



STOKE BISHOP NEIGHBOURHOOD OPEN FORUM Tuesday 7th October 2014

Present: Councillor John Goulandris. Officers:, Andrew McGrath, Gary Brentnall, PC Neil Cutler, PCSO Claire Fisher. Ward Representatives: Alan Preece (Chairman), Gay Huggins and Wendy Hull. Stephanie French (Tree Champion)(SF), David Mayer (WOT Rep)(DM). Alan Aburrow (WOT Rep) and approximately 40 members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor Peter Abraham, Mark Baker, Tony Hoare.

Welcome: Alan Preece (AP) welcomed everyone and made introductions. He welcomed Julie Doherty (JD) from Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT).

Updates and information:

a)i) **Stoke Lodge & Cotham** – Following on from the presentation in January by Cotham's Headteacher and Vice-Chair of Governors, in which they raised their continued concerns about possible dog attacks and mess, the state of the changing rooms and drainage of pitches, the police have no record of any dog attacks and we assured them that the TVG application in no way interfered with the refurbishment of changing facilities. However, following a Governors' meeting in February, they are currently looking at other suitable options for their school sports. We are not sure how this would affect their 125 lease contract. We do feel they are confusing the NP Open Forum with the TVG group and they had not been prepared to attend a meeting of the Stoke Lodge Preservation Working Group (SLPWG).

ii) **Town & Village Green (TVG)** – The outcome of the Newhaven Appeal is due next month and hopefully this will enable our application to move forward, probably in the New Year.

iii) Gary Brentnall who is in charge of all parks and grounds maintenance had circulated a **Grounds Maintenance Contract Consultation** and asked everyone to complete this either online or by hard copy. Problems had occurred by those trying to do it online and these would be checked out. Our green space is half of Trymside. Stoke Lodge is NOT included in this, nor is the playground which is covered by its own maintenance. (Chairman's note: Apparently to submit one MUST get to the end of the equalities section even if not wanting to fill it in)

.iv) **Playground** – This is now completed and has been very well received and in constant use. There have been a few problems – a drinking party leaving broken glass. PCSO Claire Fisher will keep an eye on the area. Bruce Quilter (member of SLPWG) has taken on the stewardship of the playground and may soon hold a key for anyone who gets locked in. There will be a sub-working group to raise funds for further equipment. More swings always needed! A new playground on Sea Mills Square was being built and should be ready by the end of the week.

b) **Funding** – There is now a growing source of funds for the Ward. Gay has printed out the details of what the Well Being Grants money has been spent on in our Ward to date. The transport budget is almost all taken up with remedial work but we are restricted to one major project per year. Most of

the old 106 money from planning applications has been replaced with CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy). The Council take most of it but any residual to be spent on the Ward will go through the Environment Working Group (EWG). The Councillors have the final approval on all spend. The £500 Clean and Green fund was originally to pay for Community Pay-Back work, but Gary has managed to fund that elsewhere so most of it will go towards the hanging baskets in Stoke Bishop, which really cheer up the community. There is now a new source of money, about £10,000, which comes from Bristol being the Green Capital next year and this will be managed by the NP with advice from the EWG.

c) From the 26th September the speed limits of **20mph** became legal. For the avoidance of doubt AP clarified that **your NP has NOT been involved in endorsing the roll-out but only acted to facilitate consultation and has not asked for 20mph to be brought in.** Richard Parsons asked if the police will be enforcing it. PC Cutler responded that it was the legal limit and they could enforce it where appropriate. Wendy Hull felt that the NP had asked for Coombe Lane to be 30mph but it was now 20mph, but apparently WOT Open Forum had voted for it to be 20mph. Ann Nosowski asked how much this had cost - £2.3million.

d) **Stoke Road/40 Bus** – Cllr John Goulandrakis reported that the traffic consultation had taken place. The threat to lose the 40 bus had prompted meetings between our Councillors and Officers and the bus company. There will be restrictions on one side of Stoke Road (West side) and double yellow lines where the bus turns left at the traffic lights continuing into Downleaze as far as Julian Road on the Downs side (not the residents' side), as well as some 'tweaks' in Sneyd Park. The bus company were very pleased that something was being done.

e) Gay raised the matter of the Henbury Loop which is being championed by our MP Charlotte Leslie and had produced leaflets detailing what individuals could do to help promote this. If the Loop was put into action BEFORE the build of 9000 houses, it would be used rather than blocking our roads.

