



Bishopston, Cotham & Redland  
Community Partnership

## **Minutes of the BCR Partnership Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020 (Online Zoom Meeting)**

**Present:** Roger Gimson, Alison Bromilow, Peter Browne, Mike Broussine, Kevin Molloy, Kevin Chidgey.

### **1 Postponement of AGM**

1.1 Our constitution requires an AGM to be held within fifteen months of the previous one but owing to Covid-19 and the lockdown this has not been possible.

1.2 The meeting discussed various AGM options :-

- (a) Delay until it is possible to meet normally.
- (b) Delay until it is possible to physically meet under Government guidelines with safety measures in place (e.g. social distancing).
- (c) Organise a virtual online public meeting using Zoom.
- (d) A hybrid approach combining a socially distanced physical meeting with people also being given the opportunity to participate on line.

1.3 There were reservations expressed about various aspects of the latter two options – e.g. people not able or willing to use Zoom would be disadvantaged, people would need to sign up for a Zoom meeting to reduce the risk of Zoom “bombing”, a combined physical and online meeting would only be possible with a good audio-visual setup.

1.4 As and when Government guidelines make it possible for larger groups to meet we might be able to hold a physical meeting as long as we applied strict rules re. social distancing and movement of people. Preconditions might include using a large venue with a separate entrance and exit.

1.5 We need to monitor Government guidelines and consider the views of partner organisations before we agree a way forward. We should aim for a meeting by Autumn.

***Action: It was agreed that we should sound out partner organisations for their views and ask whether they knew of anyone who might be able to offer technical support re. the hybrid option.***

### **2 Committee Membership**

2.1 All six current members of the Committee agreed to continue as Committee members.

***Action: Roger to send a note to partnership groups inviting them to nominate people to join the Committee.***

### **3 Our Role as Holder of the Community Meeting Budget**

3.1 A report on our activities and achievements in 2019/20 re. the Community Meeting Budget was sent to councillors a few months ago. Only one response has been received – from Councillor Martin Fodor who posed the question “Is there anything more you can do ?”

3.2 With sufficient funds available to meet likely expenditure we will not be applying for funding for next year.

### **4 Our Role as a Partnership of Community Groups**

4.1 It was agreed that we should ask partnership groups what they would like us to do – could we, for example, work with them on environmental and traffic issues that are now more in the public limelight as a result of Covid-19 and the impacts of lockdown?

4.2 With regard to bidding for funds it is up to partners to apply to the various funding streams for funding for projects rather than ourselves (unless we do decide to take on primary responsibility for a specific project). We can, however, play an important role in identifying and publicising funding opportunities, and supporting funding bids.

4.3 Should we take on more of a campaigning role on particular issues? How can we be more effective in influencing Council policies and priorities recognising that the Mayor and Cabinet are the key decision makers?

### **5 Topics for Discussion**

#### The Council’s Covid-19 Transport Plan

5.1 The City Council have launched a new interactive mapping tool to capture the public’s view on possible changes to transport and travel. This initiative provides an opportunity to develop and put forward eligible schemes in our area, notably pavement widening schemes. The Council have already committed one tranche of funding to a number of schemes (none in our area) and has invited bids for a second tranche of schemes with a closing date early in August.

5.2 Contenders for the second tranche of funding for pavement widening in our area include two shopping areas – Chandos Road and Cotham Hill. (NB. The peak hour bus lane makes it more difficult to secure pavement widening in our main shopping street, Gloucester Road).

5.3 We could offer our lobbying experience and contacts (e.g. Bristol Walking Alliance) to groups promoting specific schemes but we would need to be careful that community views are properly represented. Proposed schemes should be fully consulted on and have the support of the local community.

5.4 It is possible to view the comments posted on the Council’s interactive map. Peter Browne agreed to collate comments made on Gloucester Road and we can then ask the Council to report on any actions they are taking in response to the comments, and share the summary with our contacts to encourage more to engage.

5.5 We should encourage groups and people in our area to post comments and ideas on the interactive map.

5.6 it was noted that the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan was adopted by The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) in June and that money has been allocated to fund schemes under the Plan. Bristol City Council will decide on which schemes will be funded in Bristol and there may be an opportunity to promote and lobby for schemes in our area.

#### **Actions**

**1 Peter to collate and circulate comments made on Gloucester Road.**

**2 Roger and Alison to publicise and promote the Interactive Map in our next Newsletter.**

**3 We should monitor how Bristol City Council intends to decide on which schemes to support under the WECA Local Cycling and Walking Plan**

#### Bristol Future Parks – Local Implications

5.7 The City Council will be consulting in the coming months on how to pay for works in parks and green spaces. Two main approaches are being put forward – asking community groups to bid for project funds from external sources and inviting commercial activities into parks.

5.8 It is important that all park groups and representatives are made aware of the consultation. Alison has sent out information to groups in the BCR CP area. Groups attending Bristol Parks Forum meetings or on the BPF mailing list will also be aware of the consultation. There may be other park and open space groups who will need to be alerted as will local residents.

5.9 Commercial activities in smaller parks and open spaces might include trading concessions (eg selling ice creams), charging groups who use parks for commercial activities and discrete advertising.

**Action: Publicise the pending Bristol Future Parks consultation in the next BCR Newsletter and point residents towards local parks groups.**

#### Local Groups Crisis

5.10 A number of groups in our area, notably The Bishopston Society and Gloucester Road Enterprise and Trade (GRE&T), are struggling as key volunteers stand down and no one comes forward to take their place.

5.11 With regard to GRE&T Peter Browne explained that it was difficult to persuade traders to get involved: some traders are too busy, some businesses are transient and have limited interest and there is no anchor store to provide administrative and technical support.

**Action: Peter agreed to draft a note on the Gloucester Road situation for inclusion in the next BCR Newsletter.**

## Liveable Neighbourhoods

5.12 Liveable Neighbourhoods is an approach to managing traffic in a neighbourhood area and to encourage walking and cycling. It makes an area more welcoming for walking and facilitating social space, makes it more age - and child-friendly, reduces carbon emissions and improves air quality.

5.13 Bristol City Council is showing interest in the idea of Liveable Neighbourhoods as a focus for local transport planning: a website promoting the initiative is expected to go live shortly.

5.14 The WECA Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan suggested Southville and St. Werburgh's as early candidates for schemes but there may an opportunity to promote schemes elsewhere if there is sufficient local support. The Bristol Walking Alliance is campaigning for more areas to be considered and is encouraging local communities to promote the idea by, for example, joining the Facebook groups that are being set up for each area. Communities have to demonstrate that their proposed scheme has strong local support.

5.15 The initiative could include measures such as closing roads to through traffic, other traffic restrictions, pedestrianisation of shopping streets and street landscaping.

5.16 There are several local areas in BCR that could potentially benefit from the initiative including Church Road which suffers from through traffic and those roads identified in The Bishopston Congested Streets Report as needing remedial measures.

***Action: it was agreed that we should support the campaign to promote Liveable Neighbourhoods in Bristol and direct people towards local Facebook groups looking to put forward schemes under the initiative.***

## Glyphosate Phase Out

5.17 Karen Sillence (High Kingsdown Community Association) has requested that we write to the Mayor asking for an update on phasing out the use of the herbicide Glyphosate.

***Action: Roger will write to the Mayor and relay any response received to members via our Newsletter.***

## Bishopston and St. Andrews Traffic and Parking Group [BOSA]

5.18 The City Council have still to report on the survey of parking and traffic conducted in early 2020.

## **6 Next Committee Meeting**

6.1 It was agreed that we should hold another Zoom meeting in about a month's time.