

**Henleaze, Stoke Bishop, W-o-T NP
Environment Working Group
Thursday 6th November 2014**

Recommendations:

- The Neighbourhood Committee **agree** to the provisional release of **£250** from the Clean and Green allocation for shrubs and plants to hide the gas cabinet on Stoke Lodge, *providing* Wales and West agree to undertake the work
- The Neighbourhood Committee **agree** to the release of **£100** for paint and equipment to complete the railings work on the path in W-o-T car park
- The Neighbourhood Committee **agree** to the release of the two S106 requests detailed in section 3.0 below (**£1,196 and £2,255.71p**)
- The Neighbourhood Partnership **agree** the recommendations detailed in the Green Capital funding table in 4.2 below
- The Neighbourhood Committee **agree** the recommendation for the release of **£1,375** of S106 (North View) funding for the Durdham Down request (No 6) in the Green Capital funding table in 4.2 below

1. Present: Helen Furber, Val Bishop, Sheila Preece, Simon Tomlinson, Alan Preece, Janet Brinnand Gordon Richards, Sue Mayer, Gay Huggins, Alan Aburrow, Hilary long, David Mayer, Clare Campion-Smith, Stephanie French, Gary Brentnall, Andrew McGrath

1.1 Apologies: Glenise Morgan, Sue Boyd, Gill Brown

Meeting chaired by David Mayer

2. Notes from last meeting

2.1 Canford tennis court lights. Hilary handed out a statement that she is submitting to the Planning 'B' Committee for the 12th November 2014.

Update: It was unanimously resolved by the planning committee that the application be deferred pending a Site Inspection by the Committee, to provide a demonstration of the proposed lighting at an appropriate time of day

- 2.2** Canford Park toilets. Still not open. There appears to be only one thing remaining to be done. Gary to chase up. **Action:** Gary
- 2.3** Lloyds Bank Community Award. Andrew distributed poster as requested
- 2.4** £8,177.04 (Hiatt Baker S106) awarded at the September NP for FOSPNR for improved access
- 2.5** £2,306.80 (Stoke Hill S106) awarded at the September NP for purchase of street trees
- 2.6** Stephanie applied for the funding for 3 extra trees (see notes below).
- 2.7** Still no decision on Stoke Lodge TVG status.
- 2.8** Andrew read out an email regarding Knotweed. One resident backing on to SL has filed an insurance claim against BCC. Andrew to find out more details. **Action:** Andrew
- 2.9** Growth near the new playground on SL cut back as per request.
- 2.91** Gas cabinet on SL. BCC CEO, Nicola Yates has instructed Planning to negotiate with Wales and West to finally get this sorted. It is just as much BCC's fault for not pursuing enforcement. The meeting agreed to **request the Neighbourhood Committee to agree the release of (up to) £250 Clean and Green funding** for plants for this if it is needed and if it will help get it sorted. Again, Stephanie was thanked for her patience and endurance in dealing with this.
- 2.92** Curb stones at W-o-T war memorial have been cleaned in time for Memorial Sunday. Damage kerbstones also patched up, thanks to Gary. This is just temporary but will suffice for Memorial Sunday
- 2.93 Carry forward** discussions between Sue Boyd and Andrew regarding new lamp at bottom of lane in to WoT car park. **Action:** Andrew and Sue.
- 2.94 Carry forward** painting of remaining railings on lane via Community Payback. Gary stated that some paint and equipment is needed for this job, approximately £100. The group agreed to **request the Neighbourhood Committee to agree the release of £100 from Clean and Green funding** to purchase paint and equipment for this work. **Action:** Gary to liaise with Sue

2.95 Roman Custom House remains on Roman Way are of national importance and their current condition are a disgrace to Bristol. Stephanie requested that this be taken on as a NP project. Gary to liaise with Pete Insoll. **Action:** Gary to liaise and update the NP with progress a.s.a.p.

2.96 Regarding the proliferation of plastic canvas banners in the area, it was **agreed** that everyone on the group should bombard the appropriate officer in BCC with complaints every time they see one. Name of officer provided to group.

2.97 Note from Sue Boyd asked about progress regarding fires in bins. Gary and Andrew informed the meeting that the appropriate officer had been informed and the leaflet provided. Only time will tell if it has an effect.

