



AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

## St George Neighbourhood Partnership

17<sup>th</sup> September 2013

**Report of:** Denise James, Area Environment Officer

**Title:** **Neighbourhood Partnership Waste Plan**

**Contact:** 0117 922 4726 – [denise.james@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:denise.james@bristol.gov.uk)

This report is from the Area Environment Officer. It is for information.

Neighbourhood Partnership members are asked to note the progress of the Neighbourhood Partnership Plan produced by the Environment Sub Group at their meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

### Background

At the NP meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> June 2012, it was highlighted that Bristol's waste contractor May Gurney had agreed to work with Bristol City Council to develop individual Neighbourhood Plans that address local waste and street scene issues.

The Waste Plan sets out how May Gurney and the Council will work with the NP, local residents and community-based organisations to ensure that service delivery is focussed on local priorities within the Partnership.

At a meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012, the St George Neighbourhood Partnership's Environment Sub Group produced their Neighbourhood Plan.

## **The meeting agreed the following three priorities would form the basis of the St George Neighbourhood Partnership Plan**

- 1. Street Cleansing** – with main focus on streets that suffer from high levels of On Street Parking, overflowing litter bins and refuse and recycling containers that are continually left out on the pavement. Actions would include co-ordinating sweepers, deep cleansing, gully clearance and weed control. Waste Doctors directed to tackle streets where recycling containers are constantly left on the street. Develop a series of deep cleansing programmes whereby all aspects of cleansing will be tackled, to ensure that targeted streets are cleansed to an acceptable standard and numbers of complains reduced.

**Progress to date – Weed Control** – A number of hot spot locations were identified by officers and local residents as a result of the 2012 weed control programme. In particular around Lamb Hill, Niblets Hill, Parfitts Hill, Corkers Hill, Firtree Lane. This particular area has a number of steps and small lanes linking the various roads. A deep cleansing programme was carried out. A weekly cleansing programme has been implemented, however it would appear that there are still on-going issues with this particular location. Officers are now working with Maygurney to ensure that these locations are maintained on a regular basis. Battenburg Road, Cromwell Road, Clovelly Road & Kensington Road, also appear to have suffered from lack of weed control. Maygurney have carried out their 2013 city wide weed control programme and a number of streets have been identified as not been treated. Therefore a 2<sup>nd</sup> weed control programme is currently in place, to mop up any streets that were not treated in the initial programme. Officers are now working with the contractor to ensure that any streets not included in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase receive a weed control treatment. Attendees at the recent NP Forum were advised they could report any streets still in need of weed control treatment. A list was drawn up and has been passed to Maygurney.

**Deep Cleansing** – A list of locations are currently being drawn up and will be prioritised to receive a deep cleansing programme to take place in the Autumn, once the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the weed control programme has taken place, this will also address streets that suffer from high levels of leave fall, as this issue has also been raised in the past.

**Overflowing Litter Bins** – 2012 saw large numbers of complaints regarding overflowing litter bins. The numbers of overflowing litter bins have now reduced, and litter bins are being emptied on a more regular basis. However, there are still a couple of hot spot locations, the Kingsway Shopping Precinct being one whereby litter bins appear to be overflowing over the weekend period. Officers are monitoring the situation and are working with the contractor to rectify this situation.

**Waste/recycling containers on streets** – these still remains a problem, in particular whereby residents do not have off street storage facilities. At present there is no policy in place to address these issues. Streetscene Enforcement & cleansing officers are currently looking into a process that can resolve these on-going issues.

- 2. Back Lanes & Public Rights of Way (PROW)** – with main focus on developing regular maintenance and clearance regime. Produce a map identifying all PROWS in the NP area.

