



*Bishopston, Cotham & Redland  
Community Partnership*

## **Minutes of the BCR Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

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

**Apologies:** Peter Browne, Sarah Nutchey, Councillor Fi Hance, Councillor Martin Fodor

### **1 Reflections on the Last 12 Months**

1.1 Over the last twelve months the Partnership's main role has been to act as a channel of communication between local community groups and Bristol City Council, a role influenced partly by the agreement that the Partnership act as the "community space accountable body". To fulfil this role the Partnership has organised public forums, set up a website, circulated newsletters and served as a bridge between local community groups, ward councillors and the City Council on issues such as the Community Infrastructure Levy. The Partnership also tries to encourage joint working between groups which have shared interests and objectives.

1.2 The Partnership looks to local community groups to act on specific issues such as the libraries review, highway safety and environmental matters. It was never the intention for the Partnership to play a primary role on issues where there are already organisational arrangements in place to address these issues.

1.3 Having reflected on our role and what we had achieved over the past twelve months the meeting considered what we might do differently in the future. Should we, for example, play a more pro-active role in supporting groups that are tackling poverty, deprivation and social exclusion? What more can we do to engage hard to reach groups and make them feel part of the community?

1.4 The meeting agreed that we might start by finding out more about those groups active in our area that support vulnerable people, including groups meetings in Bishopston Library. The meeting agreed that we should try to contact these groups to ask what we might do to support their activities (eg. helping with fund raising, raising awareness of these groups and their activities, explore the potential for recruiting volunteers into local groups).

#### **Actions**

- Alison Boulton to provide a list of groups meeting in Bishopston Library.
- All – to consider further how we make contact with groups active in our area.

### **2 Bristol Equality Charter**

2.1 It was agreed that the decision to sign up to the Bristol Equality Charter and join the Bristol Equalities Network be deferred until after the AGM and referred to new Committee. The Committee will need to decide whether the aims and activities of the Partnership are consistent with Charter requirements.

### **3 Finances**

3.1 The circulated Finances schedule showed a bank balance of £929 at 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 (total income £1,641, total expenditure £712) : £488 remained from the £1,200 given by ward councillors to pay for meetings under the terms of the community space accountable body agreement.

### **4 The Partnership's Community Space Agreement**

4.1 The meeting reviewed the activities of the Partnership in the past year vis a vis the requirements set out in the accountable body agreement. We achieved a number of the specific requirements, notably by holding three regular public forum meetings and one special topic meeting (the proposed CIL meeting in April). With regard to reaching a wider audience and celebrating diversity we have probably not been as successful as we had hoped.

**Action:** Roger to draft a report documenting our achievements vis a vis the requirements set out in the Community Space Accountable Body Agreement .

4.2 It is not yet known whether we will be invited to sign a "Community Space Accountable Body" agreement covering the next twelve months.

### **5 Proposed Goals for the Next Twelve Months**

- Encourage more people to help with Partnership activities (without necessarily joining the Committee) by taking on responsibility for specific tasks on a short / fixed term basis.
- Following on from the above bullet point - compile a list of specific tasks that could be taken on by volunteers.
- Constantly review ways and means of improving communications and facilitating joint working between community groups.
- Finding out more about what groups want from the Partnership (eg. which topics should be selected for Forum meetings).
- Engage with more community groups active in our area, particularly those tackling social deprivation and supporting vulnerable people.
- Engage with people from more diverse groups to make them feel part of the community.
- Continue to build good relationships with ward councillors and Bristol City Council.
- Continue to organise public forum meetings, including meetings on key topics.
- Secure sufficient funding for the Partnership to continue its activities and achieve its objectives.
- Offer our resources, such as the PA system, flipchart, etc. for use by other community groups.

### **6 AGM and Public Meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019, Bishopston Library**

6.1 We should start with the AGM (annual report, finances, Committee nominations / elections). We will need to draw names should there be more nominations than Committee places. It is anticipated that the AGM will last no longer than 20 minutes.

6.2 The AGM to be followed by a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) session with groups putting forward projects for CIL funding being invited to make a presentation. (max. 45 minutes).

6.3 The third part of the meeting will comprise "break out" groups, possibly on specific topics (eg. policing/community safety, traffic) or on a ward basis, led by councillors. We will need to make a decision on the format of the break out groups well in advance of the meeting. Whatever is

decided Committee members should cover the different groups to capture discussions and feedback.

**Action :**

All – to consider and agree on the structure/ format of the break out session at the meeting.

6.4 We will need to conduct an equalities survey at the meeting as required by the accountable body agreement.

**Actions.**

- Alison Bromilow to take the lead in publicising the meeting and inviting Committee nominations.
- Alison Boulton to advise on possible arrangements for organising break out groups.
- Roger Gimson to contact councillors about the meeting.
- Kevin Chidgey to organise the equalities survey (Council contact is Keith Houghton)

*KC / 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019*