



Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston Neighbourhood Partnership
7.00 pm, 14 December 2016

Present:

* De-notes apologies/absent

Ward Councillors

Councillor Donald Alexander, Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston;
Councillor Matthew Melias, Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston;
Councillor Jo Sergeant, Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston;

Partners

Representatives of people who live and work in the Neighbourhood Partnership area

David Thomas, Shirehampton
Renee Slater, Shirehampton
Gil Osman, Shirehampton
Jonathan Morris, Avonmouth
Christine Chard, Avonmouth
Tim Leaman, Lawrence Weston
Ann Hawker, Lawrence Weston
John Muse, Lawrence Weston
* Andrew Wootton, Sea Mills
* Rosemary Newman, Sea Mills

Other Interested parties: 8 members of the public were in attendance, Marina Morris, Roger Sabido, Karen van Hoey Smith (ACORN), Deborah Marsh, Jason Budd, William Masters Fry, Cara Smith and Andy Hollick

Also in Attendance:-

Keith Houghton, Neighbourhood Partnership Co-ordinator
Ruth Quantock, Democratic Services Officer
Robin McDowall, BCC Economy and Enterprise Manager
Liz Mitchell, BCC Advanced Health Improvement Practitioner

1. Welcome and introductions (agenda item no. 1)

Tim Leaman (Chair of the NP) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

At the start of the meeting there were two short presentations which were not on the agenda but had been agreed by the Chair.

1a ACORN (the Association of Community Organisations for Reform Now)

Karen van Hoey Smith representing ACORN explained how this organisation, founded by residents of Easton, Bristol is a community based union which is campaigning for the voluntary reform of the private rented sector (PRS) in Bristol. There are 43,000 private renters in Bristol and 15,000 are now ACORN members.

ACORN promotes a scheme it calls “The Ethical Lettings Charter” Residential letting and managing agents or landlords can sign up to ACORN’s Charter on a voluntary basis. The campaign has been backed by Bristol City Council demonstrating its support for improving property conditions and management for private tenants in Bristol. Karen indicated that she also represented ACORN on Bristol Homes Board.

One project currently being delivered by ACORN is ‘Renters Rising’ which is a community organising workshop & skillshare for renters. It is a chance for renters to collaborate and learn together, and to share skills and ideas.

It was noted that the NP could support the cause by spreading the word, or as individuals get involved by volunteering or donations. Training is provided and activities include organising friends, colleagues, and neighbours to take action together, educating the local community, running a campaign, or building local solidarity activities to change communities for the better.

There would be a peaceful protest taking place on Monday 19th December from 10.00am at 26 Saltmarsh Drive, Lawrence Weston. This family including four children were being evicted just before Christmas because they could not afford the rent which had been significantly increased by a private landlord.

Contacting ACORN:-

Local Contact Karen 07708229871

Post: ACORN, CWU Building, 20 Church Rd, Bristol, BS5 9JA

Sign in with Facebook, Twitter or email info@acorncommunities.org.uk

1b Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston NP Achievements – Dec 2016 & Current BCC budget situation

Keith Houghton, NP Co-ordinator gave a presentation of NP Achievements under the following headings:

- Active Citizenship, Equalities and Community Cohesion
- Community Buildings and facilities
- Environment, Parks and Streetscene, Pollution & Quality of Life, Green Capital
- Families, Younger & Older People

It was noted that a wide range of projects had been delivered using devolved NP budget to improve the local area.

Keith Houghton reported that BCC has a current-year Revenue over-spend of £27million to recover. Therefore BCC has frozen all expenditure, except essential maintenance/repair and statutory service

delivery. This is to identify and remove the overspend from this year's budget in order to achieve a balanced year end budget.

Under the circumstance, all new Wellbeing spend is frozen which included the recommended allocations in today's agenda, however, wellbeing funding already committed would be honoured. All NP budget that hasn't already been committed is also frozen except Section 106, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and any money held by NPs from external sources outside BCC.

It was noted that in terms of the agenda today, the NP could accept and take forward the £5,000 Transformers funding for young people's projects (it's from Police Community Trust) and could decide about Section 106 monies. The NP also still had £10,000 from the Avonmouth Wind Turbines development to use for NP priorities. The position with regard to the status of the Port Communities Resilience Fund (frozen or not) was currently unclear, however it was confirmed that clarification would be sought. **Action Keith Houghton/Robin McDowall.**

It was noted that there was an opportunity to influence the next five years of life in Bristol and help with the budget challenge by commenting on BCC Corporate Strategy 2017-2022 'Big decisions, tough choices'.

Hard copies of the summary were available at the meeting and the full document is on the council's website www.bristol.gov.uk/corpstrategy

2. Apologies for Absence (agenda item no. 2)

Apologies were received from Andrew Wootton, Rosemary Newman and Theresa Cox.

3. Declarations of Interest (agenda item no. 3)

None.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting (agenda item no. 4)

The Neighbourhood Partnership considered the minutes of the last meeting.

