



*Bishopston, Cotham & Redland  
Community Partnership*

## **Minutes of the BCR Community Partnership Public Forum held at The Quaker Meeting Hall on Gloucester Road on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

The meeting was attended by 25 people in person. Three additional people joined in a trial of allowing people also to attend by Zoom. Councillors Emma Edwards, Fi Hance and Guy Poultney were present, with Councillors Martin Fodor and Mohamed Makawi having sent their apologies.

### **1 Welcome and Introduction**

1.1 The Community Partnership Chairman, Roger Gimson, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **2 BCR Community Partnership Annual General Meeting**

2.1 Roger Gimson presented the annual report for the year, explaining that we have held two public forum meetings by zoom in the past year as well holding regular Committee meetings. This is our first face to face forum meeting since February 2020.

2.2 Roger Gimson reported that the Community Partnership have taken on responsibility for the notice board located on the lower part of Gloucester Road which was formerly managed by The Bishopston Society. He also reported that Kevin Chidgey has taken over as Treasurer.

2.3 The Community Partnership now has 18 group members and 32 individual partners. The number of group partners has dropped in recent years due to several groups folding, including The Bishopston Society and the Gloucester Road Enterprise and Trade Association.

2.4 We continue to communicate regularly with members via newsletters, our website and through social media channels.

2.5 With regard to finances Kevin Chidgey reported that the Partnership spent £329 in the fourteen month period from 1st March 2021 until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – the main item of expenditure being £174 on repairs to the Gloucester Road notice board. Our funds now stand at £975 – sufficient to meet the projected costs over the next year without the need to bid for further money from Bristol City Council to help fund the cost of public engagement.

2.6 Committee's existing three members, Roger Gimson, Alison Bromilow and Kevin Chidgey, agreed to stand for re- election and are automatically elected as the number of nominees is less than the number of Committee places (The elections were deemed valid as the AGM meeting was quorate).

2.7 With several Committee members standing down over the past two years attracting new members to serve on the Committee to generate new ideas and share responsibilities is a major priority.

### **3 Police Update**

3.1 Roger Gimson gave a brief report on behalf of the police who gave their apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

3.2 The police are holding two surgeries in May led by PCSO Jonathan Farmer – at 14.30 on 14<sup>th</sup> May at Cotham Parish Church and at 12.00 on 28<sup>th</sup> May at St. Bonaventure's Business Centre. The surgeries give people the opportunity to share concerns, learn about police actions and receive crime prevention advice.

### **4 Group Updates**

#### BCR Street Scene – Barney Dean

<https://bcrcp.org.uk/street-scene>

4.1 Street Scene continued to be active throughout covid lockdown in dealing with litter, graffiti, pot holes, etc. albeit at a reduced level with group activities very much being restricted during lockdown.

4.2 Current activities include painting over the graffiti tags on the security shutters at the Co-op store close to the Quakers meeting hall.

4.3 Bristol Waste Company are active clearing growth etc. in our area through the Big Tidy initiative. The company are in the process of reorganising with teams being established for five divisions in Bristol (being referred to as villages) so that there is greater familiarity with local areas.

4.4 Barney Dean also referred to the Big Give initiative which involves the collection of items being discarded by students as they leave their lodgings.

4.5 Street Scene were encountering communications problems with email messages to some members going into spam folders rather than inboxes. Members are advised to amend their email settings accordingly.

4.6 Street Scene have been successful in recruiting new volunteers.

#### Redland and Cotham Amenity Society (RCAS) – Alison Bromilow

<https://rcas.org.uk>

4.7 Alison reported that RCAS is now having face to face meetings with a recent meeting devoted to encouraging people to plant trees.

4.8 With the rise of social and dedicated WhatsApp groups there is generally less inclination for people to join community societies and groups. To date this has not impacted RCAS who still have 800 members.

4.9 Recent activities include organising work parties to tidy Cotham Gardens.

#### High Kingsdown Community Association – Guy Poultney on behalf of Karen Sillence

<https://www.highkingsdown.co.uk>

4.10 A major priority is to secure the future of Kingsdown Sports Centre which is threatened because of the Council withdrawing funding. A number of bids have been made to take over the sports centre including one from the Community Association.

4.11 Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) continue to be a problem with enforcement actions being taken against unlicensed HMOs.

Bishopston & St. Andrews Traffic and Parking Group (BOSA) – Sara Tullberg  
<https://bosatrafficparking.org.uk>

4.12 Sara reminded the meeting about the household parking survey conducted at the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020. Despite much support for measures including resident parking and junction improvements the City Council Mayor declined to act on the results of the survey.

4.13 BOSA continue to lobby for parking and road safety measures and contact has been made with Councillor Donald Alexander, the Council's new Executive Member for Transport.

