

Neil Burwell Neighbourhood Officer Report – 06 March 2017

Play Equipment Installation – Ashley Street and Albion Road Parks (Easton and Ashley)

All work to install new play equipment into Ashley Street Park and Albion Road Park has ceased as a result of the Bristol City Council spending freeze. Specifications have been agreed for both parks and designs received for one of them. There will be no further available funds to invest in the installation of play equipment other than Section 106 and CIL. The Environmental Sub Group plan to approach the Neighbourhood Partnership with a proposal to fund these two play areas from Section 106 and CIL, as so much work has already been invested to progress the projects. The total amount of funding required is £65,000.00.

Hepburn Road (Ashley)

Hepburn Road has experienced a large amount of anti-social behaviour, drug dealing, fly tipping and vandalism in recent months. The Neighbourhood Partnership Team has been supporting a Police led multi-agency approach to tackle this issue.

Practical environmental improvements such as tackling fly-tipping, improving derelict buildings and improving lighting have been initiated with a degree of success (although constant damage to street lighting is proving a challenge). The work of the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team to encourage building owners to improve their property has made significant improvements.

A recent joint drop in between the Police and the Neighbourhood Management team enabled local residents of the surrounding area to report their concerns and experiences in person.

A planned new development in Hepburn Road will eventually transform the location currently experiencing problems.

There is much work still to be done to bring this situation to a satisfactory close including engaging with some of the businesses on Stokes Croft to take more of an active part in controlling the behaviour of their customers; however, positive progress has been made.

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St Paul's Fireworks Group (Ashley)

Work is continuing to support this group but it has strong local membership with many skills to deliver an exciting and inclusive event this coming November. Local artists, Circomedia, Full Circle, Sustrans, The Brunswick and Portland Association, Housing Associations and the BDP are all supporting this work. It is more than capable of working independently from NP or local authority support (although some funding for this significant event would of course be welcome). A project co-ordinator and fund raiser is being sought.

Ashley Forum Meeting (Ashley)

What was likely to be the very last Ashley Forum in the style we have come to know it was held on Monday 16 January at St Paul's Learning and Family Centre. The main focus of the meeting was the proposed Bristol City Council Corporate Strategy and the impact of the savings incorporated within it. The impact of this on the structure and working of Neighbourhood Partnerships, the access that local people have to participate in democratic decision making and the availability of resources to support communities dominated the discussions. The discussion was led by local Councillors Jude English and Mike Davies. There was a great sense that those local people attending, wished to let the current political administration know of their concerns regarding the impact of the proposed budget.

There are no further Forum meetings planned.

Tree Planting (Ashley, Easton and Lawrence Hill)

The new trees for Ashley, Easton and Lawrence Hill are due to arrive towards the end of February and will be planted throughout March. There was a slight problem when we were informed that trees could not be planted in grass verges using Section 106 funds intended for Parks, as these are considered not to be green spaces but part of the Highway. New locations have been identified close to the original and land searches are currently being carried out. All trees are planned to be in the ground by the end of March 2017.

Graffiti Removal (Ashley)

Following the Neighbourhood Partnership decision to invest £27,000 in removing tagging style graffiti from a target area in St Paul's, equip continuing cleaning and train and support volunteers; Work has begun to collect indemnity forms from recipient business and homes that will be professionally cleaned. The contract cleaning is planned to begin by the end of February (but at the time of writing this report, this has not been confirmed).

Fishponds Triangle (Easton)

Joint work has been taking place with the neighbouring Greater Fishponds NP, the Police and other partners to tackle issues in a residential area sandwiched between Fishponds Road and the M32. Littering, fly-tipping, drug use, street sex work, noise nuisance and traffic issues are all impacting on the quality of life of local people.

The Stapleton Road bin collection pilot, joint Police and Council enforcement, support from housing providers and BCC Private Lettings, support from street based outreach services and liaison with residents and community groups is resulting in a reduction in incidents.

Gaunts Ham Park (Lawrence Hill)

The Neighbourhood Officer is supporting work in Gaunts Ham Park to tackle drug use, drug dealing, noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour. This work is being led by the Police in response to community concerns and BCC Parks are responding to key maintenance and design issues to help address some of the incidents.

There are contributions being made by Lawrence Hill Church and the Bristol Drugs Project to support vulnerable people, with a view to also reducing some of the problems associated with drug use, alcohol and reported sexual activity.

The relocation of litter bins and the replacement of the perimeter fence on the multi-use games area will improve the tidiness of the park and provide a sense that the area is being looked after.

This has been a recurring problem in this park over the years and will require regular surveillance and management if a reduction is to be sustained; which will be a challenge during times of reduced resourcing.

Villiers Road

Devon Road bridge