



STOKE BISHOP NEIGHBOURHOOD OPEN FORUM Tuesday 3rd February 2015

Present: Councillor Peter Abraham (PA), Councillor John Goulandris (JG).

Officers: Gary Brentnall, Peter Mann(PM), Mark Sperduty, PC Neil Cutler, PCSO Claire Fisher, PCSO Jemima Suffolk.

Ward Representatives: Alan Preece (Chairman), Gay Huggins (GH), Stephanie French (Tree Champion)(SF), David Mayer (Chair of the NP & WOT Rep)(DM). Alan Aburrow (WOT Rep) and approximately 65 members of the public.

Apologies:, Andrew McGrath, Wendy Hull, Tony Hoare..

Welcome: Alan Preece (AP) thanked everyone for turning out on such a cold night and made introductions, including our special guest, Peter Mann. He made an appeal for volunteers to become Ward Representatives, as elections are due at the next Open Forum. Both Alan and Gay have already served the maximum term and it is only the changes in Governance Rules that have enabled them to stay on. Mark Baker resigned as he was unable to attend meetings due to work commitments. We do not want the NP in this area to collapse, leaving our share of the money to Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze!

Updates:

a) **Funding:** Green Capital Funding of £10,000 per NP for sustainable green capital projects has been spent on Elmlea Junior School sustainable garden, WOT Academy trees and shrubs, and some work to re-instate street trees in Devonshire Road, Henleaze. The second round of similar funding, for which we put in bids, has not been successful. Neither our 3 Wards, nor Redland,Cotham and Bishopston Wards were allocated any further funding, as we are perceived as not being deprived.

b) **40 Bus/901:** This will be discussed at length later. GH said her husband had been in correspondence with First Bus following the reduction in service of the 40 to hourly in the evenings. It would appear our service has lost out to the provision of an evening service of the 41 bus on the hour. This was no use to residents of Sneyd Park or Stoke Bishop who wish to attend the Colston Hall, Hippodrome, St Georges Hall or events at the Museum.

c) **Roman Way parking:** Several roads around this area are now congested by cars parked by people using either the Park & Ride bus or the train to work. This matter has been discussed at the Transport Working Group but no solution could be found. David Wedge had had trouble towing his caravan in off the Portway. There was no appropriate Council owned land available to make a car park as the area where prefabs had been demolished was a site where Roman remains had been found, and cars could not be parked on top of that.

AP then pointed out that we, as an NP, have NOT been the ones to call for the 20mph, bus lanes or parking restrictions – the NP has tried to facilitate discussion and consultation only – the Council has done what it has determined to be in the best interests of our area without sometimes apparently listening to us. Some people have been blaming the NP for initiating controversial changes, and this is not the case.

Peter Mann, BCC Transport Services Director: Alan Aburrow, Chair of the Transport Working Group, introduced Peter Mann, and asked him to explain why we had been restricted to one transport project per year, and, following his representation to the Council Strategic Committee, the Mayor has proposed an additional £500K to clear the backlog of projects. What impact would this have and when would this happen?

Peter Mann introduced himself and outlined his role. He was glad to see so many people. The Council had put the Highways Department in a difficult position trying to please all the people which is impossible. Before the NP structure they were fulfilling 15-16 projects a year. Following the NP takeover, they found themselves trying to deal with 40-50 a year, which had become an impossible task. This was why they placed the restriction that had such a huge impact. With regard the £500K, it has yet to be agreed at the Council meeting on the 17th February. If agreed, this will enable them to recruit agency engineering staff into the office to design schemes and get them moving including Traffic Regulation Orders and the management processes. There is an 18-month delivery programme to finish off all schemes on the books. This is only a one-off sum so will have to revert to one scheme per NP afterwards. DM asked him to guarantee that a share of the £500K will be applied to our NP3 area and we will not be penalised. PM assured us we will get our fair share.

Q2 – 901 BUS: PM explained that this bus ran from the Shirehampton Park & Ride to Clifton. It was demanded by businesses in Clifton to be in place in September when the Residents Parking Zones were due to come into force. These have been delayed until March, which is why the buses are empty, as staff will use their cars until they are forced out. The 901 cannot compete with the 40 but as the destination is different, PM agreed to allow it to stop in two places, Sea Mills Square and Stoke Bishop (opp. Church Road). PA said we must be careful of the consequences as people could park their cars in Stoke Bishop to catch this bus, blocking our own shops/village hall. When the RPZ comes into force, the 901 is supposed to be an express service from the P & R to Clifton. The new Managing Director of First Bus recognises the 40 bus is not running properly, although changes are due at the end of March to many services in Bristol.

