

**Stoke Bishop, W-on-T & Henleaze
Environment Working Group
Coombe Dingle Sports Centre
Thursday 14th January 2016**

Present: Sheila Preece, Alan Preece, Hilary Long, Gill Brown, Val Bishop, Clare Milne, Mike Blundell, Helen Furber, Eileen Poad, Sue Boyd, Stephanie French, Susan Mayer, Alan Aburrow, David Mayer.

Apologies: Cllr Glenise Morgan, Cllr Clare Champion-Smith, Graham Donald, Gary Brentnall

Meeting Chaired by David Mayer

1. Minutes and Matters arising from 29th October 2015 meeting:

Notes considered accurate with the following exceptions or continuing actions:

1.1 Phoenix Lane Weeds. Eileen confirmed that the work had been undertaken but was still incomplete in certain areas. Gary agreed to investigate. C/F from October 2015. **Action:** Gary to check

1.2 Japanese Knotweed. Correction to the assertion that the Knotweed problem on SL emanates from the Kitchen Garden. There is no Knotweed in this location.

1.3 Weed Killing. A further assertion that the WHOP has found there is no harm to health. Evidence that it is was considered flimsy. There is continuing analysis.

1.4 FOSPNR. Janet Brinnand has now stepped down as the OSPNR rep on this group. The meeting gave a vote of thanks to Janet for her input. Claire Milne is taking over Janet's role

2. Trees

Stephanie reported that she had had a meeting with a BCC officer, who had shown her a flow chart of costings for tree replacement. The flow chart only shows S106 funded trees. No other funding sources shown.

The PIPs programme is taking up most of the staff resource, so we are not sure how many other trees can be planted by the team.

Further comments on the flowchart included the mystery of how one gets to box 10. The arrows seem to send you back to the beginning.

Alan noted that the timescales were impossible to achieve. It doesn't mention tree pits in roads.

The biggest challenge for the tree champion is getting responses and action from BCC. Stephanie needs support in this work. Reps should talk to people and report back to Stephanie and Gary. This is the right group to make recommendations on expenditure.

3. Tree Sculpture update

This is becoming increasingly difficult and complex. The scaffolding cost is high.

There are possible costs of reinstatement. We need to make the case for not having to pay for this. It would have had to be done anyway if the whole tree were cut down, so there oughtn't to be a charge for bits of it being taken down. **Action:** Gary to check on this

There had been a quote for scaffolding under £3k but this was quickly withdrawn. A quote has additional conditions attached to it: method statement; H&S statement; drawings of plan; Public Liability Insurance. Some of this is unreasonable. We are now trying for 3 further quotes. David stated that some of these requests are reasonable and shouldn't be beyond a professional scaffolder. **Afternote:** Stephanie has secured a quote for under £3k. This provider needs to be checked out. It appears he is on the BCC approved contractor list. We just need to clarify the permissions needed **Action:** Gary to check and, if possible, give the okay to engage the identified scaffolder. If this doesn't work out and if further quotes are more than £3k we will need to think about how we can secure further funding locally.

A **vote** was taken that the NP shouldn't have to pay for reinstatement costs. This was unanimously agreed.

Vote taken to agree further quotes should be obtained. Unanimously agreed

Do we support local fundraising to make up the difference, if needed? A **vote** was taken. Unanimously agreed

4. Clean and Green

Still haven't spent £500 per ward this year (2015/16). **Action:** Andrew to check. **Afternote:** Checked and confirmed. Funding still not spent. Can be carried forward to 2016/17

5. Stoke Lodge Playground

There is a current well-being application for £3,986 for extra play equipment. The group **agreed** (unanimously) that this should be paid for from the NP's CIL funds. The Neighbourhood Committee will be asked to fund the new play equipment, fully priced at **£3,986**, from the NP's CIL allocation.

6. Sensory Garden idea

Sue showed the meeting some ideas for a sensory garden that could, potentially, be sited in the old kitchen garden of Stoke Lodge. The idea came about following discussions with parents of disabled children in the area who have been delighted by the playground and use it very regularly. A sensory garden would provide further opportunities for many local people, including disabled children.

This is clearly a project that needs further investigation. There is a lot of advice available to help this idea. It was suggested that the WGOP might be interested in getting involved. Andrew spoke about the potential for funding as well. One member of the group spoke of a report written about a similar project in Sheffield. **Action:** Andrew to dig out this report and cascade.

The group agreed unanimously to support this idea in principle and to assist with its development. **Afternote:** The idea was discussed with the Mayor on his visit to the NP on 25th January 2016. He was extremely keen and supportive and was very interested in the possible location of the garden. He also suggested that advice could be available from the University Botanical Garden near the Downs.

7. Japanese Knotweed

Alan has put together a simple leaflet explaining what Japanese Knotweed is, what it looks like, and how to eradicate it. The suggestion is that it could be given to all houses backing on to Stoke Lodge.

The meeting agreed wholeheartedly that the leaflet is excellent and a great help. It would benefit from being branded as a BCC leaflet. **Action:** Alan, Gary, Andrew to investigate getting it produced as a BCC leaflet. It could be given to local community organisations and possibly as an insert or page in BS9 and Henleaze & Westbury Voice

8. Ebenezer Lane

Sheila has performed a lot of work rebutting the details of a long reply to her concerns from a senior BCC officer. Some of the content of the letter seemed to be inaccurate. For example, a pile of cuttings that was supposed to have been removed was still there, a long time after the letter was received. There is an intention to ask the BCC officer to come and see the problem for himself.

