



**Notes of Westbury-on-Trym Open Forum**  
**7.00pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017**  
**at Venue 35, Stoke Lane**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** Cllr Geoff Gollop, Cllr Liz Radford and Cllr Clare Campion-Smith

**BCC Officers:** Gary Brentnall, Neighbourhood Officer

**Avon & Somerset Police:** Sgt Calum Allan and PC and Joanne Robertson (Beat Manager)

**Guest Speakers:** Gina Eller from Bristol Energy and Lydia Francisty from Bristol Waste Company.

**Neighbourhood Partnership representatives:** Stephanie French (Tree Champion), Prof Alan Preece (Environment WG Chairman), and Graham Donald (NP Vice Chairman)

**Westbury on Trym and Henleaze Elected Ward Representatives:** Alan Aburrow (Chairman), David Mayer, Val Bishop and Helen Furber

**Plus** approximately 30 members of the Community (i.e. 45 in total)

**Apologies:** Andrew McGrath BCC Neighbourhood Coordinator and Hilary Long WOTSOC

**1) Welcome and Introductions and Corrections to Notes from Previous Forum:**

**Alan Aburrow** opened the Meeting; welcomed the attendees and made the introductions. He confirmed that:

- a) This is the last Meeting in the current format. This will be discussed under agenda item 5
- b) Need to pass the hat round to pay for tonight's venue hire

**2) Police Feedback**

**PC Joanne Robertson** reported:

- a) Statistics for Westbury-on-Trym, in the past 12 months

- i. **Burglary**

There has been a slight increase with 18 burglaries over the last 3 months (Oct 16 – Dec 16) compared with 17 the previous 3 months (July – Sept).

As a result of carrying out re-visits for burglaries and shed breaks we have found that individuals still don't make records of possessions. Please look at using a site which provides a free online property register – [www.immobilise.com/](http://www.immobilise.com/)

We have had a recent case where we did not have a serial number, the stolen property was sighted and checked but at the time we couldn't prove it was stolen, until a few days later when the serial number was found by the owner. The property that had been seen was conformed as stolen but has since being moved on.

Had we had the serial number at the time of the theft we could have recovered the item and linked it to an offender.

ii. **Non- Dwelling (Shed/Garages)**

Oct 16 – Dec 16 there were 23 breaks compared to 18 from July 16 – Sept 16.

iii. **Theft from motor vehicle**

Oct 16 – Dec 16 there were 52 offences compared to 26 from July – Sept.

We have been deploying a covert capture car around the local area and have been getting some positive results from this, with some convictions and some still in pending.

iv. **ASB**

Has also shown an increase over the last year.

The main offenders for the majority of the incidents have been positively targeted and as a result have been served with ABC's and are being monitored by the Anti- Social behaviour team. A couple of them have recently been arrested, which now enables us to start adding extra conditions such as CBO – which is the equivalent of an ASBO, which can lead to other conditions such as risk of tenancy loss on their property etc.

v. **Parking outside schools**

We have recently been carrying out school patrols at the primary schools as we receive a high number of calls about parents parking on the Zig Zags and the pavements and putting the children's safety at risk, hopefully with our presence this will help to resolve this issue.

**We attended the Infant school on the beat back in November as part of Road Safety week to help educate.**

- b) "Nottingham knockers" i.e. street traders selling at front doors is illegal and without a pedlars' licence is a crime. Most callers proffer a hawkers licence which is not adequate. Residents are urged to ring 999 if they have traders calling because the incidence of burglary increases after these callers are active in the area. The Police have prioritised this crime and will arrest perpetrators and put them before the Courts.
- c) The Police will relocate from their current building on Southmead Road to a new facility later this year. Location yet to be confirmed.
- d) **Rita James** led a debate on the apparent rise in violent crime in our Ward, particularly at commercial premises and whether CCTV should be provided and what are the police doing to counter this issue.
- e) **Sgt Calum Allen** responded that the rise in commercial premises crime is a City-wide problem and the investigation is being led by a special task force dedicated to commercial burglaries. Suspects have been identified and investigations are continuing.
- f) **Cllr Clare Champion-Smith** advised that the provision of CCTV would have to be weighed on the basis of overall crime statistics and given the level of crime in other areas within the City and the freeze on spending she felt that the provision of CCTV in Westbury on Trym funded by the City Council was very unlikely.

