



Henleaze Neighbourhood Forum Minutes

5 February 2015, 7 – 9pm at
Westbury Park Tavern

Participants

Councillor Glenise Morgan (Chair) [GM]
Councillor Clare Campion-Smith [CCS]
Valerie Bishop (Ward Representative) [VB]
Maggie Clarke (Ward Representative) [MC]
Helen Furber (Ward Representative) [HF]
Simon Tomlinson (Ward Representative) [ST]
PC Paula Donnelly [PD]
PCSO Toby Rideout [TR]
Gary Brentnall (Neighbourhood Officer) [GB]
16 members of the public

1. Welcome/Introduction

GM welcomed everyone and apologised for the late change of venue.

2. Health issues

Dr Elizabeth Farnall from the Falldon Road Practice (FRP) gave an overview of health issues relevant to local residents. Key points made were as follows:

- FRP was originally set up for circa 5,000 patients; there are currently circa 8,500.
- Cuts to funding have caused problems.
- FRP has more elderly patients than other surgeries in Bristol.
- Dr Farnall is pleased that FRP has an established volunteer group which includes drivers and 'befrienders' but she would still like to increase the amount of voluntary support available.
- There are transport issues for patients attending the new hospital at Southmead.

Angela Essex cited an example of difficulty in accessing services at Southmead - namely that she went to the hospital, waited for four hours, was then told to go to Frenchay and, on arrival, found that the relevant department was closed. She asked

if it might be possible to maintain Frenchay as a minor injuries unit. Dr Farnall advised that GPs have no control over what is planned. An alternative could be having a minor injuries unit at the FRP but space is an issue and, as already advised, it is a busy practice.

Following on from the previous question, Chris Frew asked if the FRP could be expanded on its current site. Dr Farnall commented that this might be possible but it would involve funding issues, planning permission and lots of discussions - especially bearing in mind that the surgery is in a residential street and the local residents had already rejected an attempt to have a pharmacy on the site.

3. Police update

3.1 Crime figures

PD gave a year on year update on crime figures in the area.

- Burglary is the crime that has had most impact; 19 burglaries with only one detected in the period. The police continue to promote Immobilise (www.immobilise.com).
- There were three commercial burglaries in the period.
- No distraction burglaries took place.
- 18 sheds were broken into.
- Several bicycles have been stolen; cyclists have targeted and followed home.
- 50 offences involving vehicular crime (valuable items have been left on show).
- No anti social behaviour crimes.
- Shoplifting has reduced by 25%.

3.2 Service delivery

By the end of March 2015 there will be service delivery changes. These involve:

- Different shift patterns.
- Working closer with 999 calls.
- Paula Donnelly will be 'on the beat' less.
- Paula Perry is moving to Lawrence Weston; Rich Mathias will replace her.

3.3 Responses to issues/questions

Matters were raised as follows:

- Wellington Hill West: MC referred to three emails she had received about 'near misses' at the zebra crossing in the week leading up to the meeting. PD asked MC to ensure that the details are appropriately reported.

PD advised that she had checked prior to attending the meeting and no reports of any issues regarding the Wellington Hill Road zebra crossing had been made to the police in our area in the last three months. One near miss has been reported to neighbouring police in Horfield and Lockleaze.

- Southmead Police Station: In response to a question, it was confirmed that the current station will not be closing in the near future. A new station will be found first and it will be in the Southmead area.
- Hill View/Park Grove: A number of sub questions arose following an enquiry about a blind corner at Hill Grove/Park Grove and whether the police could take any action about a parked van obscuring motorists' views. Action to be taken/ responses given are as follows:
 - Pass the registration numbers and location details to the police of any vehicles that are thought to be obstructing views.
 - The police are not currently enforcing 20 mph zones.
 - Only traffic department cars have the equipment to monitor speeds. It is therefore not possible when there is alleged speeding (unless a traffic department car is involved) to do anything other than, where appropriate, book motorists for dangerous driving.
 - Where anti social behaviour is thought to arise through activities such as throwing food to foxes during the night, report the incident(s) to the police.
 - At future meetings PD agreed to provide statistics for road traffic collisions. It was agreed that these should be given to the Transport Group.

4. Current hot topics

4.1 Library Consultation

ST gave an overview regarding the consultation and confirmed that the first stage closed on 2 February. The initial aims are to:

- Review what services libraries provide and how they are delivered.
- To ensure libraries deliver greater value for money.
- To save £1.1m.

Issues already identified/published include:

- Over 90% of respondents believe libraries are essential for society.
- Most respondents visit libraries every couple of weeks.

- Current opening hours can be inconvenient.
- 55% agree that they could accept some libraries closing if others are modernised.
- It has been suggested that libraries should link with other services including health/ wellbeing and training.
- Libraries should be used as community spaces.
- Public toilets and cafes should be provided.
- Greater use of eBooks should be encouraged.

