



*Bishopston, Cotham & Redland
Community Partnership*

Minutes of the BCR Community Partnership Forum Meeting / Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 11th April 2019

The meeting was attended by approximately 30 people including ward councillors, police representatives, representatives of local community organisations and BCP Community Partnership Committee Members.

Partnership Chair Roger Gimson welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the meeting would comprise :

- The Community Partnership AGM
- Presentations on Community Infrastructure Levy bids
- A report from the Police, and
- News and updates from local community groups

1 The Community Partnership Annual General Meeting

1.1 Roger Gimson presented the Partnership's **Annual Report** which covered:-

- The setting up of the Partnership following the demise of the City Council led BCR Neighbourhood Partnership so as ensure continuity of community engagement.
- The successful bid to the City Council to be the accountable community body for Bishopston and Ashley Down, Cotham and Redland wards.
- The holding of public forum meetings in Cotham, Bishopston and Redland wards and the hosting of the Mayor's Conversation meeting in June 2018.
- The ways and means by which the Partnership communicates news of events and issues, including the email circulation list, regular newsletters and the Partnership website.
- Our partners – 22 local community groups and 20 individual partners.
- The promotion of Equalities issues.
- Finance including the donations of partner groups (£320) and ward councillors (£1,200) and main expenses during the year (eg. public meetings, public address equipment and public liability insurance). At the end of the year the Partnership had a bank balance of just over £900.

1.2 The meeting was advised that it was up to councillors to decide what happens to the residual £490 remaining from the money awarded by councillors in 2018 /19. The Partnership will be drafting a report setting out how the money from councillors has been spent to date.

1.3 The meeting was reminded that community groups could borrow the Partnership's PA equipment.

1.4 In response to a question about funding in the next year councillors indicated that money may be available from councillors on the same basis as in the last year. If this proved the case the Partnership would have to bid for the funds.

- 1.5 The meeting was invited to give views on what the Partnership might do in the coming year. Suggestions included more topic meetings and an open annual community group networking event open to the public.
- 1.6 Partnership objectives for the next year include finding out what partners want from the Partnership, encouraging more community groups to join the Partnership and attracting more volunteers to help on specific issues and tasks.
- 1.7 The meeting moved on to **Committee Elections** for the coming year. As there were fewer nominations than places on the Committee all candidates coming forward were elected to the Committee - Roger Gimson, Alison Bromilow, Rita Gupta, Peter Browne, Kevin Molloy, Kevin Chidgey and a representative from Bishopston and St. Andrews Parking Group (to be confirmed).

2 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Bids

- 2.1 Roger Gimson explained the CIL funding eligibility, process and timetable. Bids had to be made by 15th March and these will be assessed by councillors / Area 2 Committee over the next three months to decide which to shortlist: full proposals will be invited by 22nd July. Area Committee 2 make a final decision on bids in September / October 2019 by which time an estimated total of approximately £84,000 of CIL funds could be available.
- 2.2 This meeting provides an opportunity to feed comments to councillors on the bids that have been received. Councillors confirmed that they would be informally assessing bids in April. They also made clear that it would now be difficult to consider further bids.
- 2.3 Representatives from organisations making bids were invited to summarise their respective projects :-
- Bristol Tree Forum - Mark Ashdown explained that Bristol Tree Forum had put in bids to all six Area Committees. Two bids had been to Area Committee 2, a Section 106 bid for £6,121 for eight replacement trees and a CIL bid for £8,847 for new tree planting: 162 sites in Area 2 with potential for new trees had been identified.
 - 1st Bristol Muslim Scout Group – Dr. Suhail Asghar outlined a proposal to carry out improvements to the scout building located on Muller Road and increase its community usage : the Scout Group are seeking CIL funding of £6,500.
 - BCR Street Scene are making three separate bids to pay for the cost of applying a protective barrier of anti graffiti coating on walls and buildings - £3,000 in Bishopston and Ashley Down ward, £3,000 in Redland ward and £7,500 in Cotham ward.
 - Gloucester Road Enterprise and Trade have made two separate bids. These were summarised by Peter Browne – tree planting towards the top end of Gloucester Road at an estimated cost of up £18,000 for six new trees, and new road crossings on Gloucester Road including a crossing close to Gloucester Road Medical Centre. Councillor Tom Brook commented that a crossing close to the Medical Centre was probably the most feasible and had the support of the Highways Department. With regard to the Gloucester Road trees proposal Mark Ashdown commented that this would complement the trees bid being made by Bristol Tree Forum.

