

Stoke Bishop, W-on-T & Henleaze  
Environment Working Group  
Coombe Dingle Sports Centre  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016

**Recommendations:**

1. To **note** the contents of this report and the Tree Report
2. The Neighbourhood Committee is asked to **agree the funding of £3,986** from the NP's **CIL funds** for the purchase and installation of play equipment on Stoke Lodge playground (See section 5 below)
3. The Neighbourhood Committee is asked to **agree the funding of £5,000** from the NP's **CIL funds** to support the improvements to the PROWs discussed (section 9)
4. The Neighbourhood Committee is asked to **agree the funding of £980** from the **NP's funds** to provide an information board at the Roman Villa (section 10)

**Present:** Sheila Preece, Alan Preece, Hilary Long, Gill Brown, Val Bishop, Clare Milne, Mike Blundell, Helen Furber, Eileen Poad, Sue Boyd, Stephanie French, Susan Mayer, Alan Aburrow, David Mayer.

**Apologies:** Cllr Glenise Morgan, Cllr Clare Champion-Smith, Graham Donald, Gary Brentnall

Meeting Chaired by David Mayer –

**1. Minutes and Matters arising from 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015 meeting:**

**Notes considered accurate with the following exceptions or continuing actions:**

**1.1 Phoenix Lane Weeds.** Eileen confirmed that the work had been undertaken but was still incomplete in certain areas. Gary agreed to investigate. C/F from October 2015. **Action:** Gary to check

**1.2 Japanese Knotweed.** Correction to the assertion that the Knotweed problem on SL emanates from the Kitchen Garden. There is no Knotweed in this location.

**1.3 Weed Killing.** A further assertion that the WHOP has found there is no harm to health. Evidence that it is was considered flimsy. There is continuing analysis.

**1.4 FOSPNR.** Janet Brinnand has now stepped down as the OSPNR rep on this group. The meeting gave a vote of thanks to Janet for her input. Claire Milne is taking over Janet's role

## **2. Trees**

Stephanie reported that she had had a meeting with a BCC officer, who had shown her a flow chart of costings for tree replacement. The flow chart only shows S106 funded trees. No other funding sources shown.

The PIPs programme is taking up most of the staff resource, so we are not sure how many other trees can be planted by the team.

Further comments on the flowchart included the mystery of how one gets to box 10. The arrows seem to send you back to the beginning.

Alan noted that the timescales were impossible to achieve. It doesn't mention tree pits in roads.

The biggest challenge for the tree champion is getting responses and action from BCC. Stephanie needs support in this work. Reps should talk to people and report back to Stephanie and Gary. This is the right group to make recommendations on expenditure.

## **3. Tree Sculpture update**

This is becoming increasingly difficult and complex. The scaffolding cost is high.

There are possible costs of reinstatement. We need to make the case for not having to pay for this. It would have had to be done anyway if the whole tree were cut down, so there oughtn't to be a charge for bits of it being taken down. **Action:** Gary to check on this

There had been a quote for scaffolding under £3k but this was quickly withdrawn. A quote has additional conditions attached to it: method statement; H&S statement; drawings of plan; Public Liability Insurance. Some of this is unreasonable. We are now trying for 3 further quotes. David stated that some of these requests are reasonable and shouldn't be beyond a professional scaffolder. **Afternote:** Stephanie has secured a quote for under £3k. This provider needs to be checked out. It appears he is on the BCC approved contractor list. We just need to clarify the

permissions needed **Action:** Gary to check and, if possible, give the okay to engage the identified scaffolder. If this doesn't work out and if further quotes are more than £3k we will need to think about how we can secure further funding locally.

A **vote** was taken that the NP shouldn't have to pay for reinstatement costs. This was unanimously agreed.

