

Environment Working Group

6th February 2014

Present: Gerry Arnold, David Mayer, Susan Mayer, Hilary Long, Eileen Stonebridge, Alan Preece, Sheila Preece, Glenise Morgan, Ross Burnham (Shire Colts), Chris Groves (SBRFC), Ande Mulligan, Cheryl Hawkins, Alan Aburrow, Val Bishop, Eileen Poad, Andrew McGrath

Apologies: Clare Champion-Smith, Gill Brown, Gary Brentnall, Stephanie French, Sue Boyd

S106 (Hiatt Baker) Allocation

Andrew began the meeting by declaring an interest. Andrew has, for the last fifteen years, been a member and coach of St Brendan's RFC, one of the tenants of Coombe Dingle Sports Centre and occasional users of the sports facilities on Stoke Lodge.

The NP has £117,040.67 to allocate against the following criteria: *'The provision of improvements and / or maintenance of informal green space, natural green space and active sports space (fixed or seasonal) within one mile of Hiatt Baker Hall (NOTE: - this contribution cannot be spent on a children's playground)'*

The meeting was reminded that this meeting was only able to make recommendations on spending S106 money. The final decision lies with the councillors at the Neighbourhood Partnership meeting.

David Mayer made a request regarding the wording in the draft report by Gary Brentnall. The request to alter the wording was made to ensure that Stoke Lodge is properly described. **Action:** Andrew and David agreed to liaise on the wording following the meeting. **Afternote:** Andrew has made amendments to the report, which will now be presented within the Area Coordinator's report

Cheryl Hawkins passed on concerns from users of Stoke Lodge Learning Centre regarding the loss of car parking capacity if the proposed pathway and car park refurbishment work was agreed. She also quoted from an email a users' rep had sent, stating that legal advice had been sought on the wording of the S106 allocation, and that the

proposed project was outside of the scope for which the S106 money had been allocated.

The email referred to was shown to the meeting. The meeting was informed that the advice given that day from the BCC S106 officer was that the money could be used on the pathway and car park upgrade. This supported previous statements from the same officer (copies of emails available). The officer had also stated that a formal legal response could be sought if needed. Gary and Andrew will be meeting with a manager of the SL Learning Centre to discuss the plans in detail. **Afternote:** Meeting held on Friday 14th February (Gary not in attendance). A number of requests regarding the capacity of the car park and the recent consultations were made. Responses have since been given.

Would any car parking spaces be lost in the upgrade? This answer will be sought from Gary Brentnall and fed back to the group as soon as possible. **Action:** Andrew **Afternote:** It is difficult to say as it has been many years since the lines were painted. They have faded to the point they can't properly be seen. It is possible that some space is lost in the front car park, but since a recent significant bramble clearance in the rear car park, the total number of parking spaces is significantly more than it has been for many years previously. The bramble clearance was paid for by the NP.

Representatives from Coombe Dingle Sports Ground, and representatives of sports clubs then gave the meeting other possible options for the funding. These were:

- Upgrade of current changing room facilities on SL. These are in a poor state. It is understood Cotham School, the lease holders for the site, may have some funding available. It is possible that S106 funds could support this refurbishment. It is not yet known how much might be needed for this project
- The top pitch on SL (Parrys Lane end) could have its drainage improved and be levelled. Approximate cost - £25k
- The artificial cricket wicket needs replacing. This would cost approximately £6k.

The meeting was reminded that the potential TVG status of SL would not prevent a refurbishment of the changing rooms. Some concern was expressed about levelling of pitches. There are a number of valuable specimen trees on SL, many of which have TPOs on them. There is concern that activities such as levelling might affect water courses, drainage etc, which may harm the trees.

The Working Group said it was supportive of ideas to improve the sports facilities on SL and would be interested in seeing how it can help. It was agreed that even if the three projects up for consideration at the meeting were all funded, there would still be £37,963.72 left to distribute. It was agreed that Ande Mulligan would come to a future meeting with firmly costed proposals for the Working Group to consider.