3.0 S106 requests

3.1 Request from Stephanie French for release of £1,196 from the Hiatt Baker allocation for the replanting of 3 street trees in empty pits and replacing of a lost TPO tree on Stoke Lodge. The meeting **agreed** to the request and **formally requests the Neighbourhood Committee to agree the release of £1,196 from the Hiatt Baker S106 allocation**

3.2 Request from Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve to clear silt from the lake. BCC has done it before but there has to be an acceptance that it might not be in a position to do so again at present due to budget constraints. Currently OSPNR volunteers are trying their best to keep it at a reasonable level but this now needs professional work. The request is to fund it from the Sanctuary Gardens S106 allocation. It was noted that with VAT, the cost would be £2,856. There is only £2,255.71 in the S106 allocation. How can the difference of £800 be found? Gary stated that he believes he can get it done in-house for no more than the amount in the S106 allocation. Vote taken on a proposal for a delay until more information on costs and BCC's responsibilities are known. This was rejected by 2 for and 8 against. The in-principle support for funding this project (subject to Gary finding an in-house quote) was supported 9 in favour and 1 against (1 abstention). **Action:** Gary to obtain in-house quote a.s.a.p. and report back to NP

3.3 The meeting **formally requests the Neighbourhood Committee to agree to the release of up to £2,255.71 from the Sanctuary Gardens S106 allocation for silt removal as per the request from FOSPNR**

4.0 Green Capital funding

4.1 The NP is aware that it has £10k to allocate to projects under the Bristol European Green Capital 2015 project. The NP is asked to allocate funding according to the criteria provided by the Green Capital Partnership. The criteria are:

- Increasing people's access to affordable, healthy, sustainable food.
- Enabling more people to access affordable energy.
- Inspiring and educating people about nature and how to care for it.
- Providing activities and initiatives that help people re-use, repair, and share materials.
- Helping people discover more sustainable transport (e.g. walking, cycling or public transport).

As per the agreement made at the last NP, the Environment Working Group was tasked with appraising applications to this fund and making recommendations. Using the above criteria, it has made the following recommendations. The NP is asked to agree these recommendations. Please note, all members of the NP are entitled to vote at the NP on the allocation of money relating to this fund, as the money doesn't come from BCC

4.2 Recommendations:

Organisation	What the funding is for	How much requested?	Notes, comments and recommendations
1. Cycle Sunday (safe cycling for kids)	To close roads on the Downs for 4 Sunday mornings in 2015 to provide a safe cycling environment and other cycling activities	£5,350.40p	This application is rejected. Reasons: Downs Committee are against it; the Downs are a city-wide resource, not just HSBWOT; councillors have indicated they are against it; Concern that people will have to drive to the Downs to take part; no apparent legacy <u>Recommendation:</u> Request rejected
2. Elmlea Junior School	To develop a sustainable garden in the school grounds	£2,345	Strong application. They have the facilities and a staff member to lead it. <u>Recommendation:</u> Request agreed; fund fully
3. Friends of Badock's Wood	Environmental and access improvements to Badock's Wood	£7,080	Willing to part-fund (£3,230) for seating (from menu requested) only on following conditions: 1) If identical request to Quartet is rejected 2) If extra funding is provided for Devonshire Road scheme

			<p>Note: If extra funding for Devonshire Road scheme is not awarded, this scheme will be funded from the Well Being fund</p> <p>Recommendation: Request agreed for part funding of £3,230 as per above conditions</p>
4. Soil Association	Hold a Big Picnic to raise awareness of how school food culture has changed using the Food for Life Partnership and the Bristol Mayoral awards programme	£2,100	<p>No legacy, no indication that local schools will support or take part in this project.</p> <p>Recommendation: Request rejected</p>
5. W-o-T Academy	Playground development project including opportunities for growing fruit and vegetables	£16,600	<p>This application meets the GC criteria. Some concern about the sustainability of the project. The weather station seems expensive. Willing to fund the trees and shrubs. These elements come to £3,500. Would like 3 quotes for these elements.</p> <p>Recommendation: Request agreed for part-funding of £3,500</p>
6. Durdham Down Trees	Replacement of 5 trees on Westbury Park (Road)	£1,495	<p>This project will cost slightly less than requested as price per street tree is now 5 X £275 (£1,375). The recommendation is that this project be funded from the North View S106 allocation.</p> <p>Recommendation: Request rejected for Green Capital funding but the Environment Working Group requests that the Neighbourhood Committee agree £1,375 of S106 funding (North View) for this project</p>
7 Devonshire Road Trees	Replacement of trees on Devonshire Road, Henleaze	£25,545 – 30,563	<p>13 tree replacements and repair 12 other bits of pavement. This road is becoming inaccessible due to size of trees, roots and damaged (by roots) pavements. The option it was agreed should be considered is to remove 2 current tree stumps and investigate what lies beneath to see if tree pits are possible. If so, put in 2 new trees. This method could create a legacy of how to investigate tree pits that could be used across Bristol. Therefore, it has potential citywide benefits</p> <p>This element of the project will cost £4,960. The Environment Working Group is willing to recommend funding it on the following conditions (see Friends of Badock's Wood, above and Well Being report):</p>

