



AGENDA ITEM NO: 13

**St George Neighbourhood Partnership (SGNP)
Report**

Date: Tuesday 25th June 2013

In this report you will find:

- 1- 2012/13 summary achievements (Abdulrazak Dahir)
- 2- Traffic and Transport subgroup update (Abdulrazak Dahir)
- 3- Environment subgroup update (Rob Acton-Campbell)
- 4- Bristol Youth Links update (Abdulrazak Dahir)
- 5- St George Web Team update (Webteam)

Part 1: 2012/13 Summary Achievements

- 1- 2012/13 flew by quickly. It is always useful to reflect back during the AGM in the previous year's achievements before proceeding in full speed ahead into the new financial year.
- 2- The Devolved Clean and Green money the NP received was well used and evenly spread across the NP area. Key locations benefiting from this scheme include bulb planting in key locations like St George Park, Rodney Rd Playing Field, Furber Rd/Sheldare Barton, Meadowvale green, Blackswarth Rd and Kingsway Precinct.
- 3- Number of targeted environmental projects were also delivered including the St George Park Lake Island and replacing 3 street tree stumps.
- 4- Last year the Neighbourhood Partnership spent £92,194 of Devolved Section 106 Parks. This money was used to progress number of long awaited improvements to locally cherished green spaces in the area. Some of these include: St George Parks MUGA, where the Neighbourhood Partnership part funded the cost of the new MUGA and Children's Play Ground; Troopers Hill and Plummers Hill Open Space.
- 5- In addition the Neighbourhood Partnership spent £24,528.41 of the Wellbeing Budgeting. This money was used to support 16 community/voluntary groups in the Neighbourhood Partnership area for more information see agenda item 11.
- 6- Appendix 1 shows example of some of the schemes funded using the Wellbeing Budget, Devolved Section 106 and Clean & Green Budget.

Part 2: Traffic and Transport subgroup update

- 7- The Traffic and Transport subgroup met on Monday 3rd June 2013. The group focussed on the Crews Hole & Beaufort Rd scheme covering Queens Rd, and the Avenue.
- 8- The group received internal consultation feedback on their proposal to close Crews Hole Rd for traffic to go through.
- 9- Shaun Taylor, Highways Area Team Manager presented to the group a combination of two way and one way scheme proposal for the site along with some speed calming measures.

- 10- The proposal includes applying for an experimental order, which would enable TRO to run side by side with the experiment. This will fast track the development of the scheme and reduce cost of the consultation. The experimental order will take 6 months. At the end of the experiment changes can be made, however each time a change affecting the scheme is made the consultation will start again.
- 11- The group in principle welcomed the proposal recognising the difficulty of the Crews Hole/Beaufort Rd scheme. They advised Shaun to retain all the existing one way streets between Church rd and Beaufort rd and to consider having speed flashing lights whilst the experiment is in operation. It was also suggested to carryout speed counts both before and after the experimental order.
- 12- The group also advised to develop Frequently Asked Questions before going live with the experimental order. It was felt this was particularly important in order to inform local residents the reasons for progressing the scheme and to mitigate against rumours.
- 13- The aim is to introduce the experiment during the coming Summer Holiday period and to meet again in early part of September 2013.
- 14- The group also learnt that the APE Project secured £38,500 from the Local Sustainable Active Transport Fund. The purpose of the project is to recycle bikes. Although the project is a city-wide project, the group is looking to operate from the St George area and the Traffic and Transport subgroup had an input into the development of the application and has £2,000 ring fenced for St George NP area to promote bike safety.

Part 3: Environment subgroup update

- 15- The sub-group met on 6th June to consider issues relating to green spaces, street cleansing and other issues related to the environment in St George.
- 16- It was noted that the voluntary suspension of fishing during the 'closed season' had not been supported by all fishermen. There were mixed opinions as to whether fishing had reduced compared with last year but there was general agreement that there was a less confrontational atmosphere around the lake. There was also evidence of some 'self policing' by the more responsible fishermen which was welcomed. The sub-group again reiterated its

view that a bye-law was required to control fishing and welcomed the fact that the process to review bye-laws city wide was progressing.