4.14 Contacts are being made with other groups in Bristol pushing for parking and road safety measures and an eye will be kept on the traffic and parking impacts of the pending new Clean Air zone which is on the edge of the BOSA area.

Friends of St. Andrew's Park - Roger Gimson on behalf of Jo Corke  
<https://friendsofstandrewspark.ning.com>

4.15 Activities to enhance the park include the redevelopment of the play area, the completion of a mural on the toilet block, the Leopold Road meadow and the Melita Road planting bed. The City Council are also in the process of carrying out essential repairs to the paddling pool.

4.16 The Group is looking for more volunteers to help with activities.

Westbury Park Community Association – Kevin Chidgey  
<https://westburyparkcommunityassociation.weebly.com>

4.17 The major focus for the last eighteen months has been on the plans to redevelop the former St. Christopher's School site for an extra care scheme. The plans are highly controversial involving as they do the proposed construction of apartment buildings up to six storeys high and with only a modest level of on site parking. The developers submitted a planning application in March. The Community Association are opposing the proposal along with local opposition group St. Christopher's Action Network and over 300 local residents.

4.18 More recently the owner of a care home in Belvedere Road submitted yet another planning application to extend the care home even though previous applications have been refused by the City Council and on appeal by the Planning Inspectorate. The Community Association is again opposing the proposal.

4.19 Like many other community groups the Community Association is looking for more volunteers to bring new ideas and to share the workload. At present there are only three active members on the Committee.

Redland Green Community Group – Arnold Mayes on behalf of Lois Goddard  
<https://sites.google.com/site/redlandgreencommunity>

4.20 The Group continues to plant trees, organise litter picks and generally safeguard the special attributes of the Green. There are a number of concerns including damage to trees by vandals, tree theft, soil erosion around tree roots and the ongoing flood problem close to the gate of the children's play area.

4.21 The Group have produced tree and bird apps which can be downloaded from the Group's website.

Chandos Neighbourhood Association – Diana Swain

<https://chandosna.wordpress.com>

4.22 Supported by residents and traders the Association organises community events throughout the year. The Window Wanderland event was held in February and there have been a number of playing out days which involves the road being partially closed. A festival is planned in September (25<sup>th</sup> September from 12.00 to 18.00). Regular litter picks are also organised by the Association.

4.23 Under the Chandos Futures initiative the views of residents and traders have been sought through meetings and surveys to come up with ideas of how to make Chandos Road more pedestrian friendly. Ideas include bike racks, planters and traffic calming measures. To date progress on implementing these ideas through City Council channels has been slow but the Association remain hopeful.

4.24 Other Association news : \_

- Hanging baskets are in place thanks to funds from RCAS and traders.
- Unlicensed HMOs and planning applications to create or expand HMOs continue to be a problem.
- The Association has an opportunity to voice any concerns about student behaviour now Bristol University has appointed a new community liaison officer.
- The Association is a member of the Family Food Action Group, collecting food and donations from 10 roads.

Friends of Bishopston Library – Roger Gimson on behalf of Jenny Hoadley

<http://bishopstonlibrary.org.uk>

4.25 After two years of inactivity due to covid new volunteers are needed to support the reconstituted groups and to help organise events. A well-attended local history talk was held in April.

## **5 CIL Proposals**

5.1 Roger Gimson explained that the amount of funding available for projects in CIL Area 2 was modest - £32,000 less £10,000 ringfenced for a crossing on Cranbrook Road.

5.2 Just one proposal has been put forward in our area (in partnership with adjoining CIL area 4) – a traffic calming scheme for Sommerville Road: measures could include a ban on HGVs and “build outs” to narrow the road and slow traffic. The Council's transport officers have ruled out closure and part closure because of the negative impacts this would have on surrounding minor roads.

5.3 Other through roads in our area also suffer dangerous traffic conditions including Church Road and Churchways Road in Horfield. Residents in this area have lobbied the Mayor to take action but nothing has happened. It seems that action is more likely to be taken if residents report traffic incidents to the Council through the road safety concerns box on the Council's Streets and Travel webpage.

## **6 Family Food Action (FFA) – Diana Swain**

<https://bcrcp.org.uk/ffa>

6.1 Diana explained that Family Food Action was set up in April 2020 to help families living in food poverty – estimated to be one family in eight in our most deprived communities. Food, toiletries and donations are collected from over 50 streets, sorted by volunteers at the Ardaghon Horfield Common and delivered to four community based children’s centres – St. Paul’s Children’s Centre , Felix Road Adventure Playground, May Park Primary School and Lockleaze Adventure Playground.