- 2.4 Support was expressed at the meeting for tree planting schemes (reducing air pollution, etc) and road crossings although it was accepted that the latter were costly and unlikely to be funded using CIL money (refer para. 2.5). The anti graffiti proposal was also supported - as it would lever in additional resources with volunteer support it would offer good value for money.
- 2.5 Bids had also been made for other road crossings in Area 2. It was pointed out that an entirely new crossing could cost as much as £80,000 – almost as much the total estimated Area 2 CIL budget. It was also pointed out that the Council’s Highways Department already have a CIL list of proposed road crossing schemes (eg.Cranbrook Road) which are on hold due to funding issues and the limited capacity of Highways Department to undertake the necessary preparatory work.
- 2.6 It was suggested that there may be other funds available for community schemes such as tree planting and road crossings. Airbus, for example, support community projects. A suggestion was made that the Partnership could pay a researcher or seek voluntary help to identify possible funding sources.
- 2.7 A possible future CIL scheme for an automatic access and security system for Bishopston Library that would facilitate out of hours access was considered by the Library Service to be not deliverable in the coming year.
- 2.8 Bids from other parts of Area 2 included a trim trail in Henbury, roof repairs to Henbury Community Centre, a new cycle / pedestrian path on Horfield Common, the purchase of equipment to enable local residents to organise park runs on Horfield Common and a new bus shelter on Greystoke Avenue.
- 2.9 Roger Gimson drew the CIL discussion to a close with the comment that the CIL process was working a lot better this year than a year ago.

3 Report from the Police

- 3.1 Police Officer David Jackson explained that the Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Area was served by a police officer and three police community support officers. At present resources were focussed on combating a spate of burglaries in the area.
- 3.2 In response to comments made on several occasions at the meeting about the dangers posed by speeding vehicles on a number of roads (Church Road in Horfield, Cranbrook Road and Bishop Road) David Jackson advised that incidents could be reported to a colleague PCSO David Said who was responsible for managing the Community Speed Watch scheme.

4 News and Updates from Local Community Groups

- 4.1 **North Bristol Community Project.** Rita Gupta stressed that community support was vital to the project (a community shop, and education and training programmes). The Partnership agreed to publicise the project in its newsletter.
- 4.2 **Friends of Horfield Common.** Sam Thomson asked for volunteers to help with junior park runs which the Friends are hoping to organise. Forthcoming events included a walk around Horfield Common at 10.30 am on Saturday, 18th May – part of the Bristol Walk Fest.
- 4.3 **Horfield Organic Community Orchard** are holding a midsummer event on Saturday 22nd June.

- 4.4 **Bishopston and St. Andrews Parking Group.** Sara Tullberg reported that the Group's campaign to establish a resident parking area is progressing. Street representatives are being recruited and evidence to make the case for a scheme is being collected.
- 4.5 **Westbury Park Community Association.** Kevin Chidgey reported that pressure for resident parking was also building in parts of Westbury Park – particularly in the Blenheim Road / Belvedere Road area close to The Downs. The annual Westbury Park Festival will be in the last two weeks in June.
- 4.6 **Redland and Cotham Amenities Society.** Alison Bromilow reminded the meeting that there would be no Redland Green Fair this year but there is a Redland Green Community Fete being held on the afternoon of Saturday, 27th April in the community buildings around Redland Green (the church hall, bowling club and tennis club).
- 4.7 Alison Bromilow also passed on thanks from Anne Louise Perez (Gloucester Road Business Improvement District manager) to those who supported the recent Gloucester Road BID and gave an update on all the projects achieved during the period of the BID.
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