

Greater Fishponds Neighbourhood Partnership (GFNP) Report

Agenda item 10

Date: Thursday 20th March 2014

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

- 1- Note Neighbourhood Partnership Review update (Gemma Dando)
- 2- Parks approach to Grounds Maintenance Service (Gemma Dando)
- 3- Note Environment Subgroup Update (Abdulrazak Dahir)
- 4- Note progress from Traffic and Transport subgroup (Abdulrazak Dahir)
- 5- Note Neighbourhood Forum Update (Denis Wise)
- 6- Neighbourhood Management Service Update (Gemma Dando)

Part 1: Neighbourhood Partnership Review

- 1- At your March meeting you received an update on the NP review which included a summary of the first steps which we were proposing:
 - Unringfencing the devolved budget.
 - Implementing a neighbourhood services charter
 - Identify and implement efficiencies for improved delivery
 - Implementing a programme of citywide events
- 2- The removal of the ring fence for the devolved budgets (Local Traffic, Clean and Green, Wellbeing) is a Mayoral decision and a paper is being submitted to the Mayor in June. Confirmation of the decision will be provided for you verbally at your meeting or via your NP Coordinator if the decision hasn't yet been made by the date of your meeting. Removing the ring fence doesn't mean that your NP has to change the way that you currently allocate your money. However, if you would like to spend money on some different things, you may want to start talking about what you would like to change. Your NP Coordinator has some guidance available to help with this.

3- We would like to invite representatives of your neighbourhood partnership to the first citywide event on Saturday 9th August 2014 in order to work with us to progress some of the above. We would be grateful if you could identify some reps from your NP to attend. Ideas of things to cover are:

- Neighbourhood partnership plans - what is the best type of plan and how will they be used to allocate the neighbourhood (unringfenced) budget?
- Neighbourhood services charter – which services would you like to work with first?
- Improved and reduced paperwork and reporting
- Improving communications
- How do we show that NPs are effective and good value for money?
- Developing a 3 year programme for citywide events

Part 2: Parks approach to Grounds Maintenance Service – proposal for NPs

4- Last year as part of the Neighbourhood Partnership review questionnaire we asked what should be decided or influenced locally in the future. 3250 responses to the survey were received. Parks and green / open spaces was the third most frequent response to this question. Additionally, in the consultation focus groups, you told us that you wanted to be able to influence the design of the services and contracts that are provided by the council.

Proposal from BCC's Parks department

5- The council's parks department would like to adapt the council's grounds maintenance service to respond to the priorities of the Neighbourhood Partnerships.

Definition of Grounds maintenance service: Grounds maintenance, grass cutting, litter picking, shrubs, maintenance of assets within green spaces

6- Parks would like to work with NPs to influence and prioritise what is important in relation to grounds maintenance in their area.

7- There will be a clear budget to pay for grounds maintenance services and we will use that as a guide to assist you in sharing your views with us on priorities.

8- We will reshape the service according to your priorities in each of the 14 NP areas. From this we will be looking at what are the services that we will deliver the same across the city and what may be more tailored to each NP according to priorities.

Whilst we are working with you in the next year/18 months on this, we will also be considering how we can deliver a longer term service which delivers to your needs for the next 5-10 years. This will include considering who the best provider of the service will be. What we are asking from NPs:

- I. Each NP to tell us whether they want to be involved and to give their initial thoughts and comments
- II. NPs to decide how they want to progress this within their NP area (e.g. through an environment subgroup, special meeting, themed forum...)

Budget context

9- Parks has been impacted by the £500k saving it has to make from 2015/16, and also from the staff reductions as a result of the council-wide restructure. We are taking this opportunity to bring services together (e.g. caretaking, estates, parks) to achieve greater flexibility and speed of response, as well as economies of scale.

Part 3: Environment Subgroup Update

- 10- The Environment Subgroup met on Wednesday 28th May 2014. The group were briefed about the Bristol City Council restructuring programme taking place. Georgie Bryant will be the Neighbourhood Officer, who will be facilitating the Environment subgroup meetings and administering the Devolved Clean and Green Budget.
- 11- Mark Logan updated the group about HEFs in Bloom entry for this year. He informed the group that planters and hanging baskets will be put in place week beginning Monday 2nd June 2014. He also explained that at present HEFs in Bloom has only two members, however require minimum three people in order to register HEFs as an organisation. Anyone wanting to join HEFs is welcomed.
- 12- The group expressed their concerns about previously supported project to repaint the railings at the Junction 2 (Ikea) roundabout. Following discussions the group requested maintenance schedule for the railings and an explanation as to how the initial estimation provided to Denise James, by Highways team be so much different to final quote provided by the same team.
- 13- The group also discussed about the East Park Children Play Ground and supported proposal to raise up to £75,000 to get the project of the ground. It was also suggested to liaise with UWE for support and if there is no capacity within Bristol City Council to consider design and build option.
- 14- Finally the group thanked Yvonne Sadler for her role as the chair of the Environment subgroup and re-appointed her to continue 2014/15. There was confusion as about the term "Champion" used to describe the group Chair. It was agreed to change the term champion to chair.

