



**GREATER BEDMINSTER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**  
**7.00 P.M. ON 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2013**  
**AT ASHTON VALE SCHOOL, BEDMINSTER, BRISTOL BS3**

**PRESENT:**

**GBCP Board**

Councillor Green	Southville Ward
Councillor Beynon	Southville Ward
Councillor Colin Smith	Bedminster Ward ( <i>Chair - Neighbourhood Committee</i> )
Ben Barker	Dame Emily Park Project
Vicky Harrison	Paper Village
Anna Bryant	Ashton Gate Triangle NIG
Alan Pratley	Swiss Drive Neighbourhood Watch
Cora Paine	Bedminster Energy Group/ Youth Rep
Malcolm Brammar	WOW
Matthew Symonds	Neighbourhood Partnership Chair
Malcolm Jones (sub for Les Potter)	BS3 Churches Together

**Statutory Sector and Observers**

Nick Christo (NC)	BCC Area Co-ordinator
Lorna Heaysman	BCC Neighbourhoods Officer
Samantha Mahony	BCC Democratic Services Officer
Richard Goldthorpe	BCC Conservation
Mick Mack	Greville Road Residents Group
Deborah White	BCC Area Environment Officer
Sgt. Paul Honeychurch	Avon & Somerset Police
Stef Brammer	WOW
Debbie Wills	St. Monica Trust/ LinkAge
Arthur Milton	Bristol South Scouts
Geoffrey Schofield	Riverside Garden Centre
Hugh Nettlefield	FroGS
Stephen Wickham	BS3 Planning Group
Chris Richards	One Plante, Bristol
Janet Carr-Hyde	Gores Marshalls
Sarah Burgess	UWE

**Apologies:** Councillor Bradshaw, Simon Hankins, Claire Dodswell, David Holford, Christine Pratley, Trish Young, Les Potter, Jean Moloney, Helen Thomas, Mark Bradford, Nigel Singer, Brenda Wright.

Best wishes were sent to Les Potter on his recovery from operation

## 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Matthew Symonds NP Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly new Board Members and asked all those present to introduce themselves.

## 2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2012

The following paragraph was added to the minutes under the agenda item 'Any Other Business';

"It was highlighted that works had started un-announced in the Sylvia Crowe Park and with no advertised purpose. Concern was expressed at the wide area of topsoil that had been removed for what was intended to be a 3 metre cycle path"

**It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2012 were a correct record and were signed by the Chair.**

### Matters Arising/ Actions:-

- The Area Coordinator had set up a meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 between the Sports Team and representatives of a variety of interest groups regarding the proposed football changing rooms in Greville Smythe Park,. **ACTION: An update would be circulated to update on actions from that meeting**
- The Scouts group had been advised to look into options through community asset transfer and right to bid. John Bos was supporting the group on behalf of BCC. No direct response had been received from the owners. **ACTION: NC/LH to contact owners again and keep Councillors in the loop of developments.**
- Following the circulation of criteria for the Parks Capital Stimulus Fund, it was confirmed that the criteria had been agreed by the Cabinet at their meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012. **ACTION: Councillors to follow up complaint about how the criteria was set and implications for GBCP**

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

## 4. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The Community Partnership received verbal updates from \*\*

The following key issues were noted:-

- **Sergeant Paul Honeychurch** updated the Partnership regarding the Immobilise initiative (further information had been sent via the Newsletter, via the Pigeon and at [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/immobilise](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/immobilise)). Work continued to further reduce burglary rates by focused attention on hotspots. Work also continued with the second hand market to encourage checks with the immobilize website. Burglary rates had been successfully reduced year on year.
- The police pod outside ASDA would be re-established and to particularly tackle 'crime against the person'. Any violence at ASDA would result in an Acceptable Behaviour Contract. Second offences would increase the rules around the individual.