**Progresses to date** – A number of back lanes and PROW have been identified and a mapping system is being developed to identify hot spot locations. Some of the locations have also been identified within the Street Cleansing priority – Lamb Hill etc. It has to be noted that private lanes are the responsibility of the land owner and are not covered within any council cleansing regime. Officers are working with the PROW team to identify hot spot locations and put into place a more robust cleansing regime. Not all PROW's are suitable for regular cleansing, ie Lamb Hill due to the nature of the walkways. Where a PROW or rear lane has been identified with hard surface walkways, linking main roads, Maygurney have been asked to assist with regular cleansing, one example being lane at rear of Headford Avenue.

- 3. Fly-tipping& Bulky Waste** – Identify and map out hot spot areas, reduce incidents of fly-tipping, monitor and report on actions taken. Promotions of the Bulky Waste collections highlighting that residents who are in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance and Housing benefits are entitled to two free collections per year. It is hoped that this will reduce incidents of fly tipping and improve the local street environment.

**Progress to date** – A proactive approach by officers has been taken with regards to this priority. Streetscene Enforcement (SSE) team have set up a protocol with Estate Management called the Garden Action Plan which they follow when dealing with waste in gardens. If after the education/engagement there is still problems with waste SSE are able to go straight to enforcement action. Estate management have been following this process. A number of properties have been referred to Streetscene Enforcement Officer to enforce against. As a result a number of operations have been carried out through the Better Neighbourhood Working pilot. On one particular operation officers visited 57 properties with accumulations of waste that was either defaced by litter/refuse or contained waste that may harbour/attract pests such as rats & mice, or indeed may end up as being fly tipped by the residents. Letters were delivered advising that BCC would look to serve notice if the waste was not cleared, along with info about BCC bulky waste service & HWRC at Days Road. Where occupants were present officers asked if they would like a visit from a Waste Doctor provided my May Gurney to provide advice on how to manage their

waste/recycling.

Three weeks later, the properties were revisited; it was found that 23 properties had not cleared the waste. 27 notices under S.92EPA'90 have been served which if not complied with can result in £100FPN, works in default & costs recovered or prosecution.

The aim of the operation was to get residents to clear waste to improve the look of the area, to encourage recycling & remove potential sources of waste that could end up fly-tipped & provides opportunity for Housing officers to gain experience working with Streetscene Enforcement. To date these operations have been carried out in Meadowvale and Speedwell areas. Officers are currently collating data from Maygurney with regards to levels of fly-tipping incidents, to measure the success of these operations.

### **Environmental Communications Campaign**

It was also agreed to run an environmental communications campaign focused on a "Litter Awareness" to encourage the local community to dispose of their litter in a more responsible manner. Local schools would be invited to take part in a poster competition, whereby the pupils would design anti-litter posters. The winning posters would be used to promote and deliver the campaign at a local level, on the Neighbourhood Partnership website, Public Forums, various community venues, schools and the local library. Local retailers would also be encouraged to display the winning posters. Maygurney have agreed to sponsor the competition and also promote the campaign within the NP area.

**Progress to date** – Large numbers of complaints from the local community regarding dog fouling continue to be the main area of concern within this NP area. Therefore, through the Better Neighbourhoods Working Pilot a multi-agency approach has been taken to carry out a number of high profile education and enforcement action days. St George Park, Plummers Hill Open Space and Troopers Hill were all included as part of the action days. Unfortunately, no enforcement action has been taken, as no evidence of irresponsible dog owners was available on the days of action. Campaign posters have been placed at on Parks/Community notice boards and hot spot locations throughout the NP area. Further actions days are being planned, as part of a city wide initiative to tackle this unacceptable form of litter.

It is proposed that the anti-litter poster campaign will still be developed with local schools and officers will be liaising with key schools to invite them to take part in this initiative.

## **Recommendation**

- The St George Neighbourhood Partnership NP notes the progress to date on the Waste and Environment Plan produced by the Environment Group. That Dog Fouling along with Flyposting and ASB litter issues will be addressed as part of the ten Neighbourhood Working Priorities which the NP selected at the NP meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013.
- Officers will continue to address the issues raised within the waste plan and regular updates will be included at the NP Forum meetings as part of the Environmental Updates.