



**Bishopston, Cotham & Redland  
Community Partnership**

## **Minutes of the BCR Public Forum held on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at the Horfield Quaker Meeting House, Gloucester Road**

The meeting was attended by 45 people including Councillors Anthony Negus, Eleanor Combley, Fi Hance and Martin Fodor. Apologies were received from Councillors Tom Brook and Cleo Lake.

Chair Roger Gimson welcomed people and outlined the agenda for the meeting.

### **1 Bristol City Council Vehicle Idling Campaign - Lauren Curl (Bristol City Council)**

1.1 Lauren explained the purpose behind the new initiative – to help reduce air pollution which is causing an estimated 300 deaths in Bristol each year. The Council are fully committed (and legally required) to improve air quality in the city and have agreed Air Quality policies to achieve this end. The vehicle idling campaign will identify vehicle idling local hotspots and raise awareness aimed at changing driver behaviour. Attendees at the meeting were invited to suggest local idling hotspots.

1.2 Elements of the campaign include an idling action campaign, working with local communities and schools, raising awareness through a citywide communications programme and engaging with businesses, particularly bus companies, taxi drivers and delivery companies whose engines are often left running when making a delivery.

1.3 The schools engagement programme, which will run until March and then be reviewed, is based on a London model (info at <https://idlingaction.london/>). Evidence from London suggests that this initiative has a positive effect in reducing air pollution near school. The programme involves a small team going to selected schools (mainly primary schools) and politely asking drivers to switch off their engines if they have been idling for over a minute. Such action (plus some freebies) will hopefully persuade drivers to switch off their engines next time and thereafter. Visits to a number of schools (eg. Cathedral Primary, Bishop Road) have been undertaken or are planned.

1.4 Other elements of the School Air Quality Action Plan include assembly and classroom awareness raising sessions, encouraging parking “buddies”, producing 5 – 10 minute walking maps, encouraging parents to park away from schools (park and stride) and asking parents to sign up to a parking pledge.

1.5 Other initiatives to raise awareness include a planned Air Quality Action Day, participation in Travel West roadshows and signing up volunteers to support the campaign.

1.6 Attendees raised a number of points relating to vehicle idling – children in pushchairs are particularly affected by tailpipe emissions, ice cream vans keeping their engines running and builders not turning engines off when on the phone.

1.7 Lauren pointed out that children in idling vehicles can be affected by as much as twelve times those on the pavement. Lauren reminded the meeting that idling is an offence under the law but the law is not being enforced.

1.8 People can sign up to be a Clean Air Champion, join an existing event or suggest a new location at <http://bit.ly/IdlingAction>

1.9 Information about the project can be found on the Clean Air Zone homepage:

<https://www.cleanairforbristol.org/noidling/>

### **2 Police Update**

2.1 PC Mark Jackson introduced PCSO Dan Carlson, the new Community Police Support Officer for Bishopston (mainly), Cotham and Redland.

2.2 Burglary statistics were presented for each of the three wards – in the range 14 -16 burglaries for each ward for the last quarter with bikes in sheds being a particular target. There were 105 vehicle related crimes

in the three wards in the last quarter, many involving the theft of catalytic converters. In response to these figures the number of police patrols, including covert patrols, has been increased.

2.3 PC Jackson advised people to take precautionary action to safeguard possessions – don't leave valuables on show in cars, lock bikes within the shed, register bike details, etc.

2.4 The public can also help the police by reporting suspicions they may have about drug dealing. The police have recently linked up with City of Bristol College to tackle soft drug taking by students at lunch time.

2.5 Operation Beech, aimed at addressing student noise nuisance, will start again from 19<sup>th</sup> February and operate every weekend thereafter.

2.6 Shoplifting in Gloucester Road continues to be a serious problem and is believed to have led to the closure of the Cooperative Supermarket. Many shops and supermarkets are known to be affected but few incidents are reported (and images capturing theft are not shared). The police will attend incidents where people are detained but this is not happening. PCSO Dan Carlson has visited shops and ask them to report incidents.

### **3 Pollinator Pathway Initiative, Gloucester Road**

3.1 Millie Williams, a student at UWE, explained that the project involves persuading businesses to plant gorse, flowers, herbs, etc on vacant spaces and walls to support pollinators. The project has the support of local councillors and a network of contacts has been built up. The next stage is to contact independent businesses to provide information on the project and to gain their active support. Campaign stickers have been printed and a Facebook page set up.

3.2 It was pointed out that Bristol Waste use glyphosate on Gloucester Road to kill off weeds and this could be a potential problem for the project.

### **4 The Bristol Pound Scheme**

4.1 Nick Plant, a community champion for the Bristol pound, explained that the purpose of the scheme is to keep money circulating locally. The scheme, operated by Bristol Credit Union, dates from 2012 and has resulted in £1 million being circulated locally with over 500 traders signed up. The Bristol pound can also be used to pay council tax, bus fares, etc.

4.2 With the new ways of paying for services and goods coming on stream in recent years (digital and contactless payments) the Bristol Pound scheme has to adapt and invest in new technology. Failure to do so could threaten the future of the scheme.

4.3 A decision about the future of the scheme will be made at the end of February. Nick stressed that people holding Bristol pounds have nothing to fear as the pounds can be changed back into sterling.

### **5 Public Consultations**

#### Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)

5.1 The City Council have published, for consultation purposes, new supplementary planning guidance relating to HMO proposals. New balanced community sustainability criteria is being proposed as is a “no sandwiching” principle. Many more potential HMOs will be covered by regulations following a change in the definition of an HMO (three or more unrelated people with shared facilities). The guidance covers new HMO proposals, not those already existing.