Robert Walters – We need a decent bus service to town and also to Southmead hospital.

Stephanie French – We would not be so angry if the 40 bus was better. She has waited over an hour on occasions.

Sharon Parsons – People will not be able to get access to the Village Hall if they cannot park and this will be detrimental to bookings.

Keith Sheather – why haven't we got a Real Time Indicator at the Village Hall stop? PM responded that these were introduced as part of the GBBN and they have now got more money to roll out more Real Time Indicators. The drivers have to log into the system to get them to work.

Nick Balderson – Real Time information is available on smart phones. PM said there had been some problems with RTI but hoped it would improve as there had been teething problems with both software and driver compliance.

Margaret Walters – It is now very difficult to get back from town in the evening following the changes mentioned above and they have even had to walk home from Blackboy Hill. PM thought it strange that there is a gap from 10.30pm to 12.03am and he will investigate.

Jill Evans – Could you use smaller buses for the 901 to save pollution. PM explained there was not much difference in cost and hoped this service would be busier in future.

AP suggested a 6-month trial for the 901 to stop at Sea Mills Square and Stoke Hill (Church Road).

Jackie Aslan – asked for a vote which was done – 24 for, 18 against. If it did not work, or was causing problems with parked cars, it would be terminated, and PM assured this could be done at very short notice.

(AP note – complaints about the lack of stops on the 901 all derive from residents who are trying to get reliable service into town and these are people who will not therefore be parking a car.

Commuters would more reasonably access the bus at the Park and Ride car park. However for the sake of residents this will be monitored.)

Q3 – Parking in Roman Way/Hadrian Close/Sea Mills Lane – PM said there was no easy solution to this. Mark Sperduty was asked to look at it to see what could be done. The Henbury Loop railway is hopefully going to reopen, and possibly create a new station at the Park and Ride which could help. A lot of the land around the Sea Mills area cannot be touched due to Roman remains.

Q4 – 20mph – This had been discussed at previous Open Forums and instead of a blanket 20mph several roads were retained at 30mph. However, the final decision lay with the Council following the full Consultation. Helen Wigginton is still in charge of the scheme and can be written to.

A Bristow – Helen Wigginton had said it was George Ferguson’s decision. Coombe Lane is too wide to drive at 20mph and is over the top. PM said that George Ferguson sets a vision and it is up to PM to do it as effectively as possible. AP explained the background to Coombe Lane. PA said Coombe Lane was immaterial. He had questioned why there are 38 20mph signs on Coombe Lane. GF had agreed it was sign pollution, but now there are additional illuminated signs so there are 42! Please can we have some rationale and reduce the number of signs across the area. DM stated there was a lot of misunderstanding about the 20mph. It was a Lib.Dem. Council decision two years before who were hoodwinked by the Officers. The Lib Dem decided *every road* would be 20mph but it was agreed there would be certain exceptions, such as A and B roads, through roads and those which were 40mph and above. That was the scope we had to work on. GH asked PM/MS to review the 20mph at the top of Parrys Lane which no one, not even buses, observed and it was totally ridiculous, putting the scheme into disrepute.

David Baynton – What was *the process of informing people about the 20mph*. AP advised that Helen Wigginton had come to the NP Open Forum, as well as published information.

Maurice Husbands – Councillors have asked for a review of the 20mph – has this happened? PM was not aware of this having happened yet, but it will happen. All views are listened to, and if a formal objection was put in, it was formally looked at.

AP had to bring it to a conclusion as we ran out of time. He thanked Peter Mann and Mark Sperduty for coming. We had not managed to discuss the Downs parking plans, but this was still early stage and could be done at the next Open Forum. It is still in progress but will go to Public Consultation.

Local Developments & Projects:

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

1 **Dairy Crest site** – Shepperton Homes had started building and the first houses would be marketed in May. Costs were expected to be between £650,000 - £900,000. The Management Company are going to manage the public footpath and not pass it on to the residents. This would need to be watched.

2. **The Hiatt Baker site** – This was now finished. The University had put a clause in the student’s contracts and they could be fined or expelled if they bring cars. The TRO yellow lines in Shaplands and Elmlea Avenue were due, as well as parking restrictions for people using the hub. In Shaplands, one entrance had been closed but one was opened and had been noisy from students and deliveries, but a new gate was due this week.