**Vote** taken to agree further quotes should be obtained. Unanimously agreed

Do we support local fundraising to make up the difference, if needed? A **vote** was taken. Unanimously agreed

#### 4. Clean and Green

Still haven't spent £500 per ward this year (2015/16). **Action:** Andrew to check. **Afternote:** Checked and confirmed. Funding still not spent. Can be carried forward to 2016/17

#### 5. Stoke Lodge Playground

There is a current well-being application for £3,986 for extra play equipment. The Well Being Panel supports the project but has agreed that the funding should be requested from CIL funds. As CIL recommendations are made by the Environment Working Group, the panel has agreed to recommend awarding the funding from Well Being only if the recommendation to fund it from CIL is rejected. The project has appropriate quotes and is supported by BCC Parks Officers. The EWG **agreed** (unanimously) that this should be paid for from the NP's CIL funds. The Neighbourhood Committee is asked to agree funding the new play equipment, fully priced at £3,986, from the NP's CIL allocation.

#### 6. Sensory Garden idea

Sue showed the meeting some ideas for a sensory garden that could, potentially, be sited in the old kitchen garden of Stoke Lodge. The idea came about following discussions with parents of disabled children in the area who have been delighted by the playground and use it very regularly. A sensory garden would provide further opportunities for many local people, including disabled children.

This is clearly a project that needs further investigation. There is a lot of advice available to help this idea. It was suggested that the WGOP might be interested in getting involved. Andrew spoke about the potential for

funding as well. One member of the group spoke of a report written about a similar project in Sheffield. **Action:** Andrew to dig out this report and cascade. **Afternote:** See <http://www.landscapeprojects.co.uk/sheffield-parks/>

The group agreed unanimously to support this idea in principle and to assist with its development. **Afternote:** The idea was discussed with the Mayor on his visit to the NP on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016. He was extremely keen and supportive and was very interested in the possible location of the garden. He also suggested that advice could be available from the University Botanical Garden near the Downs.

## 7. Japanese Knotweed

Alan has put together a simple leaflet explaining what Japanese Knotweed is, what it looks like, and how to eradicate it. The suggestion is that it could be given to all houses backing on to Stoke Lodge.

The meeting agreed wholeheartedly that the leaflet is excellent and a great help. It would benefit from being branded as a BCC leaflet. **Action:** Alan, Gary, Andrew to investigate getting it produced as a BCC leaflet. It could be given to local community organisations and possibly as an insert or page in BS9 and Henleaze & Westbury Voice

## 8. Ebenezer Lane

Sheila has performed a lot of work rebutting the details of a long reply to her concerns from a senior BCC officer. Some of the content of the letter seemed to be inaccurate. For example, a pile of cuttings that was supposed to have been removed was still there, a long time after the letter was received. There is an intention to ask the BCC officer to come and see the problem for himself.

It was agreed unanimously that David will send a reply to the officer, as per the draft provided, including an invitation to attend a meeting on site and to attend the next ENV meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016. **Action:** David to send letter. **Afternote:** Letter sent on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Officer to be invited to attend next ENV meeting

## 9. Additional funding for improvements to 2 PROWs

Alan provided the meeting with information on a request from BCC Highways for the NP to provide £5,000 of its funds to support the levelling and improvement of public rights of way (PROW) in the NP area.

The funding is requested to complete the improvement to three sections of pathways around Golden Hill, Henleaze (please see appendix 1). The total cost is £24,500 and constitutes approximately one third of the total annual citywide budget for such work.

After some discussion the meeting agreed (Votes in favour = 9; votes against = 2; abstentions = 1) to **formally request the Neighbourhood Committee to agree to release £5,000 of the NP's CIL funds** to enable this work to proceed.

Why have these particular lanes been chosen? It was agreed that this needs to be taken up with the councillors. Concern was expressed that by agreeing to support this project we might be setting a precedent. It is BCC's statutory duty to ensure these lanes are accessible. We need to treat this as a one-off issue. Unfortunately, in the current funding climate, NPs may need to accept that they will have to support projects that were previously paid for from central BCC funds. At least the NPs get to agree to fund which projects they want.