- The **Ashton Court Lower Lodge** project led by the Bristol Buildings Preservation Trust in partnership with BCC and Ashton Park School had been awarded a major grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund to start the development of the project, and also a conservation grant from the Local Heritage Fund. The building was owned by BCC, located in the grounds of Ashton Park School and the BBPT hoped to be able to hand the building over to the community as a self-funding charitable trust in the future. The next stage of engagement with the community and the school would develop how the building could be used as a Heritage Hub, activity centre and meeting room. Volunteers were invited to help consider the social context of the building and use in the future for inter-generational trails, activities and events. Efforts would be made to not duplicate work with other community groups or projects. Various organizations would be contacted and information publicised. Interested volunteers were asked to contact Alastair Brook, Lori Streich or through [www.BristolBuildingsPreservationTrust.org.uk](http://www.BristolBuildingsPreservationTrust.org.uk)
- The **Town Team** project had added to the £100k allocated with a further £18k awarded by the Arts Council, and £25k from BCC. Richard Goldthorpe from BCC introduced the work in progress designs for temporary 'greening' plans for East Street. The strategic planters in the street could bring colour and nature, a potential reduction in traffic speeds and spaces created for events and activities. Costs quoted include maintenance by BCC teams. It was hoped that areas in front of stores would be kept clean and tidy by traders and increased community ownership. The plans and efforts to encourage pedestrians were welcomed. Plans were designed for 6/7 areas, although only 2/3 would be established. Officers confirmed that the plans included bus, cycle and pedestrian access and visibility. Work on build would be completed in March 2013.
- The Town Team were working towards a vote in March to become a **Business Improvement District (BID)**, encouraging engagement with traders through a long term project. The idea of a 'shop window' competition for traders was suggested to encourage pride in shop frontages (**Action: MS/BB**)
- It was reported that cyclists were going the wrong way up **East Street** where it was a designated one way street. It was confirmed that cyclists were allowed to do so, and subsequently suggested that a marked cycle lane was required for safety reasons to show that cyclists could come from the opposite direction to other traffic.
- Councillor Beynon reported that additional **School Places** for the BS3 area would be established with the purchase of a new site in Southville. In the longer term, other sites had been earmarked for new schools and community space.
- The **Greville Road Residents Group** had applied for money through Do It Yourself Streets and although were unsuccessful had the intention to re-submit with support from the newly appointed Community Active Travel Officers. **ACTION: Lorna to pass Mick's contact details to officers and for Ben to publish in the Newsletter.**
- The **Southville Community Development Association** was considering how to develop the building over the next 20 years, starting with a consultation process with immediate neighbours and the community. Comments were invited through open consultation meetings arranged for throughout February 2013 on 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm and 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2.30pm.

- **WOW** reported that work had started on South Street Park. Many more developments were featured on the website at [www.way-out-west.org](http://www.way-out-west.org)
- **Walking Football** was a new project from LINKAGE, with links to the Bristol City Community Trust. Walking Football was aimed at those over 55 years old with an interest in football. Leaflets were available.
- The **Christmas Lantern Event** had taken place in December 2012 and efforts had commenced for funding for 2013, with the date set as the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013. Organisers intended to continue the tradition of involvement of all the schools in the Bedminster area.

## 5. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Ben Barker introduced the report which proposed the development of a Neighbourhood Plan so that the Partnership could play a more active part in coordinated planning for the area such as buildings, retail streets and traffic needs.

A map was circulated within the report which showed the proposed BID area and surrounding zones. Further input was requested from the Bower Ashton Residents Group, a coordination of groups within Ashton Vale and from the Marksbury Road area (which links to Windmill Hill Ward) to take the work forward.

The Partnership discussed the addition of 'economic investment through jobs and money into the area and retail shops' to the priorities of the Partnership.

It was agreed that a Bedminster Conference should take place to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan and priorities. Ben Barker would lead the conference planning. It was agreed that the group should not register initially as a Neighbourhood Planning Group (but may choose to do later) and following that, that the term 'Neighbourhood Vision' may be more suitable.

It was hoped that as many people from as many different organisations were able to attend to inform the discussions. Publicity would ask people to come to the conference prepared with ideas of what they want from the area.

**The Neighbourhood Partnership AGREED that a Conference take place to take the Neighbourhood Vision and priorities forward.**

## 6. DEVOLVED SERVICES UPDATE INCLUDING CLEAN AND GREEN FUND UPDATE AND LOCAL TRAFFIC S106 UPDATE

The Community Partnership received a report from the Area Co-ordinator (agenda item 6) which provided an update on devolved services.

### Minor Traffic Schemes

It was reported that within the Minor Traffic Schemes delegated budget, the Toll House Junction scheme was due to commence on site on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013. The Bower Ashton initial consultation re Special Parking Scheme would commence exhibition in February 2013 and hopefully implementation would start in July 2013. With regards to the West Street Crossing and footway improvements prioritised scheme from 2011/12, works would now commence on site on the 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013.

Traffic officers had indicated that there were not sufficient resources to deliver local traffic schemes for 2013 schemes within the 2013/14 financial year. The GBCP had been approached and asked to agree to carry funds over to the next financial year. Traffic officers had indicated that there was agreement there would then be capacity to complete the Section 106 traffic schemes prioritised.

It was clarified that issues such as proposed residents parking schemes could be raised through officers. The proposals were then documented, compared against other options, prioritised and presented for agreement by the Neighbourhood Partnership and Committee. Communication and engagement were key to proposals as the Mayor had stated that residents parking schemes would only be implemented where there was community support. There was also a chance that a scheme could be a strategic decision from BCC.

### **Section 106 Schemes**

Questions were invited for traffic officers attending a meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February to discuss traffic scheme priorities.

There were assurances that the Section 106 schemes were able to be delivered, 85% of which were traffic related. Most were located in Ashton Vale, which had lacked schemes through the last few years. One option was to link Section 106 money with devolved money to afford schemes.

**The Neighbourhood Committee RESOLVED to;**  
**(1) proceed with the Section 106 traffic schemes, deferring devolved traffic schemes to the 2013/14 financial year.**  
**(2) set up a special traffic meeting in February 2013**

### **Clean and Green**

Clean and Green budget fund could be accessed through officers. Suggestions should be sent to Lorna Heaysman and Deborah White.

