approximately 200 leaflets had been delivered to households in the Staple Hill Rd/ Cassell Rd/ Downend Rd area.
- 17- 24 residents attended, of whom 3 were at a Forum for the first time. 2 Councillors were present along with supporting officers from the Police and Bristol City Council. There was a presence from the City Council commissioned 'Healthwatch' scheme.
- 18- There was a lengthy question and answer session with representatives from First group Bus as well as the City Council Passenger Transport Team.
- 19- The Council took 8 issues from the meeting, including concern re the quality of the re-surfacing of Vassall Rd. The police took 3 issues.

### **Part 5: 20mph roll out.**

- 20- The informal consultation period has now closed. This was held from Monday 4th November to Monday 2nd December 2013 and provided a further opportunity for the public to comment on the draft proposal for the East area.
- 21- The council is currently considering the comments received during the informal consultation period and are reviewing the proposal. Once this process has been completed a revised version of the proposal will be produced and added to the website ([www.bristol20mph.co.uk](http://www.bristol20mph.co.uk)), this should be by the end of March 2014. This new proposal will form the basis for the Speed Limit Order (SLO) and as part of the SLO the formal consultation is likely to be held in April/May 2014.

### **Part 6 Real Economy Project:**

- 22- Real economy is a 2 years funded project managed by the Bristol Pound. The aim of the project is to create an alternative economic network, which entails developing local food supply chains by encouraging the formation of localised food-buying groups and pop-up markets.
- 23- The project is looking to initiate a pilot in the Frome Vale area and will provide support to the buying groups and new micro-enterprises. Support offered varies and includes invitations to take part in pop-up markets; support to trade using Bristol Pounds, advice and infrastructure support, such as an online ordering portal and brokering relationships with food producers.
- 24- Key objectives include growing the capacity of the local food system focussing on a 50-mile radius of Bristol, providing better access to fresh local food, developing community life and encouraging new enterprise. The project is focussing on areas of the city with little choice in food and with high unemployment.

### **Part 7 Bristol East Youth Provision & Facilities**

- 25- Following a needs assessment and consideration of resources available, the BYL providers for East Bristol, Creative Youth Network, have focussed their youth centre-based programmes from hubs in Hanham and Hillfields. Services from Hillfields include:
- Disabled Young Person's Group - 0.75 hours p week
  - Community Cohesion Session - 2 hours p week
  - Open Access Youth Centre - 6 hours p week
- 26- The following play sessions also take place in Bristol East:

- Meadow vale(Play rangers, two hours per week)
- St George's Park (Play rangers, two hours per week)

### **Hillfields Youth and Community Centre**

- 27- The council have paused the CAT process and during the past six months have explored other ways of keeping the Centre open. We have worked with the existing users of the building and agreed that Hillfields Young Mothers Group ('HYMG') will take over the day-to-day management of the Centre from April 2014, with council support.
- 28- This agreement will be for an initial period of 12 months, during which time the council will underwrite part of the operating costs of the Centre. HYMG will carry out a feasibility study of how the Centre can be managed independently in the longer term.
- 29- The new arrangement will result in lower running costs and will see the Centre used for a wide range of activities, in order to better meet the needs of the local community. The aim is to transform the building into the 'hub' for the local community and to save it from closure by using a more sustainable way of managing it in the future.

### **Oldbury Court**

- 30- A new five-year concessionary tenancy is being negotiated with the Oldbury Court Out of School Club.

### **Kingsway Youth Centre**

- 31- Jimmy Taylor, a Bristol Youth Links Senior Practitioner, worked with young people from Friends of Kingsway from October 2013 - December 2013 to identify local needs with respect to Hillfields, and use this evidence to secure funding to meet those needs. From this work The Friends of Kingsway put in an application for funding for a further 10-week project to be run from the centre.
- 32- Competing pressures from work and study mean that these young people need support to secure funding to run sessions from the centre longer-term. Jimmy has been working with them on how they might structure a management committee to oversee the delivery from Kingsway and as part of this process has approached John Atkinson, Neighbourhood Working Co-ordinator, to try and identify local adults who may be able to commit to becoming involved with Friends of Kingsway going forward.