Comment by PA relevant to the work around the Dairy Crest Site: Work was starting on the footpath to enable it to be used by people with mobility scooters. This could prove interesting in **Ebenezer Lane** alongside Stoke Lodge as some houses appeared to have moved their boundary out into the lane.

Tree Issues – SF had produced a report and emphasised Para 3 – the Cedar of Lebanon on Stoke Lodge. She has had assurance that no decision will be made without full consultation. She also

raised Para 10 – at the Tree Forum the University of Bristol Estates Officer was asked for two specific assurances that they would not be asking for exemption from the Tree Replacement Standard and would not try to plant trees elsewhere in Bristol. She got no reply to either question, and he would not look her in the face. 11 new trees have been planted in Stoke Bishop.

Feedback and Priorities:

- a) **Police/PCSO Feedback** – PC Cutler reported that there had been two burglaries at Hiatt Baker and two house burglaries. There had also been several attempted burglaries. Cycles and high value bikes were targeted, and two people had been arrested. People using these bikes in Leigh Woods and Ashton Court might have been followed home. There had been 22 thefts from motor vehicles, the majority from vehicles which were not locked (this invalidates your insurance!). Mainly small change had been taken. He advised keeping informed via Facebook as that is real time. There were increased patrols. Police slogan is: LOCK IT, ILLUMINATE IT, CCTV IT. KEEP IT CLEAN INSIDE. Do not leave personal documents in the car. PC Cutler explained the change in the beat team. He and Claire were moving to Henbury and Brentry. He introduced PCSO Jemima Suffolk, who will be our PCSO from the end of March, with PC Jeannette Cadden. They will be dealing just with Stoke Bishop whereas he has had to include Sea Mills in the past. Stoke Bishop will be linked to Clifton. Sergeant Dolling will be in charge.
- Richard Parsons asked if the 20mph was legally enforceable under the Road Traffic Act. PC Cutler said it was, but they will only be putting a camera where there is a need. GH warned that her neighbour had been caught doing 29mph on Ladies Mile at night and fined £100 + 3 points!
- SF asked what is going to happen when the boundary changes come into effect regarding Sea Mills but that was in 2016 so PC Cutler could not answer that. SF is still doing Speedwatch and a lot of letters are going out, but she felt speeds had reduced but abuse had increased. She is waiting for the police to provide a suitable spot on Shirehampton Road so that they can carry out Speedwatch in support of the proposed zebra crossing.
- b) **NP Working Groups** – Reports were attached to the minutes and would be available on the NP website (ActiveNP). GH mentioned the next trip by the WGOP was to the Mansion House for Tea with the Lady Mayoress on the 4th March. She had heard today that the WGOP had been awarded £500 from the St Monica's Community Fund for the reprint of the booklet they produced last year.

Ward Boundaries: JG explained that every so many years there is to be a boundary review, done by an independent commissioner. This is to ensure electoral equality. There will still be 70 Councillors but a different number of wards. Some will have one Councillor, some more. Each Councillor will have an allocation of 4,600 voters. At the moment, we have approximately 8,000 voters in Stoke Bishop. It is suggested our boundary takes in a small area of Sea Mills. There is not much alternative to this. However, the plans for WOT do not take in the WOT village and this is not popular and the Commissioner has received a lot of letters against this. WOT is 1000 years old with a War Memorial and Parish Church, and does not want to be erased. Henleaze has no history at all. There are also odd boundaries with Lawrence Weston/Avonmouth/Shirehampton being lumped into one. The controversy in WOT does affect us too. The viability of WOT and SB will be affected by these plans and Henleaze has its own ward. PA felt it was important we kept two Councillors and asked people to write in supporting the proposal for Stoke Bishop, but in contrast suggest a 3 councillor combined ward for WOT and Henleaze. A simple letter of support for the SB arrangement and emphasise two members would be very helpful – deadline 16th Feb.. The site is easily accessed if one Googles “Boundary Commission - Bristol”.

Any other Business: Robert Walters again raised the lack of a bus to Southmead and the lack of car parking at the hospital. Buses are available from Canford Lane. He was advised to write to Peter Mann

AP again asked everyone to think about volunteering to be a Ward Representative! Papers and application forms would be sent out for all three wards shortly.

Date of Next Meeting: TUESDAY 12th MAY 2015

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.



Stoke Bishop Neighbourhood Forum

Stoke Bishop Forum Working Group Reports - 3rd February 2015

Working Group for Older people (WGOP)

This Working Group aims to promote the health, wellbeing and quality of life of older people within the NP area. Sue Boyd is our Ward Rep on this Group.

