



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
ST. GEORGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP  
HELD AT 7.00 p.m. on 30 SEPTEMBER 2015  
AT THE BEEHIVE CENTRE, STRET福德 ROAD, ST GEORGE**

**Attendance:**

**Members of the Partnership**

P	Councillor Ron Stone	St George West ward Chair of Neighbourhood Committee
A	Councillor Sue Milestone	St George West ward
A	Councillor Fabian Breckels	St George East ward
P	Councillor Steve Pearce	St George East ward
P	Pete Franklin	Resident - St George West ward
P	Philip Bird	Resident - St George West ward & Communications Sub-Group
A	Judith Price	Resident - St George East ward
P	Chris Deane	Resident - St George East ward
P	Mike Kimber	Resident - St George East ward
A	Kieran Coles	Young people's representative
P	Susan Acton-Campbell	Wellbeing Champion
P	Rob Acton-Campbell	Friends of Troopers Hill Chair of Neighbourhood Partnership
A	Grenville Johnson	Kensington Rd Residents Association & Neighbourhood Watch
P	Nigel Williams	Church Road town team
P	Paul Fudgell	Nicholas Wanderers JFC
P	Veronica Dvorackova	Stonozka
P	Diane Jones	Friends of St George Park
P	Fiona Russell	Meadow Vale Community Association
P	Richard Curtis	Church Road Action Group
P	Geoff Reeson	Friends of Dundridge Park
A	Denise James	St George in Bloom
A	Merrill Godwin	Honalee community cafe

**Officers:**

P	Abdulrazak Dahir	BCC, Neighbourhood Partnership (NP) Co-ordinator
P	Ian Hird	BCC, Democratic Services
P	Dave Collis	BCC, Private Housing Manager
P	Lindsay Hay	BCC, Area Neighbourhood Manager
P	Gill Calloway	BCC, Neighbourhood Officer
P	Anthony Westwell	Avon and Somerset Police

**Other attendees:**

P	Martin Walker	Local resident
P	Debbie Stanley-Jones	Local resident
P	Jo Curtis	Local resident
P	Ron Humphrey	Local resident
P	Anne Withers	Local resident
P	Helen McCreadie	Local resident
P	Keith Billingham	Local resident
P	Phil Cox	Local resident
P	Maxine Williams	Local resident
P	Ian Townsend	Local resident

**1. CHAIRING ARRANGEMENTS**

It was noted that Rob Acton-Campbell would chair the neighbourhood partnership (NP). Cllr Ron Stone would chair the neighbourhood committee (NC).

**2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The NP Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting, including the following new attendees:

- Anthony Westwell, Avon and Somerset Police (noting also that Sergeant Helen Riddell would be the regular police representative at this NP).
- Gill Calloway, the newly appointed Neighbourhood Officer for the area.
- Lindsay Hay, the newly appointed Area Neighbourhood Manager for the Central-East area.

**3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Fabian Breckels, Cllr Sue Milestone, Grenville Johnson and Judith Price.

It was noted that Cllr Breckels and Cllr Milestone had given their apologies as they were attending the Labour party conference. Following discussion, it was agreed that (to avoid any date clashes during next year's party conference season) it would be appropriate for the NP meeting scheduled currently for 29 September 2016 to be moved to 12 October 2016.

#### **4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 24 JUNE 2015**

In response to a query raised in relation to minute no. 8 c. (Environment update), it was clarified that (as was the case with all NP minutes) the minutes of the 24 June NP meeting were a "stand alone" record of the decisions taken by the NP and the NC at the meeting, also including a summary of any updated information / key discussion points raised under each item of business. The reports submitted to a meeting did not form any part of the minutes of the meeting. Any concerns about the accuracy of any of the information included in any of the reports submitted to the 24 June meeting should have been raised at that meeting, at the point in time when the report had been considered.

**RESOLVED** (with 3 members of the NP voting against):  
**That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2015 be agreed as a correct record, subject to noting that Susan Acton-Campbell had accidentally been listed twice in the list of attendees.**

#### **Action tracker:**

The NP reviewed the action tracker as follows:

#### **Equalities training:**

- a. It was noted that (due to low take-up), the equalities training sessions scheduled for 1 October and 8 October had now been cancelled.
- b. The equalities training session scheduled for 6.30 – 8.00 pm on 22 October would be going ahead but would now be held at St George library rather than at Crofts End Church.
- c. The NP Chair reminded the NP that all partners must attend equalities training. It was agreed that this item should be retained on the action tracker for monitoring purposes.