Local Developments & Projects:

Roger Gamlin, Co-convenor, Stoke Bishop Residents' Planning Group : –

1. The **Hiatt Baker** site – Despite various delays, the 323 units for students were completed just in time for the students to move in. The University have over-recruited this year so have problems. There are two areas still to be completed – hard landscaping, which is roadways, etc, and soft landscaping which is trees and shrubs, which will be done this winter. 133 trees are to be planted and SF will ensure she counts every one! The transport hub has buses going in and out every 6 minutes at busy times and there is even a 4am one, if you are stuck in town! National Express are using the hub to run buses to London (4 a day). The University had to comply with a parking plan and told new students they must not bring a car without permission and if they have one it must not be parked within 2 miles of the Stoke Bishop campus. The University are concerned over the legality of this. The TRO for the yellow lines in **Shaplans** has been agreed so they will be installed within 6-8 weeks.

2. The **Dairy Crest** site – this has been cleared and they are just waiting for clearance from BCC and Wessex Water but should commence on the building of 14 houses soon. They own the lane between Ormerod Road and Shaplans but it is a public right of way and they have promised to reinstate it.

Trees: SF had produced her report and she updated us on it. She has found 8 places where trees can be planted. Cedar Park is in a sorry state as several trees had to be felled. Some new ones have

already been planted and another will be shortly. Also trees will be replacing stumps outside 16 Parrys Lane, 193a Stoke Lane, 14 Stoke Grove and on West Dene. The tree felled on the verge by the roundabout at the top of Druid Hill will be replanted with an oak. A yew tree was felled at the Adult Learning Centre and the Council had asked for suggestions. She showed us two possibilities but would welcome other ideas. Trymwood Parade was a mess. The willow has not yet been replaced but the Tree Officer is on the case. The Gas Cabin had only been screened on 2 sides instead of 4. Cllr Goulandris updated us with today's news that the Council had apologised for not chasing this and have now been in contact with Wales & West Utilities to get something done. SF had attended the Tree Forum on the previous evening. Changes had been made and Philip Burton was now to deal with everything in our geographical area. He will liaise with the NP. BCC have very few tree officers now. We need to be more vigilant to ensure planning conditions are adhered to.

Avon Wildlife Trust: Julie Doherty gave a brief summary of the plans for the old Bristol & West site on the Portway which had been purchased by the Avon Wildlife Trust and who were now raising funds to make it a haven for wildlife and an important reserve. Spoil from Bristol Blitz had been dumped there in the war. The planned ponds would now need to be lined as the spoil was too porous. There will be a flower meadow, walkways, ponds, one with a dipping pool for children, and school projects. They were in the process of doing a reptile survey. Hundreds of slow-worms had been found and they were being moved to a safe area. Travellers had breached the site recently but were removed within 24 hours, and new locked gates have been installed. New wooden fencing will be installed and she was advised to put in a ditch/rhyme to prevent travellers breaching the site. 3000 tree whips are being planted around the edge of the site. All was still subject to planning. The police asked if the site was going to be manned 24 hours. It would not be every day that there would be volunteers and people there.

