

DISCLAIMER

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ST. GEORGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP
HELD AT 7.00 p.m. on 16th December 2015
AT THE BEEHIVE CENTRE, STRETTFORD ROAD, ST GEORGE**

Attendance:

Members of the Partnership

A	Councillor Ron Stone	St George West ward Chair of Neighbourhood Committee
P	Councillor Sue Milestone	St George West ward
P	Councillor Fabian Breckels	St George East ward
P	Councillor Steve Pearce	St George East ward
A	Pete Franklin	Resident - St George West ward
P	Philip Bird	Resident - St George West ward & Communications Sub-Group
P	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
P	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
A	Fiona Russell	Meadow Vale Community Association
A	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	Ruth Quantock	BCC, Democratic Services
P	Richard Fletcher	BCC, Parks Area Manager
P	Deborah Yeates	Avon and Somerset Police

Other attendees:

P	Kevin Rainey	Local resident
P	Jim Donaldson	Local resident
P	Janice Prescott	Local resident
P	Ceri Dunning	Local resident

1. Chairing arrangements

It was noted that Rob Acton-Campbell would chair the neighbourhood partnership (NP). It was agreed that Cllr Fabian Breckells would Chair the neighbourhood committee (NC) in the absence of Cllr Ron Stone who was unwell.

2. Welcome and introductions

The NP Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Ron Stone, Fiona Russell, Pete Franklin, Richard Curtis, Police Sergeant Helen Riddell and Denise James.

4. Complaint about the conduct of a NP member

The NP considered a complaint about the conduct of one of its members and whether they should be asked to stand-down. The member concerned circulated a pack of evidence to NP members which included a number of email exchanges and was given the opportunity to address the NP. NP members were invited to make comments or ask any questions.

In response to a question raised by Mike Kimber during the discussion, the Chair explained that he had not circulated the emails from one of the Neighbourhood Committee members because they were not the subject of the complaint and therefore not relevant. These emails were however, subject of a separate formal complaint process against Councillors which was being dealt with by the council.

Having just read these emails, Mike Kimber felt they were relevant. In response, the Chairman re-iterated that Councillors were subject to a separate procedure which was not within the jurisdiction of the Neighbourhood Partnership.

By secret ballot the **Neighbourhood Partnership RESOLVED that the member concerned should remain a NP member.**

Action: NP Chair, Co-ordinator and Chris to organise a follow up meeting to resolve any outstanding issues.

5. Minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Partnership on 30 September 2015

The Neighbourhood Partnership RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2015 be agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising

Equalities Training – Thanks were extended to the NP Co-ordinator for organising the second equalities training event that took place on 22nd October. It was noted that 8 members of St George NP remained to receive this mandatory training and more dates would be issued in due course.

Action: Abdul Razak Dahir

Action tracker:

The action tracker was reviewed and further updates provided by the NP Co-ordinator. It was agreed by the NP that the actions marked 'completed' were indeed complete and could therefore come off the action sheet before the next meeting. **Action Ruth Quantock**

6. St George Park Lake

The Neighbourhood Partnership considered a report from Richard Fletcher, BCC Parks Area Manager who provided an update following support from the NP in December 2014 of a ban on fishing at St George Park Lake and advocating the removal of fish from the lake to discourage anglers choosing to ignore the ban. The outcome of the subsequent healthcheck was that the fish stock is of poor health and of extremely high density.

The following key issues were noted during discussion that took place

- Diane Jones, representing Friends of St George Park appreciated the work that had been undertaken by the council. However, whilst the

report made reference to the negative impacts of fishing on wildlife, it was also destroying the ecology of the lake. It was noted that some 'friends' were concerned about the recommendation to remove and euthanize all fish from the lake, and their preference would be for some to be re-located to Eastville Park and some of the smaller fish left in order to continue to attract the birds to the lake including Heron and Kingfisher. DJ was also concerned about the estimate received of £90k to de-silt the lake and create a feature area close by using the silt. She indicated that as part of their own research, FOSGP had received a quote of around £25k. It was confirmed that the council's due tendering process would need to be followed and 3 quotes would be obtained to ensure value for money.

- In response to questions, Richard Fletcher explained that to adopt a byelaw to ban fishing, consultation lasting approximately 3 months would need to take place in respect of the designated area, both citywide and with key stakeholders (for example St George NP, FOSGP, the angling community). In relation to applying for a Public Space Protection Order, St George Park has not been identified by the police as a problem area for anti-social behaviour.
- The timing of the removal of the fish would likely be dependent on the planned maintenance to the footpath which was currently falling in to the lake.
- The NP anticipated that over a considerable period of time, small numbers of fish would gradually be re-introduced to the lake.
- It was suggested that ahead of the removal and euthanasia of the fish, some publicity work be undertaken by BCC, Parks and the NP Communications Subgroup. **Action RF/Comms Subgroup.**

The NP accepted the recommendation in the report and RESOLVED that all the fish from St George Park Lake be removed and euthanized.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES – BUSINESS REPORT

The NP considered the activities / business report from the Neighbourhood Coordinator.

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

a. Citywide NP Event

Over 80 people had participated in the 2nd Citywide NP conference including a number of representatives from St George NP. The half day event provided a good opportunity for networking, sharing ideas and good practice.

b. Operation Subgroup

The NP membership forms for use at the Annual General Meeting had been re-designed and were attached to the reports as appendices. It was noted that some publicity would be undertaken in March 2016 to raise the profile of the work of the NP and encourage membership take-up. **Action Abdul Razak Dahir and Communication Subgroup**

The NP RESOLVED that the AGM forms be approved.

c. Environment update:

Street Goat Project had attended the last Environment subgroup to discuss their exciting project for Stibbs Hill Allotments. It was noted that it was also important to consult with local residents about these plans.

