



Agenda Item No: 4

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of St George Neighbourhood Partnership

Tuesday 23rd June 2014 at 7.00pm

Members of the Partnership

P	Councillor Ron Stone	St George West ward Chair of Neighbourhood Committee
P	Councillor Sue Mileston	St George West ward
A	Councillor Fabian Breckels	St George East ward
P	Councillor Steve Pearce	St George East ward
P	Laura Gosling	Resident St George East
P	Philip Bird	Resident St George West
P	Pete Franklin	Resident St George West
P	Judith Price	Resident St George East
P	Michael Deadman	Resident St George East
P	Rob Acton-Campbell	Friends of Troopers Hill Chair of Neighbourhood Partnership
P	Susan Acton-Campbell	St George West Community First Panel
P	Grenville Johnson	Kensington Rd Residents

		Association & NW
P	Fiona Russell	Meadow Vale Community Assoc
P	Jo Curtis (for Richard Curtis)	Church Rd Action Group
A	Alex Wingrove	Youth Representative
A	Kieran Coles	Youth Representative
P	Diane Jones (for Vicky Holmes)	Friends of St George Park
P	Ann Preston	Resident St George West
P	Bryan Tozer	Local Business Representative
P	Keith Billingham	Friends of Dundry Park
P	Denise James	St George in Bloom

Officers:

P	Abdulrazak Dahir	BCC, NP Co-ordinator
P	Patricia Jones	BCC, Democratic Services
P	Sergeant Darren Warr	Avon and Somerset Police
P	Inspector Jason Shears	Avon and Somerset Police
P	Jim Wemyss	Avon Fire and Rescue

Other Attendees :

P	David Langham	
?	J Clague	Resident Harcourt Avenue

?	J Taylor	Resident Heather Close
P	P Cox	Resident Nicholas Lane
P	Phyll McVeigh	Resident Troopers Hill Road
P	Charles Price	Resident

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 8 & 9.

2. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Breckels.

The Chair welcomed Louann Sugden to the meeting who was present as an observer in connection with her dissertation for MSc in Public Policy at the University of Bristol. The dissertation is about NPs and local democracy.

The Chair made the following introductions: -
 Inspector Jason Shears Avon and Somerset Police (replaces Inspector Simon Dewfall)
 Keith Billingham, Friends of Dundry Park (for Geoff Reeson)
 Diane Jones, Friends of St George Park (for Vicky Holmes)

3. Membership of the Committee

New partners were confirmed as follows: -
 Friends of Dundry Park
 Denise James, St George in Bloom
 Councillor Sue Milestone (replaces Peter Hammond).

It was noted that all other members from the previous year had been re-nominated.

RESOLVED - that the membership for 2014/15 be noted.

4. Minutes of the last Meeting

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th March 2014 be confirmed as a correct record subject to the following amendment:-

St George in Bloom at page 13 to read RHS in Bloom.

Action Tracker

The Action Sheet was considered and it was agreed that the actions had been completed and could be removed. **Action RQ**

The NP noted Councillor Stone's comments in relation to the May Gurney and his request for additional cleaning efforts which had been acted upon.

5. AGM Elections for 2014/14

Neighbourhood Partnership Chair and Vice-Chair

In accordance with his email, the NP Co-ordinator confirmed that one nomination had been received for each role. Accordingly, Ron Acton-Campbell and Councillor Steve Pearce were duly elected and confirmed as Chairman and Vice-Chair.

Neighbourhood Committee Chair

A nomination for Neighbourhood Committee Chair was sought and Councillor Stone was duly elected.

The Neighbourhood Partnership RESOLVED that this be noted.

6. AGM Report

Membership

An updated list of members was circulated and agreed at the meeting.

Terms of Reference and Financial Operating Framework

These were noted.

Devolved Budgets

The St George NP devolved budgets set out in detail at page 22 of the report were noted. It was agreed that clarification would be sought about a potential increase in the Wellbeing Budget.

Action: NP Co-ordinator to report back.

Councillor Stone reported that he would continue to make enquiries in relation to the balance of Section 106 funding.

NP Sub-Groups

It was agreed that the current sub-groups would continue into 2014/15.

Financial Statement

Attention was drawn to the more detailed statement (Appendix 3) which was available for consideration if required.

Action: NP Co-ordinator to upload on website.

NP Priorities, Action Plan and Communication Plan

It was reported that due to the restructuring programme, the NP's Communication and Engagement Plan would be brought to the next meeting for approval.