#### **Declarations of interest:**

It was noted that the NC terms of reference would be updated, to reflect that fact that councillors could generally vote on local issues unless they had a particular pecuniary / financial interest relating to an issue.

### **Youth service for St George NP area:**

- a. It was noted that Rachael Beatty had been appointed, to replace Jimmy Taylor.
- b. Further clarity was being sought to confirm the participation rates of local young people in youth activities, following partners' previously expressed concerns that there might be "gaps" in local youth provision.

## **5. BRIEFING ON EXPANSION OF DISCRETIONARY LICENSING SCHEME (PRIVATE RENTED HOUSING)**

The partnership received a verbal briefing from Dave Collis, BCC Private Housing Manager on the consultation taking place currently on extending the discretionary licensing scheme to the Eastville and St George West wards.

The briefing highlighted the following main points:

- a. The scheme aimed to tackle the problems of poor condition properties and poorly managed properties in the private rented sector. In some areas of the city, this was a significant issue. Some tenants were also unaware of their rights in relation to decent housing conditions, and in some cases were inhibited from reporting any problems, for fear of potential repercussions from landlords.
- b. Under the scheme, Council officers would gain additional powers to tackle these types of problem pro-actively under an area based approach.
- c. The scheme would enable officers to inspect all privately rented properties within a defined area and ensure that landlords met licensing conditions, with the aim of tenants' living standards being raised as a result. A fee was charged to landlords to cover the costs of administering the scheme.

Key points raised / noted in discussion:

- a. The current consultation would close on 3 November. Subject to the outcome of the consultation, the scheme could come into effect by February 2016 (subject to a report to the Council's Cabinet being approved by the Mayor).
- b. It was acknowledged that given the forthcoming changes in electoral ward boundaries, it would be important (at the point in time that the scheme was introduced) to ensure absolute clarity locally about the geographical area within which the scheme would apply. In particular, during the scheme launch, it would be important not to refer to "St George west" given the changes to electoral ward boundaries.

- c. It was noted that anecdotal evidence from implementation of the discretionary licensing scheme in the Stapleton Road area suggested that it had resulted in positive benefits for tenants.
- d. It was agreed that locally, tenants living in private rental properties should be encouraged to participate in the current consultation.

The NP **AGREED:**

**That the briefing and the above information be noted.**

## **6. NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES – BUSINESS REPORT**

The NP considered the activities / business report from the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator.

### **a. Operations sub-group update:**

The NP **AGREED:**

- 1. That the update be noted.**
- 2. That, as per the sub-group’s recommendation, the wording of Neighbourhood Plan activity P1 – Celebrating Diversity under the Community Development and Cohesion theme should be revised to read as follows:  
“Actively work with diverse communities in St George to take part in community events and existing group activities.”**

### **b. Environment update:**

- **Tree planting:**

Additional documents were circulated showing 4 locations within the St George NP area where the University of Bristol was prepared to fund the replacement of existing tree stumps or fill empty tree pits.

Following discussion, the NP **AGREED:**

- 1. That the offer from the University of Bristol with regard to planting trees at these 4 locations be welcomed and accepted, but that further enquires be made as to why other relevant locations within the St George NP area had not been selected for funding of tree stump replacement.**
- 2. That Veronica Dvorackova be appointed as the local “tree champion” for the St George NP area.**

- **Devolved Section 106 budget allocations:**

Proposed allocations were considered as follows:

1. **P1 activity 7 – Gladstone Street green space:**

The NC **RESOLVED:**

**To approve, as per the report, the allocation of £3,336.95 (from the devolved S106 budget) to remove the rubber surface and tarmac from Gladstone Street green space (where the redundant child swing and slide had been removed) and to reinstate with soil and plant grass seed, thus enabling the school and local residents to use the green space.**

2. **P5 activity 3 – tree planting scheme:**

The NC **RESOLVED:**

**To approve, as per the report, the allocation of £6,745.27 (from the devolved S106 budget) to deliver a tree planting scheme for St George Park.**

- **St George in Bloom:**

At this point in the meeting, the NP Chair advised the meeting that St George in Bloom had won a Gold Pennant (Royal Horticultural Society South West in Bloom award) for the second year running and had won the trophy for Best Urban Community entry in the South West. Partners welcomed this news and expressed their congratulations to Grenville Johnson and all others involved, and noted that an awards ceremony would take place on 8 October at Summerhill Methodist Church Hall.