The Neighbourhood Partnership AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September were a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

Action Sheet

The Neighbourhood Partnership considered the Action sheet. All outstanding actions had been completed and was noted.

5. Public Forum (agenda item no. 5)

One item of public forum had been received from Deborah Marsh, member of Oasis Academy Council regarding major concerns over safety of children travelling to and from the Academy by foot, cycling and public transport. There is no pavement along Penpole Lane and the bus stop is dangerous. There have been incidents and near misses.

Deborah Marsh took the opportunity to speak to her statement. She indicated that the Academy had approached the Traffic and Transport team at BCC directly on numerous occasions but had received no reply.

Cllr Jo Sergeant indicated that a question had been submitted on this subject to Full Council from the Head Girl, Oasis Academy Brightstowe. In his reply the Mayor had committed to engage with the school to talk through the issues, potential measures and possible Safer Routes to School Schemes depending on funding and priorities.

Following discussion, the NP supported the contents of the statement and AGREED to write to BCC Traffic and Transport team to request a response at their earliest convenience. The NP also AGREED to refer the issue to the Traffic & Transport Sub-group for consideration for future schemes, once the budget freeze was lifted. **Action Keith Houghton/Chair of NP**

6. Business Activities Report (agenda item no. 6)

The Neighbourhood Partnership considered the report of Keith Houghton, NP Co-ordinator.

Councillor Matt Melias chaired the Neighbourhood Committee during the devolved decision making process at the appropriate time.

1) Wellbeing Fund

In light of the information received at the start of the meeting regarding the budget freeze no funding requests could be considered. The NP Co-ordinator confirmed that he would write to individual applicants to explain the current situation. **Action Keith Houghton**

The Neighbourhood Partnership **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation to accept £5000 Transformers funding from Avon & Somerset Police Community Trust to be used as set out in the report to support projects which benefit young people.

2) Traffic & Transport Activity

Development of 2017/18 Local Traffic Scheme: Kingsweston Lane pedestrian crossings at roundabout.

It was noted that as alluded to at the start of the meeting the budget which comes from Highways to NPs (£17, 147 per annum) as part of the un-ringfenced Neighbourhood Budget was included in its entirety as a potential budget saving in the Corporate Strategy. If this cut were to go ahead it would therefore make it difficult for the NP to go ahead with the scheme as the S106 funding available would not provide sufficient funding to support the scheme. It consists of:-

Rockingham Lane S106 of £21,286.53, leaving a shortfall of £40,000 for the full implementation of the above scheme.

The NP **AGREED** to refer the scheme to the Traffic & Transport Subgroup for review and recommendation to the NP meeting in March 2017. **Action Keith Houghton/Traffic & Transport subgroup.**

Re-allocation of the Valerian Close S106 - £14,856.720

At its March 2016 meeting the NP approved S106 funding for an 'upgrade of the Valerian Close bus stop (Portway) travelling in an inbound direction'. The advice of the Sustainable Transport team was that there was a possibility that the limited services stopping at Valerian Close may be reduced or even removed all together. There had also been some adverse local comments because of the very limited use of this stop. BCC Transport had therefore suggested that the S106 allocation be transferred to the Woodwell Road bus stop 355 metres from the Valerian Close entrance and used to increase the 3 bay shelter to 4 bay at this busy stop. It was noted that Oasis Academy Brightstowe was not in the immediate vicinity of the Valerian Close development so this S106 funding could not be used for traffic improvement outside the school.

NP members were not satisfied with the proposal to upgrade Woodwell Road. It was felt that this stop was adequately provisioned.

The NP Co-ordinator was asked to explore the option of upgrading the stops on Shirehampton Green – installing real time information, for example. **Action Keith Houghton.**

During discussion it was noted that there is a time limit on this S106 spend of 27th January, however the S106 Planning Obligation Manager had advised that this was a low-risk condition.

The NP **AGREED** that further details of the scheme be brought back to the next meeting of the NP in March 2017. **Action Keith Houghton/Jim Cliffe.**

3) Section 106 and CIL contributions

The update as set out in the report was noted

4) Provisional Neighbourhood Partnership dates for 2017/18

The dates proposed were provisionally agreed, however it was noted that the meeting on 29 June 2017 clashed with a local planning meeting so would need to be changed. **Action Keith Houghton**

7. NP Plan Update (agenda item no. 7)

The Neighbourhood Partnership considered the NP Plan update report from Keith Houghton, NP Co-ordinator.

The following key issues were noted during discussion:-

NP Plan and Governance and Equalities/Engagement Event 22 October

- In light of potential budget cuts in the Corporate Strategy 2017-22 the group had considered the delivery priorities from the current NP Plan and reduced officer resources available.
- The group also explored ways of increasing engagement and communication, particularly in the light of the Equalities information we got from the monitoring in April – June quarter of 2016.

The group agreed to refine the delivery priorities of the NP Plan to the areas of activity as outlined in the report which would be likely to produce the most lasting benefit to the four village areas in Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston and to focus on leaving a useful legacy in the event of the discontinuation of NPs.

