



## **Stoke Bishop, Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze Neighbourhood Partnership 7.00 pm, 5 December 2016**

### **Ward Councillors**

**Westbury - on - Trym and Henleaze** - Clare Champion-Smith, Geoff Gollop, Liz Radford;

**Stoke Bishop** - Peter Abraham, John Goulandris;

### **Neighbourhood Partnership Ward Members**

**Stoke Bishop** - Ella Davies, Graham Donald, Roger Gamlin, Peter Robottom, Peter Weeks;

**Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze** - Alan Aburrow, Valerie Bishop, Helen Furber, David Mayer, Vacancy x 2;

**Other representatives** - Paul Bolton-Jones (Police Neighbourhood Manager), Jenny Hodges (Equalities representative), Vacancy (Neighbourhood Watch representative), Stephanie French (Tree representative);

Andrew McGrath-Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Steve Gregory-Clerk to the Neighbourhood Partnership, Councillor Asher Craig Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods.

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

Apologies were received from Peter Robottom, Ella Davies, Valerie Bishop, Paul Bolton-Jones, Peter Weeks, Jenny Hodges.

### **1 (a) Budget Freeze**

The Neighbourhood Partnership was informed that Bristol City Council had announced a total freeze on non-essential spending to enable it to balance its annual budget for 2016/17 and to prepare for a five-year £92m financial budget reduction from next April to include non-essential maintenance, recruitment and new or renewed contracts for goods and services.

The spending freeze, which included Community Infrastructure Levy money, would remain in place until the Council had firm plans for a balanced budget this year and next, along with a more developed five-year plan. Section 106 money, however, was not currently constrained under this arrangement.

The spending freeze would have serious implications for the Neighbourhood Partnership's Wellbeing general budget as all council spending had been suspended including money that had been agreed to spend previously but had not yet been paid out to applicants.

With regard to proposed spending as set out in the Wellbeing report for this meeting, the Neighbourhood Partnership felt that applications could be approved subject to it being made absolutely clear that the

approval would be subject to any financial decision by Bristol City Council regarding release of funds. A suitable form of wording would be composed to explain the current situation to wellbeing applicants explaining that although their applications had been approved the money was not yet available. Members of the Neighbourhood Committee confirmed that they would do all they could to ensure that spending commitments were honoured.

It was considered that some S.106 money could be used to fund specific schemes in place of the general budget. It was also requested that clarification be sought from the Planning Obligations Manager (S.106 money) with regard to the funding of street trees in relation to the Parks and Gardens definition.

## **2. Declarations of Interest (agenda item no. 2)**

***Councillor Liz Radford expressed an interest as a member of St. Peter's Church and Westbury Park Church in respect of grant applications.***

## **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (agenda item no. 3)**

***The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2016 were confirmed as a correct record, as amended at the Neighbourhood Partnership's pre-meeting, and signed by the Chair.***

## **4. Public Forum (agenda item no. 4)**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Number</b>
Road safety - Julian Road/Church Road, Sneyd Park	Brenda Hugill	1
Serious highway safety issues Grange Court Road, Westbury on Trym	Thea Gregory	2

***Comments on public forum statement(s) –***

### ***(1) Road safety - Julian Road/Church Road, Sneyd Park***

***The Neighbourhood Partnership noted the concerns raised during the public session and that this had been the subject of a petition to Bristol City Council in September of this year. The Transport Working Group Chairman (Alan Aburrow) said that he had contacted highway officer dealing with this issue and had received the following information –***

*'The petition had been responded to and measures had already been undertaken (removal of centreline, introduced road narrows signs and spoken to the bus companies). Road safety funding could not be used as there were greater needs elsewhere and any further measures would need to be funded through the NP.*

*There were no other immediate measures to consider. It seemed to be a very localised issue and no other complaints had been received about it.*

*Prior to this the issue was about hedges overgrowing the footpath and making it too narrow to pass. These have subsequently been cut back following threats of enforcement action.'*

### ***(2) Highway safety issues Grange Court Road, Westbury on Trym***

The Neighbourhood Partnership noted the concerns raised during the public session and was sympathetic to the points as emphasised. The Transport Working Group Chairman (Alan Aburrow) undertook to respond to the statement author to explain that due to the recent spending freeze the Neighbourhood Partnership was not in a position to allocate any funds for new revenue schemes, such as minor traffic schemes, until advised otherwise. With regard to the parking issues in Grange Court Road, this had already been logged in the Council's "Traffic Choices" Tracker system and had previously been reviewed by the Transport Working Group.

## 5. Police update (agenda item no. 5)

There was no update for this meeting. The Chairman asked that statistics for the area be chased up. Neighbourhood Co-ordinator agreed to do.

## 6. Wellbeing (for decision) (including UWE domestic abuse application discussion) (agenda item no. 6)

### Wellbeing (including UWE domestic abuse application)

The Partnership received a report of the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator regarding the allocation and recommendations of the Wellbeing Panel.

