

Environment Working Group notes – Thursday 6th September 2012

Present: Alan Aburrow, Valerie Bishop, Eileen Poad, Stephanie French, Gerry Arnold, , David Mayer, , Alan Aburrow, , Andrew McGrath Gary Brentnall, Josie Sadler, Daniel Matthew (MG)

Apologies: Clare Champion-Smith, Hilary Long, Gill Brown, Eileen Stonebridge, Gay Huggins, Alan Preece, Sheila Preece, Susan Mayer, Sue Boyd

Notes and Actions:

1. Matters arising.

Grass verge Mariners Drive. **Action:** Gary has prioritised with the relevant team. Also need Highways to check sunken curbs.

Grass verge near mini roundabout on Druids Hill needs reconstituting. **Action:** Gary to check and action

Bike racks in W-o-T village. **Action:** Gary to liaise with Sue Boyd. To be completed by next meeting.

New bin outside Premier Homecare. Not yet done. **Action:** Gary to ensure it is complete by next meeting

Public Liability Insurance is a city-wide issue being looked at by senior managers. **Action:** Andrew to report progress on this

Bins in W-o-T keep catching light, probably due to cigarettes being thrown in main bin because ashtray isn't cleared regularly. **Action:** Daniel to ensure ashtrays are cleared at same time as the main bins

Can we have Community Payback clear land on Portway just before turning in to Sylvan Way. **Action:** Gary to check if this is possible

Gary informed group that hanging basket kits are for people wishing to put up baskets on their own property

The aim is to have Community Payback attend Stoke Lodge to do bramble clearance (including Knotweed clearance) some time in October. **Action:** Gary

Orders for shrubs for planting in 2013 ought to be made now.

2. May Gurney Neighbourhood Plan

Daniel Mathew of May Gurney (MG) attended the meeting to work through the priorities that the group is able to choose for MG's work in the NP area.

The following priorities were available to influence:

- Location of waste bins
- Flytipping
- Weed removal (streets, lanes etc)
- Graffiti removal
- Jet washing

Daniel informed the group that all of these duties will be performed as part of the standard contract, but that there will be emphasis on the 3 that the NP chooses. The plan will come in to action immediately. Following discussion on the details of what each priority means, the group decided on the following three priorities (in descending order):

1. Graffiti removal
2. Fly-tipping removal
3. Weed removal

The NP is asked to endorse these 3 priorities.

Other MG-related topics were also discussed:

- Daniel agreed that the original plan (still the plan) was always to have street cleaners following the bin lorries, either on the same day or following day. This happens in some places but not all. Daniel agreed to check where this isn't happening and try to change it.
- New equipment is due shortly, this should speed up the street cleaning, allowing the schedule to be altered to enable cleaners to follow bin men.
- As part of the MG Neighbourhood Plan, NPs will also be able to utilise MG resources to mount local campaigns relating to local cleansing issues (eg littering, dog waste etc). Posters can be placed on bins, waste lorries, cleaning machines etc. The group will consider campaign topics at the next meeting.

3. Tree Plan for Trymside

Josie Sadler attended the meeting to discuss this subject. The plan will be for tree replacement and new planting on the Trymside open space. There has been a full survey of all the trees on this site. 10 are due to be removed as they have died. Another 11 are coming to the end of their lives and will need to be replaced soon. The tree plan will anticipate their replacement and a schedule provided.

New trees will be of a similar type to those being removed, as they need to suit the conditions (damp).

There will also be a community tree planting event, sometime between November and March. Local schools, corporate groups, and local residents will be invited.

Whilst the group welcomed the plan, they stated that they would have preferred to make a more considered decision regarding where the plan would be located. Josie stated that next year they will be invited to discuss where next year's plan should be targeted at an earlier date (April).

Further discussion was held on other tree issues. An explanation on stump replacement policy was given. The Streets Alive Project will also be planting new trees, mostly on grass verges, the prioritising of areas is based on the existing number of trees in an area. Henleaze has a relatively low tree covering and will benefit from this scheme in 2013/14.

4. Any other business

In response to a question, Gary stated that he didn't anticipate there being any delay to the development of the play area on Stoke Lodge as a result of the Parks Capital Investment Programme rolling out across Bristol

Alan is not sure who ought to be dealing with the issue of fly tipping in Baddocks Wood. MG, BCC, Community Payback?

Action: Gary to find out and deal with

Gerry informed the meeting of a collapsing wall adjacent to Sneyd Park House. This has been a problem for many years as no one seems to know who is responsible. BCC denies responsibility, as does the owner leaseholder. **Action:** Gary to investigate

A meeting is taking place on the morning of Friday 7th September in Canford Park, to discuss the new fencing that will be funded as part of the Parks Capital Investment funding. Neither Gary or Andrew was aware of this meeting.

David informed the meeting that the Town and Village Green application has now been referred to an independent hearing that will be run by an appointed barrister. No date has been given for this hearing but it is expected that all interested parties will be invited to take part.