- 17- There were presentations on both the 'Streetgames initiative' and 'St George in Bloom' both these proposals were welcomed. More about Steetgames is at www.streetgames.org there are exciting plans for sports sessions to be run at both St George Park and Meadow Vale. Three residents from the sub-group agreed to join a steering group for the St George in Bloom Project.
- 18- Updates were given on both S106 and Clean & Green spending. It was noted that objections have been received to the installation of more benches by the River Avon Trail, a meeting is being organised with residents before work continues. The residents were apparently unaware of the Neighbourhood Partnership's existence. Residents also reported incidents of anti-social behaviour which do not appear to have been reported previously.
- 19- All other S106 projects are now complete apart from the new seats at St George Park and the bin at Gladstone St agreed at the last NP meeting.
- 20- The group is recommending the allocation of S106 money for the installation of benches and 5-side goalposts plus a notice board at Meadow Vale, see agenda item 12. These could be relocated easily in the future if necessary following the ongoing review of community centre and the park. Cllr Ron Stone passed on some positive feedback he had received following the recent work at Plummers Hill, this included work by Community Payback to clear path edges and remove litter and fly tipping.
- 21- The group was disappointed that May Gurney did not attend the last Neighbourhood Forum and asked Denise to make it clear that engagement with the community should be given a higher priority. We understand that there will be an update on the waste plan for the September 2013 Partnership meeting.
- 22- We were pleased to welcome a resident who lived near Gladstone St green space. He described the current state of the space and his vision for it, this was similar to the ideas discussed by the Partnership when it decided to retain this space. The meeting agreed that Bristol Parks should be asked to remove the remains of the children's play area since there was no prospect of it being restored and it gave the space a neglected feel. Several members of the sub-group offered support and ideas for getting more residents involved.
- 23- The group discussed a proposal from the allotments team to put palisade fencing around the allotments at Plummers Hill. The group accepted that the

fencing is required and that putting it outside the 'hedge' would require less trees and shrubs to be removed than if it was put on the allotment side. We noted the allotments manager's assurance that 'we have no intention of clearing the hedgerow inside the fenceline beyond its current extent, other than occasional trimming back from plots by the tenants'. On this basis the group had no objection to the proposed fence.

24- The group discussed the problems with the pedestrian access gate to Dundry Park near Preddy's Lane which was raised by two local residents. It was noted that this is a long running issue. Finding reliable volunteers to lock the gate at around 7pm (or later) and then unlock it in the morning appears to be the best solution. The meeting was strongly against any permanent closure of this entrance.

Part 4: Bristol Youth Links

25- Following the Neighbourhood Partnership's request to meet with Rose Richards, BCC Bristol Youth Links Service Manager and Sandy Hore-Ruthven Creative Youth Network Chief Executive. An open meeting was organised on Thursday 30th May 2013.

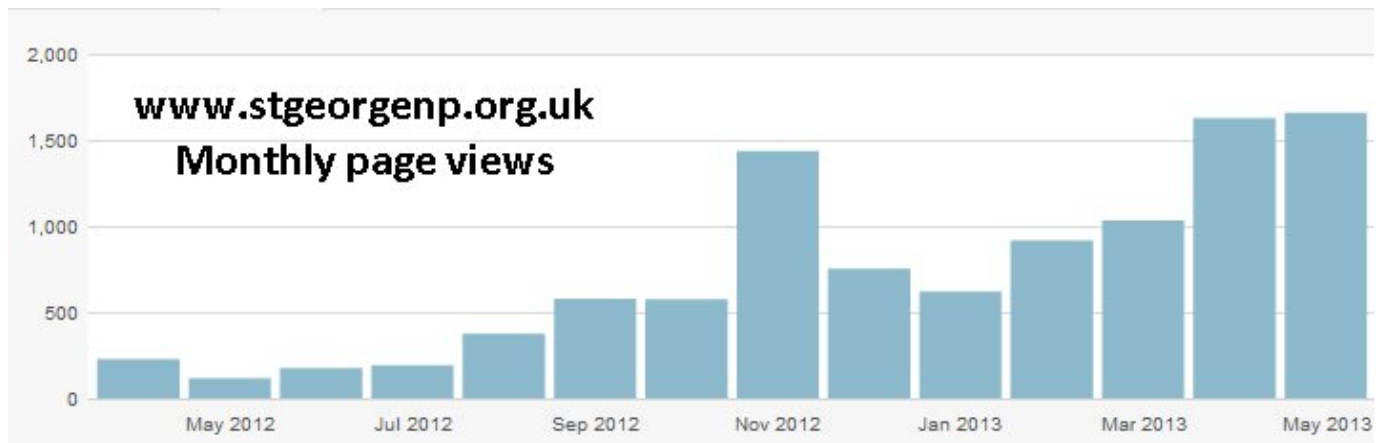
26- All stakeholders were invited to this meeting and was widely publicised as an open meeting via the St George NP website and social media.