## **10. Roman Villa display board**

A quote has been provided for an interpretation board to replace the sign that disappeared at the site some time ago. The quote includes the wording for the board. The quote is £980. The meeting agreed to **formally request the Neighbourhood Committee to agree to release £980 for this board from NP funds**

## **11. Any Other Business**

**11.1** Thanks were given to Sue Boyd for her years of service managing Westbury-in-Bloom. It has won numerous prizes and has been a great success. The meeting gave a unanimous vote of thanks to Sue for her wonderful work over the years. The hunt is now on for Sue's successor.

**11.2** Gill reminded the meeting that there are significant plans for upgrading the facilities at Coombe Dingle. Everyone is advised to keep a close watch for important dates. The work on Coombe Dingle will start in May. A public meeting was being held on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

**11.3** Claire discussed the on-going silt problem in the lake in OSPNR. The plan is to install a silt tank and reed banks to counter the problem. The FOSP NR may come back to the NP to discuss help with funding.

**12. Date of next meeting - 2.00pm Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016pm. Venue tbc**

Tree Report

Henleaze, Westbury on Trym and Stoke Bishop Neighbourhood Partnership  
(NP3)

7<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Quite a bit has been going on and I have been quite busy over the last 3 months, but there is not much outcome to report to you this quarter.

**1. Planning Applications that affect trees:**

Canford Lane Westbury: This has been named "The Bunker". The application has gone to Appeal. I outlined in my December report how trees were involved in this development, both concerning the loss of existing trees and the rather bizarre suggestions about mitigation planting put forward in the application. We await the outcome.

Church Avenue Stoke Bishop: There is what I think is a hugely important planning policy in Bristol - BCS9 - which sets out (amongst other things) that proposed development of land must preserve green infrastructure where possible - even if this means re-orientating the building in the plot of land. Very recently this policy has been put in force in our patch and a planning application has been turned down because it would have meant the loss of a major Scots Pine tree, and, in the opinion of the Planning and Tree Officers, the planned development could have been re-positioned on the plot of land and there was no need to lose the tree. I did object saying just that on the planning website - but that is not why it was saved. It was saved because the Officers knew what they are doing. So Thank You to them. In fact the Tree Officer went even further in his reporting and stated that, were the applicant to apply to fell the tree separately from any planning application for buildings (something occasionally seen), then he would make the tree the subject of a TPO. I forwarded the refusal on to the Chair of the Residents' Association for him to publicise so that householders and developers in the area can be perhaps more thoughtful about their new buildings where significant trees could be affected - we are on the lookout, we do not want to lose the trees unnecessarily and we will object, and BCC Officers will apply the Bristol Core Policies.

This leads neatly on to a current application 15/06605 - the redevelopment of Southmead Police Station and the building of a Care Home on the site. This could lead to the loss of a major tree - a Wellingtonia - and again just a little bit of reorientation of the proposed building in the plot could save it. So I have objected most strongly and encouraged others to do so too - and they have. Thank you. I understand that it is going before the Development Committee on April

6th. This is an important site and a large development, and maybe too hot to handle as a delegated decision. Those who have objected will be notified and I would urge them to write in again when given the opportunity and maybe even turn up on the day to support our efforts.

2. **Trymside:**

This is still a sorry sight and site, with thick clumpy weeds already growing vigorously where Wessex Water had their temporary depot. I'll wait a short while but not long before finding out what WW plan to do to renovate the site, that is both acceptable and restores it. A gentle rake and a packet of grass seed are unlikely to be adequate.

3. **The Cedar of Lebanon sculpture:**

The sculptor has found a scaffolder - one who has done major work for BCC including the recent scaffolding of City Hall - and we await the OK from BCC to start the project. The quote from the scaffolder, together with the fee for the carving, is within our budget.

