



Agenda item No. 4

**Meeting of the  
St George Neighbourhood Partnership  
held at 7pm on 25 March 2014  
at the Summerhill Methodist Church,  
5 Air Balloon Road, St. George, Bristol, BS5 8LB**

**Present:**

**Members of the Partnership**

<b>P</b>	<b>Councillor Ron Stone</b>	<b>St George West ward Chair of Neighbourhood Committee</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Councillor Peter Hammond</b>	<b>St George West ward</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Councillor Fabian Breckels</b>	<b>St George East ward</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Councillor Steve Pearce</b>	<b>St George East ward</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Laura Gosling</b>	<b>Resident St George East</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Philip Bird</b>	<b>Resident St George West</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Pete Franklin</b>	<b>Resident St George West</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Judith Price</b>	<b>Resident St George East</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Michael Deadman</b>	<b>Resident St George East</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Rob Acton-Campbell</b>	<b>Friends of Troopers Hill Chair of Neighbourhood Partnership</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Susan Acton-Campbell</b>	<b>St George West Community First Panel</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Grenville Johnson</b>	<b>Kensington Rd Residents Association &amp; NW</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Lindsey Fuller (for Fiona Russell)</b>	<b>Meadow Vale Community Assoc</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Jo Curtis (for Richard Curtis)</b>	<b>Church Rd Action Group</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Alex Wingrove</b>	<b>Youth Representative</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Kieran Coles</b>	<b>Youth Representative</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Vicky Holmes</b>	<b>Friends of St George Park</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Ann Preston</b>	<b>Resident St George West</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Bryan Tozer</b>	<b>Local Business Representative</b>

**Officers:**

<b>P</b>	<b>Abdulrazak Dahir</b>	<b>BCC, Area Co-ordinator</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Ruth Quantock</b>	<b>BCC, Democratic Services</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>John Atkinson</b>	<b>BCC, Neighbourhood Working Co-ordinator – Neighbourhoods Team</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Inspector Simon Dewfall</b>	<b>Avon &amp; Somerset Police</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Shaun Taylor</b>	<b>BCC, Highways</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Jim Moore</b>	<b>Kier Group</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>D Pettitt</b>	<b>Kier Group</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Tom Midrich</b>	<b>BCC, Flood Risk Management</b>

**Other attendees :**

<b>P</b>	<b>C Clague</b>	<b>Resident Harcourt Avenue</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>J Clague</b>	<b>Resident Harcourt Avenue</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>J Taylor</b>	<b>Resident Heather Close</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Ed Bateman</b>	<b>Resident Dundridge Lane</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Geoff Reeson</b>	<b>Resident Furnwood</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>P Cox</b>	<b>Resident Nicholas Lane</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Keith Billingham</b>	<b>Resident Upper Conham Vale</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Rachael Hopkins</b>	<b>Resident of Lower Conham Vale</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Sean Wills</b>	<b>Resident Lavington Road</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Sharon Wills</b>	<b>Resident Lavington Road</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Doug Hunter</b>	<b>Resident Maybec Gardens</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>E Allen</b>	<b>Resident Niblets Hill</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>S White</b>	<b>Resident Preddys Lane</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Phyll McVeigh</b>	<b>Resident Troopers Hill Road</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Vernon McVeigh</b>	<b>Resident Troopers Hill Road</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Len Hynam</b>	<b>Resident Furber Road</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Denise James</b>	<b>Secretary of St George in Bloom</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Richard Curtis (joined meeting part way through)</b>	<b>Church Road Action Group</b>

**1. Chairing arrangements**

**Rob Action-Campbell was the Neighbourhood Partnership Chair. Cllr Ron Stone was the Neighbourhood Committee Chair for decisions required under agenda items 6 and 7.**

**2. Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hammond, Keiran Coles, Alex Wingrove and Police Sergeant Darren Warr.

Cllr Stone explained that Cllr Hammond was now living outside of Bristol and would be stepping down as Councillor for Bristol City. It was noted that there would be a by-election for St George West Ward. The NP wished to put on record their thanks to Cllr Hammond for the contribution he has made to the work of the Partnership and wished him well for the future.

### New Members

The Neighbourhood Partnership agreed the appointment of the following new members:-

Bryan Tozer (Local Business Rep)  
Ann Preston (Resident St George West Rep)

The Chairman suggested that in view of the number of members of public in attendance who were interested in agenda item 8 Environment sub-group report (update on Dundridge Park), this report be brought forward on the agenda as the first main item to be considered. This was agreed by the Neighbourhood Partnership.

### **3. Minutes of the Partnership meeting held on 10 December 2013** (Agenda Item 4a)

Two minor typos were pointed out and noted for correction.

**RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2013 be confirmed as a correct record subject to the minor amendments which had been noted for correction.**

### **3a. Action Tracker** (Agenda Item 4b)

The action sheet was considered and it was agreed that the actions marked 'complete' were indeed complete and could therefore come off the list for the next meeting. **Action RQ**

### **4. Declarations of interest**

None

## 5. Environment Sub-group report

As the Environment Group Champion, the Chair introduced this report (agenda item 8). He was aware that residents present were concerned that the pedestrian gate to Dundry Park near Preddys Lane was currently permanently locked and that the swings had been removed without any notice or explanation.

### Removal of swings

Denise James, the former Area Environment Officer explained that before she had left the council, she had emailed the play officer for an update but unfortunately this had not been received. However, the swings were not in a very good condition so it was likely that they had been removed for health and safety reasons either as part of the council's regular inspections or RoSPA (Royal Society for the prevention of Accidents) annual inspection. It was confirmed that there was no intention to remove them on a permanent basis and they would be replaced in due course. DJ had also requested that in future the Area Environment Officer is notified of the removal of equipment so that a notice can be put up in the park and on the NP website.

### Pedestrian gate to Dundry Park near Preddys Lane

The Chair indicated that this had been raised by the sub-group and the view of the meeting was that access to parks should not be restricted. Options considered for providing access had included a kissing gate or a stile.

At the invitation of the Chairman, a couple of residents present explained that they were key holders but that the lock had been changed without their knowledge. The issue had been raised with the council but no response had been received to date.

It was noted that the gates had previously been locked overnight because of incidence of anti-social behaviour in the park in the past.

Following further discussion, Inspector Simon Dewfall confirmed that there had been no reported incidences of ASB over the last few years. One resident commented that he had reported incidents relating to Mini Motos but access had been gained from one of the other entrances by the car park and not this one near Preddys Lane.

It was proposed and seconded that the gate be locked to open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. On a show of hands this was unanimously supported by the residents in attendance at the meeting.

Upon a vote being taken by the Neighbourhood Partnership:-

**The Neighbourhood Partnership RESOLVED that the gate be permanently locked to open.**

Cllr Stone was concerned that the park had been in desperate need of improvement for a long time and suggested a site visit by members of the NP, together with the Parks Manager. This was supported by the NP, any residents interested in joining this visit were asked to annotate the signing in sheet with an asterisk. **Action RQ to forward to AD**

#### St George Park update

The fishing permit scheme was now in operation. It was noted that only 5 permits had been applied for, however this was to be expected as it was the close season (15<sup>th</sup> March – 15<sup>th</sup> June). Regular patrolling of the lake by parks/police was taking place and all were encouraged to report breaches of the code of conduct on 0117 9222000.

It was suggested that some spot checks take place during the evenings and weekends and that signs be put up as soon as possible. JA indicated that unfortunately there were limited resources for signs so they needed to be permanent and therefore as relevant as possible. In the meantime it was suggested that posters could be downloaded from the Environment Agency website and laminated so that they could be put up around the lake.

The Chair on behalf of the Partnership thanked Denise James for her contribution to the work of the Partnership in her former role as Area Environment Officer working for BCC. The NP was particularly pleased that Denise would however be continuing to support the NP in a voluntary capacity.

**The Neighbourhood Partnership RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

#### **6. May Gurney representative**

Derek Pettit, informed the NP that May Gurney no longer existed and the contract had been taken over by The Kier Group. He apologised that at short notice he had been unable to attend the last NP meeting but he had been called out unexpectedly on duty winter maintenance and had thought it unfair to send someone else in his place without much notice. He also felt that he was probably best placed to field operational questions from the NP.

In response to issues raised under actions arising (5a.12/13), DP indicated that he would be more than happy to organise a deep cleansing exercise for hotspots identified in St George. A successful deep cleanse had been undertaken in Eastville which had needed to be very well planned in advance, this included signing, mail drops 48 or 72 hour before the deep cleanse to impose parking restrictions (by request only, not enforceable) and liaising with Highways to clear gullies at the same time.

DP introduced Jim Moore to the NP who was the local supervisor for St George area. DP provided an update on day to day operational issues and service standards to be delivered under the current contract.

The following key issues were noted during the discussion that took place:

- Graffiti was being tackled however getting water to the area was sometimes a problem or getting an indemnity form signed in respect of private property. One member highlighted particular problems on the River Avon Trail (and also St Anne's side).
- Concerns were raised about the standard of recycling collection. Operators were not always picking up after themselves resulting in paper and other recycling littering the streets.
- One member commented that the standard of cleansing in East Bristol was awful and he was very dissatisfied with the service delivery in this area. He also indicated that an email he been sent to Kier Group very recently about an unacceptable cleansing standard in Lower Redfield but no response had been received to date.
- Residents of Kensington Road had been called upon to weed the road in the lead up to St George in Bloom national competition. Some weed spraying had taken place earlier in the year by the Contractors but disappointingly whatever had been used had not worked.
- One member commented that Bristol had the best performance for cleansing in benchmarking exercises with the Core Cities so the contractors should be recognised for this achievement.