3) **Bristol Energy – an alternative energy provider**

**Gina Eller**, an energy consultant from Bristol Energy, gave a spirited presentation setting out the background to the formation of Bristol Energy and the corporate ethos of charging lowest possible rates and encouraged the attendees to consider swapping to Bristol Energy.

Contact details available on all the major "Switch" consumer internet sites and free from land lines on 0808 281 2222 ([www.bristol-energy.co.uk](http://www.bristol-energy.co.uk) )

**Cllr Geoff Gollop** confirmed that Bristol Energy is a company owned by BCC but is run "at arm's length" by an independent management team. The start-up cost was provided by BCC and BCC hopes to share in any profits generated by the company.

#### 4) Open Form

##### a. You said - We did

**Alan** confirmed that: -

##### i. **Zebra Crossing on Canford Lane**

BCC Highways had identified two possible sites but that the removal of funding from the NP and the freeze on spending meant that this project was unlikely to be considered in the near future. **Nicola Hawkes** was currently organising a petition in support of a crossing and this was circulated for attendees to sign.

##### ii. **Unacceptable road resurfacing in Stoke Lane**

**Cllr Geoff Gollop** responded to a question regarding the appalling state of Stoke Lane and confirmed that this had been brought to the attention of a senior Highways officer and the contractor responsible - both of whom accepted that the work was sub standard and should be rectified as soon as the weather permits at no cost to the City Council. Whilst the contractor will undertake the necessary remedial works this situation leaves unanswered the outstanding question of inadequate and unsatisfactory quality control processes and procedures from within the City Council and the Contractor leading to resident dissatisfaction and additional disruption.

##### iii. **Development of Filton & Cribbs Causeway**

We continue to await any details of proposals regarding infrastructure upgrades along the A4018.

##### iv. **Electricity Sub Station – PROW – Cooper Rd/Back Stoke Lane**

Western Power Distribution had still not carried out any repair or restoration work on this overgrown site.

##### v. **Westbury Wildlife Park**

No response from the owners or progress on resolving this matter

##### vi. **Elmlea Avenue – obstructive parking**

**Cllr Liz Radford** is continuing to hold meetings with Bristol University to get them to recognise and accept their responsibility in this matter. Commuter parking is also adding to this problem.

##### vii. **Overhanging shrubbery in Reedley Road**

**Gary Brentnall** [BCC] confirmed that he has visited this site and will arrange for the shrubbery to be cut back.

##### viii. **Where we spent your money**

A slide was displayed showing where this NP (Supported by Councillors) had spent £1.3m of devolved funds on over 300 local projects in 5 years. Alan also displayed a slide giving more detail of where the devolved Transport budget had been spent (reproduced as Attachment 1).

## b. Planning Issues

### i. Southmead Police Station – planning appeal

**Stephanie French** confirmed that the majestic Wellingtonia on this site that had previously been saved by the decision of the Planning Committee had been overturned on appeal and that the tree would now be felled as part of the site's redevelopment.

### ii. Trees

**Stephanie** gave a report on the trees that we expect to be planted during this planting season together with the trees identified for planting in the next season which hopefully will go ahead because the funding is coming from the CIL fund which is not affected by the Council's freeze on spending.

Stephanie also recommended that residents should consider visiting Bishop Knoll Wood (BS9 1RD) which is on our doorstep, is well maintained by the Woodland Trust, and contains a spectacular array of notable trees. Stephanie did point out that the pathways are only suitable for able-bodied visitors as some are very steep and slippery when wet.

