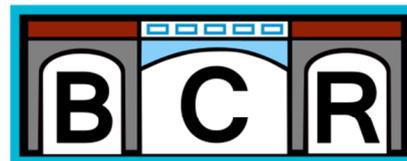


Bishopston, Cotham & Redland Community Partnership



Annual Report 2019-2020

bcr cp.org.uk

Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Community Partnership (BCR CP) was formed in February 2018. This is the Annual Report for its second year of full operation.

Introduction

BCR Community Partnership was formed to fill part of the gap left by the former BCR Neighbourhood Partnership, which, along with all other Neighbourhood Partnerships in the Bristol City area, was dissolved in 2017.

We set out to continue the Neighbourhood Partnership practice of holding public forum meetings at which local residents and community groups could gather to discuss local issues. Our aims (see bcr cp.org.uk/aims/) and constitution (see bcr cp.org.uk/constitution/) remain as approved at the inaugural AGM on 18 February 2018.

We have been supported by our six local councillors, for Bishopston & Ashley Down, Cotham and Redland wards. For the second successive year they unanimously awarded us a grant to be the nominated community organisation to hold community meetings in each of their wards.

This report summarises what we have achieved in our second year (2019-20).

Public Forum Meetings

We commit, as the nominated community organisation, to hold at least one public forum meeting in each of the three wards during each year. The meetings held in the past year are summarised below. Fuller notes for each meeting are available on our website.

Cotham Public Forum

The Cotham Ward meeting was held on **10 June 2019** at Cotham Parish Church Hall.

The meeting was attended by approximately 35 people including ward councillors, representatives of local community organisations and BCR CP Committee Members.

Community group updates were given from Friends of St Andrews Park, High Kingsdown Community Association, Kingsdown Conservation Group, BCR Street Scene Group, Gloucester Road Enterprise and Trade, Bishopston and St Andrews Parking Group, Cotham and Redland Community Sponsorship Group, and the Bishopston Society.

Author of website “The Noise Pages”, Andrew Waller, gave an update on local problems caused by excessive noise, mainly from houses in multiple occupation by students. He also described Operation Beech, a new police initiative paid for by Bristol University to mount extra patrols to address the issue.

Councillor updates were given by Anthony Negus (Cotham), Cleo Lake (Cotham), Eleanor Combley (Bishopston and Ashley Down) and Fi Hance (Redland).

Redland Public Forum

The Redland Ward meeting was held on **20 November 2019** at the Redland Church Halls, attended by 42 people.

Councillor updates were given by Anthony Negus (Cotham), Martin Fodor (Redland) and Eleanor Combley (Bishopston & Ashley Down). Topics covered included HMO licensing, waste and recycling, speeding and parking, and the No 9 bus route.

The new police beat manager for the area, PC Mark Jackson, gave an update on local crime figures and on Operation Beech.

The newly published plans for a Clean Air Zone in Bristol were discussed, with a report from Clean Air Bishopston.

Community group updates were from BOSA, Friends of St Andrews Park, RCAS, GRE&T, Redland Green Community Group and BCR Street Scene Group.

A summary was given of projects that had been awarded Community Infrastructure Levy funding in 2019.

Bishopston Public Forum

The Bishopston & Ashley Down Ward meeting was held on **4 February 2020** at Horfield Quaker Meeting House, attended by 45 people.

Lauren Curl, Bristol City Council sustainable transport officer, gave a presentation on the newly introduced Vehicle Idling Campaign, part of the School Air Quality Action Plan.

The neighbourhood police gave an update on crime statistics and Operation Beech, and there was a discussion on continuing problems with shoplifting on Gloucester Road.

A student at UWE introduced her Pollinator Pathway initiative. Nick Plant, community champion for the Bristol Pound, gave an update on the challenges it was facing.

Three pending public consultations were outlined, with people being encouraged to submit comments on new supplementary planning guidance on HMOs, on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and on the West of England Bus Strategy.

Councillor updates were given by Eleanor Combley (Bishopston & Ashley Down), Fi Hance (Redland) and Anthony Negus (Cotham).

Community group updates were from Friends of Horfield Common, Bishopston Society, RCAS, BOSA and BCR Street Scene Group.

AGM and Public Forum

The combined BCR CP AGM and public forum due to be held on **31 March 2020** at Bishopston Library unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 lockdown. It will be rearranged once meeting restrictions are no longer in force. In any case, it had previously been announced that Area Committee 2 would not award any CIL grants in 2020, so there was no longer a need to gather public feedback on project proposals.

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 approximately 800 subscribers to whom newsletters are emailed announcing meetings. There is a Facebook page ([@bcr.community](#)) with over 400 followers. The BCR CP website ([bcr.org.uk](#)) is used to both publicise meetings and where notes of both committee meetings and public meetings can be found.

Our website, mailing list and social media are also used to publicise other issues on which the local community may wish to be consulted, and to share information from our partner groups, our local councillors and Bristol City Council.

During the year, we also supported and participated in the **Bishopston Community Fair on 21 September 2019** at Bishopston Library. This was a chance for voluntary groups in the area to showcase their work and to attract more supporters and volunteers.

Partners

The partners in our Community Partnership consist of representatives of local community groups (23 at the time of writing) and individual partners (25). Many of the groups made donations towards the starting costs of the partnership in 2018, but there is currently no fee required in order to join – only to agree with our aims.

Equipment Loans

Last year we purchased a PA system and whiteboard to allow effective public meetings to take place. This year, we purchased a digital projector and portable screen to make it possible to include presentations as part of these meetings. As well as using it for the meetings we organise, we make this equipment available to our partner community groups who are able to use them for their own meetings. Further details of the equipment are available on our website [bcr.org.uk](#).

During this year, the PA system has been used for our three public meetings and has also been provided on loan for a further nine public meetings held by other groups in our area. The projector and screen, purchased in February 2020, has been used twice to date.

Finance [round numbers as at 17 April 2020 – full accounts available on request]

At the end of 2018-19, we had a balance of £929, of which £564 was unspent from the community meetings award for that year.

At the start of 2019-20, we again applied to be the nominated community organisation to hold community meetings in our three wards. Each of the six ward councillors in our area again agreed to fund us in this role 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 £177; insurance necessary for public meetings £64; website and email £43; purchase of digital projector and screen for meetings £446.

The fixed level of funding provided by our councillors has been more than required to hold the three meetings during the year. We had planned to hold at least one further meeting if it had not been for the Corvid-19 virus lockdown. At the time of writing, it is unclear when public meetings will be able to resume.

Roger Gimson (Chair)
BCR Community Partnership

17 April 2020