5.2 The consultation deadline is 20<sup>th</sup> March.

5.3 It was noted that new HMO licensing regulations has led to more HMOs seeking retrospective planning permission.

#### West of England Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

5.4 The draft plan sets out proposals for improving the walking and cycling environment of town and district centres (including Gloucester Road) which have been surveyed and assessed by Council officers. No new funds have been allocated under the Plan but it will provide a framework in each centre for spending money generated by development / redevelopment schemes and through possible Government funding programmes.

5.5 The deadline for comments is 15<sup>th</sup> March.

## West of England Bus Strategy

5.6 The Bus Strategy aims to substantially increase the number of people using buses. Is there a case for taking local bus services back into local authority management (municipalisation) to give greater public control over routes, timetables and fares?

5.7 As with the Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan the consultation period is until 15<sup>th</sup> March

## **6 Updates from Councillors**

### Eleanor Combley, Councillor for Bishopston and Ashley Down Ward

- the 2020 window is now open for Community Infrastructure Levy bids.
- double yellow lines around Gloucestershire Cricket Ground have been finished: parking wardens will be patrolling regularly. Some attendees at the meeting complained about the consequent loss of on street parking spaces
- views are being expressed on initial residential parking proposals for parts of Bishopston and St. Andrews: some progress is being made on securing Council support for new schemes. Roger Gimson commented that the Council may soon start work on a citywide parking strategy.
- there have been mixed views regarding blue recycling bags. Bristol Waste have agreed to tuck the emptied bags into plastic boxes to stop them blowing away.
- Wetherspoons have resubmitted a planning application for an outlet on Gloucester Road.
- The cumulative impact area scheme relating to concentrations of alcohol establishments on Gloucester Road is unlikely to be continued as there was not sufficient response from a recent consultation to demonstrate that it is needed.

### Fi Hance, Councillor for Redland Ward

- The St. Andrews parking survey carried out in recent months had a 38% response which was judged to be very good. The City Council guidelines for resident parking schemes require there to be overwhelming support from the local community.
- With regard to the residential development of the former Redland High School site there is an issue about tree felling.
- Refurbishment of benches and a French drain are planned for Redland Green.
- Many people attended the recent funeral service of Big Issue vendor Dean Telfer. The £6,000 raised at the service will be used for a headstone for Dean and to support the charity Streetvet.

### Anthony Negus, Councillor for Cotham Ward

- At the behest of the University of Bristol the liaison meetings between the university and the local community will no longer take place.
- First Bus intend consulting on proposed changes to the number 9 bus route, possibly involving a rationalisation of the number 8, 9 and 72 bus routes.
- Bristol Waste changes to their collection arrangements in Cotham are now complete.
- Bristol Waste are planning to take enforcement action against people putting recycling items in the wrong boxes. Recycling boxes will be progressively removed if there are repeat infringements after warnings have been unsuccessful.

## **7 Community Groups**

### Friends of Horfield Common (FoHC)

7.1 Sam Thomson reported that a park user survey is about to be launched.

7.2 Sam summarised what the Friends of Horfield Common have achieved since being formed in 2006.

There are now 1,500 members and a total of £500k has been raised over the years to fund much needed improvements to Horfield Common – a new play area and playground equipment, tree planting, new walking routes, wildlife areas, etc. All this despite Horfield Common lying in three separate wards which has made it more bureaucratically challenging to access funds.

7.3 Activities include an annual dog show and a range of children's activities and a junior park run is planned.

7.4 The Friends Group are working towards the Green Flag community standard.

7.5 The Ardagh Community Trust (ACT) led project to regenerate the Ardagh community, leisure and sports facility is progressing well. Work is underway on the £250k renovation of the café which will reopen on 29<sup>th</sup> February and there are plans to restore the gardens.

7.6 Sam indicated that she would be stepping down from FoHC but would remain on ACT.

#### Bishopston Society

7.7 Kevin Molloy reported that the future of the Society is still in doubt following meeting of members held in November. The meeting agreed that the Society should keep going but no volunteers have come forward to lead the Society. There are hopes that the Society will still monitor and comment on planning applications and issues, and a number of offers of help to achieve this have been received.

#### Redland and Cotham Amenities Society

7.8 Alison Bromilow reported that the Chandos Neighbourhood Association are organising a Window Wanderland (window based display walking trails) event from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of February and a WW trail in Bishopston runs from 29<sup>th</sup> Feb to 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Cotham Gardens Primary School is interested in running an event in Cotham next year with local residents. They are seeking volunteers to run it.

#### BOSA

7.9 Mike Broussine reported on the recent parking survey conducted in St. Andrews and Bishopston. The response rate was very good (38%). The results of the survey will be published in March.

#### BCR Street Scene

7.10 Barney Dean reminded the meeting of the work undertaken by Street Scene – removing graffiti, picking up litter, sweeping leaves, etc. Funding under the Gloucester Road BID programme has ended but support is being found from other sources including CIL. Work is currently underway on applying anti-graffiti coating on vulnerable walls.

7.10 Street Scene have regular drop in sessions at Bishopston Library on the second Monday of each month. The next is 10<sup>th</sup> February. There is also a public meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February planned

### **8 Community Infrastructure Levy 2020**

8.1 In 2019 Area Committee 2 (which includes the three BCR wards) had almost £115,000 to spend: projects funded included the Cranbrook Road crossing and tree planting. The funds available for 2020 CIL round are likely to be a lot less: Councillor Fodor suggested a figure of less than £30,000 for the six Area 2 wards but this might increase as development schemes are given approval during the year.

8.2 The CIL application process is already long winded and could be even more so in 2020 because of Council elections. Community groups are being invited to put forward outline proposals by 6<sup>th</sup> April.