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If <u>additional</u> funding is agreed, this will be paid for from additional Green Capital funding 2. If additional funding is not agreed, it will be funded from the NP's current allocation (£10k), which can be achieved as the Badock's Wood funding will then be paid for from the Well Being fund <p><u>Recommendation:</u> Request agreed for part funding of the one element of the request, costing 4,960 only according to the above conditions</p>
--	--	--	--

5.0 Parks Updates

5.1 Sea Mills playground is now open. An excellent facility

5.2 You can still contribute to the Parks Maintenance contract discussion. It's still online. Opinions were canvassed at the last round of Forums. A timescale for finalising this now needs to be agreed with Parks. Gary and Andrew to work with Parks on this and report back.

Action: Gary and Andrew **Update:** Consultation now finished. Please see update from Director of Parks and Leisure in the NP Coordinator's report

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 The siting of the new tree on Stoke Lodge is open to suggestions. It could go in up to March 2015. If not, it will have to wait until later in the year for the next tree planting season. It was agreed that Stephanie will email everyone to canvass opinion after meeting with the tree officer.

Action: Stephanie

6.2 Still funds in the Community Payback fund. Requests requested. The curb at Stoke Lodge needs work doing on it. The steps in W-o-T village (see notes above). Could the path verge be planted with bulbs? Yes.

6.3 It was agreed that the next Environment Working Group meeting will be a 2pm meeting. Various options for the timing of these meetings: We could alternate; have evening meetings in summer months and day time meetings in winter. This is to be discussed at next meeting.

Action: Andrew

6.4 Alan (Aburrow) read out a letter stating how BCC tree officers are to identify and report trees that need felling. Alan was (in equal part) amused and exasperated by the complexity of what ought to be a simple task.

6.5 David asked the group to give its thanks to the work of the neighbourhood partnership officers. This was kindly (and graciously) accepted by the officers

7.0 NP Priorities – Environment

7.1 David went over the provisionally agreed priorities that the Environment Working Group will look to submit for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Partnership Plan. There was general agreement regarding what the higher strategic priorities ought to be. The reps were reminded that they will be expected to endorse these priorities at the NP away-day on Saturday 15th November. They will of course be able to add and edit them at the away-day and beyond.

7.2 Andrew explained that this plan will dictate how he, Gary, and other officers do their work in the next 3 years. There is a considerable performance management requirement to the plans, that Andrew is expected to update and report on, on a quarterly basis. The meeting was also reminded that specific tasks need to be assigned to the higher strategic aspirations of all the NP's priorities. This way, Andrew will be able to negotiate resources and officer time to help deliver the priorities. Andrew stated that he will keep reminding the NP of the need for 'do-able' actions, not only because this will make planning work easier, but also because residents will want to see action and changes in their area as a result of the plan.

8.0 Date of next meeting 2pm Thursday 15th January (venue tbc)

9.0 Tree Report to NP3 for 8th December 2014

It has been a busy quarter for the trees in our patch. I have good news and bad news. I'll get the worst bit of bad news out of the way first.

The Cedar of Lebanon in Stoke Lodge Parkland - our iconic tree - is failing. All the trees in the Parkland are to be reviewed this month and it is quite likely that a felling notice will be affixed to the tree. It poses a medium risk of danger - medium because where it is situated it is unlikely that many folk pass underneath its branches but, were a branch to fall on someone, then it could prove fatal.

We have a few options open to us. I have spoken to the BCC Tree Officer responsible for our patch. The timber can be kept on site and just stored as a habitat. We can ask that some of the branches be carved into seats or sculptured in some other way. We can ask BCC to leave the trunk erect -i.e. not a short stump or even ground out - and then we could have that sculptured.

