

Notes from Westbury-on-Trym Forum 9th November 2011-11-18 held at Venue 35

1. Welcome and introductions

Neighbourhood Partnership representatives; Sue Boyd, Alan Aburrow, David Mayer (meeting chairman)

Neighbourhood Partnership BCC officers; Andrew McGrath and Farhan Ahmed.

Guests speakers - Gary Brentnall, Area Environmental Officer/Green Space, and Tomasz Sadowski (Tom), our Police Community Police Officer and Hilary Long (WoT Soc)

Members of the Community.

Apologies from: - Cllr Alistair Watson; Cllr Geoff Gollop; Jill Kempshall

2. Local Developments/Projects/Consultations

Meeting opened with a request for a volunteer to replace Tracy Tainton, who stood down as W-o-T resident Rep for NP3 recently; no 'takers' but the audience were then asked to assist in locating a willing volunteer before the next meeting.

Green Space

Gary Brentnall had a comprehensive list detailing future 'green space' priorities/options and asked the audience to be of assistance by highlighting their preferred choice, in descending order, during the half time interval, (see attachment).

Wesley College Proposals - update

Hilary Long (W-o-T Soc) gave a brief explanation of the history surrounding the sale of the College and Grounds and went on to say that Agents have had talks with BCC about its possible future use as development land. However, Wesleyans' fear the historic library (local asset) at the College is under threat of division, whilst residents adjacent to the site have growing concerns that future development would have a negative impact on Westbury Village despite the sites Henbury postcode.

Canford Lane - Trees

It was confirmed that as the landowners, J C Decaux were quite within their legal rights to remove six trees from land adjacent to the old Halifax Offices without prior warning to neighbouring households or relevant local organisations. Many local residents who joined a protest gathering at the site felt the conservation area should be extended to include the site. However, TPO's are now in place, protecting the remaining trees along the embankment. It was also stated that anyone can ask for a T.P.O, to be put on a tree they value). A kind benefactor "Barlett Tree Experts" has offered to supply a replacement tree and its location is currently under discussion.

A local Home Care Company has already purchased the old Halifax building. As the adjacent land has now been put up for sale by J.C.Decaux they are assessing whether it would be the best course of action to buy it. Obviously they do not want to pursue this idea if it is going to meet with local resistance as they wish to develop further links and relationship with the local community.

Details of the land sale have also been passed on to B.C.C. with a possibility of their purchasing it in order to plant more trees.

Stoke Lodge Play Facilities

Money set aside by Bristol City Council for a children's play area on Stoke Lodge back in 1995, funded by housing development on Parry's Grove and Queens Gate, has languished in Council coffers ever since. These funds are currently valued at more than £100K and "Save Stoke Lodge Parkland Group" has previously raised the issue at the Stoke Bishop Open Forum where it was debated and the proposal to progress the project was overwhelmingly endorsed. The issue will now be raised at the forthcoming combined NP3 Meeting in December, with a view to having a play area up and running by 2012.

A resident asked whether the Town Green application had affected negotiations for a play area but was reassured that the chosen area had been excluded from the submission to prevent delay and had been highlighted on a recent lease to Cotham School.

A resident concluded that 'strength of feeling' locally supported the health benefits on accessible open space but was unclear about the current status of the review.

David reassured him that the TGA was still 'on track' and was out for consultation to allow for any objections.

Westbury on Trym Business Assoc

There are over 200 businesses in Westbury with 70 association members. A new discount scheme was recently launched by the Lord Mayor, local Councillor Geoff Gollop. Look out for signs in participating shop windows. Application forms for a discount card (costs £3 and is valid until December 2012) and a list of 'discounters' can be obtained from Local distributors. (See the discount sign in a number of shop windows. or download a form from www.wotba.org.)

This year there will be a special 'Christmas night in WOT' - late opening evening until 9pm on 14th December with lots of entertainment including 4 bands. There will also be a Christmas Fayre in Stoke Lane/Charlcombe Court area on Saturday 17th from 10am.

3. Feedback and Priorities

Police Feedback

PCSO Tomasz Sadowski (Tom) reported:-

Theft - There have been three break-ins in the Back Stoke Lane area recently where amongst other things, jewellery and a computer were stolen. Unfortunately, on one occasion, a side door left unlocked whilst the owner was upstairs, allowed unfettered entry.

Vandalism to cars - There has been a flurry of activity in the area over recent weeks where windows have been broken in random attacks.

Traffic and Parking - Inconsiderate parking near schools continues to be a problem across the Ward; a resident asked what could be done to dissuade thoughtless drivers from blocking pedestrian access at the top of Westbury Hill (single opening in railings) where large lorries often park across walkway.