The AGM for this working Group was held on 18 November. The Chairman reported that WGOP had continued to achieve its priorities despite the ill health of some committee members and also family illness commitments during the past year.

Currently, WGOP is active in reviewing its strategy, including its past, present and future priorities and activities.

Pick Me Up Activities The visit to Cadbury Garden Centre on 10 December was a great success. The opportunity for Christmas shopping, a festive Christmas lunch, the quiz and a calendar were very much enjoyed by all who attended - summed up by one lady – “Thank you very much indeed for the Christmas lunch celebration. It was a joy to meet old friends and acquaintances and new friends too. The scenic return trip was delightful and especially the detour to Backwell Lake”.

The next planned trip on 4 March is to have tea with The Lady Mayoress (on this occasion priority will be given to those people who have not attended this event before). If you wish to attend, please contact Gay Huggins, Tel 0117 9685813.

Local Activities Booklet The WGOP has been working with Linkage and last year produced 1,000 copies of an illustrated Booklet outlining the activities for the over 55's in Henleaze, Westbury and Stoke Bishop. The printing of this was sponsored by Wilshire Farm Foods. We are hoping to produce an updated version later this year (probably July) ready for the autumn activities.

Dementia Friendly Community The WGOP will be involved in working alongside others by helping to encourage NP3 to officially be a 'Dementia friendly community'.

Next meeting of WGOP is being held on Wednesday 25 February, at 2.00pm.

Future dates for meetings are: 15 April and 20 May - all held at The Eastfield Inn, Henleaze.

The WGOP welcomes volunteers who may be willing to help with this group in any way. Please contact Val Bishop, Sue Boyd, Gay Huggins Glenise Morgan, or Wendy Hull through Andrew McGrath, Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator, Tel 9036436

Environment

Initiative to clean up River Trym: Residents of Sea Mills have approach a number of us to work towards a project to clean the river which shares its boundary on either side with Sea Mills, Stoke Bishop and Westbury on Trym. Over many years there has been a collection of supermarket trolleys, tyres and other junk which has settled into the sediment. In addition it does get pollution that does lead to sewage fungus, bad smells and loss of invertebrate life. We were fortunate to have a briefing from Ian Mock and Harriet Alvis – Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) who reported that the Trym suffered pollution problems a few years ago. This is well documented by the Environment Agency. The Trust has £10k to perform cleaning work to the river in Blaise. They have also applied to Bristol Green Capital for funding. The trust has raised £250k in the last 3 years. They would like a river plan for the Trym, showing what the problems are, what needs doing. It would be good if we could work with them. River clearing for better fish passage and species identification are needed. These exercises would also be useful for triggering Environment Agency involvement. Any work could include Hazel Brook. Bristol City Council has a river officer – Cathy Derrick. Gary Brentnall suggested that this could be taken on as a small/medium sized project for the NP. Ian promised to supply the group with a copy of a plan that is similar to the one the group might do for the Trym. **Action:** Andrew to get copy from Ian.

Gas company saga of installation on Stoke Lodge continues. The promised and “required landscaping” to disguise the installation at the junction of Cross Elms and Parrings Lanes has never been done, and we are not advised to dig in the area against the gas converter. It is a report of the usual woes and delays. Stephanie French has bravely stated she will continue to fight this one.

Old **Sneed Nature Reserve** silt removal has been agreed at an acceptable price, and the work should start soon.

The satisfaction survey for the **new playground** is due. This could be linked to the Comms group to help promote the NP. Anecdotally the area has been much appreciated and is used even in cold weather and continues to attract a lot of junior school age children.

We have used **Community Payback** people to tidy up the car-parks in Stoke Lodge and we have been fortunate enough not to be charged for their services, so we have been able to allocate all the **Green and Clean** money (£500) to hanging baskets for the shop areas.

Note the proposed **boundary changes**. These will include several clear changes to the NP’s shape and size. The formal consultation does not end until 16th February 2015. All citizens are entitled to submit their thoughts to the boundary commission.

The **Roman House** at the bottom of Roman Way has had a clean-up in that the grass has been trimmed and ivy removed from the walls, but in spite of 3 years of asking the notice saying just what are the historic ruins has not been replaced after the car crashed through the barrier demolishing the sign although the fence was

patched up. This is an extreme pity as there are often visitors looking for the site and then are none the wiser as to its probable significance.

Alan Preece Ward Representative

Transport

Druid Hill white lining - some of you may have noticed that the white lines have been replaced in the wrong position, severely cramping the down lane and making it impossible to park there.