4. There is a new **Tree Request Process** going through its birth pangs.

Delivery is expected soon. The work I have been doing on this on behalf of the Tree Forum has been taking up most of my "tree time". It will mean that the Environment Group of each NP will have more work to do but we will also have more input. Just as importantly it also means that we are more likely to know where we are with any new tree plantings. I am 80% of my way through writing an explanatory document for people to use, and when it is done I'll circulate it amongst you even if there is no relevant meeting imminent, for you to digest, because it will take a while.

I am reluctant to say too much now in case some answers to questions I have put to BCC do not get the answers I expect or want. NP3

Environment Group has been warned about these changes and has agreed to take it on and to help out. Thank you. I should warn you that there will be a large price rise in one category of tree.

In NP3 we are jumping the gun a little - getting off to a brisk start - and before it is in place we are consulting on three schemes that would fit in very neatly with the new proposals. 1) in Westbury Road opposite Majestic Warehouse 2) on Henleaze Road opposite Quarry Park and 3) in Church Avenue (SP).

In Westbury Road I am working with Alan Aburrow, in Henleaze Road I am working with an interested resident and in Church Avenue the Sneyd Park Residents' Association is conducting the consultation following some help from Gay Huggins and from me about what to put in the letter re: cost and the NP involvement etc.

A very brief summary of the new process would be “If you find the spot and fund the trees we’ll plant them that year provided there are not services underneath”. Obviously there is a lot more to it than that and more on this later.

**5. Replacement Trees:**

A brand new tree planted on Druid Hill died within 6 weeks of planting just about a year ago. It has now been replaced.

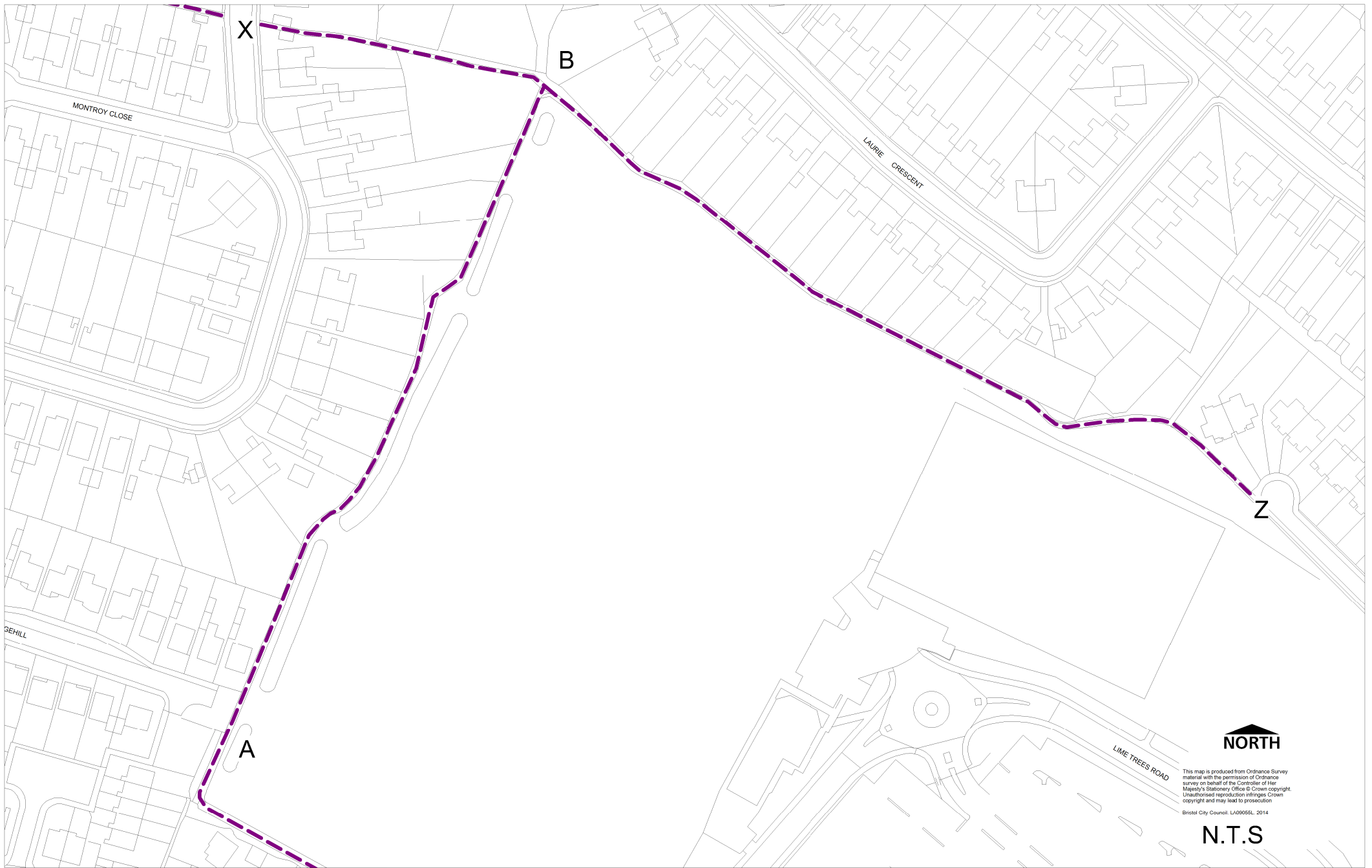
A tree on Stoke Lodge Parkland that was supposed to be planted last year, but time ran out, is just about to be planted. I went with the BCC Tree Officer Josie Sadler to put a large orange spray paint “X marks the spot” only last week.

