



## MY NEIGHBOURHOOD



### Bishopston, Cotham and Redland NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**Report of:** Andrew McGrath – Communities & Neighbourhoods

**Title:** Neighbourhood Co-ordinator

**Contact Telephone Number:** 0117 9036436

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS.** The NP is asked:

1. To **note** the NP's current CIL and S106 balance, and to **agree** to return the three unspent CIL allocations to the NP's CIL budget
2. To **agree** to fund the two requests for CIL funding from the NP's Street Scene Group (2.1 & 2.2)
3. To **note** the brief update regarding the development of the Community Partnership. A verbal update will be provided on the most recent planning meeting
4. To **note** that a breakdown of the NP's total project expenditure will be provided as a separate report

#### **1. Current CIL and S106 situation**

1.1 Please see below for the breakdown of all the NP's CIL and S106 commitments, and the current position.

1.2 As the NP is aware, the CIL process is being overhauled with the demise of NPs. Suggestions put to councillors and active NP residents to date propose a process whereby numbers of wards are clustered together and these wards' CIL payments put in to a single pot that organisations from these wards can bid in to for funds for their projects.

1.3 The principle behind this proposal is to enable wards that have historically not produced much CIL to access some of these funds. It is a way of evening out some of the disparities between NP areas. For the record, BCR has generated above average amounts of CIL, but not by a notable margin. Whilst a few NPs have generated CIL funds of hundreds of thousands of pounds, several have generated less than £20k.

1.4 The clusters are likely to be between 6-10 wards. It has been suggested that the allocation of funds could be decided at one or two meetings per year. The bidding requirements and management of the process have yet to be finalised.

1.5 A consultation will take place over the summer (once the general election has been held) giving residents options for what they think would be the best number of wards in the clusters.

### 1.6 All CIL and S106 decisions made by the NP:

January 2017

**S106:** £84,595.16 Ashley Down Green playground (will now be actioned)

October 2016:

**CIL:** £3,500 Ashley Down Park noticeboards (not yet actioned. Scheduled)

**CIL:** £11,000 Benches for Cotham Gardens/Lovers Walk (not yet. Scheduled)

**CIL:** £5,717 part of contribution to High Kingsdown playground (going through)

June 2016:

**CIL:** £5,076 for small grants – (£876 + £2,000 + £2,200) (going through)

**CIL:** £2,000 (up to) on minor signs & lines (No request made from Highways. Money can return to the NP)

April 2016:

**CIL:** £300 new bin outside Maplin's (Bristol Waste have replaced this bin at no charge to the NP)

Jan 2016:

**CIL:** £1,000 for bike stand installation (not yet used. No requests received)

**S106:** £5,951 St Andrew's Park loos (now being drawn down)

**CIL:** (S106 for workshop element) = £4,139.88 Pitch and Putt Horfield Common (FoHC). Paid

October 2015: None; June 2015: None; January 2015: None; October 2014: None;

June 2014: None

1.7 The current **S106** balance is as follows:

15/01329 / 57 to 59 Springfield Road, Cotham / ...SC14	<b>£3,066.32</b>	No Time Limit	The provision and maintenance of tree planting either on-street or in public open space within a one mile radius of Springfield Road
07/01925 / 99B and 99C Redland Road, Redland / ...S952	<b>£8,613.64</b>  Original total = <b>£14,564.64</b>  <b>£5,951</b> drawn down for St Andrews Park loos	No Time Limit	The provision of improvements to Parks and Open Spaces within one mile of 99 Redland Road

1.8 The current *uncommitted* **CIL** total is = **£869**

However, we have never used the following *committed* funds:

- £1,000 bike stands
- £300 bin outside Maplin's (replaced by Bristol Waste at no charge to the NP)
- £2,000 Minor Signs & Lines (BCC Highways)

Total *committed* funds that haven't been spent = **£3,300**

Total *uncommitted* + *committed but unspent* = **£4,169**

1.9 The Neighbourhood Committee is requested to **discuss and agree** to return the three committed CIL allocations that haven't been spent on their intended projects, to the NP's CIL budget. By doing so, it will release sufficient CIL funds to enable the two proposals below to be agreed, should it wish to do so.

