



*Bishopston, Cotham & Redland
Community Partnership*

Minutes of the BCR Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 3rd July, 2019

Present: Roger Gimson, Alison Bromilow, Peter Browne, Rita Gupta, Mike Broussine, Kevin Chidgey.

Apologies: Kevin Molloy

1 Bristol City Council Report on the Community Meeting Fund

1.1 The report summarised how Community Space funding had been spent by community groups in 2018/19. The report also summarised feedback from groups (eg. the need for greater Council involvement, CIL meetings were the most well attended).

1.2 The Committee agreed that it would be useful to find out more about the different type of events being organised by community groups so as to get a clearer idea of the range of activities that we could potentially support using Community Space funding.

1.3 The question of what the funding from councillors could and could not be spent on cropped up at various points during the meeting. In 2018/19 the funding was used to meet the cost of public area forums and this will remain our priority in the coming year. We have also agreed to support the Sustainable Transport in Bishopston Forum being organised by the Bishopston Society in early October.

1.4 Were we to consider using the Community Space funding for activities over and above public meetings and events (including those organised in collaboration with partner groups) we would need to seek the approval of ward councillors.

1.5 Roger reported that we are still awaiting a decision on our bid for Community Space funding in 2018 /19. Councillor Martin Fodor has agreed to submit our bid to Council officers when all six ward councillors have given their approval (which can now be done by email).

2 Finance

2.1 Changing bank signatories following Peter taking over from Sarah Nutchey as Treasurer is proving more difficult and time consuming than anticipated.

2.2 Peter circulated a schedule setting out the steps needing to be taken. Sarah is key as she is the only person currently able to log into our on-line account and will remain so until the bank mandate process has been completed and Peter given approval to access the on line account.

2.3 As a second signature is needed for on-line transactions at least one other signatory will need to apply to Lloyds Bank for authorisation to access the account online.

2.4 There are a number of payments waiting to be made – Zurich Insurance (public liability cover), Cotham Church Halls (Cotham Forum meeting) and the BCR CP internet domain charge. Peter agreed to organise these payments with cheque signed by Sarah and Kevin.

2.5 Our bank balance is looking healthy providing we receive the £1,200 Community Space funding for 2019/20.

2.6 The meeting agreed that we should purchase a projector and screen using the 2018/19 underspend (est. £500). The projector and screen will be made available to partner organisations.
Action: Roger Gimson

2.7 Rita suggested that we needed to post visuals of events. If so minded we would need to seek technical support to achieve this.

2.8 The meeting agreed to pay £25 to North Bristol Community Project for hosting this Committee meeting.

3 The Purpose of the Community Partnership

3.1 The purpose of the Community Partnership was restated as part of a wider discussion on how the Partnership supports and interfaces with community groups. The Community Partnership is primarily an enabling body – providing a communications channel for community, council and police related issues, facilitating the sharing of information, experiences and ideas, and promoting community groups and their activities. The Partnership must take care not to replicate the work of groups in the area, each with their own aims, issues and activities.

4 Supporting Other Community Groups

4.1 Roger presented a paper setting out guidelines for supporting meetings organised by other groups (eg. the meeting should be open to everyone, venues should be accessible to everyone). A number of amendments were agreed – widening the scope of the guidelines to include events, making clear that meetings / events must be local and adding a note on the type of meetings we would support (eg. consultation meetings, raising awareness events).

4.2 Non affiliated groups wishing to access Partnership support for meetings will be invited to join the Community Partnership.

4.3 It was agreed that funding for each event / meeting we either organise or support should not normally exceed £100.

5 Communications and Publicity

5.1 We publicise our meetings and events and events organised by other groups through our website, through Facebook and through our email circulation list. Discussion ensued on whether we could help avoid event clashes by establishing on line calendar of forthcoming events, possibly using the Google Calendar platform. This raised questions about how a calendar might be managed (eg. only one person permitted to list events v allowing wider shared access to the calendar). It was suggested that we could recruit a volunteer to develop the calendar through VOSCUR or doit.org (a volunteering website).

5.2 With regard to roles and responsibilities regarding communications it was agreed that Roger and Alison would continue to be responsible for the website, Roger would be responsible for maintaining email contact / communication with partner organisations and Alison for maintaining contact with the wider membership.

5.3 With regard to social media we currently post messages using Facebook. Do we need to do more to encourage and facilitate two way exchanges using Twitter and other interactive platforms? It was recognised that Facebook is less likely to be used by younger people who are more attracted by Instagram, snapchat and other social media platforms offering visuals.

6 Bishopston Community Fair – 21st September

6.1 The Community Fair is being organised by Friends of Bishopston Library who have circulated a booking form inviting organisations to display / take a table / circulate leaflets at the event.

6.2 There was a brief discussion at the meeting on the merits of the library as a venue for this type of event. Other venues are probably more community friendly and offer greater lay out flexibility.

6.3 It was agreed that we should book a table at the Community Fair to publicise and promote the Partnership. We should also be proactive by inviting people to give their views about living in the Partnership area, using flip charts and post- it stickers (“It would be lovely if -----”).

Actions: Roger to book a table at the event. Roger, Alison and Kevin C. to organise and attend.

7 Future Meetings

7.1 Currently six meetings / forums are scheduled for the next year – three area forums, the Community Fair on 21st September, the Sustainable Transport in Bishopston event being held in early October and the joint AGM / CIL meeting next Spring.

7.2 It was agreed that the next Forum meeting would be in Redland in late Autumn. Possible venues include Redland Church Halls, Redland Bowling Green, the Friends Meeting House on Redland Road, Hampton Road, the Etloe Evangelical Church Hall in Cossins Road and Redland Green School.

Action: Roger to check possible venues. Alison to check the availability of ward councillors and police representatives.

7.3 The Bishopston Forum should be in early 2020.

7.4 When holding meetings/ forums this year that we should go for a café style table layout in order to encourage greater active participation from attendees.

KC/ BCR CP, 5th July 2019