

BCR Community Partnership Forum meeting 11 June 2018

The chair, Roger Gimson, opened the meeting by explaining that the Community Partnership had now been appointed by the 6 local councillors as the body to co-ordinate local meetings and that, now we have money, these meetings no longer have to be held in Bishopston Library, the only venue freely available to the group, and will move around the area. The first forum is here in Cotham.

Bristol's Clean Air Plan.

Mark Leach, from Bristol City Council (BCC) sustainability team presented the emerging work on the Clean Air plan. He explained that the statutory consultation would start Jan 2019, but the team is seeking input now to enable them to identify options for tackling the problem of Air Pollution in Bristol.

The national context is that Client Earth are an organisation of lawyers who are using the courts to make governments comply with European Union and World Health Organisation guidelines for Air Quality. Bristol is one of the 60 cities in the UK who have been identified as needing to take action. National government has passed down the responsibility for this to local councils with funding for study and implementation. The legal requirement is that councils must achieve compliance in shortest time possible.

The legal requirement is to reduce the levels of nitrogen oxide (nox) in the air which have been shown to contribute to an estimated 300 deaths per annum in Bristol. Bristol currently does not breach acceptable levels of particulate matter which is also a factor in air pollution. Bristol has a lot of nox measuring stations, 105 plus with 50 to 100 recent additional stations in school sites.

Diesel is the major pollutant and studies show that diesel cars cause approximately 40% of the pollution with buses (23%) and light goods vehicles (22%) the next contributors.

The control of air quality in most cases includes charges imposed on most polluting vehicles to enter most polluted parts of the city which are the city centre and radial routes such as Gloucester Road. A number of options are being considered about which vehicles to charge in Bristol, some of which include private cars as well as buses, HGVs, LGVs and taxis.

Although Bristol has achieved modal shift in transport choices through the Cycling City initiative and Metrobus this has not affected air quality, partly because of the increase in local population. There continues to be a high level of car travel in Bristol. Older vehicles are the major issue as newer cars such as Euro 6 diesel and Euro 4 petrol do not cause high levels of pollution, ie any diesel car newer than 3 years is likely to be okay, and newer than 11 years for petrol cars. Company figures for engine emissions from lorries are more reliable than cars.

Work carried out so far indicates that charging is the only effective choice. Two options for the charging area remain after the largest option was dropped because of the time it would take to implement; a 'small' City Centre only option and a 'medium' larger option which would include parts of Cotham, Redland and St Andrews.

Four initial options have been modelled for which vehicles would be charged and two are being carried forward; one of which includes charging all non-exempt vehicles, and the other omitting cars.

The decision on what charging regime to follow will be made by modelling the different options; the feasibility study paid for by the Government.

The initial plan went to Cabinet on 31st March, with a programme for a strategic outline proposal for the end of 2018, Formal consultation in 2019, implementation in 2020 and compliance by 2021/ 22

www.cleanairforbristol.org.

The other major traffic project, the West of England Joint Transport Plan, is out for consultation in Autumn. This proposes sites for Park and Ride locations around Bristol but would not be part of the Clean Air project; however, if implemented, this would help with the poor air quality round the M32.

Studies are evaluating what the impact on periphery roads would be ('knock-on effect' on air pollution in roads around zones as people drive around the chargeable area) and consultations with the public, businesses, bus companies, taxis etc are contributing to the evaluation. The government is offering some financial support to taxi and bus companies to improve their performance. In Bristol, by March 2018, all new taxis had to be compliant with Euro 4 and 6 standards.

If cars are to be charged this means that residents living inside the zone will pay for car journeys; an equalities impact study is being included as, some inner-city areas will be impacted. Options to give local residents an extended 'sunset period' are being evaluated. The system for charging would be by automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) system, for vehicle use within the zone; costings are not yet set. Proposals for charging delivery vans will consider that, while large companies could afford it, there may be an adverse impact on small traders.

What Next: officers are going out and talking to people, trade groups, emergency services, bus, taxis etc, talking to deprived communities, and there will be a number of events over the summer, neighbourhood consultations, public events eg harbour festival, Ask Bristol, statutory consultation.