1.91 Two requests for CIL funds have been made to this meeting (see 2.1 & 2.2 below). Coordinators have been directed to request NPs not to make requests for CIL funds that do not have an agreed process for delivery. This is due to the shrinking capacity of officers to deliver projects, particularly in Highways and the Parks team. The Street Scene requests below have the advantage of being deliverable without agreed officer input (apart from some agreed minor input from the Coordinator to place the order for the chairs).

## **2. CIL requests**

The Street Scene Group is making two requests for CIL funding.

2.1 To support the new Gloucester Road Library as a community meeting venue, the Neighbourhood Committee is **asked to agree** to provide **£1,154 CIL funds** for 20 light, foldable stacking chairs plus a purpose built trolley for storage.

2.2 The Neighbourhood Committee is **asked to agree** to provide **£3,000 of CIL funds** to enable the Street Scene Group to carry out its tasks for the remainder of the year. Details of these tasks to be provided at the NP meeting

## **3. Future arrangements**

3.1 At the two most recent combined BCR forums the development of a community partnership (CP) to replace the NP was discussed and agreed by attendees. Certain starting principles were agreed. These included not starting with firm borders (to encourage those interested in joining but sitting just outside the CP area), a

membership system that enables organisation and individual members, and a commitment to include and involve the councillors in its work.

3.2 At the Forum on 25<sup>th</sup> April, it was agreed to progress the development of the CP via a steering group. The membership of the CP steering group is open to all interested parties, including those from the current NP, other local organisations and individuals. The first steering group meeting was held on 24<sup>th</sup> May. A verbal update on that meeting will be provided at the NP meeting. The notes from the 25<sup>th</sup> April forum are attached as Appendix 1

#### **4. BCR NP's expenditure**

4.1 A detailed breakdown of all of the NP's expenditure since its inaugural meeting in March 2010 will be provided to NP members at the NP.

## **BCR Forum – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

Approximately 29 residents attended

Councillor Eleanor Combley introduced the meeting and welcomed attendees.

The NPs are ending. So, what are we going to do to keep local democracy healthy? We know that most attendees at the last forum stated their appreciation of the 2-way conversation that the NP provides between residents and BCC. The NP brought people together. The NPs also enhanced the status of local councillors by providing them with an opportunity to reflect local opinions.

At the last forum we provisionally agreed to develop a Community Partnership (CP). We have decided that, for now, we will retain the current BCR NP boundaries, but be relaxed about 'fuzzy' borders. In other words we will not exclude neighbourhoods that feel they have interests in common with BCR but sit just outside of the ward boundaries. The borders of the CP will be reviewed in a year's time.

With regard to future funding, this hasn't been finalised yet. It is likely that councillors will be able to forward small amounts of funds to local organisations for such things as hall hire, publicity materials etc. Councillors will probably also be given an amount of money that they can distribute to local causes and organisations to help them undertake small projects. Again, the amounts have yet to be decided.

It is probable that a larger source of funding will come from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charges made on local building developments. Over the last 3 years, the NP has received 15% of CIL funds generated in the NP area. This has totalled approximately £30k in that time. Whilst this has been very useful to the NP for a range of local projects, it is likely that a new format for allocating these funds will be introduced. This is because whilst some current NP areas generate reasonable amounts of CIL, others have generated very little due to the fact very little development has taken place within their borders. Such areas have tended to be in more deprived neighbourhoods. A wider distribution of CIL funds will reduce these unequal allocations. This issue will be consulted on over the summer.

The benefits of having a CP once the NP has ended, was summed up by Liz Kew, who spoke of the importance of a central organisation being vital to the on-going success of the BCR Street Scene Group. It is needed to generate ideas, issues and discussions on the range of street scene challenges affecting the area.

**Breakout Groups.** At this point the meeting was invited to break in to smaller groups to discuss what a future CP might look like; the CP's structure, its membership, the role of councillors, and how it will be managed.

*Awaiting breakout groups' feedback. To be included here*

**Transition process from the NP to a new CP.** Roger Gimson, Chair of the NP, informed the meeting that there will be numerous consultations over the summer, on a range of linked issues. Topics such as the future management of parks, the Library Service, local democracy following the demise of NPs, and several others, will be conducted.