DP agreed to feedback concerns to the cleansing and recycling teams. He indicated that he was disappointed about the weed situation in Kensington Road as he was very committed to Bristol in Bloom and would be willing to assist where able to in future. He indicated that performance was improving with 35 bins missed in every 100,000 and Bristol was above the national average in the Keep Britain Tidy survey. DP recognised the importance of building up a good relationship between the public and the operatives cleaning the streets, having the same person on a regular basis also encouraged ownership and pride of the area.

**The Neighbourhood Partnership RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

## 7. Highways report

The Neighbourhood Partnership considered a report of the East Area Highways Manager (agenda item no. 6) setting out the highways devolved transport budgets for 2014/15 and proposed work programme.

### Carriageway surface dressing and footway maintenance

The Neighbourhood Committee agreed the following carriageway surface dressing scheme:-

**Ref 1 Greendown, St George East £1,100**

The Neighbourhood Committee agreed the footway resurfacing priorities as detailed in the report, the top two priorities being as follows:-

- 1. Bellevue Road, Avening Road, West £20,700**
- 2. Whiteway Road, West £28,211**

Bellevue Rd was part funded from 2013/14 footways budget with the view that the Neighbourhood Committee will prioritise its completion from the 2014/15 budget.

### Local Traffic Schemes

It was noted that in 2013/14 a backlog in delivering local traffic schemes in neighbourhoods was acknowledged and a pause in decision making was agreed by NPs to enable delivery of current schemes. This is on track for being complete by June/July 2014.

What has become clear during the pause is that there will not be enough capacity within highways team (specifically not enough personnel) to deliver more than 14 local traffic schemes (one scheme per NP) per year in addition to S106 schemes and highways maintenance works.

The Traffic and Transport sub-group had recommended 3 schemes in priority order as set out in the report, which had been supported by Highways officers.

Following discussion by the NP, the Neighbourhood Committee agreed the following schemes in the order they are in:

1. Plummers Hill - introduce traffic management £40,000
2. Lyppiatt Road – Feasibility £4000
3. Bryants Hill – Feasibility £4000

ST confirmed that if his team completes the Lyppiatt Rd feasibility earlier than anticipated, they will proceed progressing the Bryants Hill feasibility. However stated he could not guarantee they will both be done within the new financial year.

### Minor Signing and lining budget

As in previous years all NPs were being asked to agree the minor signing and lining budget of £1500. This is to enable the Senior Traffic Officer to address small adhoc requests from local residents.

### **The Neighbourhood Committee RESOLVED that**

- (1) the 2014/15 work programmes for carriageway surface dressing and footway maintenance be agreed as set out above;**

- (2) progress on outstanding local traffic schemes be noted and priority for local transport schemes be agreed as set out above;**
- (3) the minor signing and lining budgets for 2014/15 be agreed (£1500).**

ST indicated that it could be his last NP meeting as changes in ways of working at the council could result in him being responsible for a different area of Bristol. The Chair thanked ST for his work with the Traffic and Transport sub-group and the wider NP to deliver improvements in the local area.

## **8. Wellbeing report**

The Neighbourhood Partnership considered a report of the Area Co-ordinator (agenda item no. 7) setting out the wellbeing report and spend to date. Five grant applications had been received since the last meeting and the total amount applied for had exceeded the amount of funding available. The Wellbeing sub-group had met on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014 to consider the applications and had made a number of recommendations set out in section 3 of the report.

Cllr Pearce, Rob Acton-Campbell, Jo Curtis and Grenville Johnson declared an interest in this item.

Susan Acton-Campbell (Wellbeing Champion) went through the recommendations and any conditions which had been proposed by the sub-group. It was noted that Friends of Kingsway Youth had withdrawn their application as there had been insufficient information forthcoming to support it. However, as it was recognised that youth activities were desperately needed in St George, the Wellbeing sub-group had agreed to continue to work with FoKY in order to re-apply for funding in the next round.

The Area Co-ordinator proposed that following the decision of the Neighbourhood Committee, should there be any underspend for 2013/14, it could go towards funding two or more community notice boards within the NP area to promote NP activities. A mapping exercise recently undertaken had identified some gaps eg Two Mile Hill, Meadowvale and the Pile Marsh to name a few.

The Neighbourhood Committee thanked the work of the Wellbeing sub-group for their hard work in evaluating each application and making recommendations.