Suggestions that the **bus stop** outside the Stoke Hill shops should be moved back have not been acted on since the bus stop is the correct length and to move it would lose two parking spaces, albeit freeing up one outside the shops.

The **Westbury Road/Bus lane/North View** review has been completed but not yet analysed so current requests to reverse the changes implemented some time ago have to await this process. There also suggestions to make Westbury Road a one-way system to mitigate the parking problems brought about by cars displaced by the RPZ in Redland and Cotham.

Of particular importance is the BCC response to the huge developments in **South Gloucestershire at Cribbs Causeway**. The impact of an extra 8000 households will be major. Solutions have not yet been shared with us, but there is an opportunity at this Forum to quiz Mr Peter Mann, Service director for Transport at BCC. Of concern have been draft proposals to create a continuous bus-lane from Cribbs causeway to Whiteladies Road and to implement right-turn restrictions along Falcondale Road.

I did raise the problem of the increasing daytime parking in **Roman Way** and **Hadrians Close** which is creating restricted exits from the Portway, brought to notice by several residents. Hadrians Close in particular is too narrow for parking and two lanes of passing traffic. Therefore the pavement and grass embankment are being carved up and creating a problem of a traffic queue backing up onto the Portway. There really is no solution to these problems. Double yellow lines penalise the residents who may then have a problem of parking outside or close to their homes, or of accommodating visitors. Guidance from these residents would be welcome, but problems are an inevitable consequence of the success of the Park and Ride stop and pedestrian crossing at that point.

The Downs: various minor parking restrictions sanctioned by the NP had been included in a much larger review of parking across the whole Downs area. The responses from that consultation are being assessed, prior to a Statutory Consultation.

Shirehampton Road Zebra Crossing: funding for this pedestrian crossing, near Stoke Lodge and Cedar Park, was sanctioned at the June 2014 NP for

implementation during 2014/16. Draft plans will be prepared for a local consultation - no progress to date. Stephanie French said the Stoke Bishop Community Speed Watch (SB CSW) had approached PCSO Claire Fisher to ask for an additional site for speed watching on Shirehampton Road, one spot in each direction. She thought a few sessions there might provide data to identify the best location for the crossing.

Pavements: Glen drive has been completed. **Druid Stoke Avenue:** order placed with Hemmings on 17 November but they subsequently went into liquidation. Order placed with new contractor in mid-December and work should be completed in 8 weeks.

And finally, a glimmer of hope – we had been handicapped by a restriction of the whole NP to have only one project per year as a result of reduced resources in the Transport Dept: Press Release from Mayor’s Office, January 2015

Half a million pounds could be put towards local improvements to roads and transport throughout Bristol’s neighbourhoods after Bristol Mayor George Ferguson revised his budget proposals for 2015/16.

“The Mayor’s final proposals, which are due to be debated at his 13 January Cabinet meeting, **follow widespread public consultation, during which local traffic and transport was flagged as an important issue by respondents.**

“**The ability of Neighbourhood Partnerships to propose local transport improvements has created a large demand, and if approved this investment would help us unlock some blockages and make these improvements more quickly, clearing a backlog created by sheer demand.**”

Alan Preece Ward Representative

Well Being Grant

Since the last Open Forum in October, there have been several successful bids for funds in Stoke Bishop. The Stoke Bishop Ladies Choir have received help with the purchase of music, and the bus shelter on the Downs will be repaired. This was original restored by local volunteers and since then Ian Beattie has kept it free of graffiti and litter, and will be doing the repairs, so thanks are expressed to him.

At the most recent meeting, £3,000 has been allocated to the Village Hall. All the tiles on the front and side elevations need to be examined for stability and repaired following the near miss by one tile falling off. The total cost is in the region of £16,000 so if anyone has any bright ideas for fund-raising (or spare cash!), please contact the SBCA Committee.

Eight beautiful cherry trees have had to be felled in Kewstoke Road so we have allocated the remainder of Stoke Bishop Ward’s Well Being Funds to their replacement. We only had sufficient for 5 trees but hopefully the residents will help raise the balance.

We hope we shall be allocated more funds in April to continue our good work.
Gay Huggins Ward Representative

Tree Report

Stoke Lodge: There will be two boundary trees at Stoke Lodge planted soon to replace fellings, and they will be spaced so as to do something about the gap created when the large much loved oak tree near **Cheyne Road** fell down in 2014. The two trees had been felled in 2012 (due to disease) and really should have been replaced by BCC earlier. I have no criticism of BCC however – they have a lot on their plate. I would rather commend the prompt acceptance by the BCC Tree Officer that these two trees were “due” to Stoke Lodge and his prompt acceptance of a site meeting to make sure the deficiency was remedied.

