



Stoke Bishop, Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze Neighbourhood Partnership
7.00 pm, 22 May 2017

Present:

Ward Councillors

Councillor Clare Champion-Smith, Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze;
Councillor Geoff Gollop, Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze;
Councillor Liz Radford, Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze;
Councillor Peter Abraham, Stoke Bishop;
Councillor John Goulandris, Stoke Bishop;

Partners

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

Ella Davies
Graham Donald
Roger Gamlin
Peter Robottom
Peter Weeks
Alan Aburrow
* Valerie Bishop
Helen Furber
Alan Preece
David Mayer
* Paul Bolton-Jones
* Jenny Hodges
Stephanie French

Also in Attendance:-

Andrew McGrath
Steve Gregory, Democratic Services Officer

1. Welcome, Introductions and Safety Information (agenda item no. 1)

Apologies received from Peter Robottom and Councillor Peter Abraham.

Also not in attendance were Paul Bolton-Jones and Jenny Hodges.

The NP noted the resignation of Valerie Bishop. The Chair said the following in respect of Valerie's work for the NP –

'Valerie Bishop has resigned as an elected Ward Rep for Henleaze after serving with distinction since the inception of the NP (7 years). Val is a stalwart of the Community and has given her time and effort selflessly over many years to many causes.

Her accomplishments are far too many to list, but we cannot ignore her Stewardship and Chairman ship of the Henleaze Society and our own Working Group for Older People. It is therefore with reluctance that I accept her resignation and ask that our profound thanks and good wishes are recorded in the minutes and ask that we show our appreciation in the usual way'.

The Chair also made the following comment regarding the future arrangements for community based involvement –

'We are entering a period of change where the current arrangements for holding local Community Public Forums and Working Groups and Indeed these more formal NP meetings are changing as the vast bulk of the BCC devolved funding is being withdrawn because the strategic challenges and consequential savings required to allow BCC to operate within its means will impact on how we wish to operate in the future. This is a major topic for discussion tonight and will be taken at Agenda item 11 (see Minute No.8 below)'.

2. Declarations of interest (agenda item no. 3)

None declared.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (agenda item no. 2)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2017 were confirmed as a correct record.

Action update

1. Item 6 PCC funding - this would not be a regular or frequent event but might happen occasionally;
2. Item 7c OPWG - money to remain with the Group to be spent as appropriate;
3. Item 9 (11) - note to Penny Germon had been sent, no reply received at current time.

4. Public Forum (agenda item no. 4)

None received.

5. NP Coordinator report (agenda item no. 5)

The NP received a report from the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator regarding forum updates, current financial situation and funding requests.

Two funding requests were considered –

1. Provision of a dog/litter bin in a position near to the main gate of Stoke Lodge. The cost of the bin included 12 years of regular emptying and totalled £3,700;
2. The replacement of the current gate (rose garden entrance) at Canford Park at a total cost of £3,300.

On both requests being put to the vote the Neighbourhood Committee voted unanimously in favour.

Resolved - that

1. The provision of a dog/litter bin in a position near to the main gate of Stoke Lodge at a total cost of £3,700, including the cost of the bin and 12 years of regular emptying, be approved;
2. The replacement of the current gate (rose garden entrance) at Canford Park at a total cost of £3,300, be approved.
3. The three recent forum updates be noted;
4. The current budget of the NP, be noted.

6. Police update (agenda item no. 6)

No update was given due to the absence of the Police representative.

7. Transport (agenda item no. 7)

The report was noted. The Chairman emphasised the memorandum of understanding relating to the sum of £70,000 toward crossing improvements at the junction of Westbury Road/Westbury Hill.

8. March 2017 WGOP Notes (agenda item no. 8)

The report was noted. The Group would continue its work with a smaller number and share electronic information. Linkage would be considered subject to obtaining funding of £500.

9. Communications, May 2017 (agenda item no. 9)

The report was noted. Comments to be deferred until end of the meeting when there might be more to include.

10 Tree report (agenda item no. 10)

The report was noted. NP also acknowledged that a recent decision by the Council to 'slash' the maintenance budget could possibly lead to a significant loss of trees.