20 mph Cllr Fodor: there would be an 8-week consultation to start June 18th 2018, running until end of August.

www.bristol20mph.co.uk Facebook 20mph Bristol. Ask Bristol consultation pages.

Councillors have been told that the consultation will cover 20 mph signs limits, 81 local roads and some high streets. The review will be led by councillors and proposals for changes made by highways officers.

The review shows that the 20mph restriction has slowed traffic in days slowed by 3 ½ to 4 ½ mph, Bristol 20mph has been most effective, with deaths and injuries reduced

The consultation invites comment on 81 roads in Bristol, 4 of which are currently 30 mph, asking should they be reduced to 20 mph.

Comments can include proposals for removing 20mph restriction on certain stretches of road, can also propose new roads, for enforcement, community speedwatch proposals and for physical measures to improve compliance.

Other points raised included:

- CIL committees may make decisions on proposals for local traffic schemes where funded out of the locally devolved portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- Most injuries to children occur not outside schools but on roads en route to school.
- speed bumps cause vehicles to brake and rev up between bumps so are not supported by neighbours

What next: Leaflets will be available locally (in libraries?) and online consultation will be advertised

Community Infrastructure Levy; Area 2 committee

Previously the local element of CIL from development within the area was devolved to the Neighbourhood Partnership for allocation. Now this is to be done by the Area Committees

Area 2 covers 6 wards, Bishopston Cotham and Redland, also Southmead, Henbury and Brentry and Horfield and the money available to councillors is about £50K

Consultation with the local community, led by councillors, was supposed to happen in May 2018, but hasn't. Instead councillors have proposed projects, in BCR mainly from previous NP discussions.

Each ward is bringing forward project proposals for September meeting at City Hall. This is a public meeting, but it is not clear what public input is permitted in the decision-making process.

For BCR, highways schemes, tree planting schemes and BCR street scene group support is proposed, BCC highways dept have put forward a number of their own schemes for this funding, despite having access to central 85% element of CIL

Cotham highways project, Cllr Negus has put forward a project to address traffic issues on Redland Road where safety of 180 pupils at the Elmgrove annexe of Colston's primary is at risk.

A local resident who lives opposite Bannatynes and has children at the school spoke about the issues; this is a very busy road, there have been incidents of road rage, and near misses, a petition calling on the council to look at situation is to be presented. Another parent said that Ashley Down Road was a similar situation. Cllr Brook said that there were proposals for signage and measures around Brunel Field school to deal with issues with traffic and HGVs using Arthur Milton road.

Police

No representatives from the police were present so the chair presented information provided by Rob Cheeseman the Neighbourhood Team inspector.

Adam Dolling, the Neighbourhood Police team sergeant will shortly be returning to his role managing north team.

There will now be 2 beat managers for 3 wards, instead of 3. There are currently 2 PCSOs, but neither was available as one is on long term sick leave, and one on restricted duties, however in the future there will be 3. The north area team is losing 7 PCSOs however the good news is that they are not leaving the police but moving on to be PCs

BCR Street Scene

Liz Kew explained to the meeting why the group resigned en masse in May. It had become apparent that Bristol Waste not removing graffiti and that only volunteers were doing so. The Kingsdown group had reported graffiti on a brick wall but were told that they would now be charged for removal. BWC had now decided that graffiti removal for commercial premises and for residents' masonry walls would now be charged.

BCR SSG informed the mayor and councillors that the volume of work being left to volunteers was excessive (graffiti from 158 premises was dealt with by SSG in May) and volunteers could not cope.

SSG were invited to meet Tony Lawless the new manager BWC and Cllr Kye Dudd Cabinet member for Energy, Waste and Regulatory Services. It became clear that when they realised how much work was done by volunteers, they wanted to keep it going so reviewed their policy. It was pointed out that BWC had always pointed out that graffiti removal may be charged, it was the implementation of

the change that had changed. This was a result of a change in the relationship between BCC and BWC whereby all profits now come back to BCC rather than being put back into BWC.