27- Young people from Kingsway Youth Centre and the Neighbourhood Committee members were present at the meeting.

28- The meeting was successful in that a temporary lifeline was secured from Rose Richard to keep the Kingsway Youth Centre open over the summer holidays period. Appendix 2 is a confirmation letter from Rose to the Neighbourhood Partnership.

Part 6: St George Web Team update

29- The webteam is pleased to report that interest in all three strands of the Partnership's web presence has continued to increase. The graph below shows the number of views of the main website at www.stgeorge.org.uk for each month and you can see that there is an upward trend.



- 30- On facebook www.facebook.com/StGeorgeNP over 100 people have "liked" our page and now receive our postings. On Twitter www.twitter.com/stgeorgenp our 100th follower was Cllr Gus Hoytt, Executive Member for Environment & Neighbourhoods. Many of our tweets have been 're-tweeted' by others to many more followers. We are pleased that Cllr Fabian Breckels and Cllr Steve Pearce both regularly re-tweet us. Both the facebook and twitter pages are visible to anyone whether or not they have facebook or twitter accounts.
- 31- Generally information is first posted on the website (12 posts in April; 16 in May) and links to these posts are then added to the facebook page which also then generates a tweet. In addition we have been sharing information from other local facebook sites and re-tweeting information that we consider will be of interest or of use to St George residents.
- 32- For example during the recent disturbances on Church Rd we re-tweeted the tweets issued by the Avon & Somerset Police and local Councillors. We also share information about community events throughout the St George and the surrounding area.
- 33- As requested at the last meeting we have prepared an 'Internet Protocol', which was emailed to members in advance of this meeting for comments, a copy is in Appendix 3. We are asking the NP to approve this protocol. A copy of any comments and any proposed changes to the protocol will be available at the meeting.
- 34- For the website to be of maximum benefit to the Partnership, it is important that it is kept up to date and relevant. We urge all members of the Partnership and indeed all residents of St George to supply us with any information that they think should be posted. If you are organising an event in St George please send us electronic copies of any posters you have produced (preferably as a pdf file) and we will happily add them to the site as images.

Please send information with as much notice as possible to
webteam@stgeorgenp.org.uk

Put together by
Abdulrazak Dahir on behalf on NP members.

Appendix 1



Working together to
improve our Neighbourhoods



Upgrade to Basketball Area in St Georges Park:

With £30,000 from Capital Stimulus fund and £30,000 from the Neighbourhood Partnership section 106 contribution.

Before



After



St George Community Centre:

Received £3,000 from the St George Wellbeing Budget to replace dilapidated flooring



Meadowvale Clean and Green Community Payback Clearance:





Dear Abdul,

At the meeting of the above I committed to write to outline my offer to the forum regarding youth sessions at Kingsway Youth Centre.

Background:

In the research that informed the BYL proposals we were informed that young people would travel a mile or so to local provision and that they would also be prepared to travel to city wide services. What mattered to the young people we surveyed was that the offer was regular, of high quality, with appropriately skilled staff leading the work. This view was also reinforced by the research undertaken by CYN.

With limited resources CYN are of the view that they can meet the needs of young people and the outcomes required by the council through investment in a high quality open access facility at Hillfields. An analysis of distance showed that Hillfields youth centre is just over a mile from Kingsway, as is Hanham Youth Centre in South Gloucs. Both take approx 20 mins to walk at a moderate pace. The recent opening of Hanham attracted 150 young people, many travelling further than a mile to attend. It is intended that investment in facilities in Hillfields will attract similar levels of interest. Hillfields will also meet the needs of young people the other side of the patch, from Oldbury Court. The city council is not commissioning CYN to provide open access provision in every ward. It is commissioning them to meet needs and achieve outcomes.

Those in attendance at the meeting remained of the view that young people from St George will not travel to Hanham or Hillfields and did not feel that offer of a detached programme at Meadowvale is sufficient. There was also a view that whatever happens, St George should have its own provision.

Proposal:

I explained that the senior practitioner is available to work with local communities who may wish to add to the offer from CYN through fundraising and volunteering. I agreed that the council will fund one session of open access youth work at Kingsway for the summer. The purpose would be to enable the young people who attended the meeting to submit funding applications and seek volunteer support to run open access work at Kingsway. Attendance at Kingsway will be monitored to identify the patterns of use. Attendance at Hanham and Hillfields will

also be monitored to evidence the patterns of use and travel to provision.