**6. University of Bristol large tree in new tree pit scheme:**

We have indicated to the UoB (more than once) that we have some sites for tree planting for this new line of funding but having been asked to be patient and wait a while longer. The New Year is long past and no news yet. So I am asking again and may be able to update you tonight.

Stephanie French  
NP3 Tree Champion





MAP 1

A---B 400m  
 X---B 98m  
 B--Z 280m

Provision of Stone to Dust surfaced path with wood edging.  
 1.25m width



This map is produced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution.  
 Bristol City Council. LA09065L. 2014

N.T.S



## PUBLIC FOOTPATHS BCC/127(part) & BCC/125 HENLEAZE / HORFIELD COMMON

The public footpaths have a natural earth surface and provide the only pedestrian access connecting The Crescent to Dyrham Close or Lime Trees Road and Horfield Common. The attached plan and photographs show the route, distances and current condition.

During path inspections the routes are consistently in use by shoppers and walkers, the surface is not of a suitable standard for the amount of footfall it receives, throughout the year.

Public rights of way are legally classed as highways and as such the Council has a statutory duty to ensure they are unobstructed and fit for use. Ensuring rights of way within Bristol are available for all to use and encouraging communities to make best use of them is fundamental to keeping them open. In order to do this we upgrade paths whenever funds will allow. Over the recent years an ever increasing number of paths have been upgraded to a stone surface.

The preferred contractor will be working in constrained conditions using appropriate equipment, wherever possible the sections of path will not all be closed at the same time. The total length is nearly 800m or ½ mile and is anticipated to be 30 days in duration.

To complete the three sections has been costed at £24,500 by the preferred contractor, the request is for a contribution of £5,000 from the neighbourhood partnership to ensure completion of the whole scheme. To put the request into context, the cost of this scheme is about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the capital allocation for rights of way work over the entire City. This scheme though is considered of high importance for the residents of the area and should not be delayed further.

A second scheme is also programmed for this financial year surfacing a 1m tarmac width within a short section of unadopted lane which is well used by residents and as a route to school. The condition of the route is again unsuitable for the amount of use it receives. This is at Hollymead Lane connecting to Hollybush Lane and within this neighbourhood partnership area.





Surface Example