There will be a replacement for the felled diseased **Ash** by the new playground gate funded by Hiatt Baker s106 money. This will be a Cedar of Lebanon planted early next planting season not too far away from the playground but not so close as to interfere with any picnic area, any enlargement of the playground and any re-orientation of pitches. I am grateful to local residents and groups for keeping me informed about what is or may be going on there, so that we do not waste money by making mistakes that would upset future ideas and developments.

The **Cedar of Lebanon** in Stoke Lodge sadly is more sickly, but is not gone yet. The entire BCC Tree and Environment departments have been alerted to our concerns and no arbitrary decisions will be made. I was strongly reassured on that score by the BCC Officer concerned at the Tree Forum meeting. It will be saved if at all possible, but may in some form or other be trimmed, propped or fenced off. If it cannot be saved - then we can keep the wood (?carve it). It will be replaced with another Cedar of Lebanon – but this would be just a little one, as our iconic tree once was itself!

Eleven new street trees funded by s106 monies have been/soon will be planted along what could be described as the Shirehampton Road/Parry's Lane corridor, and also in Stoke Hill and Mariner's Drive. See the new Tulip Tree in the front car park of the Adult Learning Service!

I am working with the leader of the allotment group at Sea Mills and the BCC Tree Officer to do something about the rather neglected trees forming the boundary between the allotments at **Sea Mills Station and the River Avon path**. Not much has been done to the council owned trees here in recent years. There is a shading problem making some plots not viable, and a security problem, with naughty folk using the low branches of some trees to gain access to the area for nefarious purposes.

This really is the role of the Tree Champion in a true expression – putting residents in touch with the right person at BCC and facilitating the exchange of views, and then following up the result of the encounter!

The less than satisfactory replacement trees outside the new Tesco store in **Shirehampton Road** have been replaced and new trees finally planted along Sea Mills Lane where the TPO Willow once was. We shall keep an eye on them.

The use by Wessex Water of the land at **Trymside** is being monitored (by me) and if the recently planted trees are damaged I shall be on the case. I have photos of “before”.

I wrote to the **U of B Estates** Officer to ask if the **Planning Condition No 25** to replace the felled trees following the Hiatt Baker Hall development on site on the SB Campus has been fulfilled. He assures me that all the trees have been planted and he is going to take me on a tour of the new trees with Roger Gamlin, Chair of Planning Sub Group for Stoke Bishop, in better weather.

On a different note, and rather disappointingly, at the Tree Forum I asked the University of Bristol Estates Officer to give me reassurance on two points. Firstly that the University was not going to ask for exemption from the **Bristol Tree Replacement Standard** (I’ll explain to anyone who asks me about it) and secondly I asked that the University was not going to ask to be exempted from the requirement either to plant trees lost due to development as close as possible to the site of the loss, or give money to the Council for them to plant trees on public land as close as possible if the University had no room. I was given no such reassurance and rather alarmingly it became apparent in the exchange that the University feels very strongly that it should not pay money to the Council for trees on public land under any circumstance. As the land available for trees on the Stoke Bishop campus is now limited this means that were there to be further building development on the SB Campus we could “lose” trees to other parts of the University’s campus. I am anxious about this. I do not want such a modification to the rules in their favour to be slipped though under the radar and I am going to seek the Partnership’s support in March to write to the relevant BCC Planning Senior Officer’s to alert them to our concerns about the possibility that there might be such a request and what our view is about it. When we had our little squabble over a year ago I did receive such an assurance from senior planners, but there has been so much churn at the Council since then that I feel a reminder is advisable.

I quote here the reassurance we received from the Council in May 2014 at the end of last year’s hot debates (my underlining).

“The above demonstrates a commitment by the Council to ensure that the Tree Replacement Standard is followed and that replacement trees are planted in the right locations. I am not aware of any approach made by the University seeking an exemption to future tree replacement requirements in the locality of a development **and a blanket exemption would not be agreed.**.....I anticipate that there would be discussions if further development proposals were to come forward on

individual sites, which may involve some replacement tree planting in alternative locations. However, the principal consideration would be to **achieve replacement planting within the site where possible or select appropriate planting sites as close to the site as is practical in order that the existing character of the Downs and Sneyd Park Conservation Area is preserved or enhanced.**”

Stephanie French NP3 Tree Champion