Speeding is not generally considered a serious issue following high profile police checks across the ward recently. However, there will be another speed check on the Coombe Dingle end of Canford Lane just before Christmas, following a request from a resident at the meeting

Overflow parking is becoming a problem in the village; a resident requested a speed check on Westbury Hill, as a matter of urgency, to combat the growing menace of speeding vans and large lorries using the village to by-pass queues on Falcondale Road

The issue of cars causing obstruction on the brow of Great Bockeridge is to be considered next April, subject to funding.

You Said.....We did

David summarised the "K" form issued by BCC for this meeting

1 The long awaited Falcondale Road study into traffic flow at traffic lights will now go ahead, (for more information please see Traffic Working Group below).

2 Consultation on Stoke Lane pedestrian crossing and parking restrictions planned for later in this financial year, (for more information please see Traffic Working Group below).

3 Previous problems with overflowing bins in the area opposite the shops and flats in Canford Lane have been resolved and will be monitored regularly. Litter in Canford Lane should be reduced when the litter bins are re-instated (together with seats and bicycle racks) by the GBBN - programmed for the 2nd week in December.

4 David Mayer read out a statement from Alistair Watson regarding Primary School places, "Pressure in BS9 has been reduced by the opening of E-Act primary academy on the St Ursula's site. I am holding an inquiry Day on 12th December about admissions criteria. Anyone who wants to make any statement about this are encouraged to do so." Interested parties should contact Alistair Watson on alistair.watson@bristol.gov.uk for details of venue etc

5 BCC are investigating alternative options for access to Canford Cemetery and beyond, following complaints from disabled residents unable to navigate a 'Kissing Gate' blocking the Red House Lane end of pathway when using a mobility scooter.

Working Groups update

1 Well Being Sue Boyd: - We have been granted a further £10k by BCC for this financial year.

There are four meetings per year to review applications; latest awards agreed in September go to:-

Public Notice Board - for Stoke Lane

'Orchard allotment' - on the redundant allotment behind Stoke Lane Shops, Mary Rivers reported that her gang of helpers had cleared the land of rubbish and preparing the land for planting has already started; Gary from BCC promised assorted spring bulbs for the project.

Chess Sets - for local schools received a grant to introduce chess as an after school activity.

2 Older Persons Group:- Following a previous survey asking residents to identify what they would like this group to provide, one of the outputs was trips to places of interest. The group have subsequently organised two very successful trips to Puxton Park and the more recent Oakham Treasures day out. The next will be a visit to Cadbury Garden Centre on Tuesday 6th December. Tickets cost £12 to include lunch and refreshments. Contact Gay Huggins Tel: 9685813 by 18th November 2011 for more details.

The next meeting, which is open to anyone who may wish to attend, will be at The Waterford Hall, United Reformed Church, Henleaze, from mid day on 15th November 2012

3 Environment Working Group There is £1500 available for projects across the three Wards; the budget for W-o-T is £530, We have requested;- four and half days community payback labour, by eight people including two supervisors, on tidy-up and weed clearance etc; 1,000 bulbs and three extra hanging baskets for next year.

Japanese Knotweed on Stoke Lodge is now under BCC eradication measures and will be under discussion at the next Environmental meeting on 16th November, venue Stoke Lodge House at 2pm.

4 Communications Group After a show of hands it was evident that just two people attended the meeting having read one of the Westbury Forum Flyers. As a group NP3 have failed to keep locals adequately informed in the past and to rectify this a committee will review the 'terms of reference' shortly.

The group have already identified five clear priorities for each Ward and to improve dissemination of local information, the NP3 Website is under total review. Volunteers will also endeavour to keep the Red Books up-to-date, for those without computer access, all conveniently sited at libraries in Westbury and Henleaze as well as Stoke Bishop Village Hall and St Mary's Church.

A resident asked - what could be done to remove defunct NHW signs from lamp posts? This is a NHW Coordinators responsibility in their area and not part of the NP3 remit.

5 Transport. Alan Aburrow gave a brief summary of Highway issues please see attachment for more details.

'Resurfacing' public footways:-Shipley and Eastfield Road as well as Elmlea Avenue have been completed.

Traffic issues relating to Coombe Lane and Clover Ground are now closed.

New (Zebra?) crossing on Parrys Lane (close to the old Dairy) will be introduced shortly.

Various roads within Westbury will have 'lines' introduced to reduce inconsiderate parking, shortly.

Passage Road/Greystoke Avenue proposal is likely to be too expensive from our budget but may get funds from BCC.

Falcondale traffic lights; a review of sequence settings to improve flow is underway.

Chock Lane continues to suffer from speeding traffic at peak times.

Request for Zebra crossing on Southmead Road near Alexander Road under review?

