

Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston NP Development Workshop

Saturday 22nd October 2016

Present:

NP residents members: Renee Slater; David Thomas (Shirehampton); John Muse; Tim Leaman (Lawrence Weston); Jonathan Morris (Avonmouth); Rosemary Newman; Andrew Wootton (Sea Mills/Coombe Dingle);

Councillors: Jo Sergeant; Matt Melias; Don Alexander

BCC Staff: Keith Houghton (NP Co-ordinator)

Apologies: Gil Osman (Shirehampton); Christine Chard (Avonmouth)

1. What we want to get out of this morning:

- To take into account the Budget cuts set out in the Corporate Strategy 2017-2022
- Ways of increasing engagement
- Explore the future of NPs – work to a clear time period
- Focus down on what we want to deliver, what and when
- Explore the structure in the ‘four villages’ and their relationship with the NP
- Connections between NP and wider work coming into the neighbourhood, such as Bristol Ageing Better
- How to support local people to take control and take initiatives

2. The Corporate Strategy Budget cuts and our NP

BCC Corporate Strategy 2017-2022 is now out for consultation until Thursday 5th January. Online at: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/council-spending-performance/corporate-strategy-2017-2022-consultation>

The meeting looked at a summary of the main cuts being proposed which directly impact on Neighbourhood Partnerships:

Action:	2017/18 cuts proposed	2018/19 cuts proposed
Remove funding for local traffic schemes currently devolved to Neighbourhood Partnerships	£410,000	
Reshape our approach to civic engagement and local empowerment and reform Neighbourhood Partnerships.	£206,000– £618,000	£69,000– £207,000

Questions the group wanted to get more information on:

- What areas are these cuts focused on? Staffing? NP budgets? Both?
- What's the current spend that these cuts are taken from?
- We need clarity about what these cuts would impact on. Meeting wondered how much resource would be left for NPs to deliver any meaningful work
- The Corporate Strategy alludes to Urban Parishes as a potential future mechanism for neighbourhood influence/decision-making/engagement.
- Conversation included the extra cost to residents being required to pay a precept on top of their Council Tax to fund Urban Parishes. This could significantly disadvantage poorer areas of the city.
- KH described how Cabinet had been presented with a summary report covering research Hayley Ash has done on different models of devolved power in different cities in the UK.

Meeting asked to see that presentation. KH to send out

- NP members/councillors agreed to meet together to put an NP response to the Corporate Strategy consultation together
- KH informed the meeting that there will be an evening meeting with the Mayor on
Tuesday 15th November, 7.00pm-8.00pm at Henbury School Hall, Station Road, Henbury.
- This was an opportunity to question the Mayor about Urban Parishes, NP future etc.

3. Priorities for the NP over the next 9 months (November 2016 – July 2017):

- The meeting looked at the reduced staffing resources (particularly in NO time) available from now for the NP
- The funds directly available to the NP in the NP budget are **£24,813**
- The existing CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) is small (@£15,000) and S106 funds are pretty much all allocated
- The Port Communities Resilience Fund (£1million) is a major opportunity to benefit our communities
- Councillors indicated that there may be some moves to redistribute CIL (and other funds) between wealthier and poorer areas of the city which could come to fruition
- Meeting acknowledged that there's an outstanding request from SCAF for £5,000 to support their paid worker post still to be considered
- The Fundraiser proposal is an outstanding potential piece of work
- The number of Forums which are delivered in our NP area by the NO is a major focus of her time at present – NP needs to look at this and alternative ways to deliver these functions

- The meeting agreed that the NP should focus on the legacy that the NP thought would leave the most benefit for our communities if the NP wasn't in place or had few resources in the future

The meeting then worked in two groups through the draft existing priority work extracted from the NP Plan and placed pieces of work into three categories:

Definitely Do; Maybe Do; Definitely Don't Do

As follows:

Definitely Do

- Deliver Richmond Terrace Play area
- Support Avonmouth Industries Liaison work
- Deliver St Mary's Recreation Ground Parks improvements
- Improve the influence of young people
- Shape/influence the design and delivery of Port Communities Resilience Fund
- Support delivery of Community Plans – Shirehampton, Sea Mills, Avonmouth
- Support SCAF and Forums
- Support improved communication work in neighbourhood

Definitely Don't Do

- Bristol Ageing Better work
- Recruiting new NP members
- Dust monitoring work – BCC will deliver that
- Developing a new name for the NP
- Equalities Training
- HGV lorries – influencing Sth Gloucestershire
- Support library review and enhanced community facilities

Maybe Do

- Support development of communications?do? long term work and impact
- Develop Sea Mills Community Plan?
- Employ a fundraiser? Defer? Explore through a sub-group?

The meeting discussed the 'Maybe Do' elements.

- Support SCAF/Community Plan in Shirehampton: KH suggested that Shirehampton's request for £5,000 might be negotiated with them and linked to supporting the delivery of the Community Plan? **Agreed to explore**
- Community Plans: people could see that Community Plans would be a useful legacy to communities.
- Fundraiser: the meeting debated the pros and cons of this piece of work.
 - How it might be delivered;
 - if it could deliver in a 9 month period
 - that it could be routed through an accountable body (rather than BCC) to be able to continue delivering beyond July 2017
 - concerns that BCC might re-route funding – would need to be carefully designed as a project
 - **Meeting agreed to set up a sub-group to explore how this might be taken forward**
- Communications/engagement/equalities communities:
 - Discussion about potential to bring existing groups/organisations together across the NP area to share how we all currently communicate to various communities; what we could do better/together/good practice we could share
 - KH shared the work of Dundry View and their Diversity Month events; how our NP could actively encourage Wellbeing grants to deliver work connected to city-wide events which connect to minority/under-represented communities: Pride; Black History Month; LGBT History Month; Celebrating Age Festival; International Women's Day
 - Jo S made the point about communicating in appropriate languages
 - KH shared the work that Southmead has done to create a database, website and app to link with the local newsletter and a chain of noticeboards. Communication work arising from its Community Plan
 - **KH to share link to Southmead work with NP members.**

5. Summary of what we're going to go forward with and close

- We closed with Cllr Alexander setting a date with NP members to come together to put an NP response together into the BCC Corporate Strategy consultation.
- KH to put together notes from the meeting
- Set up a fundraiser sub-group to explore how to set up a potential fundraiser resource to support the NP plan priorities
- Potentially create a small group to develop the communication/engagement work