



STOKE BISHOP NEIGHBOURHOOD OPEN FORUM

Tuesday 9th May 2017

Present: Officers: Andrew McGrath (AMcG), Cllr John Goulandris(JG), PCSO Jessica Lewry (JL).
Ward Representatives: Peter Weeks, (Chairman) (PW), Roger Gamlin (RG), Peter Robottom (PR), Ella Davies (ED), Stephanie French (Tree Champion)(SF), David Mayer (WOT Rep & NP Chairman) (DM), Alan Aburrow (WOT Rep)(AA), Alan Preece (NP Env WG Chair)(AP), Jenny Hodges (Equalities Representative), Gay Huggins (Sec) (GH), and approximately 30 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Peter Abraham and Graham Donald..

Welcome: PW welcomed everyone and made the introductions. He asked for everyone to provide their email address again, as the database held by the Council cannot be used due to data protection so we need to start our own database. The notes from the previous meeting, which had been circulated, were agreed as a true record, and there were no matters arising.

Updates and Information:

a) Police/PCSO feedback: As Jeanette Cadden was unwell, JL gave the report. She informed us that, as Southmead was now closed, the police were now based in Bridewell Police Station until further notice. Over the last 3 months, there had been an increase in criminal damage, mainly to vehicles, amounting to 25 and an increase in burglaries. She reminded everyone to be aware of leaving doors unlocked in hot weather. Regarding the ASBOs on the Downs, the travellers site which appeared on the Thursday prior to the Bank Holiday, the police were not prepared to do anything and it had required a court order to move them on the following week. Roy May had rung the police on the Saturday and was told there was nothing the police could do. However, JG pointed out that the police **DO** have the power, under Section 68 Notices, to move them straightaway, and he was not happy by the lack of action by the police. JL would report this back to Jeanette and to the Inspector. They had caught two people when using the covert car and there had been a decrease in the sex activity on the Downs.

Sheila Sermon had raised at the last meeting motorbikes using Cross Elms Lane as a race track and thanks to the police this had stopped.

b) Updates on Sea Mills Projects: ED reported.(i) the Community Centre behind the Library is having a new lease of life and posters are around. There is a possibility of a wildlife garden there, and a Community garden on the allotment site by Sylvan Way. Working parties take place on Wednesdays and offers of help would be welcomed.

c) Update on Stoke Lodge Parkland: DM gave his report. He thanked all who had contributed to the fighting fund which had now reached its target for the whole process. It has now gone to judicial review, and will be dealt with when a judge is available. No further news available.

John Roberts asked about the planning application for the fencing. This had been withdrawn. The planning application for a new pavilion – JG said it should have been decided in April but there were 309 documents to be considered. The result will be 1) Application refused, 2) passed or 3) if there is a long delay, they could go to Planning Inspectorate.

Local Developments & Projects:

a) Local Planning Issues: RG advised that it had been very quiet. One application by the University for Hiatt Baker Hall for the area around Shaplands was to change the heating and water system. This would be in the form of large fans to extract heat from the atmosphere in summer and provide heat in the winter. The problem that the local residents are raising is the noise and vibration from these fans as it would appear inadequate screening is proposed. There are 6-7 houses within 50-100 feet of it.

RG felt this was a precedent for the University as here are several blocks which could use this system

Anyone wishing to write: **Application number is: 17/01367/F, deadline is the 2nd June.**

Judy Preston asked if these were proposed on the new blocks? No block A is on the left hand side of the old roadway. Alan Preece felt it should be suggested they try it out on other blocks well into the site, and perhaps on the roof of the building.

RG pointed out the Planning Group is not linked to the NP, and uses the Forum to report to residents. There are no funds and it will continue as a residents group.

b) Tree Issues: SF gave her report. With the cuts proposed by BCC, the tree budget was being cut to less than was necessary for the pollarding of large trees (every 3 years) and the removal of epicormic growth (annually), which will result in trees getting too big and causing damage and being removed. It is feared that Bristol will end up like Sheffield as trees are removed. Regarding local trees, we were supposed to have had 5 trees in Church Road, which has been reduced to 3 due to space, 5 in Westbury on Trym, and 3 in Henleaze. SF hopes these promised trees will be planted. SF has put in an order for 12 new trees in Dingle Close, 1 replacement tree in Stoke Lodge Parkland, 2 replacement trees in Sea Mills Square and asked for Councillors and public support for these. This was agreed unanimously.

