



**Westbury-on-Trym Neighbourhood Forum**  
**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at Venue 35, Stoke Lane**

The meeting opened at 7.10pm

**Present:**

Cllr Geoff Gollop (part time)

Officers: Andrew McGrath, Farhan Ahmed, Gary Brentnall, PCSO Tom Sadowski

Ward Representatives: Alan Aburrow (Chairman), David Mayer

Guest Speaker: Fire Officer John Rides of Southmead Fire Station

Plus approximately 25 members of the public

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Alan Aburrow opened the Meeting with apologies from Sue Boyd, Cllr Alistair Watson, Hilary Long (WoT Soc.), Brain Toms, Nadine King, Robin Philip.

**2. Local Developments**

There is a vacancy for the forth Rep in this Ward. Elections for Ward Reps are scheduled in May and protocols dictate that an existing Rep will also stand-down but could seek re-election. There will be a NP Governance meeting next Monday to discuss the issue, hosted by Andrew McGrath. Any interested residents/candidates need to compile a 250 word summary of 'reasons for standing' to be forwarded to Andrew by the end of March. Further details can be obtained from Andrew\*. Elections for the WoT Reps will take place at the next WoT Forum on 16 May.

**Area Green Space;** Gary Brentnall (BCC Parks & Waste) referred to the local priorities (wish list) but explained there was no additional money available to fund these projects at present. However, the felling and cutting back of Sycamore trees in the children's area of Quarry Park, Henleaze is due to start in the near future. In Canford Park, local residents are welcome to assist grounds staff in a tree planting day scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> March. Several 'flowering' tree varieties will be sited around the park and Gary presented a map to show the various locations. Some trees would also have to be removed as they are diseased - two weeping Ash with fungal infections and an unspecified tree, close to the children's play area, that has been identified as being in a dangerous condition.

Questions were raised concerning the long-term vision for the Park, including the proposed MUGA court and 'Jubilee Gates'. Gary went on to explain that park designer Nigel Sams has been looking at issues in other areas of the city for a long-term strategy.

Alan Aburrow reported that JC Decaux had recently applied to fell another tree on their Canford Lane site, declaring it dangerous. However, BCC refuted the claim and turned down the Planning Application. Stoke Lodge Play area; David Mayer reported that funds are available but BCC have highlighted spurious reasons to frustrate the process. We await a meeting date to take the process forward.

Forum Summer Meeting; following a brief discussion, there was a show of hands in favour of a 'Summer Meeting' (cancelled in 2011) details to be confirmed.

Local Business Group; David Mayer (for Sue Boyd) asked that locals support the Discount Scheme run by local traders, he pointed out that a map of participating shops was enclosed in the recent BS9 magazine. He went on to refute rumours of a Tesco Store at the Foresters pub site, apparently due to lack of off-street delivery facilities, following a question from a resident.

**Tom Sadowski** (Community Police Support Officer) reported that drug problems in WoT were on the increase, with recent police raids on Eastfield Road and Cambridge Crescent. The Village has been targeted by opportunist thieves in recent weeks with several attempted break-ins and thefts from cars, particularly in Southfield Road, including handbags, sat navs and phones. Inconsiderate parking within the village is an issue, particularly on pavements.

A resident reported that a local taxi company have been observed misusing double yellow lines for parking, in contravention of earlier Planning Permission agreements. **Geoff Gollop** suggested the concerned resident should contact Parking Services on 9222100 to investigate the issue.

The prevalence of metal thieves in the area was raised; two residents claimed the Police appear to be indifferent/fail to respond to urgent situations where a vehicle has been identified as roaming local streets in search of 'illicit' scrap metal.

The viability of Neighbourhood Watch areas was raised by residents. Following discussion it was agreed that **Kim Duddridge** would be invited to the next meeting to describe NHW and how to establish/set up a new watch group.

**Alan Aburrow** asked the meeting about priorities in WoT for the police. Questions about speeding in Canford Lane and Chock Lane were raised. Tom reported that in a recent survey, 25 out of 100 cars on Canford Lane were speeding, however **Alan Aburrow** reported that a request for a pedestrian crossing was unlikely due to the width of the road. **Andrew McGrath** pointed out that local residents had been trained to check speeding cars in other areas of the city and this scheme could be introduced on both the roads mentioned if volunteers came forward. He went on to say that a 'pilot' to reduce traffic speed to 20mph in the past had marginally reduced speed but just a few mph can make all the difference in a RTA. **Gay Huggins** pointed out that three people from the Ward had attended such a course today.

### 3. "You said - We did"

**Farhan Ahmed** reported that access to Canford Cemetery via a kissing gate was causing problems for motorized scooters and prams due to limited access through the gate. Cemetery staff claim the gate was installed to prevent off-road motorbikes short cutting along the pathway. However, it was pointed out that this is a public right of way that individuals should not be obstructed. **Gary Brentnall** agreed to look into a possible compromise.

In connection with kerbside waste collections and the Westbury car park bulk waste facility, Farhan went on to confirm that he hoped to have Reps from May Gurney (the Council's recently appointed new waste contractor) to address the next Forum meeting.

**Bike Racks in Westbury Village:** a bike rack installed on the pavement near the HSBC bank building, following a recent Canford Lane footway refurbishment, raised concerns from several residents who felt that their position in the middle of the pavement could lead to trip accidents - particularly for the visually impaired. 'A' boards were also mentioned as a potential trip hazard in this area. Inconsiderate parking in Reedley Road/Stoke Lane will be addressed under Transport Issues.

A resident raised concerns as to the inadequacy of street lighting levels in Stoke Grove. **Andrew McGrath** confirmed that street light renewal/upgrading was part of a rolling programme across the city and he would ascertain when Stoke Grove was scheduled for attention.

### 4. Working Groups Update

**Working Group for Older People;** trips continue to be highly successful but lack of funds may curtail future outings. **Andrew McGrath** was asked to investigate possible sources of future funding.

**Environmental Working Group;** **Alan Preece** has co-ordinated feedback from across the three Wards to prioritize the most important tasks for when money becomes available. **David Mayer** reported that at a recent 'Parks Forum' Gary Hopkins had given a broad hint that those with ready plans may get some additional funding soon - on a first come, first served basis.

**Communications Working Group;** currently working to improve communications by up-grading the NP3 website ([www.activenp.co.uk](http://www.activenp.co.uk)).

**Well-Being Fund;** [Geoff Gollop](#) asked if those who benefit from funding a project should be asked to acknowledge the NP in their literature and on their notice boards. Roy Pepworth gave sincere thanks to the NP on behalf of the Canford Walkers Group for their support - membership of the newly formed Group has reached 40, despite the harsh weather of late!

**Transport Working Group;** a resident requested a right-hand traffic filter at the Henbury Road/ Falcondale Road junction. [Alan Aburrow](#) confirmed that this will be included as part of the current traffic light sequencing review on Falcondale Road. It was requested that Council officers investigate reduced pedestrian access along the footpath on Westbury Road, outside numbers 136 - 148, where front gardens had recently been extended.

## 5. AOB

[John Rides](#) (Southmead Fire Station) highlighted a growing concern relating to deliberate fires on Home Ground and other areas within the Ward. He requested that local residents contact the Arson Reduction Team Tel: 9262061 if they see the aftermath of anything suspicious. "Live" incidents should always be reported by dialling 999.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Notes recorded by Sue Mayer (WoT resident).

\* Note: [Andrew McGrath](#) (Area Coordinator) can be contacted by phone on 0117 9036436 (or Mobile: 07795 445797) or by email on [andrew.mcgrath@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.mcgrath@bristol.gov.uk)