



**GREATER BEDMINSTER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
7.00 P.M. ON 25TH MARCH 2013
AT THE SOUTHVILLE CENTRE**

PRESENT:

GBCP Board

Councillor Green	Southville Ward (<i>Chair - Neighbourhood Committee</i>)
Councillor Beynon	Southville Ward
Councillor Bradshaw	Bedminster Ward
Ben Barker	Dame Emily Park Project
Matthew Symonds	Neighbourhood Partnership Chair
Alan Pratley	Swiss Drive Neighbourhood Watch
Les Potter	BS3 Churches Together
Simon Hankins	Southville CDA
Anna Bryant	Ashton Gate Triangle NIG
Malcolm Brammar	WOW
John Vickery	Equalities Rep
Helen Thomas	University of the 3 rd Age

Statutory Sector and Observers

Nick Christo (NC)	BCC Area Co-ordinator
Lorna Heaysman	BCC Neighbourhoods Officer
Samantha Mahony	BCC Democratic Services Officer
James Dowling	BCC Principal Traffic Officer
Ian Collinson	Neighbourhood Planning/ Local Resident
Phil Ham	North Street Greening/ Local Resident
Andrea Vascongelos	North Street Greening
Amy Stone	North Street Greening
Jim White	Local Resident
James Coleman	Local Resident
John Potter	North Field Complex
Lucy Hunt	ACTA Community Theatre
Terry Lewis	Ashton Vale resident
Malcolm Owen	Ashton Vale resident
Chris Richards	Local Resident
Amanda Edmondson	Local Resident
Stef Brammar	WOW
Stephen Wickham	BS3 Planning Group
Brian Richard	Memories of Bedminster
Jo Cross	Ashton Road Resident

Apologies: Colin Smith, Sgt Paul Honeychurch, Chris Pratley, Cora Paine

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21st JANUARY 2013

p.6 'Christmas Lantern Event' was changed to 'Winter Lantern Event'

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st January 2013 were a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising/ Actions:-

- Councillor Green reported assurances from Council officers that the topsoil in **Sylvia Crowe Park** would be reinstated at the appropriate time for the weather/season. The Councillors would re-approach the new City Director when appointed in the summer to progress concerns. **ACTION; Councillors and NC to progress resolution with the new City Director.**
Ben Barker reported that the FRoGS had agreed to adopt the space within their area of concern and be a community organisation available for consultation.
- NC reported that representatives had attended a meeting of the Licensing Policy Scrutiny Board to present evidence for the **Cumulative Impact Area**. The LPSB would visit the area on the night of 30th March 2013 before the process continued, and culminated in a meeting of full Council in Nov/Dec 2013.
- A community meeting would take place on 4th April 2013 regarding **Greville Smyth Changing Rooms**, facilitated by the Sports Development Team.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

4. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

The GBCP received a report from the AC which outlined the implementation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) following the Localism Act 2011.

It was reported that Section 106 has been scaled back and would no longer be sought for contribution to open space although contributions already secured from development would still require to be paid. CIL had been introduced on 1st January 2013 for open space contributions from developments to enhance local areas.

The Partnership would automatically qualify for 15% of CIL money collected. If an area had a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) it would collect 25%. It would be for the Partnership to decide how to spend the money and whether to build up a large amount or spend locally on smaller projects.

In response to questions, the following points were clarified;

- CIL was calculated using a set formula without the negotiations associated with S106.
- The funds would not be ringfenced for specific areas or timeframes as with S106, however, there would be guidelines to be followed.

- It was expected that money would not filter through to the Partnership until October/November 2013.
- CIL was currently a separate entity from the Housing Revenue Account, but there may be intention to merge the grants in future.
- In response to the suggestion that there was little space for new developments within the partnership area and therefore little opportunity to receive CIL, it was confirmed that all planning applications over a certain size would have to pay CIL, including domestic developments.
- It was suggested that the the GBCP could maximise the CIL from the upcoming planning application for changes to the current Ashton Gate Stadium to 25% by progressing a NDP.

