

Environment Working Group notes – Thursday 5th September 2013

Present: Clare Campion-Smith, Alan Aburrow, Alan Preece, Stephanie French, , Hilary Long, Gerry Arnold, David Mayer, Sue Mayer, Sue Boyd, Sheila Preece, Val Bishop, Eileen Poad, Gary Brentnall, Andrew McGrath

Apologies: Gill Brown, Eileen Stonebridge. Gerry Arnold

Notes and Actions:

1. Matters arising.

Grass verge near mini roundabout on Druids Hill has been done but not too well. Gary to check on its condition. Also, vehicle damage a little further down the hill near post box. **Action:** Gary.

Public Liability Insurance for volunteers. The situation has not changed. Volunteers are not covered by BCC unless accompanied by BCC officer.

Litter pickers are not seen as often as they were. Sue (Boyd) has been able to ask them on occasions to do certain roads but they do not follow the dustcarts as a standard. They are supposed to do the shopping areas every morning but this doesn't seem to be happening. **Action:** Gary to check on their schedules.

Weed sprayers have been seen in the area. A new contractor is operating now and are considered good.

Mariners walk. Need update on ruts from parked cars. **Action:** Gary.

Stoke Lodge

Playground. Gary has undertaken consultation with Elmlea and Stoke Bishop Primary schools. There have been several site visits. The project is now proceeding to the next stage – the project brief. This will be discussed with stakeholders. The next stage will be a consultation day on either 18th/19th September. Every house in the area and the schools and the NP contact list will be contacted and invited to attend. Approximately 6 weeks later, the 3rd stage of the consultation will take place. **Action:** Gary to report to Stoke Bishop Forum on this 3rd stage.

Town and Village Green status. The inspector has issued a report recommending that TVG status be awarded to Stoke Lodge. A formal appeal has been submitted to the Inspector by BCC. The applicants (Save Stoke Lodge Parkland) have been able to submit a response to this appeal. The target date for a response to the appeal from the Inspector is October.

Knotweed. The last chopped knotweed has been burnt on site. Total Weed Control now have the contract to treat the problem. They sprayed the site six weeks ago. There is much concern that the infestation in the south west corner of SL isn't being adequately treated and is spreading in to residents' back gardens. A more comprehensive treatment plan (probably 5 years) is needed, including treating private gardens. **Action:** Gary to discuss plans with the contractors. A discussion was held on the possibility that BCC may be liable for the infestation and any depreciation or damage that results. **Action:** Andrew to investigate with BCC Legal Services. The next spraying is scheduled for October

Dog bins. Gary still trying to secure a date when these can be put in on Stoke Lodge and Brean Down.

Gas installation. Work started on one border only. Is this it?
Action: Stephanie and Gary to investigate.

Updates

Street trees. Does part of tree installation contract include watering? **Action:** Stephanie to investigate

Parks.

Falldon Way. The new playground build has started. The site is currently being cleared. This has been a difficult process due to the proximity of neighbours to the site.

Old Quarry Park. Gary showed the consultation plans. Additional feedback will be sought during the half-term break.

Canford Park. There have been several fractures from the new equipment. This is mainly due to parents allowing children who are too young to apply on equipment meant for over 8s. Adjustments are being made and the trampoline has been removed, and will be relocated.

There is an underspend of £30k from the fence installation . There are at least two possible spends for this money – an entrance gate

(near the library) and making the loos accessible and public. Further discussion needed. Money needs to be spent by March 2015.

Community Payback. Several projects were identified for Gary. More are needed. The NP has funding for 4 projects in each of the NP's wards. More ideas welcome.

Hayley Ash, our new Neighbourhood Working Coordinator, will attend the next round of forums and begin the process of identifying priorities for the NP.

Any Other Business.

Parking on Shirehampton Road has been a problem when the gates aren't opened as they should be on a Saturday and Sunday morning. This is Coombe Dingle Sports Ground's responsibility. Various solutions were discussed, including providing keys to the sports users, but ultimately it was strongly felt that CD should do what they are supposed to do. Gary pointed out that Highways see no problems with cars parking on the street, as it is wide enough. But residents think it is dangerous. A 'kissing gate' entrance is likely to be part of the playground project. This will at least stop people having to climb over the wall. **Action:** Gary to remind CD of their responsibilities.

The Environment Working Group has been tasked with coming up with suggestions for spending the £117k S106 funding from the Hiatt Baker development. There is no time limit on the fund. The early discussions have focused on facilities on Stoke Lodge, with upgrading (and possible relocation) of the changing rooms being one possible option. The group feels that spending the money on facilities on the Downs would be inappropriate.

Stephanie requested that a new sign that has gone up near the new entrance to Hiatt Baker Hall be checked out for planning permission. **Action:** Andrew to investigate

Date of Next Meeting - 2.00pm Thursday 7th November 2013

Tree report to NP3 meeting – September 26th 2013

1) The Environment sub group as instructed by the NP debated long and hard about which Park they would recommend for the 2013/2014 planting season budget from Tree Bristol. Canford Park was chosen. It already has a Tree Planting Plan. It is likely that Quarry Park in Henleaze will be next years' choice after the Henleaze Society and Henleaze residents have seen what the final plans are for the Park from current monies, and which might by then have been delivered.

2) The Streets for Trees choice by Henleaze residents has been passed to TreeBristol and acknowledged, but there has been no further news or even communication.

3) There have been some minor successes with Planning monitoring – e.g. a replacement tree for a Dead Dying and Dangerous felling of TPO tree in Stoke Bishop was ensured following a nag, and a requirement upon a resident to supply a detailed Tree Surgeon's report with an application to fell a Landmark TPO tree led to the application to fell being rejected by the BCC Officer.

4) Stoke Bishop residents will be represented by me in front of DC meeting, probably in October, to make sure that the ten trees required as a condition of a planning consent in Coombe Lane do get planted somewhere –as the rest of the land under the control of the Applicant, on which they might have been planted, has now become subject to further development. This is not the NP forming a judgement on a Planning Application – just an attempt to make sure that such conditions as are imposed are complied with. This is often the only thing that ordinary residents can do once they have made their voice heard during consultation and debate.

5) There is to be further development in Bramble Drive which will affect Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve boundary planting, and affect the wildlife corridors – but OSPNR Committee and SPRA are involved in the consultations and planning, and as they are more affected and more knowledgeable than I, I am not getting too involved

6) Some not such good news – planning consent was granted for development in Trymwood Parade and a TPO tree was lost.

Eventually replacement trees will be planted. The rear of that property remains an eyesore and is now visible. Now that the Willow has gone one can appreciate just what an amenity it was. It will be many years before the views of the rear of that establishment are acceptable and tolerable again.

7) The Himalayan Cedar in Stoke Lodge parkland has survived another year.

8) Permission to fell a tree in Parry's Lane was not granted after many objections were raised. One is never sure what influence these objections have, but it can only be a good thing to at least let BCC Officers know the strength of local feeling when they make their delegated decisions, and to seek referral to the DC Meetings for full public consideration if the issue is a major one.

9) Westbury on Trym has had no major tree issues since my last report. The Westbury on Trym Society and others are heavily engaged in making their views known about the major residential developments proposed for the site of the former Wesleyan College. Some of this has the potential to affect trees and one does wonder how Bristol could maintain its Green City status were it to permit the proposed development in one of the Green Corridors used as evidence in its bid for the award.

Stephanie French