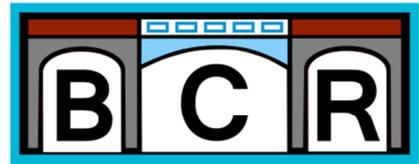


Bishopston, Cotham & Redland Community Partnership



Annual Report 2018-2019

bcr cp.org.uk

Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Community Partnership (BCR CP) was formed at its inaugural Annual General Meeting on 22 February 2018. This is the Annual Report for its first year of full operation.

Beginnings

BCR CP was formed to fill part of the gap left by the former BCR Neighbourhood Partnership (BCR NP) that was dissolved by Bristol City Council, along with all other Neighbourhood Partnerships in the Bristol City area, in 2017. The last BCR NP meeting was held on 5 June 2017.

We formed a steering group from interested representatives of local groups and local councillors and met several times between July 2017 and January 2018 in order to consider setting up a new local community organisation independent of the Council. The steering group proposed a set of aims, a constitution and the name Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Community Partnership. It also continued the previous NP practice of holding public forum meetings at which local residents and community groups could gather to discuss local issues.

Inaugural AGM and Public Forum

At the inaugural AGM on **18 February 2018**, the aims (see bcr cp.org.uk/aims/) and constitution (see bcr cp.org.uk/constitution/) were approved for the new BCR CP organisation, and a new set of seven committee members were selected. The meeting, held at the newly opened Bishopston Library, was also the first public forum publicised under the BCR CP name.

Community Meetings award

Following the closure of the Neighbourhood Partnerships, Bristol City Council made an offer to sponsor a nominated community organisation in each ward to hold community meetings during the 2018/19 municipal year. BCR CP put in a bid to be the 'accountable body' for Bishopston & Ashley Down, Cotham and Redland wards for 2018-19, and were unanimously awarded a grant to do so by our local councillors. Our bid included holding at least one public forum in each ward during the year.

Cotham Public Forum

The first forum under the community meetings award was held at Colston's Primary School (since renamed Cotham Gardens Primary School) in Cotham ward on **11 June 2018**.

The main topic of the meeting was Bristol's Clean Air Plan which was in preparation at the time. Its purpose and the potential options for solutions were described by a council officer. An announcement was made about the 20mph speed limit consultation, which was about to start. Updates were provided on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) proposed projects, BCR Street Scene, student liaison, parks and libraries.

Mayor's Conversation

Mayor Marvin Rees proposed to hold Community Conversations in localities across Bristol during 2018. BCR CP offered to organise the conversation in our area, and held a public meeting on **15 June 2018** at the Horfield Quaker Meeting on Gloucester Road.

The mayor attended with three assistants from his office. There were constructive conversations with groups of local residents and community representatives at three tables each focusing on a different topic area. The mayor took away questions and some answers were provided in the following two weeks. Other issues were noted for future follow-up with the mayor by those in attendance.

Bishopston Public Forum

The public forum in Bishopston ward was held on **8 October 2018** at Horfield Quaker Meeting.

The meeting heard updates from the local neighbourhood police and our local councillors. Topics covered included CIL award allocations, Bristol Transport Strategy, and libraries. There were also updates from 13 local community groups, covering the whole of the BCR area, and the chance for questions to be asked of any of the speakers by those attending.

Redland Public Forum

To complete the set of three ward-based forums, a public forum was held in Redland ward on **11 February 2019** at the Redland Green Bowling Club.

Priority was given to local group updates at this meeting, and 17 different local groups were represented at the meeting talking about their current status and plans for the coming year. Updates were also given by the neighbourhood police and local councillors. Groups were also encouraged to propose projects for CIL funding in 2019.

AGM and Special Public Forum

The year is to be concluded in a combined BCR CP AGM and special public forum to be held on **11 April 2019** at Bishopston Library. The special topic is to allow priorities to be discussed by local residents for project proposals made for the award of Community Infrastructure Levy funding.

Communications

BCR CP publicises its public meetings through a variety of channels. Regular articles are placed in local, freely distributed news magazines: Bishopston Matters, Bishopston Voice and BS6+8 Magazine. Posters are put up on community noticeboards. There is an email

circulation list of more than 700 subscribers to whom newsletters are emailed announcing meetings. There is a Facebook page ([@bcr.community](https://www.facebook.com/bcr.community)) with about 380 followers. The BCR CP website (bcrcp.org.uk) is used to both publicise meetings and where notes of both committee meetings and public meetings can be found.

Between meetings, our website and mailing list are used to publicise other issues on which the local community may wish to be consulted. In the last year this has included council consultations on the 20mph speed limit, the future of high streets, Bristol Transport Strategy, library services and the 2019/20 Council budget.

Partners

The partners in our Community Partnership consist of representatives of local community groups (22 at the time of writing) and individual partners (23). Most of these had joined at the inauguration of BCR CP. Many of the groups made donations towards the starting costs of the partnership, but there is no fee required in order to join – only the wish to agree with our aims.

Promoting Equalities

One of our aims which has not been met this year is to raise awareness of equalities issues. Though a potential highly-qualified workshop leader had been identified, we could not get sufficient people from our local groups to volunteer to participate to enable it to go ahead.

Finance [round numbers as at 23 April 2019 – full accounts available on request]

BCR CP requested donations from partner groups in order to have an initial working budget. Donations amounting to £320 were received from 12 different groups. Each of the six ward councillors in our area agreed to fund our role as the accountable body for holding community meetings by the sum of £200 each, as fixed and awarded by Bristol City Council.

Our main sets of expenses incurred during the year have been: hiring venues for public meetings £300; providing equipment and insurance necessary for public meetings £370; website and email £43.

At the end of the year, we had a bank balance of just over £900, about £560 of which was unspent from the community meetings award.

Equipment Loan

The equipment we have purchased to be able to hold public meetings includes a PA system with wireless microphones and a flipchart/whiteboard. We have made these available to our partner community groups who are able to use them for their own meetings. Three groups, on four occasions, have so far made use of these equipment loans.

Roger Gimson (Chair)
BCR Community Partnership

11 April 2019