Jacky Trivitt asked why 2 new trees in Sea Mills Square as 12 oak trees had already been planted. SF explained that these were replacements for one outside the church which had died and one which had been snapped off.

JG asked people to write to The Mayor (Marvin Rees) about the cuts in funding. The savings are tiny and the loss of trees would be a huge impact on the environment, pollution, etc.

Gyl Evans asked, where planning applications get rid of trees, do they still have to plant replacements within a mile of the site. SF said Richard Ennion was unable to confirm that this would still be the case, and builders would take advantage of the lack of regulation to ignore the replacement.

Sheila Sermon asked if the "one tree per child" (introduced by Mayor Ferguson) continued. The answer was that, as there was no maintenance money involved and the only watering of the trees was done by the children who planted them, there was no reason why this would necessarily be affected.

NP Working Groups:

a) Transport - PR reported that the Working Group had not met since the last Open forum due to the cuts in finance. AA had produced a list of issues raised should any funding be forthcoming. However, confirmation had been received that the 7 items listed as "in progress" will be carried out. These works include parking restrictions around Sea Mills Station, and action on the adverse camber on Parrys Lane (within 4 weeks) and the road markings and work around the junction of Bell Barn Road and Shirehampton Road. Regarding off-street parking around the Station, as mentioned at the last Forum, this appears to be on hold pending decisions on whether the proposed new station at the Portway Park & Ride will be ahead. This new station has been supported by the new Metro Mayor, but when the outcome is known we will need to follow this up appropriately.

The review of the Downs Parking Restrictions is now out for statutory consultation and comments should be in by the 15th May. There are plans for additional parking restrictions on Downleaze, Rockleaze, Parrys Lane, Stoke Hill, Sea Walls Road, and The Avenue. Full links to the consultation can be found on our NP website : www.activenp.co.uk No residential parking schemes are proposed.

PR was asked if there was any progress on the parking around the University halls. The short answer is no! It was also raised that Stoke Road was bad on Saturdays and could the restrictions be extended

to include Saturdays. Both of our Councillors had requested this forcefully at the initial stages, but the Mayor at that time had not permitted it. It could be a matter for representations.

Gyl Evans wishes to express our thanks to Alan Aburrow for all his hard work as Chairman of the Transport Group, which was applauded. PW agreed we are very much in his debt and he has worked very hard and made some great achievements over the last 6-7 years. AA responded that his lasting legacy would be the crossing on Shirehampton Road and the Druid Hill roundabout in this area.

b) **Environment** – AP reported that there had been no meeting as money had been blocked, but it would appear that the money held in the kitty could be spent. This money is CIL - 15% and S106 from developers. The 3 outstanding projects are Old Quarry Park and Stoke Lodge Sensory gardens, replacement bins and a bench in Sea Mills recreation ground, and £8,000 allocated for tree planting in NP3. AMcG had taken over the management of this following the redeployment of Gary Brentnall to a new job. Gary had stated he could get hold of a bench for the recreation ground for installation at cost only, but this has not been forthcoming. £8,000 to be spent on trees was being arranged by SF. There was £27,000 left in the CIL kitty so ideas for spending would be welcomed. AP wanted an additional dog bin at the entrance to Stoke Lodge Parkland (£3,500) and a few hours of pay-back work to tidy Stoke Lodge car park area.

At the recent Public Meeting, Asher Craig, of BCC, announced her plan for this funding to be spread over a wider area of Bristol and we will be grouped with Avonmouth or Southmead, areas which are classed as “needy” so funding for our area will be minimal.

Jenny Wilkes, who runs the Adult Education Centre on Stoke Lodge, has been very productive in the development of the overflow car park. It now has three times the capacity; rocks have been placed to prevent people driving onto the grass. Brambles have been cleared to improve the sightline to the sculpture and improve the general amenity..

