Agenda item 7 (i)

Henleaze, Stoke Bishop, W-o-T NP
Environment Working Group
Thursday 30th April 2015

Recommendations:

1. The Environment Working Group requests that the Neighbourhood Committee **agree to fund Kewstoke residents the sum of £500** from the NP's CIL funds, towards the remaining cost of their new tree replacement project, on the proviso that the residents raise the remaining £283

2. To **note and discuss** the report from the NP's Tree Champion

1. Present: Helen Furber, Sue Boyd, Mike Burgess, Sheila Preece, Alan Preece, Alan Aburrow, Hilary long, David Mayer, Susan Mayer, Stephanie French, Hilary Long, Vera Giddings, Robert Murphy, Michael Blundell, Janet Brinnard, Andrew McGrath

1.1 Apologies: Gill Brown, Gary Brentnall, Val Bishop, Sue Boyd

Meeting chaired by David Mayer

2. Matters Arising

2.1 The Mayor is intending to close the Portway for 5 event s this year.

2.2 Canford Park loos. Are open but seem to be closed some of the time. It was explained that there is an ongoing problem with people putting used nappies in to the toilet and blocking it. This has caused several closures. **Update**: Loos now have bins for such things as nappies, so hopefully the problem will cease. A watching brief will be kept.

2.3 Gas company saga of installation on Stoke Lodge continues. It is not the company's fault. BCC Planning officers are at fault for not being clear or enforcing conditions. The battle continues. The appropriate officer from planning will be invited to attend the SB forum to explain why the compliance hasn't been followed. **Action:** Andrew and Gary to

contact Planning. The option of getting W&W to provide bedding for plants will be explored. Volunteers will then be used to do the planting.

2.4 Canford Park Gates. The situation highlighted in Hilary's public statement to the last NP remains. Officer time now needs to be factored in to costs when projects are designed. There is concern that the £1,200 spent on temporary gates could have been used towards the main gate project. However, a gate is needed until the permanent one is installed, and it will be used elsewhere when no longer needed for Canford. Hilary is still concerned that there was no notice given regarding the new regime of charging for officer time. It is solely a result of the severe funding changes within BCC.

2.5 Pits in Devonshire Road. Funding agreement signed but confusion reigns over who will actually deliver the project. It appears to be stuck in a no-mans-land of officers unable to commit to take on the project. It was **agreed** that Stephanie will speak to Glenise and Clare to see if they can help. Andrew to approach Richard Ennion. The Environment Working Group stated that it is appalled at this situation. **Action:** Andrew, Stephanie. **Update**: A new landscape designer will be in post by July. This person will work on this project, including preparing a detailed specification and taking the scheme through the mandatory Highways Quality Assurance (QA) process. Subject to any technical constraints, this part of the process should be completed by October with an aim to do the tree planting from December, at the start of the tree planting season.

3. NP Plan – Environment . Andrew discussed how best to report and update on the relevant parts of the plan. The intention is to report every meeting.

4. Kewstoke Residents' request . Following a well-being grant award of £1,417 at the last NP, residents have requested that the outstanding amount of their request, £783, be awarded from CIL. The EWG is aware that other resident groups have successfully fund-raised money for tree replacements. It is agreed that the road will benefit from a line of trees. The current ones are having to be felled due to disease/old age. The EWG **agreed** that the NP should fund £500 from CIL, but only on the proviso that residents in Kewstoke fund the remaining £283. **Action:**

EWG to **request** that £500 CIL funds be used to contribute to tree replacement in Kewstoke Road.

5. Clean and Green and Community Payback The payback fund still exists and projects are needed. Suggestion were for cutting back the bushes on corner of Sylvan Way and the Portway. More ideas needed. **Action:** Gary to arrange this CP session

5.1 The new allocation of C&G is now available for allocation. Last year's allocation agreed for floral displays.

6. Parks Updates.

6.1 A meeting had taken place on Stoke Lodge prior to this meeting, regarding the dying Cedar of Lebanon tree. It needs to be felled or cut back to the trunk. Planning permission will be needed to fell it. Choices for the wood are – chip it; retain the trunk and sculpt it. The preference is for sculpting it. This will cost. Possibly CIL money can be used. Other branches could be used around the site. A tree sculptor will be contacted and asked to look at it and provide a quote. A vote was taken. All were against fencing it off and fully felling it. All were in favour of removing the branches and sculpting the trunk. **Action:** Gary will liaise with Stephanie about using the wood on the Stoke Lodge site

6.2 TVG status for Stoke Lodge continues to work its way through the various processes. The latest is that David needs to explain why the latest objectors' objection regarding the Newhaven decision is not relevant to SL. The group again commended David's resilience on keeping going on this matter.