With reference to the possibility of a NDP, Ben Barker reported that progress was ongoing towards a Business Improvement District (BID) as voting was underway and a decision was due in mid April 2013. A conference would also take place at the Southbank Centre on the 27th April to discuss green spaces across the two wards. Following the conference and other events a picture was expected to emerge and discussions about whether a NDP was appropriate take place. The only decision so far was not to proceed with urgency.

It was suggested that a NDP was not the only option available, as Neighbourhood Development Orders had also been introduced with the Localism Act and could be tailored to the BID.

The discussion would remain on the agenda of the GBCP for the next few meetings and updates provided.

The NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE RESOLVED to accept responsibility for decisions over the spending of devolved CIL receipts that are received from development taking place within the Neighbourhood Partnership area.

5. DEVOLVED TRANSPORT SCHEMES 2013-14

James Dowling (Principal Traffic Officer) reported to the Partnership regarding the devolved budget for 2013-14 (Agenda Item No.7) as well as schemes previously prioritised by the NP as outlined with the Devolved Services Report (Agenda Item No.8).

- The 2011/12 prioritised scheme zebra crossing on West Street was now operational. Contractors would complete maintenance on the footway and the bus stop by Easter.
- The 2012/13 Tollhouse Junction scheme had been installed, with snagging issues to be resolved on site. The build out would slow traffic approaching the Coronation Road area. It was suggested that a painted 20mph sign on the road would add to the objectives of the scheme **ACTION: JD to take idea of 20mph painted sign on road back to officers**
- The Bower Ashton residents' parking scheme was in a consultation period for comments from residents regarding the proposed designs.

Members of the Partnership made the following suggestions for improvements to roads:

- the junction of Coronation Road and Cliff House would benefit from painted boxes,
- the stretch of Ashton Drive under the railway bridge was in need of repair,
- surface water on Smyth Road needed addressing to improve the condition of the road.

ACTION: JD to take report comments back to colleagues

There was a short discussion regarding the need for devolved decisions by the Neighbourhood Committee when the proposals arose from technical officer assessment, however, it was acknowledged as an example of working together to reach good decisions, and continued communication and understanding regarding the repair of roads.

It was confirmed that the S106 schemes in the area would be progressed as priority for officers. The large amount of funds unspent for Ashton Vale was acknowledged and planning would commence on that.

The NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE RESOLVED

- 1. Agreed the work programme for 2013/14 for carriageway surface dressing as;
i) Duckmoor Road/ Luckwell Road – Bedminster/Southville (£47,400)
ii) Beasley Road – Southville (£7,100)
iii) British Road – Bedminster (£5,175)
iv) Colliter Crescent – Bedminster (£1,300)
v) Longmoor Road – Bedminster (£2,050)
vi) Smyth Road – Bedminster/Southville (£6,250)**
- 2. Note that footway schemes were delayed until later in the year**
- 3. Note the schemes that would be delivered in the GBCP area in 2013/14**
- 4. Note the pause in decision making of 12 months in order to deliver the current work programme. Devolved funding would be carried forward and identification of new schemes would start in late 2013**
- 5. Note that S106 traffic management schemes with deadlines before July 2014 would be programmed into the work schedule.**

6. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The Community Partnership received verbal updates from those present.

The following key issues were noted:-

- The **ACTA Centre** were planning ideas for development of their building to add another room which would allow for performances and the weekly programmes of events to take place at the same time, and create further space for community use. The group hoped to apply for Arts Council funding for the bulk of the money. **ACTION: Further information could be provided to BB for the newsletter.** The Councillors and Partners expressed their support for the project as an exciting proposal for an area short of community space.
- The **Southville Community Development Association** consultation on the future development of the Southville Centre continues with a further meeting on 26th April from 4pm onwards. There would be a chance to find out what comments had been received so far, look at initial plans and facilitate further discussion.
- **Churches Together** highlighted the number of services and events over the Easter weekend. Local Churches would also combine on 19th May for Pentecost in Castle Park between 1 – 6pm. A report had also been released which outlined

the benefits of churches working together and the need to reduce fear between churches and the local authority to develop better relationships.

