



AGENDA ITEM NO.7

Greater Bedminster Community Partnership

26th March 2012

Report of: Nick Christo, Area Co-ordinator, Neighbourhoods

Title: Interim Walking Strategy Report - Area Coordinator

Contact Telephone Number: 07585 909030

Recommendations:

1. To note the contents of the report.

At the Greater Bedminster Community Partnership (GBCP) meeting on 23rd January 2011, the GBCP Board agreed the following resolution:

- Welcomes the BCC Walking Strategy for Bristol; Our Vision for 2011-2021 published in October 2011
- Calls upon its officers, the Area Coordinator and other relevant BCC and Police Officers to formulate a practical programme of activities to promote the Walking Strategy in Greater Bedminster, including activities already underway and additional ones to be introduced in the future;
- Calls for an interim report at the next GBCP Board meeting

This ties in with one of the GBCP's current priorities - Activities which encourage people to walk, cycle or use public transport and reduce community problems created by the very large numbers of cars and lorries that pass through the area and/or are parked in our streets.

The BCC Walking Strategy for Bristol has 2 main priorities. Firstly, to encourage people to consider walking as a positive alternative to using a car, maybe as part of using Bristol's improving public transport system. We know from talking to people that they want to see fewer cars in the city and reap the benefit of lower carbon emissions, better air quality, safer roads and less noise. A city where people drive less and walk more is a healthier and more pleasant city.

Secondly, the strategy wants people to recognise the personal benefits of walking to their

own health and wellbeing. The research evidence is clear on this point: people who walk regularly live longer and have healthier and happier lives. Yet walking has been declining in the UK over the last decades.

Officers that work within the GBCP area including Neighbourhoods, Health, Traffic, Schools and Parks met up in February to outline some suggestions and there is a plan currently being worked on to promote the Walking Strategy.

The group have identified certain objectives to help achieve a localised Walking Strategy.

- Improve the walking environment
- Improve people's health through walking
- Reduce the number of short trips by car by making walking the first choice for short journeys
- Provide information to enable more people to walk more often
- Improve the perception of walking
- Improve safety and security

In order to achieve these objectives the following need to be applied:

- Plan for local facilities
- Design convenient, direct walking routes
- Reduce traffic speeds where appropriate
- Make streets safe and secure
- Create pleasant, attractive environments
- Sell the benefits of walking

There is a meeting planned in April to include wider stakeholders from the Partnership and local community where an action plan will be formed and discussed. A report detailing the action plan will be brought to the June GBCP meeting for the Partnership to agree and adopt.