



**Bishopston, Cotham & Redland  
Community Partnership**

## **Minutes of the BCR Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 17th May 2018**

**Present:** Roger Gimson, Alison Bromilow, Alison Boulton, Kevin Molloy, Liz Kew, Kevin Chidgey.

Apologies: Peter Browne, Sarah Nutchey

### **1 Finances**

1.1 The Partnership bank account stands at £1,465 comprising £1,200 from councillors and £265 from partners. Committed outgoings in the coming months (public liability insurance, website domain name and website renewal) are estimated to be of the order of £110.

**Action :** Roger Gimson to contact partner organisations who have not yet made their promised contributions.

### **2 Public Forum in Cotham, Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> June**

2.1 Colston Primary School has been booked. We are required to undertake a risk assessment of meeting venues but as Colston School was often used by the Neighbourhood Partnership it is very likely that a risk assessment of the school has already been undertaken.

**Action:** Roger Gimson to ask Council officers Andrew McGrath / Caroline Hollies for a copy of the risk assessment.

2.2 Councillors have been notified of the meeting. So far only Councillor Negus has confirmed that he will attend, Councillor Lake has sent her apologies.

**Action:** Alison Bromilow to remind the other councillors about the meeting.

2.3 It was noted that the meeting clashes with a Bishopston Society meeting on the same night. It would be a good idea for the BCR Partnership to could keep a composite diary of community group meetings so as to avoid clashes.

2.4 Publicity. Local magazines (eg Bishopston Voice, BS6) have already been advised about the meeting. Other channels include posters on notice boards, a mailshot to all Partnership members, and the Partnership website.

2.5 Arrangements on the night. The School caretaker will put out chairs (we think), Liz Kew offered to organise the signing in of attendees and there should be sufficient other members of the Committee present to help out on the night.

## 2.6 Proposed Agenda for the Cotham meeting :-

- (i) Police Report. Alison Bromilow has requested a police representative to attend the meeting. (Sgt. Adam Dolling was subsequently contacted).
- (ii) Proposed Consultation on the 20 mph Speed Limit. The consultation may have started by the date of the meeting. If so we should invite a Council representative to attend the meeting.
- (iii) The Cotham parking consultation currently underway? Possibly not as the consultation relates to only relatively minor traffic management proposals.
- (iv) Libraries. There will probably be nothing new to report with regard to the Council's Libraries Review. The Friends of both Bishopston and Redland libraries should be invited to send representatives to talk about what they are doing to safeguard the future of both libraries.
- (v) Street Scene. Liz Kew to report on Street Scene whose future is in the balance. It was noted that Gloucester Road Traders are running an event on waste, recycling, etc. They could be invited to lobby the Mayor about the detrimental impact on Gloucester Road should Street Scene cease operating.
- (vi) Clean Air. Alison Bromilow to invite Mark Leach to talk about what the Council is doing.
- (vii) Building Bridges with Students. Liz Kew to invite Joanna Dainton (University Community Engagement Officer) to the meeting. Joanna is particularly involved in the "Student moving in – moving out" waste management initiative.
- (viii) Update on the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy allocation procedure and progress. By the time of the meeting we might have an idea of which projects are being supported by the Area Committee to go forward to the full application stage. It is understood that our area (Area 2) has an allocation of circa £50k. The process for allocating CIL money should have involved a local councillor / public meeting but this did not happen. Liz Kew reported that Street Scene had submitted a bid. We need a briefing from councillors about what information is available – hopefully prior to the meeting so as to aid discussion at the meeting.
- (ix) The meeting could also be invited to suggest questions to be put to the Mayor when he visits our area on 15<sup>th</sup> June (see next item).

## **3 The Mayor's Visit, Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> June**

3.1 Venue. The meeting discussed two possible venues for the Mayor's visit – Horfield Friends Meeting House on Gloucester Road and the new Pigsty Restaurant, also on Gloucester Road. The former will cost £46 and we would have to organise refreshments. The Pigsty Restaurant would cost £20 per hour and would serve refreshments at a modest cost.

3.2 It was decided to go with Horfield Friends House as it offers more flexible space for the planned table arrangement – five or six tables with the Mayor moving from table to table. We could invite the café staff at Horfield Baptist Church to organise refreshments for the meeting. Kevin Molloy offered to organise refreshments should this arrangement not be possible.