6.2 With close links to community partners who can specify needs and offering donations of fresh food and toiletries FFA differs from a food bank.

6.3 Members pay £1 to join the scheme and then pay £3.50 to community support workers at each of the centres once a week ( Wednesdays) to choose what they want. The support workers at the centres are also well placed to provide support to people with problems and anxieties.

6.4 FFA is looking for more volunteers to help with collections, sorting and distribution. FFA is also encouraging people to start new street groups in the knowledge that food poverty is here to stay.

## **7 My Community in Bristol – Jess Garbett**

7.1 The My Community initiative, set up by Mencap with covid funding, aims to place people with learning disability at the centre of community development. The local initiative, covering Horfield, Lockleaze, Bishopston and Ashley Down and Ashley wards, encourages people to give views on what they want to happen in their area.

7.2 A Community Committee led by people with learning disability and comprising volunteers and paid staff is working to build relationships with community groups and businesses able to offer training opportunities and work placements.

7.3 Anyone interested in supporting the initiative can contact Jess or Alice at [mycommunity.bristol@mencap.org.uk](mailto:mycommunity.bristol@mencap.org.uk) or Jess on 07816 295082

7.4 In response to a question about whether the initiative would include people who were neurodivergent Jess said that there would be access for everyone.

7.5 Roger Gimson asked Jess to send the Community Partnership a note on how people can get involved which we can post on our website.

## **8 Aid Box Community - Imogen McIntosh**

8.1 Aid Box Community provides support, supplies and sanctuary for refugees and people seeking asylum in Bristol. The project is based at a hub in Cheltenham Road and distributes donated items free of charge to refugees and asylum seekers (clothing, toiletries and food, etc.)

8.2 The project also organises activities (e.g. swimming lessons) and has run weekend retreats in Stroud to help build friendships across different cultures.

8.3 Imogen explained that six hotels across Bristol host over 600 refugees and asylum seekers, including one which has 250 men from over 20 countries. A major problem is the slowness of The Home Office in processing asylum applications. To date only one family has been permanently settled in Bristol.

8.4 There are an estimated 300 Ukrainian refugees with visas to stay in the UK for a limited time. They will be supported by the hub which is being expanded. The hub will also be supporting host families as hosting is not always straightforward because of cultural differences.

8.5 There are already over 130 volunteers but more are needed at the hub and on collections . There is also a need for specific items, including school uniforms. A crisis appeal has been launched to raise much needed funds.

8.6 Items needed by the project are listed on the Aid Box website - [www.aidboxcommunity.co.uk](http://www.aidboxcommunity.co.uk)

## **9 Updates on Council Plans**

### Resident Parking

9.1 Currently there is little progress as resident parking is not a priority for the Mayor. Councillor Guy Poultney did offer some comfort by explaining that there was a move afoot to fund one new parking zone a year for the next two years with income from the first zone being used to fund the second zone. With the pressures on parking in the St. Andrews area and with Ashley Hill Station being re-opened this area might have a chance of being one of the new resident parking zones.

### Clean Air Zone

9.2 The Clean Air Zone is scheduled to be operational in late Summer but much still needs to be done including the installation of cameras and signage. Older cars (petrol pre 2006, diesel pre 2015) will have to pay £9 a day to access the zone.

### Liveable Cities

9.3 The first pilot will be in the St. George's area. Residents have made initial comments and the Council is to produce a handbook of good practise to illustrate what might be possible to deliver. There will be further consultation once proposed designs for the pilot scheme are available. A second pilot has been agreed in principle but a decision has not been made about the location.

9.4 Progress depends on funding and the Council have to put a business case to the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) which has to demonstrate economic viability. The weight that will be given to other factors, notably air quality, health and environmental quality is as yet unclear.

## **10 Councillor Updates**

10.1 Councillor Emma Edwards reported on the results of the Mayoral referendum and the rejection of the mayoral model in favour of a return to the Committee decision making system. This would bring a greater focus on community issues and require building a new relationship with WECA which is key. A cross party working group has already be set up to help manage the transition.

10.2 A Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) has been agreed for St. Andrews Park which gives the Council more powers to combat antisocial behaviour.

10.3 Councillor Fitzgibbon (via Emma) reported that Gloucestershire Cricket Club plan to host more community events at the ground (eg. a talk by Extinction Rebellion). There is still an issue about a crossing near the cricket ground which needs to be resolved. The impact of the Floodlight Usage Management Plan (FLUMP) on cricket is being reviewed.

10.4 Councillor Poultney's priorities were making sure that Kingdown Sports Centre stayed open, and controlling HMOs through planning and enforcement.

The meeting finished at 9.10 pm.

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*Kevin Chidgey / BCR CP 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022*