If the idea of a CP is to succeed, help is needed. It will not be enough to rely on those residents currently actively involved in the NP. Some may choose to continue, others will move on. New blood is needed.

BCR is holding its final NP meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> June (**7.00pm at Colston's Primary School**). It is hoped that this will also be the launch of the new CP, albeit an interim body to steer the development of the organisation. This gives us time to recruit people who wish to have a role in developing the new CP.

Roger informed the meeting that BCR NP is submitting a Transition Plan to BCC. It makes several requests, including:

- Where possible, free access to meeting spaces should be provided to enable the new CP to develop its structure
- Access to the current contact lists held by BCR NP, to enhance its recruitment drive and communication with the local community
- Continue to be able to use the NP's website ([bcrrnp.org.uk](http://bcrrnp.org.uk))
- Continuing support to the vital work of the Street Scene Group to ensure it has the tools and materials to continue its work of keeping the area clean and controlling graffiti and fly-posting
- Officer support with publicity, leafleting, and fundraising

### **Comments on the proposed transition plan:**

There was general support for these points. It was pointed out that rather than asking for volunteers, people should be asked what they can specifically contribute. For example social media, web, fundraising.

We need more help with social media. This is undoubtedly the best way to communicate with residents.

Several ideas were raised regarding how the new CP can communicate. These will be brought up when the interim steering group of the CP meets.

**How to get involved.** Councillor Martin Fodor asked attendees to ensure they communicate the idea of the CP to their own organisations. We need local organisations to be involved in this, otherwise it won't work. A quick run through of which local groups were present came up with the following:

- Redland and Cotham Amenities Society
- Redland Green Community Group
- BCR Energy Group
- Westbury Park Community Association
- Bishopston Society

- Friends of St Andrews Park
- BCR Street Scene Group
- Chandos Road Neighbourhood Association
- Redland Parish Church
- Sustainable Bishopston
- Sustainable Redland
- Neighbourhood Watch

If these groups can contribute to the CP's development it would be a great start. There are plenty of other local organisations as well. Efforts will be made to encourage their involvement. Other possible groups include: PTFAs, Street Party groups, church groups etc

There are many skills in the BCR community that could make a huge contribution to the growth of the CP.

Eleanor closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

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## **BCR Combined Neighbourhood Forum**

Feedback from breakout group session on future needs for community partnership

### **Group 1**

- Needs a clear purpose;
- People to work with Councillors for the community;
- Reach more people involved;
- Help community groups collaborate and /or share efforts;
- Incentives for involvement;
- Needs to be 'local' – smaller groups;
- Times/places/frequency;
- Be a network that is KNOWN!!
- Fair(s), show(s), etc. – who's active, what they do e.g. GRC May Fair;
- Focal point

### **Group 2**

- Currently groups and reps like this;
- Hard to recruit e.g. traders, students, etc.
- Might evolve – not set in stone;
- Leave it loose – representative of any group in the area;
- Is BCR too big? Maybe not reinvent the wheel;
- Reporting back to groups means many more people are involved than appear at meetings;
- Individuals should be welcomed and can be pointed to groups;
- Liz runs Streetscene Group over wide area;
- What we have isn't perfect;
- Will need formal/legal structure, Chair, Secretary, etc. and constitution and bank account;
- Need to ensure S106 is spent;
- Charges on the door BAD IDEA;
- Donations from community groups - subscriptions from associated organisations;
- How much can Councillors' meeting money cover?
- Ward pages on BCC website;
- Like idea of hosting/ rotating meetings and venues;
- Get more Neighbourhood Watch groups involved;

### **Group 3**

- Must have support of local Councillors;
- Legitimacy;
- Will community groups get actively involved?
- 3-4 Forums per year;
- Working groups arise from issues;

- Community groups ‘associate’ with Community Partnership;
- Start with simple structure and evolve as necessary;

**Group 4**

- Group or individuals – start with people!
- Share skills, suggestion box, networking opportunities and bring people together;
- Work with Councillors and community groups on issues such as wellbeing, mental health, social isolation and traffic management as well as streetscene and parks;

