

Henleaze, Stoke Bishop, W-o-T NP  
Environment Working Group

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2015

**Recommendations:**

1. The Environment Working Group requests that the Neighbourhood Committee **agree to fund** the Cedar Tree sculpture in Stoke Lodge from the NP's S106 Hiatt Baker allocation (see section 3 below). The cost of the Sculpture work is **£7,000** and the approximate cost of scaffolding is **£1,000** (depending on scale of tree reduction needed). The exact cost of the scaffolding will not be known until after September when the nesting season ends and the tree can be properly examined and reduced
2. The Environment Working Group requests that the Neighbourhood Committee **agree to fund** up to £400 to help promote the NP's new promotional leaflet. See section **9.7** below

**1. Present:** Helen Furber, Sue Boyd, Sheila Preece, Alan Preece, Alan Aburrow, , David Mayer, Stephanie French, , Michael Blundell, Gill Brown, Janet Brinnand, Val Bishop, Sue Boyd, Gary Brentnall, Andrew McGrath

**1.1 Apologies:** Sue Mayer, Hilary long

Meeting chaired by David Mayer

**2. Matters Arising**

**2.1** Gas company saga of installation on Stoke Lodge continues. Stephanie has written to Stephen Pearce setting out precisely what needs to be done. **Action:** Stephanie to write to Steve Pearce. Andrew to ensure Di Robinson sees a copy of it. **Update:** Stephanie's exhaustive efforts 'may' be coming to fruition. The last email on this issue from Steve Pearce (BCC Group Manager – Development Management) states that he hopes Wales and West will very soon put the situation right. We await further developments

**2.2 The Devonshire Road** work is still pending. Andrew informed the meeting that a Landscape Designer has been appointed but has not yet started. **Update:** Designer starts on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2015. Andrew will try and get an early meeting.

**2.3 Canford Firework Display.** What is the basis of permission BCC Parks give to the organisers of the event (Rotary Club)? How will the event be marshalled? What is the maximum number allowed? How will extra crowd numbers be dealt with? **Update:** The concerns regarding this event have now been raised with the BCC Site Permissions Team, and Transport Services. A meeting with the organisers is being set up. Discussions will include the ash fallout and the numbers of people attending the event. A report on this meeting will be sought and disseminated.

**3. Tree Projects and Funding.** The meeting noted the financial information relating to tree purchases in the NP area. Please see Stephanie's Tree Report to the NP.

**3.1** As the Cedar tree on Stoke Lodge was unsuccessful in gaining Green Capital Arts funding, a discussion was needed regarding what to do. There are two options for tree carving/sculpting. Both are good, costs differ but not by much. There was support for both projects and detailed discussions of what options to pursue were discussed. It was agreed that there needs to be a contingency in the budget. The meeting agreed that if possible, it would like parts of the tree displayed in each of the NP's wards, but this might not be possible. Only when the tree is reduced will it be clear what can be done.

**3.2** The meeting unanimously agreed to go with Andy O'Neill as sculptor. It was also agreed that Gary will obtain quotes for scaffolding for the job. **Action:** Stephanie to confirm the work with Andy O'Neill at a cost of £7,000. Gary to obtain quote for the scaffolding. **EWG agreed to formally request** the funding from the NP from CIL/S106 funding (following advice from BCC officer regarding which fund is most appropriate). **Update:** The recommendation from the BCC S106 compliance officer is that the Hiatt Baker S106 funding would be the most appropriate source of funding for this project.

**4. Green Capital Neighbourhood Arts Project.** There will be 1,000 clay birds in a central location in the NP (on the Downs). There will be at least 20 workshops to make the birds, which will be promoted around the area.

**4.1** Green Capital has set up a Facebook page for this project. Go to: [www.facebook.com/b2015nap](http://www.facebook.com/b2015nap) The project's Facebook page is: [www.facebook.com/hsbwt.birds](http://www.facebook.com/hsbwt.birds) . The project will be heavily advertised and further workshops can be held. The organisers wish to know of any groups or further opportunities for workshops.

**4.2** The legacy from this project will be the skills and groups that form as a result of working on the project.

**4.3** The group is concerned that there is to be little other legacy. They also expressed their feeling that the decision to go with this project was not really a local one to make, that the decision was made by GC. There was criticism of the process, which was thought to have not been as inclusive as it should have been. It also expressed concerns about the security of the installation. It looks forward to the impact of the workshops. The group agreed to offer its views on the poster.