Footways, Abbey Road and Eastfield etc in poor condition - residents asked how they can identify when works are about to be done?

4. AOB

It was announced at the meeting that the BCC Local Paper was about to be withdrawn, due to budget cuts.

The next Neighbourhood Partnership meeting will be December 7th at Westbury Park School Bayswater Road; from 7pm. Please remember it is a Statement only meeting for local members of the public.

Carlton Court is about to get a well earned face-lift and the old card shop will be reopened as a Café with tables outside.

A resident asked, what will happen to the public collection areas such as the Westbury Car Park container, following introduction of plastic recycling bins to households across the City.

A late questioner asked what the likely outcome/scenario would be for the redundant black bins following the introduction of smaller versions and would the 'waste be sent to landfill or recycled. If you have any concerns regarding refuse, including requests to retain a big bin for larger households contact BCC Street Scene Dept on 9222100.

Please see attachments below

Highway Issues

Status	Ref No	Site	Notes
Completed	M111	Shipleigh Road	Footway resurfacing
	M109	Eastfield Road	
		Passage Road	Carriageway surface dressing
Issue Closed	W106	Coombe Lane junction with Woodland Grove	Survey indicated that there were no obvious parking difficulties
	W107	Clover Ground	Survey indicated that there were no obvious parking difficulties
Implementation imminent	M110	Elmlea Avenue	Footway resurfacing
	W102	Parry's Lane	Zebra Crossing to be completed this year – near Ormerod Rd
	W103	Southfield Road junction with Westbury Road	Review of parking restrictions completed (with Public Consultation) and additional parking restrictions ("yellow lining") will be introduced this financial year, after appropriate Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) have been processed
	W104	Albert Place	
	W110	Falcon Close & Southover Close	
	W111	Westbury Court Road & Fraley Road	
		Pinewood Close	Footway resurfacing of lane leading to Clover Ground
Pending	W101	Passage Road junction with Greystoke Avenue	Study sanctioned for redesign proposals
	W105	Falcondale Road	Study sanctioned for review of traffic light sequencing
	W112	Stoke Lane	Study sanctioned for review of parking restrictions. Consultation and implementation planned for later this financial year.
	W116	Reedley Road junction with Briarwood	
Possible budget-dependent schemes for next financial year (2012/13)	W109	Eastfield Road near top of Waters Lane	Pavement build-outs and pedestrian crossing improvements
	W114	Chock Lane	Further improvements for pedestrian safety and to reduce traffic speeds
	W115	Great Brockeridge junction with Downs Rd	Consultation and subsequent implementation of parking restrictions
	W117	Southmead Road – near Alexandra Road	Incorporate pedestrian crossing at existing central pedestrian refuge
	M107	Abbey road	Footway resurfacing schemes under review for prioritisation with other similar schemes in our Neighbourhood Partnership area
	M108	Priory Avenue	
	M112	Eastfield	
	M115	Stoke Grove	

Green Space Priorities / options

	Open Space	Details of project
1	Trymside Open Space (including Clack Mills)	To install natural play equipment for children of all ages. This space, whilst an attractive spot, lacks informal play opportunities. As an isolated (not looked over) space, it is considered that any play equipment needs to be robust. The natural play equipment will fit in with the environment i.e. constructed from rock or wood. The original consultation identified a need for informal play particularly around the Coombe Dingle end, for example some additional mounding for off road cycling
2	Canford Park	Play equipment, especially for older children (8-14yrs). The original consultation identified a kick-about space and an all-ball space with basketball hoops and goal posts
3	Seating for Parks	Seating across all open spaces has been identified. A seating plan needs to be drawn up to ensure appropriate replacement/allocation of benches (and other seating)
4	Old Quarry Park Trees	There is considered to be a fundamental problem with the trees in this park. Grass isn't able to grow under the thick canopy, and surfaces are slippery; play equipment has to be outlined as it cannot be seen. Trees need to be pruned and reduced. Tree removal to be kept to a minimum.
5	Dog Bins for Stoke Lodge	Considered an essential addition to the space, particularly when the play area is constructed. There are numerous sports pitches on the site that suffer from dog muck.
6	Paths for Trymside	Improve accessibility by - improving existing walkways and entrances; create new walkways connecting entrances
7	Access to Old Quarry Park	Improve pathways and entrances at Henleaze Road and Henleaze Terrace; create new ramped pathways to allow disabled access; park entrances to be enhanced with good signage; self-closing gates for children's safety
	<u>Other themes considered (Capital Projects):</u> Badock's Wood - Boundaries, gating at entrances especially the Main Lakewood entrance, reinstate Victorian weirs Canford Park Toilets, Fencing Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve – Bridge over sluice, small gate Stoke Lodge* S106 funding already in place for play equipment	