Part 4: Traffic and Transport subgroup update

- 15- The Traffic and Transport subgroup met on Wednesday 4th June 2014. The meeting focused on the Bristol Metrobus and the development of Frenchay Hospital site.
- 16- The group heard from Colin Walker, who recently joined the project team working on the Metrobus project. Colin highlighted key benefits of the scheme and advised the group to comment the planning application.
- 17- Andrew Spicer explained to the group about traffic calming measures proposed to mitigate against the redevelopment of Frenchay Hospital site. He explained to the group that there is flexibility built into Section 106 negotiated for this site and could be changed if needed at a later date.
- 18- Andrew Spicer also discussed the railing at the junction of Manor Rd and Fishponds Rd. The group agreed to meet on site to discuss how to proceed with this issue, which was initially raised as a Neighbourhood Working Group priority.
- 19- The subgroup re-appointed David Mock as their chair and also agreed to change the term Subgroup Champion to Subgroup Chair.

Part 5: Neighbourhood Forum update.

Eastville Forum

- 20- The Forum was held at Stapleton Village Hall on Weds 21st May from 7pm-9pm. Prior to the forum approximately 200 leaflets were delivered to households in the area of Park Rd and Duchess Way.
- 21- 15 local residents attended, along with 2 Councillors and supporting officers from the Police and Bristol City Council.
- 22- Invited speakers from First Bus and Bristol City Council Civil Enforcement team did not turn up. Residents requested that the Partnership organise a special public meeting with First to discuss the provision of bus services to the area.
- 23- Maddie Longhurst from the Blue Finger Alliance gave a short presentation on the Metrobus proposals for Stoke Lane.
- 24- 9 issues were gathered, including 5 which were carried over from the previous Forum due to staff movement within the Council.

Frome Vale

- 25- The Forum was held at Feed Bristol on Thurs 15th May. This was a new venue for the Forum. Prior to the event approximately 200 leaflets had been delivered to households along Frenchay Park Road from the Stoke Lane junction to the Hospital.
- 26- 20 residents attended, of whom 2 were at a Forum for the first time. Both Councillors were present along with supporting officers from the Police and Bristol City Council.
- 27- There was a presentation from Feed Bristol about their project, followed by a discussion about the Bristol Metrobus proposals for the area.
- 28- 17 issues were raised, including some which had to be carried forward from the previous Forum due to restructuring within the Council. The Hockeys Lane turn was raised once again, as were issues relating to the bus stops on the GBBN route

Hillfields Forum

- 29- The Forum was held at Hillfields Library on Weds 7th May between 7pm-9pm.
- 30- Prior to the Forum approximately 200 flyers were delivered in the Forest road area. 17 local residents attended, of whom 2 were at a Forum for the first time. 1 Councillor was in attendance along with officers from the Police and Bristol City Council.
- 31- 15 issues were taken from the meeting, many of which related to issues arising from parking on pavements.
- 32- Attendees were given a presentation from the Care Forum about the Health and well-being initiative that is being run in the area. They were also updated by John Atkinson on the delivery of Neighbourhood Working priorities.

Part 6: Neighbourhood Partnership Management Service update.

- 33- A briefing note was sent to Neighbourhood Partnerships in early May to update you on our staffing changes. As promised, more details about this are provided here.
- 34- Across the council, services are working to a three area model based on the neighbourhood working areas (north, east central, south). This is to enable better delivery of services within neighbourhoods. Some partners such as the police are also working to the same three area model.
- 35- A number of staff within the Neighbourhood Management service have elected to take voluntary severance, and this has resulted in some changes in personnel within the teams that work with Neighbourhood Partnerships. Our new structure, with details of the jobs and the people who will now be doing them, is detailed below:
- 36- Your area east central, will be managed by an Area Neighbourhood Manager John Atkinson. The responsibilities of the area manager are as follows:
- Bringing together shared agendas and improving shared services across the neighbourhood area.
 - Manage staff in the neighbourhood area and a cross city team [business support/street scene enforcement/community development].
 - Lead on one of three cross cutting citywide themes for the team:
 - Governance (including the neighbourhood partnership review)
 - Improving service delivery
 - Community development and active citizenship
- 37- The lead officer for your Neighbourhood Partnership is Abdulrazak Dahir, the Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator. Each NP Coordinator will manage two neighbouring NPs.
- 38- The community engagement and neighbourhood priority delivery in your area will be carried out by Neighbourhood Officers. These officers will support the forums and other community engagement for the NP, and will also undertake community engagement, problem solving and priority delivery for your neighbourhood priorities. Some interviews still need to happen for these posts, currently the officers allocated to your area is Georgie Bryant.

- 39- The Community Development team has been designed as a citywide team, and will retain a clear connection with neighbourhood partnerships to deliver community development which supports NP aspirations, as well as broader community development work across the city. The work programme for this team is currently being designed, and we will share the plans for this team when they are ready.
- 40- The Street Scene Enforcement team has joined the neighbourhood management service and will deliver against neighbourhood priorities as well as undertaking hotspot work based on analysis of cleanliness and crime data.

Put together by Neighbourhood Partnership Co-ordinator 11/06/14