On being put to the vote the Neighbourhood Committee voted and unanimously -

**Resolved - that subject to applicants being clearly informed of the Council's current spending freeze and that money would not be released until this had been resolved, the current Well Being allocation be noted and the funding allocation approved as set out below -**

Applicant	Amount requested/ purpose	Decision
Bristol Noise	£500 An event in Sea Mills	Assurance was given that the event was not promoting religious practice Recommendation: £500
Queens Gate Neighbourhood Watch	£360 Painting of railings and kissing gate	Recommendation: £360
St Alban's Players	£3,000 Build a new stage 'apron' to enable larger productions	Recommendation: £3,000
Westbury Library Users' Group	Up to £1,500 Provide a notice board outside the library	Panel wanted the applicant to decide what specifications it wished for the notice board. <u>Afternote (14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016):</u> Following investigation of a variety of sizes and fixtures, the applicant had agreed the following price for a single sided notice board attached to the railings: Board and header: £465 Installation & delivery £149 <u>Total = £614</u>

Applicant	Amount requested/ purpose	Decision
		Recommendation: £614

## 20. (a) UWE Domestic Abuse application

The Neighbourhood Partnership was reminded that at its last meeting an application from the University of the West of England in respect of domestic abuse issues was considered and deferred for further information. The Project proposed running a conference and a subsequent training programme for volunteers to help ‘intervene’ in domestic dispute incidence. The amount requested was £1,209.40. Discussions with the Applicant’s had taken place to find out more detail and to share views. The funding to be subject to all five north Bristol Neighbourhood Partnerships contributing to the Project.

The Neighbourhood Committee members considered the Application further and on being put to the vote there were three in favour and two abstentions.

**Resolved – that subject to the Applicant being clearly informed of the Council’s current spending freeze and that money would not be released until this had been resolved, funding of the University of the West of England Domestic Abuse Project for £1,209.40 be approved subject to all five north Bristol Neighbourhood Partnerships contributing to the Project.**

## 20. (b) Transformers Youth Fund

The Neighbourhood Partnership was reminded that the Avon and Somerset Police Community Trust had been managing the Transformers Fund, a small grant aimed at working with young people and delivering youth activities. The Trust had found that it had been difficult to attract enough projects and therefore had agreed to devolve £5,000 of the fund to each of Bristol’s Neighbourhood Partnerships.

The fund would be administered through the Neighbourhood Partnership Well Being Small Grants Process, and can be allocated from September this year. All funds must be allocated by March 2017 and all projects must be finished by February 2018. Monitoring must be submitted by applicants one month after the end of their project the last monitoring should be received no later than 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

**Resolved – that £5,000 Transformers Youth Funding be accepted and that the Neighbourhood Partnership abide by the criteria as set out in the report.**

## 7. Reports from working groups (agenda item no. 7)

### Feedback from Working Groups

#### Environment and Tree Champion’s report

The Neighbourhood Partnership noted the report. There were three requests for funding two from S.106 funds and one, Old Quarry Sensory Garden Project, from the general budget. Given the

recent spending freeze it was proposed to fund the Old Quarry Sensory Garden Project from the S.106 fund also as this source of money was exempt from the spending freeze.

Two other items were also proposed for resolution by the Neighbourhood Committee -

(1) The cost of the design work for the Old Quarry sensory garden be funded from S106 (not CIL) up to a maximum of £4k and the design work for Stoke Lodge sensory garden be funded from S106 up to a maximum of £4k;

(2) Maximum spend on Old Quarry Sensory Garden Project and Stoke Lodge Sensory Garden, funded from S106, be £10k each;

On being put to the vote the Neighbourhood Committee voted unanimously in favour of the proposals as set out above.

A vote was then taken on all three projects as recommended by the Environment Working Group, Councillor Liz Radford did not take part in the vote in respect of recommendation 1 due to a declaration of interest.

On being put to the vote the Neighbourhood Committee unanimously –

**Resolved –**

- 1. That the application by the Parish Church Westbury Park for kitchen works be approved with funding of £7,646,59 to be released from the Neighbourhood Partnership's S106 fund from the 99 Devonshire Road Project;**
- 2. That the funding source for the Old Quarry Sensory Garden Project Design, up to a maximum of £4k, be approved and be funded from the Neighbourhood Partnership's S106 fund;**
- 3. The Stoke Lodge Sensory Garden Project Design, up to a maximum of £4k, be approved and be funded from the Neighbourhood Partnership's S106 fund;**
- 4. The Old Quarry Sensory Garden Project installation works and the Stoke Lodge Sensory Garden Project installation works be approved and be funded from the Neighbourhood Partnerships S106 fund up to a maximum of £10k each;**
- 5. Resolutions 2, 3 & 4 to be funded from the remaining S106 funds from the Hiatt Baker project, The Former Dairy Crest Depot Project and the 21 North View Project.**

### **Tree report**

Tree report and verbal update was noted.

Proposal for Neighbourhood Committee to endorse a total £9,145 for spend on replacement trees as set out in the report 25 plus 6 trees) from the general budget if and when money became available.