The next stage of the consultation will lead to:

- Responses being analysed.
- A set of proposals being generated.
- The Cabinet discussing the initial proposals in March.
- The public having the opportunity between March and May to comment on the proposals.
- A final decision being made by the Cabinet in June.

4.2 Boundary Review

HF explained that the draft proposal regarding Bristol's ward boundaries was issued in December. In so far as Henleaze is concerned:

- The proposal is that the existing Henleaze ward boundary is supplemented by part of Westbury-on-Trym ward (including the area between Falcondale Road and Westbury-on-Trym village).
- Splitting Westbury-on-Trym in two has not proved to be popular. Many meetings have taken place and letters have been written to the newspapers etc. As an example, trustees from The Henleaze Society met with their counterparts in the Westbury-on-Trym Society in December where it was concluded that the optimum solution is probably to have a 3 councillor ward combining Henleaze and Westbury-on-Trym. This suggestion has been put forward as more radical solutions would involve reviewing all/most of the North Bristol proposed boundaries and this is unlikely to happen.
- I know that a petition supporting the proposal is being signed in WOT and WOTSOC has distributed leaflets asking local residents to contact the Boundary Commission.
- The alternative to accepting a 3 councillor ward is possibly seeing Henleaze becoming a one councillor ward (Westbury-on-Trym having two councillors) and being cut in half down the main Henleaze Road in order to accommodate Westbury-on-Trym residents' comments about retaining the village.

- The consultation was due to close on 16 February. The final recommendations will be published on 12 May.

4.3 Residents Parking Zones (RPZs)

ST provided an update.

Following the introduction of an RPZ in Redland (July 2014) a review is in progress. The scope of the review has been extended to consider the knock on effects on neighbouring wards - e.g. the Westbury Park area of Henleaze ward. Residents in Westbury Park should have received notification of the review - comments were due to be made by 5 February.

5. Environmental Issues

5.1 Update

VB provided an update on matters discussed at the Environment Group meeting on 15 January. Key points were:

- Old Quarry Park has been 'opened up' with the removal of some self-seeded sycamores. There is also a new accessible footpath and steps have been removed.
- Churchill Homes have erected a fence to separate their site from Old Quarry Park.
- The community payback team has been cleaning up lanes/ clearing weeds etc.
- A lot of effort has been put into reviewing the situation regarding trees in Devonshire Road (see below).
- The next meeting is on 30 April.

VB also commented that a member of The Henleaze Society had been in contact with her asking if residents could be reminded to keep their shrubs etc trimmed so that they do not become obstacles for pedestrians.

5.2 Green Capital

CCS advised that each Neighbourhood Partnership had been allocated £10,000 out of Green Capital funds. In addition, it is possible to apply on a citywide basis for further funds.

After a bidding process at the end of 2014, it was agreed that the £10,000 would be split as follows:

- £2,345 to Elmlea Junior School for a sustainable garden.
- £3,500 to Westbury-on-Trym Academy for trees and shrubs.

- £4,155 for exploratory tree pits in Devonshire Road.

An explanation was then provided about the funding for Devonshire Road. Stephanie French (Neighbourhood Partnership Tree Champion) explained that it is necessary to put in tree pits in order to avoid further damage to the pavements.

Brian Street asked if the costs for the tree pits could be challenged as he thought that they sounded exorbitant. CCS advised that it is necessary to accept the council's costing.

A second question was then raised by Brian Street. He asked if anyone was challenging which trees need to be cut down; he advised that he is concerned about the increasing number of tree stumps. CCS confirmed that there had been a number of challenges over the years. The difficulty is that trees can look as if there is no need for concern whereas, in reality, they are diseased where it is not visible.

Janet Brewer said that she would like to thank Stephanie French and CCS for their help with the Devonshire Road trees. GM then thanked Janet for hosting various meetings.

5.3 Update from Gary Brentnall

GB confirmed that there are very few dedicated tree officers left in the employment of Bristol City Council; in his opinion, all of those remaining are very passionate about their roles.

GB then advised that at the Westbury-on-Trym Forum on 4 February, a representative from Green Capital had given a brief overview of a new project. There is £10,000 available to Neighbourhood Partnership 3 (ie Henleaze, Stoke Bishop and Westbury-on-Trym as a whole) for a creative Neighbourhood Partnership Arts Project. Further details will follow. The closing date is 29 March.

It was suggested that potential funding applications should be submitted by 2 March in order that they can be discussed/ agreed at the Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on 9 March.

Finally GB advised that a recent change of policy means that it is now possible for plaques to be placed on trees/ benches etc when they are purchased in memory of an individual.

6. Planning

HF advised that it is understood that St Ursula's School has recently submitted the long awaited planning application. It is going through the validation stage after which there will be a three week consultation stage. The main issue that has been identified has been that of traffic management.