Feedback and Priorities:

- a) **Police/PCSO Feedback** – PC Neil Cutler is our new Officer and is also covering Sea Mills. He was keen to emphasise he was here long term. Our priorities were burglary, speeding and domestic abuse. Over the last 3 months, 151 crimes had been committed in Stoke Bishop. There were 8 dwelling burglaries (down 20%), 14 shed burglaries (mainly of bikes), 16 shoplifting (mainly from Co-operative stores) and 2 fraud cases.. One shoplifter was now in prison and his partner should be following him! The police were working with the Co-operative as the lay-outs of their stores was poor. The theft of 2 motor vehicles was 2 mopeds. This was down 53%. AP asked if the speed van would be operating on roads with 20mph but the police had no information on this. The police are still working with the University but were not involved in Freshers' Week this year. They still go into the hub cafe and meet and talk with students and run marking sessions for their computers, etc. A big problem is students with no lights on bikes. One area of Bristol is fining students £60 but this can be waived if they produce lights and reflective items with receipts from Halfords to the police. This was felt a good idea and should be implemented in our area. Keith Bonham suggested we should be encouraging the University through their Chancellor to ensure students have lights and reflective clothing. Students were all given an introductory pack with this information apparently. PC Neil Cutler said burglaries usually happened when people were away, and recommended the use of time switches for lights and advising your neighbours.
- b) **NP Working Groups** – Reports were attached to the minutes.
 - i)Transport - AP, on behalf of Mark Baker, advised there was no update on the Westbury Road bus lane. A pedestrian crossing on Shirehampton Road close to the entrance for Stoke Lodge had been given priority for the one major project of each year.
 - ii)Environment – the dam on the Sneyd Park Nature Reserve has been leaking for years. The NP is helping the FOSPNR to establish who owns the land and get this resolved. The Roman

Custom House (bottom Roman Way) is in very poor state. Gary Brentnall has this under review. As it is specialist work, it cannot be done by volunteers. SF said it is the second most important site in the country and it is a disgrace to the City. Jenny Weeks was not sure it was protected. 9 posters for activities had been installed on BCC fencing on Canford Lane. They had been asked to be removed but someone had done it before the owners could claim them. Circus posters were also around the area but would no doubt go when the circus left.

iii) WGOP – Wendy Hull reported that the next trip was to Cadbury Garden Centre for a Christmas lunch on 10th December. Posters will be available shortly. Please contact Gay if you know of anyone who would be interested in attending. (9685813).

iv) Well Being Grants – Gay reported the latest round had only been for the cost of one tree per Ward on Horfield Common. We had been able to support the scouts with over £5,500 over the past two years but this was on hold as they are hoping to replace the existing hut with new, so are busy fundraising. She has a couple of small applications in the process but if anyone knows of projects that we could support, please contact her. Maximum per application has reverted to £3,000 and we only have just over £5000 to spend this year.

Open Forum:

1) Morris Husband felt the 20mph was a waste of money and gave the example of Portsmouth, where the scheme had resulted in more accidents, rather than less. There were also too many traffic lights in Bristol. He proposed that a letter of NO CONFIDENCE should be written to Peter Mann, BCC Transport Manager, and this was seconded by Richard Parsons. 18 for, 4 against, 7 abstentions. Cllr John Goulandris suggested we ask him to come to the next Open Forum. AP will arrange for the letter to be done.

2) Nick Balderson asked about the new Wessex bus service from the Park N Ride to Clifton and back. It apparently refused to stop prior to Black boy Hill. Alan Aburrow would investigate. The following has been provided by Alan today:-

“The 901 service is a council-contracted service that is not allowed to complete with commercial services, such as the No 40 through Stoke Bishop.. Therefore, it is non-stop from Shirehampton to Clifton, with set-down only at limited locations once the bus reaches Black boy Hill.”

3) Kate Groombridge lives in Roman Way and said there were a lot of cars being parked there now, which was making it dangerous for her to come out of her driveway. These cars were probably commuters using the Park N Ride bus. Not much could be done about it.

Any Other Business: Wendy Hull has NW calendars available – cost £2. Contact her if you want one.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 3rd February 2015