### iii. Redmaids' High School and obstructive parking (including St Ursula's)

**The Councillors** reported on a current planning application, together with a meeting with representatives of Red Maids' school regarding the concerns amongst local residents about the unacceptable consequential impact on parking and access to local roads and properties which the school seemed oblivious to. The situation is exacerbated by the similar impact following the expansion of St Ursula's Academy.

## c. New Issues

### i. Stoke Lane Defibrillator

**Michelle Spokes** has kindly agreed to give a demonstration of the defibrillator at Venue 35, Stoke Lane for those interested on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 3.00pm (previously advertised at 9.00am).

### ii. Bristol Clean Streets Campaign

**Cllr Clare Champion-Smith** introduced and encouraged the attendees to get involved with the Mayor's "Clean Streets Campaign" inviting City residents to join in the "Spring Clean" scheduled for 3 -5 March 2017 to support the Mayor's vision for the City to become as clean as Zurich, Tokyo and Singapore.

### iii. Bristol Waste Company

**Lydia Francisty** from Bristol Waste Company, which is another independent operating company owned by BCC, confirmed that BWC was keen to hear from residents wanting to raise any matters of concern or potential improvement affecting the service provided by the company.

Contact details:

e-mail: [lydia.francisty@bristolwastecompany.co.uk](mailto:lydia.francisty@bristolwastecompany.co.uk)

mobile: 07 585 307 361; land-line: 01 173 049 022

## 5) NP Matters and Announcements

### a. BCC Corporate Strategy Consultation results

**Cllr Geoff Gollop** confirmed that the overall response had been poor but the highest number of replies from across the city had been received from BS9. He confirmed that

the proposed cost-savings contained in the strategy document had been approved by the Mayor and the Cabinet and that it was being debated and voted on at the Full Council meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> February. This Full Council meeting will consider the budget for 2017/18 only. Additional cost savings required in subsequent years will be debated at a later meeting to enable a comprehensive strategy to be developed

**Mike Chant** complained that there were no copies of the consultation document available to be taken away at any public buildings. Cllr Gollop agreed to pass this comment on.

## **b. Proposed Cost saving measures**

### **i. Overall**

The Council must make savings to regular ongoing costs in the next five years totalling approximately £90m, this includes the cost overruns in 2016/17 and the planned cuts in Central Government funding

### **ii. Neighbourhood Partnerships**

It is proposed that the Neighbourhood Partnership budget is cut from circa £1.1m in 2016/17 to £0.6m in 2017/18 and reduced to zero by 2019/20

### **iii. Parks**

The parks budget is similarly proposed to be reduced to zero by 2019/20.

Parks groups are being encouraged to take on more responsibility and to arrange events to raise funds to fund maintenance.

### **iv. Libraries**

The library budget is proposed to be cut to support 5 libraries only across the City, including the Central Library. The Libraries to be closed have not been identified. Library groups are being encouraged to take on more responsibility for their library to enable its sustainability.

## **c. Future shape of Bristol City Council**

Bristol City Council must adopt a strategy where they must continue to identify efficiencies so that statutory duties can be delivered and unaffordable non statutory services must be cut back to the level that is affordable and/or subsidised by innovative fund raising and partnership opportunities. This will require a major culture change and organisational review at the senior leadership team level.

## **d. Future shape of the Neighbourhood Partnership**

The current Neighbourhood Partnership structure within BCC is unsustainable and will cease as of June 2017.

Those present at the meeting and the Councillors agreed that the Forums provided a very valuable interface and that the options for the Forums and certain working groups to continue in some new form, outside BCC, should be investigated.

BCC have confirmed that they recognise the good work undertaken by the NP and whilst they cannot support them financially they will try to support the new structures developed by the community.