Sandy agreed to work with the young people who attended the meeting to submit funding applications, and I understand a date to meet has been offered.

I am exploring options to use BCC staff to start up the Kingsway session as soon as possible. I will commit to this arrangement continuing for 10 weeks from the start date. I will review progress at the end of August to determine next steps.

If the partnership can make known to us any other young people or adults who may be interested in supporting this initiative, can you pass my contact details onto them.

Regards.
Rose

Internet Protocol

Notes and procedures on the operation of the Partnership's website, Twitter account and Facebook page

Purpose

The internet resources of the Partnership exist to help promote the Partnership and its work, and also to promote/report activities, events etc of interest to the community.

Members of the Partnership should pass any information that they think should be published to the webteam (via webteam@stgeorgenp.org.uk).

Our resources

The Partnership has three key elements of on line presence:

Website	www.stgeorgenp.org.uk	
Twitter	@stgeorgenp	www.twitter.com/stgeorgenp
Facebook	stgeorgenp	www.facebook.com/stgeorgenp

Web Team

The three resources are maintained by the members of the Web Team. These are all volunteers.

Accessing the website

The website content and design is controlled using the 'Word Press' system to manage the content. This is known as a content management system (CMS) and means that those developing content do not need to be au fait with writing or designing websites.

Each member of the team has their own log in to the secure part of the website which enables news 'posts' (news style stories) and 'pages' (semi-permanent information) to be created, and to edit/delete posts and pages.

Each time an entry is created or amended, the system records what changes were made, when and by whom. 'Posts' on the website are marked to show the initial author of the post.

SubGroup champions, or their nominee, can be granted access to the website to enable them to prepare content relevant to their SubGroup.

Accessing the Twitter account

Each member of the webteam has access to the Twitter account.

Our tweets are sometimes re-tweeted by others to their followers. (AskBristol has 4,800+ followers and regularly forwards our messages to their followers; a retweet.)

Accessing the Facebook account

Each member of the webteam has access to the Facebook via their own Facebook log in.

The Facebook account is linked to the Twitter account; any post to the Facebook page automatically generates a Tweet.

Operating Protocols

Membership

The team shall recruit such members as necessary to effectively maintain the online resources of the Partnership. Members need not necessarily be NP members, but shall normally live within the NP area of have some other involvement with the NP area. There are currently (June 2013) four members of the team.

External Support

BCC has arranged for Knowle West Media Centre (KWMC) to provide assistance to the NP on the operation of the website. (This is very rarely called upon.)

Expenditure

The website hosting costs are met by BCC as part of an arrangement with KWMC for all NP websites. There are no costs associated with the operation of the Facebook or Twitter accounts.

NP Code of Conduct

Members of the webteam shall operate in line with the Neighbourhood Partnerships' Code of Conduct.

Sources of information

Members of the webteam shall respond to requests for information to be published on the website etc. The webteam members shall also proactively source and publish relevant information. Information sourced shall include relevant information from Bristol City Council and other public bodies. Those requesting items be published should send details to webteam@stgeorgenp.org.uk - emails to that address are automatically forwarded to each member of the team.

Appropriate Content

What should, and should not, be included on the website etc is a subjective one. When considering whether something should be included, the webteam members shall consider whether the item *"helps to improve the quality of life for residents of the St George East and St George West Wards of Bristol so that satisfaction levels increase, and also increase civic pride, community cohesion and community involvement"*, i.e. whether it helps to meet the objectives of the Partnership. The publicising / promotion of political activity / events should be avoided, as should that of commercial organisations. Individuals should not be referred to by name without their permission, unless it is reporting something that is already in the public domain or where the name is used in connection with someone acting in an official capacity. Members of the Partnership should email the webteam promptly if they believe there is something on the site that they consider is inappropriate.

Security

Passwords must not be passed to anyone else under any circumstances. If members of the webteam believe that a password has been disclosed they must inform other members of the team immediately so that it can be deactivated.

Timing

If the website etc is to effectively communicate, then speed of publishing information is important. Care should be taken, however, to ensure that accuracy does not suffer in the desire to publish promptly. Comment from the Council, Police etc can often be verified against information on their own websites. The webteam must abide by any embargo period on any press release or similar issued to them.