



# Westbury-on-Trym & Henleaze Open Forum

## Wednesday 11 May 2016

### Present

**Councillors:** Geoff Gollop, Liz Radford

**WoT Ward Reps:** Alan Aburrow, David Mayer (Meeting Chairman), Helen Furber, Val Bishop, Robert Murphy

**BCC Officers:** Gary Brentnall, Andrew McGrath

**Avon & Somerset Police:** PC Gareth Pike; PCSO Paula Perry

**Also present:** Stephanie French (NP rep and tree Champion), Wendy Hull (NW rep)

**Apologies:** Clare Campion-Smith

28 members of the public

**Election** No election needs to be held as there were fewer nominations than rep positions available. Reps above all elected

**Police feedback** Stats for the wards: **Henleaze:** Dwelling burglaries are up from 10 - 12; non-dwelling burglaries up from 18 to 20; Vehicle crime (from and of) up from 16-30; 20 ASB reports. The miscreants are known and being dealt with. **W-o-T:** Dwelling burglarise up from 4 to 5; non-dwelling burglaries down from 25 to 15; vehicle crime down from 16 to 4; 23 incidents of ASB.

Other issues include drivers flouting the no entry signs on Channells Hill; a cannabis factory has been closed down in W-o-T. About £70k worth of drugs seized; people need to take care of their car keys in their houses. Numerous incidents of keys being stolen though letter flaps.

It was pointed out by one resident that there is a charity (Care and Repair) that will fit security devises to retirees' homes for free; Draymen's' lorries regularly blocking the highway when making deliveries. Other examples also given. The attendees were reminded that the police can only deal with law infringements. Civil authorities do the rest. You need to contact Parking Services in BCC

WOTBA would like a greater police presence in the village. It is rare to see a policeman walking about these days. There are an increased number of rough sleepers in the area. We don't want them arrested, we want them helped.

### Councillor Updates

A statement from **Councillor Clare Campion-Smith** was read out as she was unable to attend the meeting. The statement included the need to promote safe and affordable transport, and not favouring one over the other. The Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood will need careful monitoring as its impact will be huge. The importance of fighting to maintain the strong ward profiles of the area is important. We need to ensure that the area retains its fair share of services and funding. This will increasingly include provision of services for fighting dementia. The emphasis on the local environment needs to be maintained. Thanks were given to the Henleaze Society, and Stephanie French (NP tree champion). It would be good to see an improvement in street cleaning and a citywide approach to dealing with dog mess. Clare hopes the council can now have a period of less disruptive change in policies and staffing. The statement ended with Clare mentioning how she intends to retain her interest in a project she started as Lord Mayor – Bristol Girls Can Make It.

**Councillor Liz Radford.** Liz told the meeting that she was honoured to be elected. She is very concerned about the upcoming lack of school places. It's okay at present but is set to become problematic if nothing is done soon. Roads and transport are a concern. They need to be safe for all users, including cyclists. This does not mean being anti-car. Most people need their cars. There are issues of rat runs and poor drainage on many roads. Liz is also keen to help local businesses to be successful.

**Councillor Geoff Gollop.** Geoff asked residents to tell him what their concerns are. He feels the NP and he, as a councillor, is well placed to help solve service delivery problems within BCC. There are still very difficult times ahead for local government. A big challenge will be to maintain services as well as possible. He is keen to help residents have a say over the local planning process. In an area such as this there is the risk of over-development. Once it happens it's there forever. By working together, the community can affect these decisions. Parking is a major, and increasing, concern. The area is in danger of turning in to a large car park. We need holistic solutions, not just shifting the problem from one area to another.

### **Matters arising**

**Westbury-on-Trym:** Transport in and through the area. We need the new Mayor's view on the CPNN, including the issue of train stations. The A4018 first and then the A38 are set to be very badly affected by the CPPN development.

All of the funding for dealing with the likely problems is coming from S. Glos Council. It is currently £9.5m. We are reliant on S. Glos for this funding. The concern is that officers are cutting their cloth according to their means. In other words, the schemes worked up are being dictated by the £9.5m available, rather than a holistic scheme being developed to deal with the whole area, of which the cost is, as yet, unknown. This is not the way to undertake such a huge project. We are unlikely to see any detailed plans before the end of the year.

Electricity sub-station on PROW (Coopers Rd to Back Stoke Lane). The site has been confirmed as being on the contractors list and will be dealt with imminently.

Westbury Wildlife Park. There has been no progress on finding out the owners intentions for this site. All attempts to contact them have failed. It is likely that a lot of concerted work will be needed to make progress on this issue.