- It was reported that **Faithspace** were doing well and hoped to develop further. Help and support from others was invited and welcome.
- A group of students on a permaculture design course were developing a **Bedminster Greening Project** to enhance and increase usage of existing green spaces by shopping streets, concentrating initially on North Street. Ideas included the installation of play equipment, increased signage, street planters placed where pavements are wide enough or where there were yellow lines but no parking space required, plans to improve the aesthetics and wildlife in the area through ideas such as use of the space on top of telephone boxes and bus stops with wildflowers, or utilising old skips to create mobile gardens which can be moved to events and show what can be grown in a small space or urban environment. In response the following suggestions were made:
 - Other organisations should be contacted such as the Patchwork Group, North Street pocket park and North Street Green.
 - There could be educational links to incorporate the planters into the school curriculum and give the schools a sense of ownership.
 - Consideration should be given to accessibility if planning skips/planters on the pavement, and of cyclists and motorcyclists when on the road. It was acknowledged that yellow lines sometimes had functions other than to indicate 'no parking'.
 - Thought should be given to health and safety when considering planting on top of phone boxes and bus stops.
 - An interesting link for the Greening Project was the WOW bid for LSTF money to create a greenway link from West Street to North Street.
 - It was suggested that further detail about the permaculture principles to show where the ideas had come from should be included within future communications.
- **West Street** was beginning to change with new pavements and pedestrian crossing, flower baskets, an archway to South Street Park and plans for play equipment. A traders group had been set up and a pop up bakery in residence until the end of June with the hope of encouraging other food shops. The group were now trying to attract a tenant for the café bar space within the development of the old White Horse Pub.
- There would be a fundraising meeting for the **Bedminster Winter Lantern** event at Compass Point on April 9th.
- The **Celebrating Age Festival** would take place from 24th June to 7th July 2013. There was an opportunity to apply for up to £200, those interested should contact lorna.heaysman@bristol.gov.uk.
- Officers had been working with interested parties re the **Scout Hut** researching the leasehold, freehold and land registry details. It had been established that the Merchant Venturers had a 25 year leasehold which meant there were limited options available.

- There had been an **increase in thefts** of ladies purses from shopping trolleys on East Street. The police were aware but the Partnership were asked to spread the word.
- 79 **Bedminster Bugs** had been installed and were proving a popular tourist attraction.

7. RESOLUTIONS TO THE GBCP (Agenda Item 9)

A resolution was presented regarding 'Community Harm' and AGREED as follows;

- That the G.B.C.P. should forge relationships with other partnerships and agencies in order to share and develop strategies and best practice for the purpose of dealing with landlords of premises that generate community harm.*
- That the G.B.C.P. should prioritise such action in neighbourhood planning

Recent conversations with the Police and Crime Commissioner, a representative of Old Market Community Development and the charity 'Living Streets' have elicited approaches that might be adopted towards premises in residential areas that pose a social risk and have a negative effect on health and well-being for the local population.

1. Recommendations from Old Market: To be persistent with landlords and put pressure on them to find better tenants. Accentuate community harm effects. Enforce particular action (a kind of property 'ASBO') against the landlord. Avoid action that generates further negative representation of the area.
2. 'Design Out and Deter': Drawing on expertise from designing-out crime models and organizations such as 'Living Streets, to render customers of such premises aware of tangible change in the immediate environment and uncomfortable about access.

* Known instances in one Bedminster locality that qualify this concept: (sexualised) street harassment, and on-street soliciting. Attracting graffiti and anti-social behaviour. Property issues – residents leaving as a consequence of the above and potential tenants put off by their proximity. An increase in problem tenants and drug dealing.

During the discussion, the following key issues were noted;

- A systematic, methodological approach from the NP was advised, which required time and coordination to bring local people together. It was suggested that the approach should also be included within any Neighbourhood Plan. **ACTION: To be considered as part of discussions for a Neighbourhood Plan/Vision**
- Just because the massage parlours existed did not mean they should be accepted.
- There would be a wealth of information from other areas in the city that have tackled the problem, such as Easton and Old Market. **ACTION: NC to speak to the Inner City Neighbourhood Partnership regarding their experiences**
- It was reported that two attempts to open a massage parlour in British Road had been resisted through the planning process. The long established premises on West Street brought fear of another premises being allowed to open due to precedent.
- Sgt Paul Honeychurch had completed research due to past cases which could be helpful regarding the constraints and obstacles.