It was agreed unanimously that David will send a reply to the officer, as per the draft provided, including an invitation to attend a meeting on site and to attend the next ENV meeting on 28th April 2016. **Action:** David to send letter. **Afternote:** Letter sent on Tuesday 9th February 2016. Officer to be invited to attend next ENV meeting

9. Additional funding for improvements to PROWs

Alan provided the meeting with information on a request from BCC Highways for the NP to provide £5,000 of its funds to support the levelling and improvement of public rights of way (PROW) in the NP area.

The funding is requested to complete the improvement to three sections of pathways around Golden Hill, Henleaze (please see appendix 1). The total cost is £24,500 and constitutes approximately one third of the total annual citywide budget for such work.

After some discussion the meeting agreed (Votes in favour = 9; votes against = 2; abstentions = 1) to formally request the Neighbourhood Committee to agree to release £5,000 of the NP's CIL funds to enable this work to proceed.

Why have these particular lanes been chosen? It was agreed that this needs to be taken up with the councillors. Concern was expressed that by agreeing to support this project we might be setting a precedent. It is BCC's statutory duty to ensure these lanes are accessible. We need to treat this as a one-off issue. Unfortunately, in the current funding climate, NPs may need to accept that they will have to support projects that were previously paid for from central BCC funds. At least the NPs get to agree to fund which projects they want.

10. Roman Villa display board

A quote has been provided for an interpretation board to replace the sign that disappeared at the site some time ago. The quote includes the wording for the board. The quote is £980. The meeting agreed to formally

request the Neighbourhood Committee to agree to release £980 for this board from NP funds

11. Any Other Business

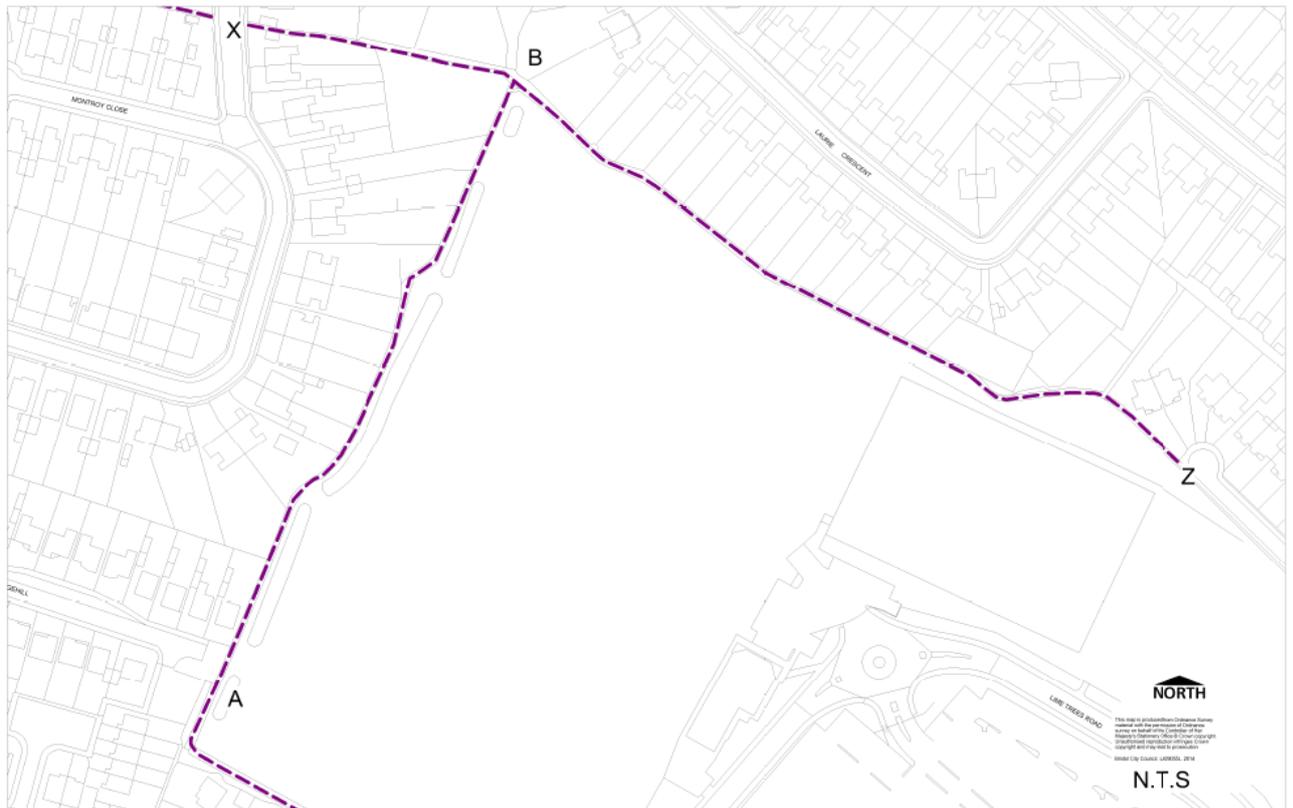
11.1 Thanks were given to Sue Boyd for her years of service managing Westbury-in-Bloom. It has won numerous prizes and has been a great success. The meeting gave a unanimous vote of thanks to Sue for her wonderful work over the years. The hunt is now on for Sue's successor.

11.2 Gill reminded the meeting that there are significant plans for upgrading the facilities at Coombe Dingle. Everyone is advised to keep a close watch for important dates. The work on Coombe Dingle will start in May. A public meeting was being held on 19th January.

11.3 Claire discussed the on-going silt problem in the lake in OSPNR. The plan is to install a silt tank and reed banks to counter the problem. The FOSPNR may come back to the NP to discuss help with funding.

12. Date of next meeting

2.00pm Thursday 28th April 2016pm. Venue to be confirmed



MAP 1	A---B	400m	Provision of Stone to Dust surfaced path with wood edging. 1.25m width
	X---B	98m	
	B---Z	280m	