### **The Neighbourhood Committee RESOLVED that**

- (1) the financial report for 2013/14 be noted;**



- (2) the amount committed by the Neighbourhood Committee (NC) but not yet paid be noted;**
- (3) the recommendations from the Wellbeing sub-Group (including special conditions where applicable) be approved as follows;**
  - Church Road Action Group £625 +VAT**
  - St George in Bloom 2014 £1430**
  - Bristol Playbus project £1200 subject to conditions**
  - Gurdwara Nirman Sewak Jatha Heritage £1000 subject to conditions**
- (4) the 2013/14 Wellbeing Budget underspend be used to fund 2 Community notice boards (locations to be confirmed) in the local area to publicise NP activities.**

It was noted that there were currently three vacancies on this sub-group, Pete Franklin volunteered to join the group which was agreed by the Neighbourhood Partnership.

## **9. Consultation of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**

The Neighbourhood Partnership considered a report of John Roy, Flood Risk Management (agenda item no. 9) providing a brief summary of the Strategy, which is being developed to manage local flood risk including surface water, groundwater and rivers and streams that are not main rivers.

In presenting the report Tom Midrich explained that the strategy was being launched for public consultation and asked NP Members to widely advertise this within the NP area to ensure as many people engage in the process as possible. Local knowledge would be very important for informing the flood risk strategy. Maps were circulated at the meeting which showed the relevant flood risks in the St George area. The map also showed the proposed and completed works which had been undertaken in the local area.

The following key issues were noted during the discussion that took place:-

- In response to a question, TM confirmed that the flood management team were working with Highways to ensure programmes were in place to regularly clear gullies and sweep away leaves from drains.
- Public Rights of Way at Dragons Walk and Emerald Close were highlighted as flood risk areas.

**The Neighbourhood Committee RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

## 11. NWG targets report

The Neighbourhood Partnership considered a report of the NWG Co-ordinator (agenda item no. 10) setting out the progress of neighbourhood working since the last meeting. John Atkinson provided an update on the issues which had been identified by the NP as its top 10 priorities at the AGM in June 2013.

The following key issues were noted during the discussion that took place:-  
Public Forum Statement 2

- The Chair explained that prior to the introduction of neighbourhood working, the NP had adopted its own set of priorities which are used in assessing Wellbeing applications. In order to avoid confusion it had been suggested by the Operations sub-group that the Neighbourhood Working priorities should be referred to as 'Targets' and this had been used in the report. The existing priorities had also been reviewed by the sub-group and it was recommended that they be retained with one suggested change which was to add 'community safety' to the existing 'cohesion and engagement'. The NP approved this amendment. **Action: Wellbeing Subgroup/AD to update Wellbeing Fund Appraisal Form**
- Laura Gosling volunteered to be involved with the Community Speedwatch scheme in Crews Hole Area. **Action JA/LG**

**The Neighbourhood Partnership RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

## 12. General NP update report

The Neighbourhood Partnership considered a report from the NP members (agenda item no. 11) which provided a general update on issues relating to the work of the NP.

The following key issues were noted during the discussion that took place:

### NP Review Update

- Given the Citywide NP review had not been progressed due to issues outside the control of St George NP, the Operations sub-group had recommended that the NP membership election procedure (in the event of more nominations than positions available) be postponed to the December meeting in effect extending the term of existing members.
- The Chairman proposed an alternative process which was used by Greater Fishponds NP and could be used for this year, to be replaced by whatever the City Wide review recommends thereafter.
- The Chairman also proposed that in order to reduce the possibility of NP meetings not going ahead, the criteria for the Partnership being quorate is changed from the current 50% of members (currently 10) to a fixed number of eight members to include at least 2 Councillors.

Following discussion, it was felt that anyone interested in becoming a member of the NP should not be turned away.

For the coming AGM it was agreed that people could be co-opted on to the NP, particularly if they had a special interest or expertise in a certain area.

It was further agreed that the criteria for future meetings being quorate was reduced to eight to include at least two Councillors.

The NP agreed that a meeting of the Operations sub-group would be arranged to which the sub-group 'Champions' would be invited to discuss the feedback from the NP review and how the NP might operate in future including looking at co-option. This group would then bring forward recommendations to the NP at the AGM in June 2014, for approval. **Action AD**

### **The Neighbourhood Partnership noted the report**

#### **13. Devolved services report**

The Neighbourhood Partnership considered a report from the Area Co-ordinator (agenda item no. 12) which provided an update on devolved services.

**The Neighbourhood Partnership RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

#### **14. Public Forum**

Public Forum Statement 1 was taken as read and noted by the Neighbourhood Partnership.

#### **15. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 24 June 2014 at 7pm at Summerhill Methodist Church, 5 Air Balloon Road, Bristol BS5 8LB

(The meeting ended at 9.35 pm)

CHAIR