**5. Community Payback.** Three sessions held so far this year. Two in Henleaze, one in W-o-T. They are unable to do Sylvan Way due to health and safety concerns. Suggestions for CP sessions: Wall of Stoke Lodge from Druids Lane to Ebenezer Lane; South west corner of Stoke Lodge – has a Japanese Knotweed infestation; Badock's Wood – various projects; Seamills Allotments path (near station). **Action:** Gary to organise

**6. One-off issues.** Glenise raised issue of leaves blocking drains and gullies. Street cleaning had responded to requests to clear up Henleaze Gardens and Henleaze Avenue. The road sweeping service is now coming in-house. If anyone needs a specific issue dealt with, contact Pam Jones: [pamela.jones@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:pamela.jones@bristol.gov.uk) . The Victorian lampposts can also be painted but there is a schedule. Springfield Grove, near the crossing point for the school needs sweeping. **Action:** Gary to get this swept.

**6.1** There has been a spate of **vandalism in OSNR**. Various bits and pieces have been thrown in the lake, littering, barbeques etc. It apparently wasn't the same people that were vandalising Stoke Lodge. Kids are swimming in the lake. This isn't vandalism but is disruptive to the wildlife. Any suggestions? Could build a permanent brick BBQ base. This might encourage BBQs, which isn't wanted. Signage was suggested regarding swimming. A sign stating there is a risk of 'Swimmers Itch' (and other conditions) was recommended. There must be examples of signs on the web. Another suggestion was to swap the current dog poo bin for a general bin. **Action:** Gary to investigate getting the bin swapped.

**6.2 Phoenix Lane weeds.** All along one side. It was suggested using Community Payback. Would need other work in the area to make a full session.

**6.3 Ebenezer Lane.** Sheila was concerned that a strimming in May cut down all the flowering wildflowers. The PROW officer informed Sheila that there will be 3 strimmings per year. This is too often. Only one needed. Sheila asked the group to support her call for one strimming per year. **Action:** Gary to liaise with PROW officer to ask for just one strimming per year, preferably after they have flowered and seeded.

**6.4 Weed killing.** Residents in and around West Dene have complained of over-use of weed killers against the boundaries. The grass is killed and leaves a discoloured strip. There has been some concern over the use of Glyphosate for this purpose. Concern about it being dangerous have been largely disproved.

**7. Parks Maintenance.** The meeting discussed the briefing from BCC Parks. A new regime is in place that includes leaving areas of open land uncut for longer. Parks will come to NPs or Environment Groups in the autumn to ask them if they are happy with the regime or want it amended in specific areas.

**7.1** It was confirmed that the new regime includes nature reserves. If residents have concerns about grass verges, they are asked to contact Sarah Tyler at BCC Parks ([sarah.tyler@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.tyler@bristol.gov.uk))

**7.2** It was agreed to have this issue on the agenda for the next Environment Working Group meeting. **Action:** Andrew to put on agenda and ensure appropriate attendance by Parks' officer

**8. New Waste Contract.** Andrew discussed the briefing paper regarding the new waste contract for Bristol. It is now (as of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2015) in-house, a company wholly owned by BCC. Residents shouldn't notice any difference during the handover period. There are certain aspects of the service BCC is looking to improve. This will take time. Initially the contract is for one year, but this could be expanded to three years. The service includes street cleaning, which has been a regular source of complaint from residents, and is one of the areas the new company knows needs improvement.

## **9. Any Other Business.**

**9.1 NP Plan progress report.** Andrew presented a progress report on those elements of the NP Plan relating to Environment, where progress has been made. The meeting was asked if the layout and concept was clear. It is, but only if people have a copy of the plan itself. Andrew is in the process of getting this sorted. He hopes to get a copy to everyone soon.

**9.2** Alan showed the meeting a photo of a new growth of Japanese Knotweed. **Action:** Gary to ensure the contractors dealing with this problem know about it.

**9.3** The gate to the overflow car park at Stoke Lodge was recently locked. This is due to a car being burnt out in this car park. It needs to be open during normal hours. It was agreed that Coombe Dingle Sports need a copy of the key to ensure it's opened during sports activity. **Action:** Gary to check

**9.4** Over-flowing dog bin on West Dene. This is probably due to the holiday schedule of staff. It has now been emptied. Alan wanted the meeting to know that Stoke Lodge is very clear of dog poo. The bins are clearly working.