The Neighbourhood Partnership **APPROVED** the focus on 'legacy' impacts and the priorities identified as most significant to deliver them up to July 2017 (revised delivery plan in appendix 2)

NP Fundraiser

The option of using funds from the available £24,813 of currently un-committed NP Neighbourhood Budget to employ a fundraiser was agreed in principle at the June 2016 NP meeting (£10,000). However, in light of the current BCC budget freeze it was noted that this could no longer be funded from this particular budget. It was noted, however, that the NP had other non BCC monies available to it and could also still work with other NPs to explore whether a joint piece of work could secure a better service. With the expertise of a fund raiser an investment of £10,000 had the potential to attract a significant return which was much needed in the current economic climate.

At the same time, there are other, alternative requests and options which the NP could consider to use the £10,000 available from the Wind Turbines monies, these include:

- Re- considering the SCAF request for £5000 in the light of their improved prospects
- Support to elements of the 'slimmed-down' delivery priorities in the NP Plan, such as Community Plan developments

The NP **AGREED** that a working group be set up, consisting of the following volunteers Cllrs Melias, Alexander, Sergeant, John Muse, Renee Slater , Jason Budd, Mark Pepper and Tim Leaman in order to:-
1) bring back a full report setting out options and recommendations to the next meeting in March 2017.

Mayors Clean Streets Campaign

It was noted that the Mayor has made a Pledge that Bristol will be measurably cleaner (less litter, fly tipping, fly posting, graffiti, dog fouling, gum and weeds in the City as well as much more reuse, repair and recycling so that less waste is produced and disposed of in landfill).

In response to the following questions, the NP were invited to put suggestions on 'post it notes' and at the end of the meeting put them on the Flip Chart that was located in the room;

- How you want your area to look?
- What we need to do to make your area cleaner and tidier and identify hotspots to be focussed upon
- Tell the Mayor about work undertaken by this NP or planned which will contribute to improving the look and feel of the City which can be shared as part of the campaign

The NP **AGREED** to feature this Campaign at the February Neighbourhood Forums

8. Port Communities Resilience Fund - Update on Delivery Proposals (agenda item no. 8)

Robin McDowell, Economy and Enterprise Team Manager and Keith Houghton, NP Co-ordinator provided an update on the PCRF Community Conversation that took place on Saturday 19th November.

It was noted that there was representation from all four Ward 'village communities' and background presentations were given on the three key themes of the fund:

- Thriving High Streets
- Jobs and Enterprise
- Community Facilities/Social impact

This was followed by 3 workshops to explore how the three themes should be delivered and what work they should aim to deliver. The notes from each workshop and a summary of the key outcomes were presented to the NP (also attached at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the report).

It was noted that a broad range of consensus had been reached and a number of recommendations will be presented to the PCRF Board at its first meeting on Thursday 15th December. However, there were also a number of queries, concerns and challenges from participants to PCRF Board for response and resolution.

Next steps recommended

- Participants were keen that on-going communication on progress developing the Fund should happen
- Track the journey – Progress, invite comments using a social media tool and website
- Generate ideas and sharing between potential applicants – create an Ideas Bank
- Clarify how many rounds of funding might be available so people know if they can take more time to apply to a future round or not

In addition to the 3 A&LW Cllrs on the PCRF Board, the NP **APPROVED** the appointment of 4 resident Members of the Board, one for each 'village' area of the Ward as follows:-

David Thomas – Shirehampton

Andrew Wootton - Sea Mills / Coombe Dingle

Tim Leaman – Lawrence Weston

Jonathan Morris - Avonmouth

It was **AGREED** that substitutes be permitted to represent any of the above as long as they were members of the NP.

9. Bristol Walking Alliance (agenda item no. 9)

Cllr Don Alexander introduced the report of Keith Houghton, NP Co-ordinator. He explained that the Bristol Walking Alliance is a consortium of organisations and individuals campaigning to improve Bristol's walking environment to make it welcoming, safe, convenient and inclusive.

The Bristol Walking Alliance Manifesto was attached to the report and the NP were asked whether it wanted to commit to support its aims and become a member of the Walking Alliance. Their website can be viewed at <http://www.bristolwalkingalliance.org.uk/>

It was noted that a number of NPs across the City have already joined and are participating in their work through the following actions:

- Individual members attending Walking Alliance meetings
- Publicising events and activities

- Encouraging activities which support Walking alliance aims within their Neighbourhoods, NP work and funding

The NP **AGREED** to become a Member of the Bristol Walking Alliance and sign up to their Manifesto.

If NP resident members, Cllrs or members of the public want to take part in activities representing the NP they should contact Keith or Cllr Alexander. **Action all**

Date of the Next Meeting: 7.00 pm, Wednesday, 22 March 2017, Avon School, Barracks Lane, Shirehampton, BS11 9NG

Meeting ended at 9.10 pm

CHAIR _____