The tree could/should also be replaced. A large tree could cost £10,000! So it is likely to be a usual sized tree planted for future generations just like someone planted this one for us to enjoy. It could be replaced with another Cedar of Lebanon. Sculpting the trunk, sculpting its branches and replacing it are all going to cost money and BCC tells us it has no money so maybe we could negotiate with BCC for some of the wood to be sold (it is valued for furniture) to provide a fund for sculpture of some/most of the rest (branches and/or trunk) of the wood so that it lives on in the Parkland. A 1 metre plank can be £25. Obviously this is after a lot of preparation but just think how many planks even half of it would provide for a fund so we could sculpt and keep the rest.

A second piece of bad news is that a project on which several of us have spent a lot of time and effort to replace the oversized and pavement-disrupting trees in **Devonshire Road, Henleaze** and repair the pavements, making a bid for money for the project from the Green Capital Fund, is likely to fail. The total cost was in excess of £30,000 (way beyond the £10,000 per NP limit!) and we could not be certain that having felled a tree it would be possible to replace it in a new tree pit (the modern and longer lasting way). So the nett result could have been loss of the trees. A new plan is being formulated - just to replace the two stumps with new trees in new pits (if possible), making a bid for the £5000 required from the second layer city wide Green Capital Fund. Early days yet.

The unsatisfactory replacement trees around **Trymwood Parade** have been replaced and the two at the side have also been planted, including a tree where the lost TPO Willow Tree had been situated. We'll keep a careful eye on them.

Trymside Green Space is being used by Wessex Water as a depot. It is a mess. There are two roads providing access - an in and an out. Lorry drivers seem not to be able to keep to the temporary roads and there is quite a bit of churn at the sides of the roads. But there is a planning consent condition to re-instate the area and Wessex Water has quite a good reputation for compliance so we shall see what happens afterwards. I have not deleted the “before” photos.

The Environment Group is asking for the NP to approve the spending of some devolved funds money on a further **3 trees to replace lost street trees in Stoke Bishop..**

Using s106 money from the development at North View The Environment Group is asking for **5 replacement trees along Westbury Park on the edge of the Downs** following a request by Councillor Clare Campion Smith.

I had a very useful site meeting on **Stoke Lodge Parkland with our BCC Tree Officer Phil Burton** on 14th November. We spent an hour reviewing what has happened to the trees in the park over the last two years. There are now some further investigations ongoing and I'll report the outcomes to you in March perhaps. I am grateful to Phil for his readiness to agree to the meeting and for the time he was willing to spend. He also attended a site meeting in Devonshire Road with the two Henleaze Councillors and me most readily, and again spent time with us discussing the situation. As we volunteers working with the NP are amateurs and yet are expected to manage suggestions for the spending of devolved funds, his willingness as a BCC Officer to assist and inform, and promptly, is most welcome.

14th November site visit to Stoke Lodge parkland:

- 1) A huge **oak tree near Cheyne Road** fell apart. It was a boundary oak and its loss has left a large gap in the perimeter greenness. Maybe we should replace it using some of our CIL/s106 money?
- 2) **Two trees** a bit further along the same boundary **were felled** in 2012 and, according to the planning consent, should have been replaced by BCC, but were not. Already since the site meeting it has been agreed that two trees that should have been replaced by now will now be replaced soon, and I shall be involved in helping to choose the locations along that boundary.
- 3) **An Ash tree near Shirehampton Road boundary** just near where the new gate into the playground is situated was felled due to disease, and was not replaced. If it had not been felled it would have posed a problem to the builders of the playground. The Environment Group agrees with me that Stoke Bishop residents owe that tree to the Parkland and is **asking the NP to approve the**

spend of some of the Hiatt Baker s106 money on a replacement tree. If the NP agrees then I shall consult with interested parties on the species and site for the tree. Both of these topics were discussed with Phil so I know what options to offer for discussion.

4) The Cedar of Lebanon: See first paragraph of report.

We have made no further progress with **the Gas Cabin screening.** Wales & West are being asked nicely to assist but we have not heard any more yet about any screening forthcoming. We are however being kept up to date regularly with the failure to make progress, so that is better than previously. I shall not be happy to accept failure with that request to Wales and West though.

Meanwhile a citizen from another part of Bristol has asked me to describe to him how our problem arose and then he described to me an almost identical situation on his patch with Wales and West being investigated for alleged non-compliance. So I am not hopeful that Wales and West will provide us with better screening voluntarily.

Otherwise people continue to cut down **trees in their back gardens.**

I have strayed over the border twice, once into Brentry and once into Avonmouth but only helping residents to find the right contacts or to search for planning conditions etc.