

## Statement to Area Committee 2 Meeting – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Community Partnership

Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Community Partnership (BCR CP) was appointed to be the accountable body for Community Space Meetings in 2018/19 by the councillors in the three wards of Bishopston & Ashley Down, Cotham and Redland. Our inaugural AGM was held on 22 February 2018, and on that date and on 15 June 2018 we organised public forum events in our area.

We submit the following statement to the AC2 meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September relating to **Agenda Item 5 – Report on proposed decisions for Councillors.**

### **1. Community consultation**

Late announcement of the new CIL process meant there was no mechanism for the community to be consulted on its priorities. This was despite requests for local arrangements that we made to the council and councillors during March and April. No community consultation was carried out in BCR in April / May in accordance with the CIL process as proposed by Bristol City Council. Although we did our best through our newsletter to inform local groups about the process and encourage their involvement, there was no sharing of information about projects being considered, and no forum for inviting the community itself to put forward projects.

We received an announcement about the 24<sup>th</sup> September CIL decision meeting for AC2 by email *less than two days* before the deadline for submitting statements. This excludes people not on your email list, or who require other formats, from participating, contrary to equalities requirements.

**BCR deplores the lack of community involvement in the whole 2018 CIL/S.106 AC process. We ask that community representatives should be involved in the review of the process described under Section 8 of the Report in order to ensure this does not happen again.**

### **2. Accounting of available CIL**

Bristol City Council seems to have failed to set up a rigorous accounting procedure or tracked previous financial decisions.

For example, the sum identified in the available CIL paper for renovation of benches in Cotham Gardens and Lovers' Walk, Cotham and Redland Wards is set out as £758.21. The amount allocated for this work at the Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016 was up to £11k. The work was to be match funded by Redland and Cotham Amenities Society (RCAS). The work was carried out by the Council Parks Department and ParkWork in Spring 2018, but RCAS is still trying to find out the final cost so that it can be apportioned between CIL and RCAS.

### **3. Pre-commitment of future CIL receipts**

We do not support the suggestion in Section 4b of the Report that AC2 may wish to pre-commit 'still to be received' CIL funds. This would pre-empt the possibility of priorities changing from one fund allocation round to the next, and tie the hands of future AC2 members to decisions made by their predecessors.

Roger Gimson (Chair)  
BCR Community Partnership  
21 September 2018