Discover East Bristol project. The outdoor guide to St George and Greater Fishponds was circulated. It was noted that copies were available from the Chairman or the NP Co-ordinator for wider distribution by NP Members and it had appeared as a centre spread in Bristol Evening Post. A vote of thanks was extended to the artist, the Neighbourhood Arts Project and all those involved in producing the leaflet.

A schedule of the allocation of the Green Capital Budget for 2015/16 would be useful and was requested. **Action Abdul Razak Dahir**

Following discussion, **the Neighbourhood Committee RESOLVED that the recommendations from the Environment Subgroup be approved from the Neighbourhood Budget as follows:-**

P1 Activity 1 – contribution towards a bespoke carved bench at Plummers Hill - £1,100 (if the project goes ahead)

P2 Activity 6 – funds will be used to pay for a flagpole to fly St George in Bloom flag – up to £2,226.73 (Parks to obtain 3 quotes)

Following discussion, **the Neighbourhood Committee RESOLVED that the recommendations from the Environment Subgroup be approved from the Environment Budget as follows:-**

P2 Activity 6

- **2016/17 Urban Meadows for Dundry Park and Netham House - £440**
- **2016/17 Bulbs for various locations - £1,100**
- **2016/17 Planters for Malders and St George Park and adhoc planting requests - £1,060**

On behalf of Kensington Rd Residents Association and St George in Bloom, Grenville Johnson put on record his thanks to St George NP for its generous support over a number of years. He indicated that sustainable planting was used where possible and its success would not be possible without the support of partners including the council.

St. George in Bloom has been selected by The Royal Horticultural Society to be regional finalist, and we will represent St George, the City of Bristol and the entire South West region this summer in 2016. The group were keen to work with Friends of Dundry Park and other 'friends' groups in the local area to promote environmental enhancements & improvements as well as bringing communities closer together

d. Traffic & Transport

An update was provided and noted by the Neighbourhood Partnership.

e. Wellbeing Grant

Following discussion, **the Neighbourhood Committee RESOLVED that the recommendations and conditions made by the Wellbeing Subgroup be approved from the Wellbeing Budget as follows:-**

- **St Aidans Church - £275**
- **St George Park Community Garden - *£915**
- **Speedwell Friends - £2900**

*It was noted that the figures in the report may have inadvertently been transposed from the original application so the amount requested may have been £951. Should this prove to be the case the Neighbourhood Committee agreed up to £951.

The NP Members were encouraged to spread the word as widely as possible about the different grants available through the Neighbourhood Partnership.

Action All

f. Summary of Wellbeing Applications over the last 2 years

A summary was outlined in the report which was noted by the Neighbourhood Partnership.

g. Citywide NP Code of Conduct

It was noted that the citywide NP Members code of conduct had been revised and was now available on BCC website and supersedes all earlier versions.

The Neighbourhood Partnership RESOLVED that its code of conduct will in future be the most recent version of the code published on BCC website.

It was requested that every time an amendment is made to the code of conduct, the NP is notified of the change. **Action Abdul Razak Dahir.**

h. Proposed new approach to grant funding

The council is consulting on the proposed new approach from 16th Nov – 15th Feb 2016. Information and links to the consultation will be available from the council's consultation finder: <https://bristol.citizenspace.com>

i. Joint Spatial Plan and Joint Transport Study

An event for Bristol's Neighbourhood Partnerships to find out more and discuss the consultations is being planned for January 2016 – likely to be Wed 6th January but to be confirmed.

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP PLAN UPDATE REPORT

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

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

a. Traffic and Transport

A meeting has been set up with Andrew Spicer on 16th February 2016 to discuss progress against actions in the Plan. Cllrs expressed their dissatisfaction that the date clashed with Budget Council so they would be unable to attend this meeting. It was noted that the Civic Diary should be checked to avoid this happening in future. **Action Abdul Razak Dahir**

b. Crime and Community Safety

Grenville Johnson indicated that as a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator he had regular meetings with the Police Beat Team and adhoc meetings with the Beat Manager. He felt this was an excellent resource for exchanging info. It was suggested that something should be put in the NP Plan about Neighbourhood Watch. **Action Grenville Johnson and Deborah Yeates**

c. Domestic Violence

No More Excuses – It was noted that the local Beat Team were currently unable to supply the campaign posters. Deborah Yeates who had recently joined as the local Beat Manager said that she would find out the position and if necessary order some more.

d. Communication and engagement

It was suggested that at the next Neighbourhood Forum meetings the NP should showcase some of the wide ranging projects that have been funded by NP through various grant funding available to it – Wellbeing, Neighbourhood, Environment, Green Capital etc. It would also be a good opportunity to explain the application process. **Action Abdul Razak / Operations Subgroup**

The Chair read out a letter he had received from the Mayor, George Ferguson following his visit to St George . It was noted that this would be put on the NP website.

9. Public Forum

None received.

10. A.O.B

- It was noted that St George library would be changing its opening hours from April 2016. It would also be piloting the swipe card entry system. There was currently a drive underway to encourage more volunteers and some work was being undertaken around making the library more of a community hub.
- It was requested that the documentation circulated at the start of the meeting relating to the complaint about the conduct of a NP member should be kept in the minute book. **Action Ruth Quantock**

11. 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 13 April 2016 at the Beehive Centre, Stretford Road.

The meeting finished at 9.15 p.m.

CHAIR