### **Community Chest**

A fresh pot of money would be received for the next phase of grants in April 2013 and decisions would reach the Neighbourhood Committee in May/June 2013.

## **7. PARKS STRATEGY**

Ben Barker introduced the report which invited parks groups and others to prepare proposals for park improvement in line with the Parks and Open Space Strategy. Those considering moving into or invest in the area took note of parks and the quality of green spaces, along with economic viability, quality of streets and community elements.

The activities of individual groups within parks had made a huge difference to the area with external funding secured to improve facilities. Further funding could be used to improve how green spaces relate to each other and help inform how to allocate the £250,000 Section 106 funding for parks.

Ideas of priorities included; how to make parks more accessible to young people, older people, disabled adults and children and the visual impaired, have emphasis on wildlife and physical aspects. Considerations about each space included the size of the space, how long people tend to spend there and what activities were suited.

Within the papers, map 1 showed the current play facilities of reasonable standard as per the Council's 450m radius. Map 2 indicated the formal parks in the Partnership area.

It was suggested that an annual coordinated events programme for the areas parks would help bring them together.

It was highlighted that BCC Parks policy was to spend S106 funds on green spaces maintained by the Council. It was highlighted, however, that there were other areas of land however, that could be developed for Park spaces that were currently ruled out.

Groups were asked to consider and prepare proposals, and bring them along to the Conference. Part of the conference will discuss the proposals.

**The Neighbourhood Partnership AGREED that**  
**(1) the report be noted;**  
**(2) groups consider proposals and bring them to the Bedminster**  
**Conference for further discussion.**

## **8. REVIEW OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION**

The Community Partnership received a report from the Area Co-ordinator (agenda item no. 8) relating to the review of electronic communications within the Partnership. Information was passed on through the GBCP website, general NP website, the newsletter and Twitter as well as through face to face communication.

There was a general plea for further volunteers to help to spread the word with the work of the partnership.

**The Neighbourhood Partnership AGREED to note the report.**

## **9. RESOLUTIONS TO THE GBCP (Agenda Item 8)**

The following resolution was presented to the Neighbourhood Partnership;;

*The Greater Bedminster Community Partnership:*

- A. Welcomes the general parks report submitted to the meeting by Ben Barker.*
- B. Notes the overall shortage of green space assets in BS3 / GBCP area.*
- C. Recognises the unique riverside asset to multiple user-types within BS3 represented by the Sylvia Crowe park (aka Ashton Meadows / Brunel picnic area / land [not] at Cumberland Rd)*
- D. Condemns the unannounced mobilisation of a major scheme in the park [Clift house Cycle Link] in October 2012 with no sponsor advertised on site , and in circumstances which broke agreements with the Acting Chief Executive.*
- E. Notes the opening of the new cycling facility before Christmas.*
- F. Condemns un-consulted changes in the permitted route prior to the report of the AVTM public inquiry inspectors into BRT2, and in Conservation Area.*
- G. Demands that before the end of the current financial year 2012-13, the importation of topsoil to reinstate a park area exceeding 1000m2 [TBC] in the verges to the works both adjacent the river and the pumping station, which are currently exposed recycling waste. And grass seeding of same (ie all verges disturbed by the works) to the best quality standards.*

The following key issues were noted during the discussion that took place:-

- The motion referred to the works in the Sylvia Crowe landscaped park in BS3 between Clift House Road and the Avon New Cut adjacent the Wessex Pumping station and River Avon, in Conservation Area. [CDCA].
- It did not refer to the usefulness or otherwise of the works for transit users but aimed to achieve restoration for park users (ie both destination users and transit users) at the earliest top-soiling and grass-growth date; and to avert other un-consulted interventions in this BS3 asset in future.
- The area was designed in the 1960s by Sylvia Crowe as part of the design plan when the motorways were established. The land was established as park in return for losses of the Greville Smyth park for the flyover. The use of the land had been debated as part of the BRT2 public enquiry. A low intervention cycle scheme had prior permission some years back which should have been built on a low intervention basis, however, work on a changed scheme started without consultation in October 2012 had resulted in 3-6m of lost pathway and an 8m verge.
- Members of the Partnership were keen to preserve the area. It was confirmed that ward Councillors had not been made aware of the works. Councillor Green reported previously meeting with the Acting Chief Executive and receiving assurances of consultation in future, which had not happened. Members of the Partnership were frustrated that different Council teams appeared to be unaware of each other.
- Members of the Partnership were concerned with the lack of consultation from the Council, and asked Elected Members to take up the cause and explore the issue. **Action: GBCP Councillors**
- The resolution raised concerns regarding the planning decisions implemented on the green space and asked for the green to be reseeded by March in order to be reinstated by the Summer.

**Upon a vote the Partnership AGREED in favour of the resolution and agreed to write to the Council to ask them to reinstate the top soil by March 2013.**

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Mick Mack confirmed that he had been agreed as a Tree Champion for the area. If there were any issues with the trees in the street environment they can be brought to him

## 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**AGREED: that the date of the next neighbourhood partnership meeting be held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at 7.00 pm at a venue to be confirmed.**

(The meeting ended at 9.10pm)

CHAIR