Other applications in progress include an application for 47 Wellington Hill West to be converted to two self contained flats (five and four bedrooms respectively) and for alterations to windows on the side and rear elevations. This new application follows on from the applicant having had his plans rejected to change the use of the property from a dwelling house to a house of multiple occupancy.

7. Transport

7.1 Issues from last Forum meeting

- ST began by confirming that there are still concerns about the reliability of the bus service. It is still anticipated that First Bus will attend a Neighbourhood Partnership meeting to answer questions about the service delivery.
- Concern had been expressed about the street lighting in The Drive. Subsequent to the last meeting a bulb has been replaced in the light by St Peters Walk but there are no further funds this financial year for improved street lighting.

7.2 Update from the Transport Group Meeting

ST broke the update up into two sections; he dealt first with the ongoing issues.

- Backlog: The Mayor issued a Press Statement at the beginning of January stating that £500,000 could be put towards allocating additional highway resources, in order to clear the city-wide backlog of schemes.
- White Tree roundabout: The survey of the White Tree roundabout bus lane has been completed; we are awaiting the results.
- Park Grove crossing: A site meeting was held in the week prior to the Forum meeting. Plans are being drawn up for preliminary consultation based on a proposal to (a) install a platform just north of Henleaze Park, (b) install a platform on Springfield Grove and (c) to close the top end of Howard Road to southbound cars. All of the proposals are subject to site conditions.
- Coldharbour Road zebra crossing: The consultation is now complete. The final plans are being produced and the statutory consultation is expected shortly.
- Quarryleaze (183 Eastfield Road): Section 106 money has been secured to redesign bus stops and to install a zebra crossing. Discussions will be required to agree the detail.

New issues that have arisen involve:

- Westbury Park: A request to review parking in Westbury Park (the road rather than the area as a whole).
- Wellington Hill West zebra (see also 3.3): Problems are arising in respect of cars not stopping at the zebra. Costs have been requested for the installation of various safety features - these include (a) installing halos and (b) installing a high friction/coloured road surface. It is proposed to ask local residents if they would like to volunteer to be trained to operate community speed watch equipment. There is also local support for considering restricting the speed to 20mph. Any action proposed will need to be discussed with the Horfield/ Lockleaze Neighbourhood Partnership.

- Park Grove visibility (see also 3.3): Proposals for a platform on Park Grove would slow the traffic.

7.3 STAG

Chrissie Decker has formed the Schools Travel Action Group (STAG). The aim is to have safety and accessibility for those attending the Henleaze schools. The first meeting will take place after the February half term break.

8. People

8.1 Young People

ST advised that the ward representatives are open to suggestions about support for younger people in the area. If anyone would like to get involved, please speak with one of the ward representatives.

8.2 Older People

VB updated the meeting participants on key activity since the last Forum. It has been as follows:

- 41 people from the Neighbourhood Partnership had a Christmas meal at the Cadbury Garden Centre.
- On 4 March a trip is planned to the Mansion House to have tea with the Lady Mayoress.
- Plans are being progressed to print an updated brochure on local activities for those aged over 55.
- Discussions are taking place about recognising the Neighbourhood Partnership area as a dementia friendly environment.

9. Small Grants Update

HF gave an interim update on applications in progress (a new community notice board in Wellington Hill West, a defibrillator in Henleaze Road and floral decorations in the area). The current applications will be decided by the Neighbourhood Committee at a meeting on 9 March and confirmed at the next Henleaze Forum meeting.

10. Community Engagement

HF confirmed that the councillors and ward representatives appreciate that a large number of people still claim to be unaware of Neighbourhood Partnerships and their roles. This appears to be a city wide problem; it is currently being discussed and involves an all day meeting of councillors and ward representatives on 7 February.

Elections for Henleaze ward representatives will be held at the next Forum meeting. If anyone is interested in applying, details will be included in the BS9 Magazine and

potential applicants can also contact Andrew McGrath (Neighbourhood Partnership Co-ordinator) on 0117 9036436 or at andrew.mcgrath@bristol.gov.uk

11. Open Forum

Questions were raised during the meeting. Additional concerns/ questions were:

- Concern was expressed about the South Gloucestershire development - especially in the light of parking/traffic problems around Southmead Hospital and the proposed expansion of St Ursula's School. Are there any upcoming meetings/can Bristol City Council influence any South Gloucestershire funding decisions? ST confirmed that this is an ongoing topic being considered by the Neighbourhood Partnership Transport Group and that he would give a detailed update at the next Henleaze Forum. David Mayer (Chair of the Neighbourhood Partnership) advised that a public meeting about the South Gloucestershire development was being held at the Greenway Centre on 6 February.
- Following the proposal to close the top end of Howard Road to southbound cars (see 7.2) concern was expressed about traffic movements in the Park Grove area.
- Have there been any notifiable weeds on the Quarryleaze (183 Eastfield Road) site? GB advised that he was not aware of any.

12. Next meeting

7pm on Thursday 14 May at Henleaze Library.