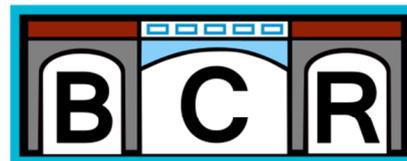


Bishopston, Cotham & Redland Community Partnership



Annual Report 2020-2021

bcr cp.org.uk

Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Community Partnership (BCR CP) was formed in February 2018. This is the Annual Report for its third year of operation, up to 31 March 2021.

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.

2020/21 Meetings Suspended

We were due to have our previous AGM on 31 March 2020, but this had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 lockdown. Since then, pandemic measures to avoid social gatherings have prevented us from holding public forum meetings in person.

The BCR CP Committee met formally (see bcr cp.org.uk/committee/) online in July 2020 and February 2021, and informally at other times to review whether meetings could resume. We decided to hold an online forum and AGM in March 2021 and are hoping that face-to-face meetings can resume later in the year.

One of the regular agenda items for the forum meetings is to publicise and help prioritise Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding. However, 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.

March 2021 AGM and Online Public Forum

We held an online combined AGM and public forum on 15 March 2021, using the Zoom video meeting service. This attracted 34 participants including representatives from 10 of our local partner groups and three of our local councillors.

There were updates from councillors representing each of the three wards and from 11 of our 21 partner groups.

A brief presentation was given on the CIL process for 2021, with outline proposals for funding required by 5 April and the process not concluding until December. It was noted that as of 28 February there was £35,813 available for allocation by Area Committee 2.

The meeting concluded with a brief open forum and with opinions being expressed that though this online meeting had been successful, they were not a substitute for face-to-face meetings.

Communications

Our Facebook page ([@bcr.community](#)) and website ([bcr.org.uk](#)) continued to be used to publicise issues of local interest such as Covid-19 announcements and public consultations of local interest during the year, such as those on Council Tax, local road schemes and high streets.

Though at reduced frequency, we continued to send out email newsletters to a circulation list of approximately 800 subscribers, with further email newsletters for individual and group partners.

Partners

The partners in our Community Partnership consist of representatives of local community groups (21 at the time of writing) and individual partners (23). 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.

Finance [The figures are round numbers – full accounts available on request]

There was no Annual General Meeting in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. This report therefore covers the 23 months from our last AGM in April 2019 up to 1 March 2021.

We started the year 2019-20 with a balance of £929, of which £564 was unspent money from a Council grant in the previous year for running community meetings in our three wards. During 2019-20 each of our six ward councillors agreed to fund us in this role in the sum of £200 each, as fixed and awarded by Bristol City Council. We also received £20 from lending out our PA system.

During 2019-20, our main sets of expenses incurred were: 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 was more than required to hold three meetings a year and we would have held at least one further meeting if it had not been for the Covid-19 virus lockdown. We ended 2019-20 with a balance of £1,399.

Since then we have not held any in-person community meetings. Our only expenses have been annual renewal of our public liability insurance £64 and our website and email subscriptions £43. The balance available is currently £1,293 which should be more than enough to cover the cost of community meetings after Covid lockdown and until the end of 2021-22.

Roger Gimson (Chair)
BCR Community Partnership

5 April 2021