The container on Stoke Lodge will be removed within the next few days; children have been climbing on it and vandalising the pavilion roof by using it as access. (Update: container removed the following day).

c) **Working Group for Older People** – PR reported that this group had had two meetings since the last Open Forum, one of which had been that morning, but neither Gay nor PR had been able to attend. The priority of this group was the reproduction of the leaflet of Activities for the over 55’s; the organisation Home Instead were helping with this.

d) **Communications:** ED reported that this group had not met in April. There are questions to be asked when the Council have made decisions, such as what will happen to our website, etc.

5. Future Stoke Bishop Ward Forum: This is the last of the Forums under the NP structure and thanks were expressed to Andrew McGrath and Gary Brentnall for their hard work and support. The 5 SB/SM Ward representatives have met several times over recent months following the enthusiasm at the last Forum for meetings to continue.

ED gave a presentation as follows:

Set up a new organisation, based on the Stoke Bishop council ward area with the following aims:

- 1) Run regular forum meetings for councillors to engage with community,
- 2) Be a link between local people and public bodies, such as the police.
- 3) Community engagement and involvement.
- 4) Facilitate and support local projects and groups.

It was felt this group would concentrate on the SB Ward only, but maintain strong links with adjacent wards. A new name would be considered (currently Stoke Bishop Ward Forum). Frequency of meetings. Structure of Committee. Funding possibilities, including CIL & S106 money. Communication of meetings, including setting up own database. There were still several questions which the group would need to address in order to fulfil the need

AMcG advised us that there will be a massive consultation coming regarding the future of parks, libraries, etc. Due to the unexpected General Election, the Cabinet which would have come to an agreement in September are unable to meet, so this will be delayed probably to the end of the year. This means that the proposed funding for Councillors to pay for meetings will not be forthcoming by September. However, PW was able to announce that the next meeting was already planned and would take place on **Monday 18th September at St Mary's Church at 7pm** and it will be free.

Gyl Evans asked if a mail-drop was possible to inform everyone, but this was impossible as it is very expensive and there are no funds. However, it will be advertised in the numerous local magazines which are distributed in the Ward, such as BS9, Messenger, Sea Mills Voice, etc.

Gay Huggins asked if the website would continue. AMcG advised that the organisation who oversee it are prepared to continue to at least the end of the year.

AA felt it would be wise to firm up meeting dates well in advance, say, the next three, and publish them to ensure people put the dates in their diaries.

Sue Mayer mentioned that Stoke Lodge were renting out rooms and were giving discount to local residents.

PW asked the audience if they wanted the group to continue along the lines proposed, and emphasised that this will be a trial for a year to see whether we have any money or funding available.

David Trivitt felt it should be a community thing.

Alan Preece pointed out that, if the only money coming from BCC is £2,500, it would seem pointless to meet three times a year to agree how to spend it, bearing in mind it will only buy 3 street trees, and would not even pay for a rubbish bin. This is why there is such a desperate need to retain our share of CIL and S106 money.

Keith Sheather felt the name was a turn-off. Whilst he was happy with the word 'community' he suggested that perhaps Sea Mills should be included in the title, e.g. SB/SM Community Forum.

ED asked if people were happy for the representatives to continue as your representatives. PW said that the existing committee would run for one year, and then resign, in order to give new people a chance to join. Mike Huggins suggested that, if there was a future, people would be asked to stand for, say, 3 years, on a rolling basis, to maintain continuity.

Mike Huggins formally proposed that the composition of the group continue as it stands for the following year, and this was seconded by Jim Doxey, and agreed unanimously.

Any Other Business:

1) Yvonne Wyatt, who had spoken at the last Open Forum, had emailed to advise us the Stoke Bishop Youth Club was now up and running, and an article would be appearing in the June BS9 magazine. They are planning a launch on Thursday 14th July at the SB Village Hall, 6-30-8pm, called "The Big Night Out". Their website is : www.stokiesyouth.com

2) SF stated she was willing to stay in her role until Bristol's new policy is decided. She also checks planning applications, which she would continue meantime.

3) Judy Preston asked everyone to take a flyer for the Open Gardens, Sunday 2nd July, and pass it to a friend or neighbour to help spread the word. Programmes available from Aimee's Winehouse from June.

Gyl Evans asked if there was any information about the proposed Concert on the Downs at the beginning of September. JG advised that it was going to the Licensing Committee on Thursday (11th) at 10am if people wanted to attend.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 18th September at 7pm at St Mary's Church, Mariners Drive, Stoke Bishop.