- Pop up establishments could be established without planning permission and were difficult to remove.

8. DEVOLVED SERVICES UPDATE

The Community Partnership received a report from the Area Co-ordinator (agenda item 7) which provided an update on devolved services.

Clean and Green

The clean and green budget had been spent well for the Bedminster ward, but there remained £1,000 for the Southville ward, with another £500 to be devolved in April 2013. Any ideas should be forwarded to officers.

Better Neighbourhood Working

A pilot which set up virtual community teams to act as a taskforce had been operational across 3 NP areas since October 2012. There would be a citywide roll out of the arrangements in May 2013 and NP wide priorities set.

The Partnership acknowledged the hard work of the officers currently working in the area over the past three years to already work in such a joined up manner, minimising duplication and working well together.

James Dowling and traffic officers were thanked particularly for his help to improve West Street over the past four years to make the road more accessible for elderly residents.

John Vickery was welcomed as a new equalities rep on the partnership board. He highlighted a couple of places that would benefit from dropped kerbs and tactile pavements. The GBCP asked for an update regarding the past resolution to implement dropped kerbs within the NP area using devolved footway maintenance funds. **ACTION: NC to speak to John re specific locations of need and find out what progress had been made on the installation of dropped kerbs.** It was also suggested that the dropped kerbs between Aldi and St. Francis Church could benefit from added visibility such as white lines.

In response to a query, NC confirmed that there was a set policy for advertising along highways and that if the vehicles were taxed and roadworthy they were difficult to remove. **ACTION: Advertising along Highways policy to be distributed to the GBCP**

The Neighbourhood Committee RESOLVED that the report be noted

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP CONSULTATION

Nick Christo presented a verbal report (Agenda Item No.8) and invited discussion regarding the future direction of Neighbourhood Partnerships. Surveys were available as paper and online and consultations were taking place to gather views and information. An event in May/June would present the feedback and outcomes of discussions and further to that officers and the Executive Member would make a decision.

Nick Christo and Lorna Heaysman suggested two questions:

1. What works well currently and what doesn't?
2. What would you like to see and be involved in, in future?

The following comments were made in response

- Communication and understanding had improved over the past few years.
- There remained a long way to go as there was still confusion about the difference between a Neighbourhood Partnership and Community Partnership, the forums and the partnership, and new Government Planning Forums.
- Some organisations had become involved through the Community Chest funding.
- There appeared to be were two styles of NP, some as extensions of the Council and others connected more to the organisations that made up the Partnership.
- There remained a gap of engagement and involvement of young people.

Further comments were written on post it notes and collected. These can be found at appendix A to the minutes.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- The **Best of Bedminster Show** would take place on Saturday 21st September 2013 on North Street Green, the SCDA AGM would also take place then.
- The Mayor had made announcements regarding a **Residents Parking Scheme** to be phased in over 18 months. Further information would be brought to the next meeting. **ACTION: Residents Parking Zones to be added to the next agenda.** It was suggested that redundant yellow lines could be 'mopped up' through the residents parking scheme.
- Thanks were given to **Lorna Heaysman** as it was her final meeting before moving onto another job. She was thanked for her hard work over many years for the GBCP and the wider area.
- It was reported that **school places** had been added at Southville Primary School (three form entry over two sites) and Ashton Gate (four form entry over two sites).
- Concerns were raised regarding bus access to the bottom of Duckmoor Road and Ashton Park which was further blocked when Bristol City Football Club were playing at home. **ACTION: The issue would be fed into the appropriate Neighbourhood Forum and NC would inform the appropriate BCC officer**

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGREED: that the date of the next neighbourhood partnership meeting be held on **Monday 24th June 2013 at 7.00 pm at a venue to be confirmed.**
*(*Please note this meeting is the GBCP Annual General Meeting and will include re-nomination of board members and election of officers*)*

(The meeting ended at 9.10pm)

CHAIR

acta community theatre

Proposed development of the actacentre in Bedminster.

Background

acta moved into the former YMCA building in 2002, with an agreed 30 year lease on a peppercorn rent. Since that time the company has invested in the building, most recently in 2011/12, with renovations to the entrance lobby and the central rehearsal/performance space.

