



AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

Report of: Andrew McGrath Neighbourhood Partnership

Title: Neighbourhood Partnership Annual Achievements Report

Introduction

This report is a summary of some of the achievements of the Neighbourhood Partnership in 2011-12. The achievements are examples of how the partnership can deliver improvements to the area through its work and priorities. This report highlights the work of a variety of different partnership members who have worked together, including local residents, community groups, Councillors and other partners. This is just a small selection of the achievements and hard work of the NP. There have been many other achievements that have been reported on and discussed throughout the last year

Project 1 – Community Speedwatch

One of the issues raised most often at Neighbourhood Forums is concern about speeding cars. The police have constantly been requested to do more to prevent speeding but have had to explain that beyond their scheduled traffic work, there is only a limited amount they can do due to the officer time it takes.

Residents were challenged to think of a way of helping to combat this problem themselves. As a result, the idea of a community speed watch was developed. These programmes are well known in rural areas but have rarely been tried in suburban areas, particularly in cities. With the help of Community Safety and Police colleagues a programme of recruitment and training was developed. Such was the popularity of the idea, to date well over 40 volunteers have joined the scheme, which operates across the neighbouring NPs of Henleaze, Stoke Bishop, Westbury -on-Trym and BCR. Although still in its infancy, the scheme has so far monitored 13 roads that have been of concern to residents.

Of the 1,800 cars checked so far, over 100 were clocked exceeding 30 mph, with over 20 exceeding 35mph. Speed watch programmes cannot issue fines or penalties. However, those exceeding 35mph will be sent a warning letter by the Police. This usually does the trick.

The popularity of the scheme grows at each forum, with new volunteers coming forward and new roads being selected for monitoring. With the strong support of the police, this scheme is quickly becoming a fixture on our roads.



A couple of residents out in Stoke Bishop recently (as featured in the Evening Post).

Action Plan Aim addressed: Traffic and Transport, Community Safety Plan

Resources used: Free training and support from Police, all residents are volunteers

Summary of projects and benefit for the NP (including contribution to equalities aims)

- Over 40 residents trained
- Many local roads monitored
- No cost. Equipment and training free
- Safer roads for residents

Equalities aims addressed: Roads safer, particularly for older residents and children

Project 2 – Older People’s Working Group

This group has had a fantastic year. Since it began in June 2010, it has provided numerous trips and get-togethers for local older people, many of whom are living in isolation. Trips have included Puxton Park, Oakham Treasures, Cadbury Garden Centre, and Tea with the Lady Mayoress. All trips have been very well attended and the responses from the people who go on the trips have been overwhelmingly positive.

In addition to the trips, the group set up a walking group that started off very strongly and has maintained its popularity, with an average of over 30 people attending its weekly sessions.

Perhaps most impressive of all has been this working group's ability to develop its work on such a small initial budget. With careful budgeting and the help of a recent grant of £1,000 from Quartet, and £2,000 from The Co-op, it is able to plan trips and activities in to the future. The members of this group work incredibly hard to make the group such a success. This success has also been noted by BCC's Health and Social Care Team who have highlighted the group's work as a superb example of best practice



Action Plan Aim addressed: Working with older people in the area

Resources used: After initial cash injection of £4,500, the group has managed its finances by making small charges for trips. It has also been successful in its fundraising efforts, raising £,3000. It is reliant on the work of the group's members, all of whom are volunteers

Summary of project and benefit for the NP

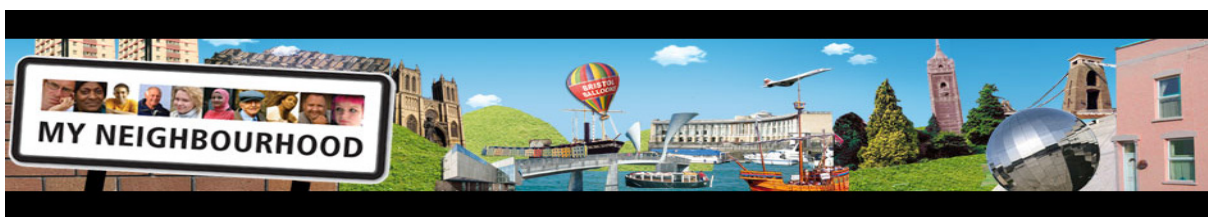
- Numerous trips delivered, all fully subscribed
- Walking group meets weekly, over 60 members
- All activities run by volunteers
- Since its initial funding, this group has raised all of its own funds

Equalities aims addressed: This group has the expressed aim of providing social opportunities for isolated older people.

Project 3 – NP website

A small working group of resident reps has made great strides in modernising the NP website. The transformation has been enormous. Before this group began its work, the website was not exactly user-friendly. Now it has clarity, is easy to navigate, is promptly updated and provides an excellent introduction to the NP area and the NP's work. For proof, go to: <http://www.activenp.co.uk/> This site has been highlighted as an example of good practice and has been commended as one of the best of its type in the city.

Henleaze, Stoke Bishop & Westbury-on-Trym



Action Plan Aim addressed: Communications Working Group – Marketing plan

Resources used: The work and development of this site has been undertaken entirely by volunteers. With some training provided, the reps have undertaken all of the work themselves

Summary of project and benefit for the NP (including contribution to equalities aims)

- Provides clearest entry to the NP's work including the work of the

Forums

- All work undertaken by volunteers

Equalities aims addressed: The work of the NP has been made much easier for people to understand. The site is now accessible and clear.

Project 4 – Well Being Grants

Since 2009, the NP has given out approximately £70,000 in small grants to over 50 local organisations and projects. The Well Being Panel, which makes the recommendations, runs a transparent process with all recommendations being made against agreed criteria. The feedback from recipients is relentlessly positive. Projects have ranged from restoration of historic monuments to alleviation of long-term flooding problems. The Well Being Panel has been particularly effective at helping to counter the lack of services and facilities for young people in the NP area. Over the last three years it has given over £23,000 to projects for children and young people. These have included sports equipment, improvement of play environments and numerous youth activities

Two Well Being projects in 2011/12



Community Allotment Project



Restored Memorial Fountain

Action Plan Aim addressed: Improving local facilities and community life

Resources used: £70,000 allocated since 2009. Including £23,000 to activities for/with young people. Considerable volunteer time has also been inputted in to delivering these projects for young people

Summary of projects and benefit for the NP:

- Projects have benefited hundreds of local young people
- These projects have helped fill the gap in delivery of services to young people in the NP area
- Long-term improvement of local facilities for young people

Equalities aims addressed: All facilities for young people in the NP area are run by volunteers. The work these volunteers perform helps to ensure young people have access to opportunities for learning, play and activities