In addition to the proposed sports projects, the meeting was made aware of another draft request for funding to improve access to Sneed Park Nature Reserve. Gary is meeting with a representative of this group soon to look at options. Once detailed costings are produced, they, along with costed sports proposals for SL, will come to a future meeting of the Environment Working Group, which will consider whether it will make formal recommendations to the NP to fund them. It was agreed by the Environment Working Group that it is important for the NP to be aware of other potential projects when making its decisions

There followed a brief discussion on Cotham School's usage of SL. There has been little recent usage due to the bad weather. Cotham School sometimes doesn't use the facilities even if they've been booked. Ande Mulligan informed the meeting that records of bookings by Cotham are kept.

A vote was then taken on whether to allocate £36,336.90 to upgrade the car park and provide a public footway on to SL, as per the detailed plans. 10 voted in favour of funding this project. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

At this point in the meeting, the reps of Coombe Dingle Sports Centre and sports club reps left the meeting, agreeing to come to a future meeting with costed proposals.

Public toilets in Canford Park. The detailed costs of this project total £13,741.05. The work includes drainage works. A vote was taken on whether to allocate funding to provide a public toilet in Canford Park, as per the detailed plans. 10 voted in favour of funding this project. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

Provision of new pathway and entrance to Old Quarry Park. The detailed costs of this project total £29,000. A vote was taken on whether to allocate funding to provide the new pathway and accessible entrance, as per the detailed plans. 10 voted in favour of funding this project. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

All three of these projects will now be formally submitted to the NP meeting in a report presented by Gary Brentnall.

Any Other business

The zip wire in Canford Playground is not yet back. Is it going to be returned? **Action:** Gary to update the group

Town and Village Green application for Stoke Lodge. David informed the group that what he can tell them is limited due to a legal gagging order. However, there is a new delay due to a problem with a TVG application in Newhaven. The outcome of this (Newhaven) decision may have a bearing on TVG applications elsewhere.

The meeting was informed of the debate that took place at the Stoke Bishop Forum the previous week regarding Cotham School's use of SL. The school is concerned about dogs on the site whilst school sports activities are going on. No solution was suggested but a request was made to discuss this issue with the local users group. This is to be arranged.

An email from Stephanie French was read out to the meeting regarding the gas installation in the north east corner of SL. She is struggling to get the BCC Planning Enforcement team to make the responsible organisation (Wales and West Utilities) to plant around the installation as per the original planning requirement. She will carry on trying.

A request was made for an update on Community payback. What projects have been done? Where? **Action:** Gary to report back

The pole at the end of Roman Road that used to have a notice on is now lopsided, and the sign gone. Can this be dealt with? **Action:** Gary

Councillors are seeking local people's views on the proposed floodlights for Canford Park Tennis Courts. A planning application has been submitted. If you have a view, submit it to BCC planning.

David wished to congratulate those who'd applied (successfully) for a TVG in Sneed Park. An application process that was not quite as complicated as SL.

The dog bin at the bus stop on Shirehampton road has been successfully re-signed. People will now know that they can put their dog mess in there as well.

The meeting was reminded that there is still money remaining from the Canford railing project. This could potentially be used for an entrance gate in to Canford Park. Andrew is attempting to arrange a meeting about this. **Action:** Andrew. **Update:** There is £31,500 remaining in this budget. A meeting will be arranged soon to discuss its allocation

The meeting gave its hearty congratulations to Alan Aburrow, who has been nominated for the Lord Mayor's Medal and will be attending a posh do at the Mansion House very soon.

There is some confusion regarding future tree budgets in the city. We await further announcements.

Hayley Ash, Neighbourhood Working Coordinator, requested the meeting to identify hotspots in the area where littering and/or dog fouling were a problem. Once identified, Hayley will undertake targeted work to try and ease the problem. The sites identified were as follows:

- The Furlong (littering)
- Westbury Hill (dog mess)
- Canford footpath through to Coombe Dingle Sports (dog mess)
- Russell Grove (dog mess)