7.0 Any Other Business

7.1 The dog bin on Clover Ground has yet to appear despite being paid for by the NP. **Action:** Gary to investigate. There is also supposed to be another bin near the new playground on SL. Not there yet. **Action:** Gary to investigate. A new bin cannot be put on the Cheyne Road entrance as this is a private road

7.2 Alan A has been trying to find out what is happening with the substation site in the lane between Cooper Road and Back Stoke Lane.

Attempts so far to contact the PROW officer have proved unfruitful. **Action:** Andrew and Gary to investigate

7.3 The Green Capital Arts programme is on-going. Nominations are being made and a small group will adjudicate. Applicants will be awarded up to £10k. Deadline is 8th June. Decision on winner 9th June. **Action:** Andrew to report result to the NP on 15th June.

7.4 There is a plan to use remaining S106 funding from North View for Tulips. **Action**: Andrew to email everyone on this

7.5 It was suggested that photos be taken of the trees on West Dene before Wales and West commence with planned works in the road. **Action:** Residents in the road

7.6 Seamills has been unsuccessful in its application for a grant to clear up the Trym. Alan mentioned that there is training being provided by BART for performing river surveys. Alan indicated that he will attend this training

7.7 The issue of damage from the last firework display at Canford is being pursued but is proving very difficult. A house was slightly damaged as well as cars being covered in a dust that damages the paintwork. The Rotary Club who run the event have denied responsibility. It was pointed out that there is nothing this working group can do about this complaint but it can offer to help in time for the next event. Environmental Health officers will be contacted and asked to demand measures preventing a repeat of this next time. **Action:** Gary and Andrew. They will be asked to attend the next meeting.

7.8 Friends of Canford Park are keen to ensure Canford Cemetery is maintained at the present high level

7.9 Janet informed the meeting that there has been some vandalism at Sneyd Park Nature Reserve. Sheila Preece suggested it might be the same group who had been vandalising Stoke Lodge. **Update:** The miscreants have now been caught and are being ordered to provide community reparation.

8. Date of Next Meeting: 2.00pm Thursday 30th July 2015

Tree Report to the Stoke Bishop, Henleaze and Westbury on Trym

Neighbourhood Partnership

15th June 2015

1. The **Devonshire Road Project**, which was modified at a late stage, has been awarded £4155 from the NP3 Green Capital Award. The current scheme is to remove the two tree stumps, one outside House No 36 and one outside House No 29, and to try to put in two engineered tree pits, probably the ones with the flexible sides, and repair the pavement around the new pit. If the pits are successfully installed then the Partnership has assured me that money will be found for two new trees, one to go in each pit.
Richard Ennion, Senior BCC Officer had undertaken to deliver the project and asked TreeBristol to take it on.
However three months after being asked to do so TreeBristol said that they could not do the work.
Despite being asked (1.5.15 and 8.5.15) Richard has yet to reply to my question about how it is to get done. Apparently there are no resources within BCC to do the work.
I wonder if the Councillors, or maybe the full Neighbourhood Partnership, can help with at least getting some answers, which so far have been denied to me. **Update:**

I have just received (26.5.15) this reply from BCC to my earlier queries following TreeBristol's declaration of inability to carry out the project.

"A landscape designer is being recruited and will be in post by July. This person will work on this project, including preparing a detailed specification and taking the scheme through the mandatory highway Quality Assurance (QA) process. Subject to any technical constraints, this part of the process should be completed by October with an aim to do the tree planting from December, at the start of the tree planting season. My apologies for not confirming arrangements until now."

We shall wait until we see pits in place before we commit funds (not included in the costing for this first part of the project) for the planting of two trees.

2. Stoke Lodge.
i) There will be a replacement for the **felled diseased Ash** by the new playground gate funded by Hiatt Baker s106 money. This will be a Cedar of Lebanon planted early next planting season not too far away from the playground but not so close as to interfere with any picnic area, any enlargement of the playground and any re-orientation of pitches.

ii) The iconic 250 year old **Cedar of Lebanon** in Stoke Lodge sadly is even more sickly; in fact it is dead and now unsafe. Members of the NP3 Environment Group, members of groups in love with Stoke Lodge, Phil Burton (BCC Tree Officer) and I met on site to discuss its future.
Stoke Bishop residents had by then expressed a wish to see the tree carved in some beautiful way to mark its existence, importance and majesty. We all accepted that day that it is dead. Phil Burton has agreed with this plan.
So I have asked Andy O'Neill, Wild Wood Sculptor, to come up with a plan to carve it in a way that will reflect its importance to the Neighbourhood and Bristol, and I have applied for one of the £10,000 **Arts Green Capital awards** to fund this work.
The closing date for the applications was 8th June. We await the outcome. I have seen photos of his previous work and discussed with him his ideas for this project, and I am excited by the possibility that this sculpture could become such a totemic symbol of our regard for this tree.