On being put to the vote the Neighbourhood Committee unanimously -

**Resolved - to endorse a total £9,145 for spend on replacement trees as set out in the report 25 plus 6 trees) from the general budget subject to the spending freeze and that money would not be released until this had been resolved.**

### Budget freeze

At this point of the meeting the Neighbourhood Partnership invited Councillor Asher Craig Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods to speak about the current spending freeze.

The following points provide a summary of the discussion and points raised –

1. Bristol City Council needed to make a further reduction of £27.5m in the financial year 2016/17 due to an unforeseen deficit;
2. The spending freeze would only affect revenue spending, not capital;
3. As a result of this all non-essential Council spending would be frozen excluding S.106 money and possibly CIL money;
4. Current spending on NP's amounted to £1.1m per annum with 80% of the cost related to staffing;
5. Anticipated that in the future NP's would save between 25% and 75% of costs with a 'bottom up' approach to governance;
6. NP's in the future would not be 'one size fits all' but would reflect the wishes of each respective local community;
7. A Steering Group would meet in the near future to consider all options;
8. Parks budget to be reduced and noted that Head of Parks position not filled and now unlikely to be due to recruitment freeze;
9. The Council's budget would be set at its meeting on 21 February, 2017;
10. An event would be held in January/February to consider future options with all NP's and wider community organisations invited to take part and share ideas to reorganise how to deliver future NP schemes and projects.

Members expressed concern about how this would affect the ongoing work of the NP and the impact on the local community particularly as it had a good record of achieving its objectives when funding was available. For applications approved today it was important to have suitable wording so that applicants clearly understood the implications of the spending freeze even if their projects had been approved.

### **(b) Transport**

The Neighbourhood Partnership/Committee noted the report and the decisions that were required to be taken.

The Transport Working Group Chairman had received an update from the Programme Manager, Strategic City Transport, on progress with the CPNN Traffic Mitigation Proposals which was as follows -

“The A4018 Corridor Study was originally forecast to be complete by end of November 2016 but will now be completed in February 2017.

The data collection went well and the base model (representation of the current situation) is complete and verified. Several scenarios will now be run through the model to assess the impact of development at CPNN, and the implementation of the proposed measures on the A4018 to mitigate the impact. Nearer the completion of the study I will be arranging a meeting with

Councillors and community representatives to present the model, alongside the report on the scenario testing.”

The Partnership noted that on street parking by students at Bristol University had made some progress with all students being asked not to bring cars to Bristol after the Christmas break to help alleviate the parking issues in the NP area. It was noted that other universities eg Reading had formally enforced no parking of its student population on residential streets. This option would be pursued with Bristol University.

After further consideration the Neighbourhood Partnership considered the recommendations in the report and agreed as follows -

### **Neighbourhood Partnership**

- 1. That the continuing lack of progress with publishing the results of the traffic survey that was a prelude to the possible removal of the remaining section of bus lane on the approach to the White Tree roundabout, or to justify its retention, be noted;**
- 2. To note that the Neighbourhood Partnership currently had a balance of £11,026 in its devolved Minor Traffic Schemes budget;**
- 3. That the progress of the Minor Traffic Schemes and Minor Works Projects previously sanctioned by the Neighbourhood Partnership be noted;**
- 4. To note that currently there were requests to fund 21 Minor Traffic Schemes across the Neighbourhood Partnership, including the provision of seven new Zebra Crossings.**

### **Neighbourhood Committee**

**Resolved - that the allocation of £10k from the NP’s devolved budget to cover work to tighten-up the junction at Bell Barn Road/Shirehampton Road by way of new pavement provision and pavement build outs etc, be approved, subject to it being noted that due to the current revenue spending freeze, the Neighbourhood Partnership would not be in a position to proceed with the works until advised otherwise.**

#### **(c) Older people**

The report was noted including adoption of a new constitution.

#### **(d) Communication**

The report was noted.

#### **(e) Governance**

No report this time.

### **8. Neighbourhood Coordinator's report (agenda item no. 8)**

The Partnership considered a report of the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator updating on various issues.

**Resolved – that**

- 1. The date of the next forums be noted;**
- 2. The current budget of the NP be noted;**
- 3. The meeting schedule and proposed dates be noted and the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator be notified of changes in due course;**
- 4. The updates on the NP's devolved budgets and the update on non-devolved S106 funding allocated to the NP area be noted;**
- 5. The BCC Corporate Strategy 2017-22, the potential cuts to NP funding and the review of the NP structure be noted;**
- 6. The description of the upcoming Clean Streets Campaign be noted and that the NP Environmental Working Group progress involvement in the campaign.**

**9. Any other business (agenda item no. )**

- (1) W-o-T library to respond to budget cuts, information could be shared if others found it helpful;
- (2) Fencing of Stoke Lodge Parkland/Playing Fields planning application not yet delegated to a Development Control Committee, important for those who wish to, to send in written objections to the proposal.

**Date of the Next Meeting:** 7.00 pm, Monday, 6 March 2017, Stoke Bishop Primary School, Cedar Park, Stoke Bishop, Bristol

Meeting ended at 9.40 pm

**CHAIR** \_\_\_\_\_