The company has also invested in the local community, running a wide variety of arts activities, events and celebrations for all ages and for people from all sections of the community. We are funded at present through Reaching Communities to offer a local programme of work, currently 14 activities each week – family arts, intergenerational theatre, youth theatre, community theatre, community choir. We are instigating participation on a large scale – the first winter lantern procession in 2010 was an acta project, and we are a key part of its continuation. In July we are hosting a Festival to celebrate Culture in the local area with local people from all sections of the community.

This is the perfect time to develop the role acta plays as a cultural hub in this neighbourhood. The area around the actacentre is currently undergoing a period of redevelopment with the upgrading of South St Park, and proposed Greenway linking North St to West St. There are more people moving into the area, whilst at the same time there is a significant lack of community facilities. We already have the support of WOW community group, and the hundreds of local people who use the actacentre as participants and audiences, and have developed an outline plan of how the company can extend the existing actacentre building.

At this stage, acta is looking to gather support from Greater Bedminster Community partnership for this proposed development.

Our vision

The actacentre currently has one large space which is suitable for activities, making it difficult to keep our weekly activities programme intact when we schedule performances. There is little space for front of house, storage space is limited, and toilets need upgrading.

The proposed development would extend the actacentre on the Palmerston St side of the building, taking the footprint of the building out to the street, creating a new frontage. This extension would comprise of a large, adaptable multi-purpose space, with extended storage, additional toilets and a bar/café area. This new space would have its own entrance, would be accessible from the rest of the building, but would also be capable of working as an independent space. The ground floor of the existing building will be changed to create a larger foyer area, which will link through double doors to the new extension. This will maximise the potential use of the new extension for community usage during the day, and for acta activities during the evening.

The development will:

- Increase audience capacity through inclusion of balcony in main hall and new toilets in foyer
- extend foyer space to include a bar/café area which would be income generating
- develop building to be more suitable for festival events with second performance space
- reconfigure the building to improve storage

There has already been interest in the idea of a community café, run by local people, to serve the newly regenerated park, and the increased footfall predicted following the Greenway project.

These improvements will enable acta to meet our vision for the future, to:

- offer an extended programme of on-going weekly arts and theatre activities for local people
- provide increased meeting and activity space for community groups
- host a local programme of the best of national and international community theatre, and visiting artists in the worlds of music, theatre and the arts
- provide a creative focus for the people in the area
- link with other initiatives to drive regeneration forward, build the local economy

Costs and funding

The estimated total cost of the new extension and renovation is around £300,000.

acta is planning to make a bid to Arts Council England for 85% of the costs.

acta needs to find the other 15%, around £50,000 from other sources, and is currently discussing this with Bristol City Council.

Ends

Bedminster 'Greening' Project Consultation**North Street Green:**

- Improving appearance on Luckwell Road side (raised beds, more planting);
- Increase awareness and usage of the green by putting in play equipment and signage;
- Utilising space on The Nursery for planters that double as tables/seating for pop-up cafes.

**Street Planters**

- At various locations, either on double yellow lines or to widen footpaths, narrow road ways, and slow traffic;
- Planting will provide year-round colour and variety, long-season flowering, include plants with medicinal, edible and sensory properties, and pollution mitigation;
- Linked to the planters would be a map highlighting their locations in the area and explaining the properties of the plants, and could be used for educational purposes.



Signage

- To link existing and new green areas (e.g. The North Street Green Way) to raise awareness.

Bus stop/telephone boxes

- Green roofs provide an attractive focal point and pollution-mitigation, as well as increasing biodiversity (such as butterflies and ladybirds);
- Wildflowers are low-maintenance and rain water will meet the needs of the plants.



Mobile gardens

- Short residencies in car parks, on double yellow lines, at markets and community events, or at schools;
- Same planting benefits as the street planters, but with more impact (including themed gardens, e.g. edible garden, wildlife garden);
- Roughly same size as an average Bedminster garden, so can inspire people to improve their own garden;
- Opportunities to buy similar plants (with information sheets) from local businesses;
- Opportunities for local businesses to sponsor the gardens.