Action: NP Co-ordinator to submit to the next meeting.

Meeting Schedules

Schedules for 2014 and 2015 were circulated at the meeting.

It was agreed that due to an unanticipated clash with Full Council, the meeting scheduled for the 16th December 2014 would be held on the 17th December 2014 at the Beehive Centre.

It was proposed that all NP meetings in 2015 take place at the Beehive Centre and Forum meetings at Summerhill Methodist Church, a more centralised location.

It was acknowledged that securing suitable venues across the year presented a challenge to the Neighbourhoods Team. Detailed discussion then followed in relation to the proposals. Below is a summary of the key points made: -

- The Environmental Sub-Group had been moved from Meadowvale Community Centre to Summerhill Methodist Church. This was considered unreasonable if all meetings took place in one area.
- There was an apparent imbalance – some of the smaller working party groups could be rotated.
- The venue for Sub-Group meeting should be decided by the membership.
- Summerhill Methodist Church was a central location in the NP area.

There was general agreement that the proposed venues for 2014 and 2015 should be confirmed in accordance with the schedules circulated. Fiona Russell and Alex Wingrove were not in agreement and asked for this to be recorded.

In conclusion, the point was made that there were issues worthy of attention in various parts of the NP wards and there was agreement that opportunities for community engagement should be pursued where possible.

The Neighbourhood Partnership RESOLVED that the proposed venues for 2014 and 2015 be agreed in accordance with the schedules circulated.

Councillor Milestone was welcomed to her first NP meeting.

7. Neighbourhood Working Update

The NP was invited to provide feedback on the action taken against the 11 Neighbourhood Targets from the last three months. It was reported that the aspiration was to amalgamate the priorities and action plan and develop one document for the future.

St George Park

Partners highlighted the following matters of concern and examples of prohibited behaviour: -

- Fishing without permits
- Night-time camping and rowdiness
- Littering
- Dog fouling
- Motorbikes
- Drug use

- No monitoring systems to record on going breaches
- No parker keeper on site.

Partners and residents expressed conflicting views in relation to these concerns and it was suggested that the some of the agreed priorities were misplaced.

Sergeant Warr reported that a Police patrol would be despatched in response to any reports of disorder or anti-social behaviour. He was also willing to undertake joint visible patrols after 9pm to combat the fishing/permit issue. Partners and residents were invited to call the 101 number or Crimestoppers and assurances were provided that resources suitable to demand would be used. Any further information or specifics relating to drug dealing and graffiti around the library should be notified to the Police directly.

Action: Darren Warr to liaise with John Atkinson about operations to target night-time activities.

Thanks were extended to John Atkinson who worked promptly to eradicate unsightly tagging.

Sergeant Warr confirmed that enforcement action had been taken against car dealer causing on-going obstructions parking cars on double yellow lines. To date 48 prosecutions had been resulted and the next stage of enforcement was now being considered.

It was agreed that updates/outcomes from mini forums should be routinely reported back the next NP meeting, verbally if necessary. It was also accepted that mini forums could be usefully taking place in every area, a format for these meeting to be agreed.

Action: NP Co-ordinator /Neighbourhood Officer.

It was agreed that the dates and times of Councillor Breckels's surgeries should be displayed in the notice board at St Aidans Church.

Action: Cllr Breckel's/NP Cp-ordinator

The Neighbourhood Partnership RESOLVED:-

- 1. That the report be noted.**
- 2. That the Police report back on enforcement action taken against the car dealer causing obstructions on the double yellow lines.**
- 3. That updates/outcomes from mini forums be routinely reported back the next NP meeting, verbally if necessary.**

4. That consideration be given to mini forums taking place in all area and a format to be agreed.
5. That Councillor Breckels be requested to display the dates and time of his surgeries in the notice board at St Aidan's Church.

8. Wellbeing Report

The NP placed on record its thanks for the effort and support provided by Len Hymand and Dennis Wise. Two new members, Denise James and Pete Franklin were welcomed to the sub-group.

It was noted that the funding allocation for 2014/15 was £26,203.31 (this included a carryover from last year of £6,203.31), leaving a balance of £14,602.80 if the 5 applications submitted for consideration in this round were granted.