**Henleaze:** Southmead Police Station will close in January 2017. It won't be relocating to the Wayfarers as originally intended. Another solution is currently being sought.

The Drive was due to be the next street to have its lights improved. It is very important that you report lighting problems. The BCC team do respond.

Although the specific problem of flooding at Etloe Road/North View appears to have been resolved, it is not thought to be a long-term solution. The adjacent trees are a problem. If they are not to be removed, the problem will remain.

The half-finished house at 99 Devonshire Road doesn't seem to be progressing. This needs to be chased up.

New school at St Ursula's. Now due to finish in October. The school is developing a travel plan and wants parents to do the '*5 minutes' walk to school*'. This means any parents driving are encouraged to park at least 5 minutes away and walk their cherub to the school gate. There is talk of raised tables in Brecon Road as traffic controls. The detailed designs are being worked up. They will not be installed before the new school opens.

Park Grove/Springfield Grove. There will be no one-way roads here. Consultation about to start on two raised speed tables.

The Henleaze Parking Review, which is a NP transport project, will be split over 2 years now instead of being done in one year. This will have the advantage of being able to take in to account any developments re the CPNN, Southmead Parking review and new RPZs in the area.

The Wessex Bus No2 bus service has started. This is great news but there is early evidence that it is not being used very much. This puts it at risk of being removed.

Concerns over the character of Henleaze Road shops. There have been 2 shops recently vacated. One has now been re-let.

### **New Issues**

Future forums. Some attendees thought the meetings need more time. Others think more forums are needed. After some discussion it was decided that the two 'old' wards keep their forums separate except for the May forums when elections are held. The comment was made that a lot of time could be saved if people read their papers before the meeting. This would avoid the need to go over them at the meeting. The councillors are content to attend the separate forums across the ward.

Traffic and Transport. There was mention of a Thornbury group that is looking to have a train station. No one else had heard of this but a watching brief will be held.

As per above, the Henleaze parking review will now take place over 2 years instead of one. Alan urged residents to take part in reviews and consultations. If you don't, you may end up regretting what you get. Involvement in consultations/reviews has been shown to be effective.

The issue of accident statistics since the 20mph restrictions started was raised. No one has seen any to verify if the reduced speeds have been effective in reducing accidents and deaths.

Dementia Awareness. Tony Hall spoke to the meeting about wanting to make Bristol *the* dementia aware city of the UK. It is Dementia Awareness week from 16<sup>th</sup> May. The Bristol Dementia Action Alliance is on the lookout for organisations to become Dementia Aware organisations. Many have been signed up so far but many more still to do so. These include shops, schools, libraries etc. Tony was heartily thanked for his presentation.

How many drivers and cyclists have been fined for going over 20mph? Not many as the police do not do blanket enforcement. They do hot spot enforcement though, and one attendee had received a speeding fine.

Can we invite the Mayor to a forum? Yes. We could ask him about CPNN. It would be better to do a combined invitation with neighbouring wards and NPs. The Southmead councillors might have more success in inviting him as they are of the same party.

The defibrillator on Stoke Lane needs to be more widely promoted. David offered to take this forward.

With regard to the new development in Cribbs, there will be a huge flow of cars out of Bristol wanting to visit the new ice rink and other attractions. It won't all be traffic merely coming in and out of Bristol for work.

The old issue of the street cleaners not emptying the ashtrays in the top of the bins was raised. This will need renewed action. Tracy Morgan, head of Bristol Waste to be contacted. Action: Gary/Andrew.

The enormous hole in Eastfield needs to be better protected. It is deep and could seriously injure a child; especially on the old coach house site. Geoff to revisit this as he thought the fencing was adequate.

The funding of the NP was explained to the meeting. A slide showing how the funds have been spent was put up. The NP has spent over £1.3m on local projects.

The thorny issue of the crossing at the Henleaze Road roundabout being in the wrong place was again raised. Virtually everyone who could argue and complain about the wrong siting has done so. But it is still going to be sited in a position that may be dangerous as this is the position agreed via the planning process.

### **Working Groups' Feedback**

All the reports were contained in the papers. Stephanie briefly explained the latest tree issues. There is a new process for getting trees in Bristol. The NP has a list, which it updates over time. If you have an idea for a tree, let Stephanie know. We are now looking for trees to plant in the 2017/18 planting season.

Geoff made a plea that less paper be used at these meetings. It was agreed that this should be tackled. There could be brief printed reports that are succinct précis of the larger reports. All agreed to stop slaughtering the forests.

A resident stated that the 'Fix My Street' website is excellent for reporting problems. Go to: <https://www.fixmystreet.com>