### 3.3 Possible topics to be raised with the Mayor :-

(i) The Council's relationship with community groups, particularly in the light of the difficulties currently being experienced by local community groups - The Ardagh Centre with regard to the transfer of Council assets, Street Scene with regard to the new charging policy being applied by Bristol Waste Company (contracted by the Council), and Redland Fair with regard to the onerous demands and high costs of the Council. Bearing in mind the Mayor's stated commitment to supporting the voluntary sector he should be made aware of these difficulties and asked whether he can do anything to resolve them

(ii) Parks / Open Spaces. The impact of recent budget cuts on parks and open spaces and the potential impact of the new charging policies on the future use of parks and open spaces.

(iii) Traffic and Parking including the Council's policy on new resident parking schemes and the willingness/ ability of the Council to support new schemes .

(iv) Gloucester Road / supporting local traders.

3.4 The Mayor's Office should be advised about the topics we are looking to cover and specific issues /questions that groups / people might want to raise at the meeting when these are known.

3.5 We should try to avoid the meeting becoming adversarial. Our introduction should stress the conversational nature of the event. It was also agreed that we should also try to be positive by suggesting initiatives that Mayor could help local groups to take forward (eg. the permanent closure of Overton Road (off Gloucester Road) and the creation of a community space).

3.6 Suggested Format of the Meeting which will start at 1.15 pm (the Mayor is scheduled to arrive at 1.30 pm)

- Introduction to the event – aims, format, etc
- Mayor's introductory talk/ presentation
- "Conversation" tables (as per paragraph 3.7)
- Feedback and Mayor's comments on the table conversations
- A Mayor's question and answer session which will allow groups / attendees to raise specific issues.

3.7 With regard to the "conversation" part of the meeting attendees will be assigned to five or six tables each with a facilitator. Whether each table will cover a single topic or a range of topics has yet to be decided. The Mayor will contribute to discussions as he moves from table to table.

3.8 Publicity. Local magazines have already been informed about the meeting. Notice boards (Alison Bromilow volunteered to design a poster) and the BCR Partnership website will also be used to promote the event.

3.9 It was agreed that we would consider the participation of School Councils in BCR Partnership events at a future meeting.

#### **Actions :**

Alison Bromilow to contact the Redland Fair Committee re. questions they may wish to pose.

Roger Gimson to do likewise with the Ardagh Centre (Sam Thompson).

Roger Gimson to contact partner groups to see whether they would like to inform / question the Mayor (advising them at the same time of the topics / issues we think are of interest)

#### **4 Purchases**

4.1 It was agreed that we should purchase :-

- (i) A PA System at a cost of approximately £250.00 (details circulated prior to meeting), and
- (ii) A BCR Partnership banner (measuring 2 x 4 ft.) to be used at meetings and other events – estimated cost £25.00.

#### **5 BCR Street Scene Group**

5.1 Our area is unique in having a local volunteer group, BCR Street Scene, that monitors, advises and deals with waste and graffiti tagging, particularly in and around Gloucester Road. Unfortunately this initiative is now under threat for the BCR Street Scene Group have taken the decision to cease operating because of serious concerns about the operational practises that are being introduced unilaterally by Bristol Waste Company relating to graffiti tagging and waste. The Street Scene Group consider that these changes and the way in which they are being introduced is incompatible with the partnership approach that has delivered such positive outcomes over the years.

5.2 There are on going discussions taking place between the City Council and Bristol Waste Company (BWC) about the delivery of the city wide street cleaning contract but it is as yet unclear whether these discussions will mean with regard to the volunteer work carried out by BCR Street Scene. The departure of Council staff responsible for street cleaning has not helped.

5.3 Liz Kew and her Street Scene colleagues have offered support for a transitional arrangement should other community groups be interested in taking on street care responsibilities. This might only happen if the issues re. BWC policies and practises are satisfactorily resolved

5.4 The new Gloucester Road Business Improvement Bid might be a vehicle for continuing the valuable work of Street Scene.

5.5 It was agreed that we should work with / lobby local councillors, the Mayor, Bristol Waste Company, etc about the need of finding a way forward to maintain a local volunteer led approach to keeping our streets clean.

5.6 Liz Kew agreed to give an update at the BCR public meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **6 Trees**

6.1 Roger Gimson reported that Mark Ashdown from the Bristol Tree Forum has volunteered to be the tree champion for the BCR area. It was agreed that Mark should talk to Bristol Tree Group about accessing funding from budgets held by Area Committees.