Approval was sought from the Wellbeing Fund for the following applications (circulated in advance of the meeting and accompanied by the recommendations made by the Wellbeing Sub-Group):-

Bristol East Allotment Association - £500

Friends of Kingsway Youth -£775

Kensington Road Residents Association & Neighbourhood Watch - £540 plus VAT

(The sub-group recommendation was £0 and following detailed discussion, it was agreed that the view of the wider NP should be sought before the NC took a final decision. The Chair invited the NP to consider if the NC should support the application- 0 voted in favour, 9 against and there were 7 abstentions)

Redfest Bristol - £2,640

St Aidan with St George Church - £942.20

Following discussion, on being put to the vote (unanimous unless otherwise indicated), the Neighbourhood Committee:-

RESOLVED –

(1) that the balance of the Wellbeing Fund and spend to date be noted.

(2) that the application from Bristol East Allotment Association for £500 be approved subject to condition as recommended by the sub-group.

(3) that the application from Friends of Kingsway Youth for £775 be approved subject to conditions as recommended by the sub-group plus an additional sentence “..... or other community group” to be added to condition 2.

**(4) that the application from Kensington Road Residents Association & Neighbourhood Watch for £540 plus VAT be approved (2 voting in favour and 1 against).
(*application approved against the recommendation of zero funding from the sub-group)**

(5) that the application from Redfest Bristol for £2,640 be approved subject to condition as recommended by the sub-group.

(6) that the application for funding from St Aidan with St George Church for £942.20 be approved subject to conditions as recommended by the sub-group.

9. Environment Sub-Group

The Chair introduced the report and gave a general progress update.

Green Capital Projects

A document “Neighbourhood Partnerships Fund (Green Capital Projects) – overview for NPs” was circulated and considered at the meeting. It was emphasised that decisions relating to the allocation of the £10K funding available, would be decisions made by the whole NP.

Attention was also drawn to the last paragraph of the document inviting the NP to consider proactively allocating the funding to

activities where there is a clearly identified need, or to enhance existing activities for Green Capital Year. The NP considered a proposal to run a St George wide project and create a green map of Bristol, looking at areas where footpaths/lighting were in need of improvement.

It was recognised that the application process was available to all constituted community groups - Meadow Vale Community Association had already placed a bid for funding to improve youth facilities.

The Chair also drew attention to the additional Small Grants Fund (£250k) which could allocate individual grants of up to £10k supporting projects across the city that did not fit easily into a neighbourhood structure.

Grounds Maintenance

It was the council's parks department was in the process of adapting the council's grounds maintenance service to respond to the priorities set by the NPs. The NP was invited to consider how it wished to process this within the St George NP area. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that the Environment Sub-Group should be the mechanism to engage with Parks. The importance of consulting with local residents was also emphasised.

10. Funding Request – Section 106 Parks

The Neighbourhood Committee was invited to approve the release of £1,600 of Section 106 funding to install a chicane gate at Dundry Park.

It was agreed that the ward councillors could liaise with the Section 106 officer, Jim Cliffe in order to identify the stream of Section 106 money that would be used to facilitate this.

It was agreed that the recommendation to install a drop kerb at this location should be considered at an appropriate time in the future.

Action: NP Co-ordinator.

Following discussion, on being put to the vote the Neighbourhood Committee:-

RESOLVED – that this project be supported and £1,600 of Section 106 money be released to install a chicane gate at Dundry Park.

11. General NP Update Report

The NP noted the updates on the following areas, set out in detail in the report: -

- Neighbourhood Management Service
- St George Web Team
- NP Review
- Neighbourhood Forum
- Operation Sub-Group
- Traffic and Transport Sub-Group

It was agreed that an officer contact list could usefully be circulated to reflect the recent structural changes. It was noted that Nick Christo had taken on the role of Area Neighbourhood Manager

Action: NP Co-ordinator to circulate Neighbourhood's Team structure.

The NP then heard from Jim Wemyss, Group Manager who gave a verbal report on plans to close Speedwell Fire Station and consolidate resources at a newly refurbished Kingswood Fire Station. A flyer setting out the current position and plans to save the £4.5 million required was circulated at the meeting. Assurances were given that the programme would deliver the same level of response and provide the same level of community safety.

Councillor Stone reported that the vacated site was being considered as a possible site for a new primary school. Negotiations between BCC and Avon Fire and Rescue were understood to be on-going.

12. Devolved Services Update

This NP noted the progress of the schemes set out in detail in the report.

(The meeting ended at 9.10pm)

CHAIR