We have been promised another new Cedar of Lebanon to be planted nearby.

iii) **The Gas Cabin :** I followed this situation/complaint up again on 9th March and received this reply on 1st May.
"Dear Stephanie. Yes it is myself looking into this matter. I have been in continuing communication with Wales and West to try and negotiate with them to improve the situation from what was previously put in place. By way of update, I met with Wales and West's landscaping contractor just this morning on site to discuss a solution to provide a far better screening through planting. Their contractor will liaise back with Wales and West to get this put in place, which will hopefully resolve this matter shortly. I am confident that due to the cooperation of the utility company we will see some positive action by way of planting very soon. Regards Steve Pearce".

3. The 10 new street trees funded by s106 monies have been planted along what could be described as the Shirehampton Road/Parry's Lane corridor, and also in Roman Way and Mariner's Drive.

4. Tree works – crown reductions, removal of dead limbs, felling of dead trees etc. at **Sea Mills Station Allotments** have now been completed.

5. On 5th May, with David Brown (SB Local Planning Group member) I spent two hours (often in the rain!) walking the Stoke Bishop Campus with Alan Stealey and Kevin Stuckey, University of Bristol Estates, to see the new trees planted to **mitigate the tree loss caused by the development on the Hiatt Baker site.** We did not count the new trees so I cannot tell you that there are 132, but I have been told that the planning requirement for tree replacement has been fulfilled on the non Hiatt Baker part of the campus and very soon will be fulfilled on the Hiatt Baker part of the Campus. Delays with the building work led to the planting season being "missed" for some of the tree replacement on Hiatt Baker campus. Certainly the

trees we saw - and there were very many - were of high quality, large size and of huge variety. They have been planted with due regard to their position in relation to other mature and young trees and so as not to block views nor "close down" open areas, and are of very varied species. There are some ecologically sensitive sites around the campus and in some places it is just not right to plant trees. Some trees have been used as succession planting, i.e. they have been planted near other very mature trees or screens, so that when the old trees come to the end of their natural life span a similar tree will be nearby to "take over" the role of the older tree(s).
It is a lovely area - you should walk around it and take a look.

6. A number of trees on **Canford Lane in Westbury Village** have had to be felled due to disease, poor habit of growth and risk of future obstruction. Sadly the old oak by the traffic lights at the junction with Falcondale Road is also likely to be lost. It is under close observation following some reduction of crown weight and the severing of some ivy.

7. Two groups of residents in **Westbury on Trym** are currently undertaking consultation of the residents in their roads with the eventual plan to re-tree their roads and restore former glory. I cannot undertake to do this work for them but am able to assist by outlining the steps required and providing contact details and explanations etc.

8. Wessex Water is leaving the works site they established on land at **Trymside**. I'll keep an eye on the progress made and report to you. Apparently they have a good reputation for making good after leaving sites.

9. Possible/probable **Increase in prices for Street Trees funded by s106** money as opposed to any other source of funds: This sentence is reported in the Minutes of the last Committee meeting of the Bristol Tree Forum. " Where funding is from S106, a replacement tree or new tree in soft ground will cost £765 of S106. This pays for the tree, stake and 15 years of management. By contrast, sponsored trees and NP money will be £275 per tree and this pay's for 2years of management. The Council will pay for the 13 years' work of management costs approx. £38/tree/year."
My view on this: This comment recorded in the Minutes of the last Tree Forum Committee meeting (6th May 2015) does not mention CIL funds.
CIL funds are already raided by the Council, only 15% of CIL funds generated within a Partnership being devolved to the Partnership.
s106 money. Even some of this is taken by the Council. From their website: "The 14 neighbourhood partnerships decide how to spend S106 money in their local area (this is called "devolved" money). But the council decides how to spend S106 money for strategically important and citywide improvements ("non-devolved" money.)"

Who decides what part of s106 is “devolved” and what part is “non-devolved” I do not know - but as 85% of CIL and an unannounced chunk of s106 is already taken by the Council, to impose a further charge of £490 per street tree if it is to be paid for by the devolved part of s106 seems to me to be a further raid on devolved funds. The more so because all street tree planting money has already been removed by the Mayor and devolved funds are now the only source of street trees apart from private or corporate sponsorship. This maintenance money could also be under threat in the future, for example - when Tree Pips was first launched the funds for it were taken away from the Street Tree planting programmes and Street Tree Maintenance funds. It took months of heated arguments, led mainly by the Tree Forum, to get the maintenance fund restored - otherwise all the trees planted in the three year run up to the Whips/Pips programme would have probably been dead by now.
The TreeBristol page on the BCC website is silent on the topic - being a year out of date.

It is up to the Partnership to decide what position to adopt on this new levy, little advertised and proclaimed, if it is as it seems.

On the other hand there is another way to interpret this statement and somehow we need to obtain further explanation. Does the part in the sentence “…….and NP money” mean that money coming back from the NP - be it devolved funds in any sense from any source - CIL or s106 - the charge will be £275 per tree and thus the s106 £765 is only charged to the non-devolved s106? How to find out I wonder?

Stephanie French NP3 Tree Champion