



Meeting of NP3’s Working Group for Older People Wednesday 11 January 2017 at Henleaze Library

Present:

Valerie Bishop (VB) [Chair]	Graham Donald (GD)	Helen Furber (HF)
Geoff Gollop (GG)	Gay Huggins (GH)	James Lynch (JL)
Andrew McGrath (AM)	John Moore (JM)	Glenise Morgan (GM)

Apologies:

Janet Brewer	Audrey Indge	Mildred Miller
Peter Robottom		

- 1 **Welcome** VB welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2 **Apologies** As above.
- 3 **Notes of last meeting** Approved.
- 4 **Budget freeze** GG advised that, following the recent budget freeze, funding from Bristol City Council (BCC) has changed dramatically. It is unlikely that the WGOP (if it continues) will receive any financial support from BCC. We also need to know what structure is proposed if Neighbourhood Partnerships (NPs) cease.

When sufficient information becomes available, it will be necessary to consider whether we need to reconstitute the WGOP and, if so, what actions should be taken.

GG anticipated BCC draft budget information being available on 12 January although it will probably not be in sufficient detail for decisions to be taken at a micro level. The position should become clearer at an upcoming meeting about NPs on 4 February. Thereafter, on 21 February, BCC’s Full Council will be meeting to discuss and agree the annual budget for the city.

- 5 **Working together** Following a discussion, everyone agreed that it is important for the group (in some form) to continue. This will involve reviewing the key objectives – i.e. probably working more closely with local amenity and church groups, the Bristol Old People’s Forum etc. and acting more as a co-ordinating group than in the past.

Given that ongoing BCC funding is unlikely, the WGOP will need

to apply for grants from outside providers if and when finance is required.

- 6 Westbury Walkers** The ongoing success and sustainability of Westbury Walkers, which was set up by the WGOP, was noted and applauded.
- 7 Over 55s booklet** HF confirmed she had spoken with Hannah Somers of LinkAge. Due to restructuring and having to reconsider their own financial position, LinkAge need to pass on additional costs for any future support they provide (e.g. design costs, management etc.) rather than just invoicing for printing. It will be at least a month before there is any clarity about the financial implications of LinkAge's restructuring.

Whilst a future decision may be taken to prepare a fresh booklet with support from one or more sponsors other than LinkAge, it was agreed not to proceed with any work on the booklet until after 31 March due to the uncertainty surrounding both the LinkAge input and the future of NPs.
- 8 Finance** The WGOP currently holds funds totalling £511.80. At the NP3 meeting on 5 March, a proposal should be put forward to the Neighbourhood Committee about how the funds will be used if NPs cease on 31 March – e.g. seed capital for any new group(s) to replace the WGOP (if applicable).
- 9 Sensory Gardens** Through NP3's environment group, work has started on planning two sensory gardens. It is understood (subject to receiving further information on 12 January) that work is more advanced on a garden at Stoke Lodge than at Old Quarry Park. CIL funding was agreed by the Neighbourhood Committee for both gardens at the December 2016 meeting.
- 10 Next meeting** It was agreed to hold a further meeting before the provisional end date for NPs. It will take place on Wednesday 22 March – 10am at Henleaze Library.

HF/ 11 January 2017