### **Harry Crook Centre**

- 33- Young Bristol are exploring two possible options for this site. Lee Williams, the club's manager, has asked Young Bristol's trustees to consider whether they would rather surrender the lease early or continue their lease until March 2016

through letting the use of the building to community organisations with a youth focus.

34- Young Bristol have sought advice from John Bos, Community Assets Manager, in regard to the above and are now awaiting the decision of the trustees. In the meantime Lee Williams is working with the Neighbourhood Partnership Co-ordinator Abdulrazak Dahir and John Bos to explore the possibility of local community groups using the centre through lettings agreements with Young Bristol. Lee is at the stage of arranging a date to open the building for interested groups to come and look around.

## **Part 8: St Matthias Campus Site**

35- The University of the West of England (UWE), Barratt Homes and Bristol Steiner Academy are proposing to submit a full planning application for redevelopment of St Matthias Campus in Fishponds, in April 2014.

36- In September 2010, UWE resolved to consolidate its educational operations to its main campus at Frenchay. Therefore the university is seeking to vacate and release the land and buildings at St Matthias Campus.

37- The scheme will seek permission from Bristol City Council for up to 220 dwellings and a Steiner School. The School will be located within the existing listed building complex at the site. UWE and Barratt have had extensive pre application discussions with Bristol City Council and statutory consultees to explain the background to the scheme, key principles and proposed development.

38- The residential development will provide a mix of 2, 3, 4 and 5 bedroom units to meet local needs. The Bristol Steiner Academy will cater for both primary and secondary aged pupils.

39- In parallel to the redevelopment of St Matthias, UWE will deliver replacement sports pitches, to serve both students and the community, at their main campus in Frenchay. Pupils of the Steiner Academy will also make use of playing fields at Oldbury Court.

40- The proposed development offers many benefits, including but not restricted to:

- Provision of much needed school places within Bristol;
- Reinvestment from disposal of the site towards high-class educational facilities for UWE, to serve the City of Bristol and wider region;

- Reprovision and enhanced playing field provision as part of a wider sports offer to students and the community at UWE Campus;
- Ensures the future use of Grade II\* Listed Buildings;
- Improves and enhances the current setting and character of the Listed buildings and Conservation Area;
- Delivery of new and affordable housing for the area;
- Assists BCC in delivering a five year housing land supply;
- Suitable mitigation of existing identified nature conservation and habitat
- Improved landscaping around Oldbury Court Registered Historic Park.

- 41- The site has been promoted through the Bristol Local Development Framework (LDF) including the Site Allocations and Development Management Development Plan Document and the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). It has significant potential to deliver a major contribution towards the Council's housing target. Barratt Homes are committed to delivering the scheme at the earliest opportunity if planning permission were to be forthcoming.
- 42- The site's proximity to a range of local facilities, public transport routes and Fishponds town centre, contributes greatly to improving the long term sustainability of the development and ability for the new residents to integrate into and contribute to the existing community.
- 43- Barratt Homes will be consulting with ward members, the NPN and holding a public exhibition at the site on 19th March (4-7pm); invitations will be distributed in the next few days to the neighbouring area and the event is also being publicised more widely through editorial coverage in The Post. The exhibition boards will also be available online from 20th March at [www.barrattbristolcommunity.com](http://www.barrattbristolcommunity.com). The community will be asked to give feedback to the plans, to help shape the final proposal.
- 44- If you have any questions arising from this, please contact my colleague Rebecca Collins (0117 988 5203 / [rebecca.collins@gva.co.uk](mailto:rebecca.collins@gva.co.uk)).

Put together by Area Co-ordinator 05/03/14