- c. **Discover East Bristol:**

The NP **AGREED:**

**That the update be noted, including the information about the launch of the “Discover East Bristol” map (and informal NP “get together”) to be held on 8 December at St George library.**

- d. **Traffic and transport:**

The NP **AGREED:**

**That the update be noted, including the information about the recent meeting involving the Traffic and Transport sub-group**

**members and Tesco management about seeking a satisfactory solution to the issues around deliveries to the store.**

**e. Wellbeing grants:**

The following application was considered, together with the recommendation of the Wellbeing sub-group:

**Winding Snake Productions – funding to paint a mural at 69 Plummers Hill:**

The NC **RESOLVED:**

**That (as per the recommendation of the Wellbeing sub-group as set out in the report) no grant be awarded in respect of this application. The applicant should though be encouraged to re-apply and advised that future consideration could be given to a more developed proposal, ideally concerning a property in a state of disrepair, and with clear evidence provided that participants in the project (and beneficiaries) were from the St George NP area.**

**f. Wellbeing process feedback:**

In discussion, it was suggested that it would be appropriate for feedback questionnaires to be supplied with every application pack in future, so that ongoing feedback could be obtained.

The NP **AGREED:**

**That the update be noted.**

**g. Citywide code of conduct**

In discussion, it was pointed out that the code of conduct currently stated that, in relation to complaints about councillors, *“all complaints raised and their resolution should be reported at a subsequent NP meeting.”* It was suggested that as this was the current policy, then it was important that it should be adhered to. It was also noted, however, that there could be an issue as to whether the current wording reflected the actual “intent” in relation to this part of the code of conduct, and that clarity would be sought by the NP Co-ordinator on this point. In the meantime, it was noted that the current wording was in place as indicated above.

The NP **AGREED:**  
**That the update and the above information be noted.**

#### **h. Bristol Arena consultation**

The NP **AGREED:**  
**That the update be noted, and that local people be encouraged to engage in the current consultation.**

### **7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP PLAN UPDATE REPORT**

The NP considered a report setting out the latest position in relation to the neighbourhood partnership plan.

Main points raised / noted:

- a. **Improvement to entrances to Rodney Road playing field:**  
The NP Chair reported that following the decision (at the last NP meeting on 24 June) to make S106 funding available, a site meeting had been held to discuss improving the entrances. It had now been identified that (due to the lack of a footway) it would not be appropriate to open up the entrance directly on Rodney Road. It was now the intention to improve the side entrance, and at the same time improve visibility of the entrance, as a means of encouraging increased public use of this space.
- b. **Meadow Vale / Dundry Park:**  
The appointed consultant (to work with the park groups) would start on 5 October, reporting to a steering group.
- c. **Reducing litter and fly tipping:**  
It was noted that it was important to continue to encourage the reporting of fly tipping.
- d. **Fishing / wildlife protection at St George Park lake:**  
A document was circulated, setting out the views of the Friends of St George Park. In discussion, general concern was expressed about the fact that little or no action appeared to have been taken by the Council's parks team following the view previously expressed by the NP (in December 2014) that there should be a ban on fishing at St George Park, and that the fish should be removed from the park's lake.

It was noted that a report on the proposed new Parks byelaws would be considered by the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission in



October, and that the byelaws would subsequently be submitted to the Full Council for approval.

Following discussion, the NP **AGREED:**

**That the NP Chair write to the Council's parks team on behalf of the NP asking for an explanation as to why there had been no progress following the NP's previous request that there should be a ban on fishing at St George Park, and that the fish should be removed from the lake; and that consideration be given to submitting a question on this matter to the Full Council, and to complaining about the officers involved via the Fair Comment process.**

**e. Beaufort Road / Troopers Hill Road traffic schemes:**

The Beaufort Road traffic calming scheme had been designed. This would, however, be put on hold until the Troopers Hill Road scheme had been completed, taking account of local concerns about the likely traffic impact that would have taken place on Troopers Hill Road had the Beaufort Road scheme been implemented first.

On behalf of the NP, the NP Chair paid tribute to the work locally of Phyll McVeigh and Laura Gosling in helping to develop these respective schemes.

**f. Reducing the supply and cultivation of drugs:**

In discussion, it was noted that it was important to continue to encourage local people to report all relevant incidents to the police. The dangers, especially for young people, associated with the misuse of nitrous oxide canisters were also highlighted. It was noted that the police were working with schools to raise awareness of these dangers.

**8. PUBLIC FORUM**

None received.

**9. MEETING CLOSE / DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

In closing the meeting, the Chair thanked members of the partnership for their attendance. It was noted that the next meeting would be held at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 16 December at the Beehive Centre, Stretford Road.

The meeting finished at 9.17 p.m.

CHAIR