**9.5** Stephanie informed the meeting that a leaflet is being prepared to explain to people how they can contact BCC regarding trees being removed. Stephanie will email a copy of the draft leaflet for comment

from the EWG. **Action:** Stephanie to email leaflet to Andrew, who will cascade it to the EWG. **Update:** This was cascaded in early August. Comments received by Stephanie

**9.6** Gary reported that during a dog poo search of Canford Park on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July, 20 poos were found. They have been sprayed to highlight them; preventative stencils have been sprayed on pathways around the park asking people to take their dog mess away with them. A follow-up session will be held later in the year.

**9.7** David asked the meeting to agree to request the NP for use of £400 from either CIL or S106 to promote the NP leaflet. Meeting **agreed.** **Update:** It has subsequently been established that money for this work cannot be funded from either CIL or S106. An alternative source of funding is being sought

**Please see the NP3 Tree Report (and supplementary report) from Stephanie French, below**

Tree Report to Stoke Bishop, Westbury on Trym and Henleaze  
Neighbourhood Partnership

September 28<sup>th</sup> 2015

This is a shorter report this time because most of the issues have been mentioned and discussed previously. If anyone wants greater detail then please contact me via Andrew McGrath ([andrew.mcgrath@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.mcgrath@bristol.gov.uk))

- 1) I have prepared a PowerPoint “slide show” showing the **16 Section 106 trees** planted in the last 18 months on our patch. The presentation shows maps of locations in all three Wards, species, address outside which each tree can be found and the derivation of funds - as well as a photo of each tree. So let me know if you want me to send it to you, and it is also available for Forum meetings if wanted.
- 2) Sadly one of the trees has already died - the **English Oak near the mini roundabout** where Druid Hill meets Shirehampton Road and Parry’s Lane. I have reported it and it should be replaced in the coming planting season.
- 3) I have written a **Tree Leaflet** describing how to obtain a replacement Street Tree once one of those tree felling notices has gone up, or where trees have been “missing” for some time. If anyone wants one than please get in touch with me, and please, if you are asked by a resident how to set about it, then put me in touch with said person and I’ll send them one via e mail. This was not designed as something to print because of the cost implications. It is also easier to update if kept digital. TreeBristol is trying to set up a Tree Sponsorship ordering system done all by internet, but it crashed during the summer when the mapping went down, and anyway is not really suitable for residents who have a particular street or even a particular tree site in mind. One has to dig one’s heels in and decline to be referred to the website ordering system if asked so to do.  
Alan Aburrow (Traffic and Transport) and I are considering re-designing the Well Being Application form to make one for Trees, because the more general one does not really fit Trees and folk find it confusing and cumbersome, and are put off making the effort.
- 4) The land at **Trymside** has not been restored by Wessex Water within the time constraints set down in their planning consent to use the land. I have raised this with Planning Enforcement, and have been told that they are already on the case. I am continuing to monitor the situation. It is a mess down there and somehow we knew it would be. Talking of Planning Enforcement, this brings me to .....
- 5) The **Gas Cabin on Stoke Lodge Parkland**. We are now 6 years down the line with this one and have made but little progress in my view, although I am sure that Steve Pearce in Planning Enforcement would not agree with that. All I can do is copy here for you the latest e mail from Planning Enforcement, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> September. “By way of update I have just spoken with the Landscaping Contractor of Wales and West to enquire on their plans. They have given me their assurances that their teams are going to be on site in the

next few days. I will of course keep you up to date as matters progress. Kind regards Steve Pearce Group Manager Development Management - Place Directorate.”

If Wales and West does not put in effective screening on all sides then I am intending to ask for the support of NP3 (via the Environment Group) in making a request to BCC that they screen the kiosk at their expense, because the fact that it is not screened is partly due to some errors made by BCC planning department early on.