Regarding tree planting proposals there was uncertainty about the actual costs of planting per tree pending further discussions so the Neighbourhood Committee was requested to agree two plans on an either or basis, namely –

Plan A 29 trees if at £295 per tree;

OR

Plan B 11 trees if at £765 per tree;

On being put to the vote the Neighbourhood Committee unanimously –

Resolved – to approve, Plan A or Plan B tree planting schemes, as appropriate, depending on the final cost of the tree planting which would be confirmed at a later date.

11 Environment (agenda item no.)

The report was noted and that existing projects would be progressed with the help of the Neighbourhood Coordinator.

12 Future arrangements for SB, W-o-T & H (agenda item no. 11)

The NP discussed future arrangements which included –

1. Stoke Bishop Ward – a forum to be created to include local councillors, public, police and other local organisations and to discuss local issues and seek possible sources of funding. This would be trialled for one year to assess effectiveness with first meeting being held in September at hopefully a free venue. Some funding anticipated from Sneyd Park Residents Association;
2. Westbury-on-Trym – a similar approach to Stoke Bishop but a joint forum with Henleaze to form a Parish Council might also be considered. Forum to be held quarterly with first meeting in October. If no funding was available then free venues would be sought and/or possible ‘piggy bank’ funds from other organisations in the interim;
3. Henleaze – similar to above with quarterly meetings and hopefully would be able to obtain free venues at the local library or a room at the Eastfield Inn;

All members recognised the importance of maintaining momentum and promoting future forum meetings. All efforts would be made to seek funds and where possible to sharing of data having regard to data protection issues.

13 Section 106 and CIL funds - Future arrangements (agenda item no. 12)

The Chair commented that S106 was no longer the main issue as it was being replaced increasingly by CIL. It was noted that currently 85% of CIL funds were spent by the Council centrally and that there was a proposal by the Council to have greater control of the remaining 15% that was previously devolved to Wards where the fund was generated, as per legislation, and that this would be subject to consultation.

It was considered vital that a proactive response was made to the consultation to protect the funding of local projects by CIL. It was proposed that a closed meeting be held involving local councillors and ward representatives to discuss how best to respond to the consultation. It was agreed that this meeting be held at 7 pm on Monday 19 June 2017 at Sea Mills library.

14 Communications for future meetings

It was considered that more use be made of local publications such as BS9 and The Voice, in addition to utilise social media such as Facebook and the Knowle West Media Centre’s website. It was agreed to place an advert outlining future arrangements in all these sources.

15 Epitaph

The Chair gave the following Epitaph -

'Before I invite comments under any other business and bring the curtain down on this phase of the NP there are a few comments that I would like to make.

Over the past 6 or 7 years we have delivered over 350 projects, requested by the community for the community.

We have used circa £1.5m of devolved funds to successfully achieve this varied list of projects for the Community

Having identified our priorities at the onset we have maintained open and diverse working groups to develop and scrutinise all the proposals and made recommendations to adopt the most worthy

We have maintained regular Open Forums where we have reported progress and sought new issues or items of concern

We have presented well considered and well prepared reports at the Neighbourhood Partnership and Neighbourhood Committee meetings

We have abided by, and succeeded despite, the top down bureaucracy imposed by BCC.

We have been aided in a sterling fashion by the front line BCC officers allocated to our NP and they deserve our thanks for persevering and working their magic (in mysterious ways) on our behalf.

But most of all we have succeeded where others have failed because of the dedicated band of brothers (and sisters) who brought together their various skills and competences in their quest to improve the Community for the benefit of others. They have given their time freely and unselfishly with only the occasional moan.

I must therefore thank all members of the Community who have attended or served the NP and remember we have been highly successful because of their efforts.

But all life forms must evolve if they are to survive. This is the end of one chapter. But the next chapter is just starting and we must give it a chance to develop.

Once again my thanks to all those who have supported the NP to date and I look forward to seeing you at the next round of Forums.

Please give yourself a well-deserved round of applause.'

In addition Councillor Gollop expressed his sincere thanks to the work of all the members of the NP and in particular to the Chairman David Mayer who he felt had worked 'in a statesmanlike way dealing with, sometimes, difficult issues in an exemplar way'.

16 Any other business

None received.

Meeting ended at 8.45 pm

CHAIR _____