## 6) Any Other Business

### a. Stoke Lodge TVG – registration

**David Mayer** confirmed that the Public Rights of Way & Greens Committee recommended that the land at Stoke Lodge be registered as a Town or Village Green at their meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016. **David** cautioned that this decision is open to Judicial Review by the objectors should they be granted leave to appeal within 3 months of the decision.

### b. Stoke Lodge TVG – planning application for perimeter fencing

**David** confirmed that Cotham Academy had submitted a planning application to fence the perimeter of the land at Stoke Lodge to exclude free and open public access. This planning application is obviously contra to provisions of a Town or Village Green.

Additionally he confirmed that the status of this planning application was unclear and whether or not it would go to Committee for a decision.

David had spoken to the planning officer yesterday and he had authorised the following statement: -

*“BCC have several concerns regarding the planning application by Cotham Academy for perimeter fencing and are in discussions with Cotham regarding those concerns.”*

## 7) Date of next Meeting – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017, Venue TBA

## 8) Meeting closed at 9.15 pm

**NOTE!** The slide show displayed during the Meeting, in support of some of the topics raised and discussed, can be seen on the NP3 website (as a pdf):

[www.activenp.co.uk/2017/02/notes-from-westbury-on-trym-open-forum-8-february-2017/](http://www.activenp.co.uk/2017/02/notes-from-westbury-on-trym-open-forum-8-february-2017/)

**Significant Minor Traffic Schemes Completed 2010 – 2017**  
**Funded from NP3's Devolved Budgets**

<b>Stoke Bishop</b>		<b>£</b>
1	Additional parking restrictions around Sea Mills Lane/Shirehampton Road	5,000
2	Additional parking restrictions in Sneed Park (Downleaze and Rockleaze area)	7,500
3	Additional parking restrictions around Stoke Hill/Old Sneed Avenue	3,000
4	New Zebra Crossing on Shirehampton Road	30,000
5	Upgrade of mini-roundabout at Shirehampton Road/Parry's Lane junction	19,000
6	Parking Review around Sea Mills Station area (implementation to follow?)	10,000
<b>Westbury-on-Trym</b>		
1	Additional parking restrictions around Southfield Road and Albert Place	5,000
2	Review of traffic light sequencing on Falcondale Road	2,500
3	Upgrade to digital signalling communication for traffic lights on Falcondale Road	2,000
4	Feasibility Study for improvements at Passage Road/Greystoke Road junction	5,000
5	Additional crossing-point and pavement widening/realignment in Eastfield Road (near top Waters Lane)	13,000
6	Additional parking restrictions in Stoke Lane area	10,000
7	Installation of parking demarcation studs in Henbury Road	1,000
8	New traffic-calming measures in Chock Lane	12,500
9	New Zebra Crossing on Southmead Road	21,000
10	Additional "No Entry" signage at bottom of Channells Hill	2,000
11	Westbury-on-Trym Parking Review (implementation to follow?)	10,000
12	Installation of traffic bollards to protect grass verge on Westbury Road	1,000
13	New kerbing and traffic bollards to protect grass verge in Canford Lane (near Merlin Close)	8,000
14	"Mother & Child" bays marked-out in Westbury Hill car park	350
15	Installation of two new street lamps on Public Right of Way near Parish Church	5,400
<b>Henleaze</b>		
1	Additional parking restrictions in area around Wimbledon Road and Twickenham Road	5,000
2	Additional Parking Restrictions in Westbury Park	8,000
3	Design Study for redesign of Northumbria Drive/Henleaze Road junction	4,000
4	New traffic-calming measures in Park Grove/Springfield Grove	20,000
5	Installation of street bollards and revised white lining in The Drive, at exit from Tesco filling station	2,750
6	Traffic and speed survey in West Broadway/South Croft area	2,750
7	LED halos added to Belisha Beacons on Coldharbour Road Zebra Crossings (x2)	4,000
8	LED halos added to Belisha Beacons and High Friction Surface (HFS) on Wellington Hill West Zebra Crossing	5,000

**TOTAL** 224,750