SSG are now monitoring reports and raising issues with lack of action with Jo Dainton BWC. However, SSG were reducing their work and Liz Kew was stepping back from running the group and leading on the workparties. Other community groups such as The Bishopston Society, High Kingsdown RA, RCAS, Chandos NA, were being encouraged to pick up the work, using the existing volunteer pool and resources

Liz invited anyone who was interested to come along on an action day eg Wednesday evening (13th June) when they would be meeting on Grenville Road.

Alternatively, they could come to Bishopston library between 4.30 and 6pm to meet members of the group on July 9th

STUDENT LIAISON

Liz Kew passed on Jo Dainton BWC apologies to the meeting.

New student residents take over house tenancies on July 1st, some stay in the city over summer and we need to target them immediately as BWC and the universities do not carry out their door knocking campaign until October.

There are a number of useful leaflets available which educate them about local waste and recycling procedures in Bristol, if you have students near you it is worth giving them a leaflet.

Recently SSG and BWC carried out a leaflet drop using Good Gym, running club, who delivered leaflets to houses on Cheltenham Road. There did seem to be a drop in the volume of fly-tipping, inappropriate side waste left on pavements. The Big Give was running again this year, and this had generated funding for British Heart Foundation and reduced dumping of usable waste items.

The universities hold regular Community Liaison meetings for residents' groups, the next is on July 10th

Cllr Negus raised the issue of a recent surge in large organised parties, with bouncers, in student occupied houses where the parties go on all night and frequently spill out onto the streets.

The UoB is aware of the issue and Cllr Negus suggested to the vice chancellor that the university do something, he is still waiting for reply.

BCC enforcement team is supposed to tackle large parties, but usually only get involved after the event, police will not attend, and the university police will not go off campus.

University has a 2-level disciplinary process and can fine students £100 each but this is not effective. The University have an agreement with their students which includes requirement for consideration of neighbours and Landlords also require tenants to sign up to behaviour standards, but this is ineffective because there is no enforcement or threat of enforcement

Action: Tell Joni Lloyd UoB if you hear in advance of a proposed party and if you need to call the police, phone 999 if there is threat of physical injury, or threat of breach of the peace.

Parks.

Alison Bromilow confirmed that the CP would continue to coordinate the BCR parks group which included the friends groups for the 6 local parks and green spaces. There was now an acceptance by BCC that Parks could not be 'cost neutral', a budget aspiration, but Bristol Parks Forum and BCC

were working to investigate setting up a body like a foundation or trust that could access funding not available to local authorities. Better standards of waste collection in parks were noticeable this year but there were issues with lack of a line of communication with parks staff.

Libraries

Roger Gimson reported on the two 'Friends of' groups, who are putting on events in libraries such as

Bishopston Library: build your own air quality monitor, make your home eco sessions and on National Writing day, Wednesday 27th June, an evening with local art poet Ralph Hoyte

Redland Library; next event in the Desert Island Books series is Books and the World of Crime

The future of libraries:

Cllr Negus is meeting with the interim officer before the cabinet meeting on 3 July. He thinks the administration has been listening to the consultation comments and there will be further news about the extent of closures, the way libraries not kept open might be funded. Decision delayed until the 3rd July because staff have to be consulted. This is a two-stage decision, July and Sept.

AOB Questions

Surrey Road, ss been sprayed on pavement, resurfacing works probably.

Are Cheltenham road and Gloucester Road pavements cleaned? The pavements are v greasy. LK pointed out pavements can be reported on the BCC website, can report for dog mess, vomit, grease, BCC will do pressure washing but won't do non-BCC property

Howzat group reported on Glos CC meeting with residents, councillors, local residents and CC. Action points agreed, mainly on stewarding, parking and waste. Important to get it right now with international events in 2020.

Event Friday 15th June Mayor's Conversation

Venue Quaker Meeting House 300 Gloucester Road. 1 to 3pm

Any questions?

1. From previous meeting where mayor was to attend: With so many staff acting as Interims, and the number of working reviews, at what point does mayor think that council will be in settled state so that public can know who they can work with?
2. How can RPZ be added? area round existing RPZs like St Andrews, impacted, Colston's girls school, Montpelier railway station. Mayor has introduced a set of constraints which mean that it takes 2 years to bring forward
3. Concessions in parks, any progress on St Andrews park and other concessions?