- 6) The Environment Group has voted for some funding to get the **Cedar of Lebanon on Stoke Lodge Parkland** carved as a tribute to its existence and as a mark of our respect for it. The endorsement of that request is before the Councillors tonight. A lot of work towards achieving this (at no cost so far) has been put in by BCC Officers Phil Burton and Gary Brentnall, and also by the tree sculptor Andy O'Neill, to see if the scheme is feasible and safe, and to go part way towards the design, so many thanks to those three for the effort put in so far. In Stoke Bishop those of us who love Stoke Lodge Parkland, and love and admire this particular tree are grateful to BCC for their work and co-operation in allowing us to “have” this tree to carve. When complete it should be a beautiful sight for everyone who visits the Parkland and lift the soul as well as delight the eye. Please refer to <http://www.wildwoodcarving.co.uk> to see what the sculptor has done elsewhere to enhance our environment. We have local examples of his work in Badock Wood, Westbury, and in the playground at Stoke Lodge, Stoke Bishop. I am very grateful for the support too of members of the Environment Group of NP3, all three Wards, for their encouragement, attendance on site and helpful suggestions so far!
- 7) Better news at last for the **Devonshire Road, Henleaze, Tree Pit project**. Again - a copy of a recent e mail, 1<sup>st</sup> September, from Richard Ennion, should help you see where we are with this. “I now have a landscape architect working on this - his name is Colm O'Kelly - he has been with us for a few weeks and this job is one of his priorities. In addition this job will receive project management support (as there is a package of similar schemes that I am looking to progress). The Project Manager is Teresa Crichton. I will ask Colm to contact you - expect him to do so from Monday next week - as he is looking at the University of Bristol tree sponsorship programme up to Friday. I am confident that we can get this moving - now that I have the right people in post. Regards, Richard”.
- 8) There is a Planning Application before the Council to **develop further land on Canford Lane in Westbury Village**. It is to build flats on the embankment opposite Carlton Court. It would mean the loss of 8+ further trees along the narrow bank. They are the subject of a TPO imposed following the “over the weekend” felling of some trees on the adjacent site when flats were built about 2 years ago. The developers support the loss of the trees by stating that they are in poor condition. The condition of trees is the responsibility of the land owner. The developer suggests that in mitigation trees can be planted in the pavement (currently only just wide enough for two people to pass) or in the road itself without losing parking spaces (!). I have calculated that in mitigation 32+ trees would need to be planted nearby on public land. The BCC Officer has yet to report on the application so please do not accept this calculation of mine as being accurate.



9) Meanwhile this year BCC has carried out a programme of works on its trees on **Canford Lane** (between the proposed development site and Falcondale Road) and the trees are already looking better, with overhanging branches trimmed back and strangling ivy severed. The English Oak at the traffic lights is not looking great and is being kept under review following some crown reduction and severing of ivy. There is some internal decay and the tree may be lost soon. This is a significant site, opposite the Park and the still extant Library, so we (NP3) should replace it when the time comes.

10) **Tree costs** are now known and made clear to all. I apologise for the total muddle I presented to you earlier this year but then charges were not at all made clear.

For an ordinary tree for a street or parkland, funded by an individual or group of residents or by a grant, or from CIL funds etc. - £295. (an increase in April 2015 from £275)

If the "sponsor" chooses to water the tree the cost is less - £175.

For a tree paid for from s106 monies - £765 (because this is what the developer will have been charged per tree by BCC).

There was a muddle when the charge for s106 trees was imposed and for a while we were charged only £275 per s106 tree. It is unlikely that we will be charged retrospectively for the difference because we settled every bill we were asked to. But now we know what we have to pay.

David Mayer has put in a lot of work preparing a list and a cost sheet of all tree plantings we have done in NP3 since the NP came in to being. It was quite an undertaking.

Stephanie French. NP3 Tree Champion.

9/9/2015

Supplementary Tree Report to Stoke Bishop, Westbury on Trym and  
Henleaze Neighbourhood Partnership

September 28<sup>th</sup> 2015

- 1) **The screening of the Gas Cabin:** On 9<sup>th</sup> September, but seconds after I had pressed the “send” button with my main report, I got the following e mail from Steve Pearce, Planning Enforcement, BCC

***“By way of update in relation to the above I have been informed by Wales and West that their landscape contractor has now carried out additional planting which will hopefully have improved the situation. Again I reiterate my apologies for the length of time this has taken.”***

I have been to see the planting and I have photographs.

There is now hawthorn bush screening of three sides of the kiosk, and the fourth side is screened by some rather scruffy, but alive, trees along the fence between the road and the path that runs alongside the kiosk at that point. I think that will have to do. We have not contributed to the costs so we can put back into the pot the money we voted to spend on this if it became necessary. I have sought reassurance from Steve Pearce that Wales and West will maintain the planting until well established. Their record on this is not good. The one side that got screened from the get go was very poor quality planting and soon came to grief. It was not maintained. We had to complain about that and it got re-planted - although SB paid for some weeding and grass cutting around that new planting during one of the Community Pay Back sessions we booked. So we shall have to keep our eye on it. I know I can rely upon you.

When I get reassurance that it will be maintained I shall thank Steve Pearce on your behalves.