

BCR NP Streetscene Group report – October 2016

The NP Committee is asked to agree further funding of £6,890 and the Neighbourhood Partnership to note the following points:

Funding requirements

Small group working parties have made a huge difference to the amount of work delivered this summer. There have been seven active volunteers. All the 2016/17 grant money is now committed so additional funds are needed to continue our work throughout autumn and winter.

We require the following:

- Garage rental £840
- Lockable COSHH cupboard £150
- Nordic Pioneer 5 days £3,000
- Graffiti kits x10 £400
- Paint AGC etc. £2,500

Total £6,890

Storage facilities

That at the October NP meeting it was noted that finding a centrally located secure storage was essential. That it needed to be accessible to all volunteers. After several failed attempts a lockup garage has now been located. The NP is asked to fund this facility for a year at a cost of £840 per annum. Liz Kew has offered to supply adjustable storage racks. We will also require a secure storage cupboard to comply with COSHH regulations for cleaning chemicals.

Group updates

There has been only periodic attendance by any ward Councillors but we have benefited by the regular attendance of Michael Prince and Trudy Feeney and their continued support. The core resident group has increased to include Graham Dean.

Rob Umphray and Liz Kew have met with Bristol Waste Company to discuss how the relationship will continue since the award of the new contract. A named liaison is critical for the group's work. We have been assured that there will be a liaison person in future but it seems that these appointments have yet to be made.

We have met the councillors from Ashley Ward to discuss cross boundary working opportunities where it is appropriate.

Litter across the partnership area

Litter is an increasing issue across the partnership area. Street litter bins are being erratically emptied which is leading to increased street litter and side waste. We are also experiencing more issues with recycling being dropped by collection crews and then left behind on collection days. Constant vigilance and reporting is required.

Litter volunteers are conducting weekly litter pics and are reporting increases in the volumes of litter being collected.

Litter bin survey – Gloucester Road showcase bus route

We have conducted a survey of the bus stops along the showcase bus route that runs along Gloucester Road. There are 15 stops that fall into the partnership area. Only 5 bus stops have a bin. A number of the stops have recently been replaced with new stops, in the main it is the new stops with the highest footfall/passenger usage that do not have bins. We have also discovered that there was a bin at Huggins next to Nevil Road that was removed when the new bus stop was installed. As a consequence, we are seeing increased problems with litter at bus stops. When litter is left in any place, more litter follows. We will be evaluating the results of the survey and to costs of replacing/adding bins in problem areas with a view to approaching the Sustainable Transport Team or the Partnership for funding.

Fly tipping

Like many areas in the city we experience a great deal of fly tipping. Volumes are relatively constant with known hotspot areas identified. By way of example, a 1 mile stretch of Gloucester Road had 11 instances of fly tipping reported in a single day. The bin marking strategy is starting to deliver results albeit slowly. We have had good support from Michael Prince the enforcement officer who has supported education processes as well as issued fines when appropriate.

Tagging

In the May report, we reported a huge increase in tagging. This has been particularly noticeable along Cheltenham road from Arley chapel to the Arches. Most of the residential stone walls were tagged. Winsley Road & Brookfield Road, Redland Court Road and Redland Road all had huge accumulations of graffiti. I am delighted to report that we have undertaken and delivered 9 major projects over the summer period which have involved significant amounts of work for volunteers as well as utilisation of community payback and specialist contractors. This work has been undertaken *in addition* to our core work of removing tags and repairing street art. We have also trained an additional three volunteers who have been supplied with cleaning equipment. I would like to thank and recognise all volunteers and officers that have helped deliver such a massive programme of works in such a short period of time.

Good progress is being made in High Kingsdown, with the plan for graffiti removal and prevention and the active participation of High Kingsdown Residents Association. The specialist contractor will have completed the agreed works shortly. However, street scene issues affecting the Kingsdown Conservation area will not be audited until street scene volunteers have been identified. The core group do not currently have the capacity to expand their work without additional volunteers and resources.

Fly Posting

There has been a significant increase in the amount and types of flyposting that is happening across the partnership area. Flyposting has escalated to include events outside the area, record launches, clothing brand promotion and software products as well as the usual advertising for club nights etc. Formats have changed to include large format posters up to A0 size which are being stuck on with very strong glue.

Volunteers are reporting highly increased numbers of posters and events being advertised well (sometimes months) in advance. We feel that action needs to be taken by the council to avoid further escalation of the issue.

Weeds

That the lack of weed growth control across the whole NP, not just the pesticide free Cotham wards trial is of real concern. Sarah Tyler (Parks) emailed on 5/9/16 that a report has gone to Neighbourhood Management and will in due course be circulated via the NP. The establishment of Buddleia (Purple "bomb site" plant) in the gutter growth is of real concern because once established it will need a strong chemical kill it. Problems may arise with more rain in the autumn not only will leaf fall cause a problem but weeds will stop the flow of water to the drains.

Wider engagement and education

- Our core twitter ID has had over 150,000 impressions and over 22,000 profile visits since May 2016
- We have produced a number of 'how to' videos (e.g. how to present your waste and recycling) which have achieved a high number of retweets and views across various social media platforms
- Numerous neighbourhood officers and councillors have requested our trade bin templates
- A litter pick and litter education session for Archfield Road Beaver Troop was delivered by Alison Bromilow and Daniella Radice with very positive outcomes
- We have connected with other litter volunteers and groups across the city including Fishponds, Stapleton, Frome Valley, Bedminster and Whitchurch. As well as providing support with getting groups up and running we have helped connect individuals to their NPs and Neighbourhood Officers
- We have given a 'hints and tips' interview to Bristol Waste Company which will appear on their website shortly
- We have refreshed and updated the student moving in and residents guides and ensured that these have been distributed. This also includes areas that have recently joined the partnership area following boundary changes. Special thanks to Alison Bromilow and Liz Kew

Forthcoming initiatives

Working with the support of Bristol Council officers and UWE we are about to pilot an initiative to encourage further reuse of student moving out material. The pilot aims help to protect students' deposits from bad landlords and ensure that any residual waste is disposed of properly by the landlord. This is a very low cost initiative and if successful, we would hope to roll the initiative out across the partnership area.

Finally, we can't do what we do without the support of the partnership, officers and volunteers. Thank you all.

Rob Umphray and Liz Kew

BCR NP Streetscene Group