



Notes of Westbury-on-Trym Open Forum
7.00pm on Wednesday 10th May 2017
at Coombe Dingle Sports Complex

Present:

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

BCC Officers: Andrew McGrath – Neighbourhood Co-ordinator

Avon & Somerset Police: PC Joanne Archer (Horfield Beat Manager), PCSO Rob Cole

Guest Speakers: None

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 and Helen Furber

Plus approximately 30 members of the Community (i.e. 42 in total)

Apologies: PC Joanne Robertson (Henleaze & Westbury Beat Manager), Hilary Long (Chairman WotSoc), Keith Yeandel

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 its current format and the format for future Meetings would be discussed under Agenda Item 3.
- b) All attendees who wish to be kept up-to-date on future Meetings and important local matters, should provide their contact details - most importantly their e-mail address - on the attendance sheet because Data Protection Legislation prevents BCC from passing on the names and contact details that they hold to a third party i.e. any new group that takes on the role of organising future Forums.
- c) No corrections to the Notes from the previous Forum (held 8 February 2017) were raised from the floor.

2) Police Feedback

PC Joanne Archer reported that:

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

i. **Burglary**

There has been a significant decrease with 5 burglaries over the last over the last 3 months (Feb 17 – Apr 17) compared with 18 the previous 3 (Nov – Jan).

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

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

Feb 17 – Apr 17 there were 32 breaks compared to 23 from Nov 16 – Jan 17.

- iii. Theft from Motor Vehicles
Feb 17 – Apr 17 there were 23 offences compared to 52 from Nov 16 – Jan 17. The news has hopefully spread amongst some of the offenders that the covert capture car has been out in the area and is serving as a deterrent.
- iv. ASB
Reported incidents have decreased from 59 incidents, in the previous 3 months, to 42 over the last 3 months. These statistics are for Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze merged together.
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 have also approached Highways to have the Zig Zags repainted to make them visible to the road users – we are still awaiting a response.
- vi. Pavement parking
We have been receiving a number of complaints about parking on the pavements and obstructions around the Elmlea Avenue/Rylestone Grove area. We have been actively targeting the cars committing offences and issuing fixed penalty notices where required.
We are working with the local councillors to try and encourage the university to take some responsibility and accommodate the students parking in their grounds – reducing the strain on the local residents.

b) **Rogue Trader Week**

There has been a recent operation by the force which was “Rogue Traders Week” where Officers target doorstep sales people, ensuring they are a genuine sales person and abiding by Trading Standard laws.

Some packs have been put together for you to raise awareness of Rogue traders. There is a small quiz to test your knowledge as well as some literature about how to protect yourselves and property registration.

c) Date to note: **Beat Surgery – Westbury-on-Trym Library, Wednesday 24th May 2017 12:00 – 13:00**

d) **Questions**

Several points for clarification/expansion were raised from the floor, including what constituted pavement obstruction. As a “rule of thumb”, it is when the vehicle concerned prevents the free passage of a double-buggy or wheelchair along the pavement.

David referred to the recent article in the Henleaze & Westbury Voice where Sgt Calum Allan had advised that the police were making arrangements for a **CCTV camera** to be installed in Stoke Lane to “*address local residents’ concerns about offences near the shops.*” and he confirmed that the camera had been installed and thanked the police for their support in this matter.

3) NP Matters and Announcements

a) **Update on Bristol City Budget Cuts and Consultations**

Cllr Geoff Gollop, and the other Councillors, explained some of the background together with the current thinking at City Hall with regards to Neighbourhood Partnerships, arising

from the severe cut-backs agreed by The Mayor and his Cabinet. In short, BCC would no longer support Neighbourhood Partnerships by way of direct funding, such as Minor Traffic Schemes and Wellbeing grants.

b) The Future of NPs and NP Forums

David confirmed that it was common knowledge that BCC and the Councillors were in favour of retaining Forums in some new format that provided an interface with the Local Community.

When put to the vote the residents in attendance were unanimously in favour of retaining Forums in some new format.

c) Westbury Community Forum

i. Working title

It was agreed to use “Westbury Community Forum” as a working title for a future group, in order to distinguish it from the previous “Neighbourhood Forum” or “Open Forum”.

ii. Structure of group

Any group taking on the task of organising future Forums will require volunteers to form a committee to share the roles.

iii. Selection of committee

Alan and David confirmed that they were prepared to extend their roles as elected Ward Reps for an initial period of 12 months to take on the roles of Chairman and Vice Chairman for the new group but that other volunteers were welcome to share the burden, in particular a “Note Taker” for the Forum Meetings.

Alan and David advised that they would stand down at the end of this period and fresh elections would be required.

iv. Funding of meetings

BCC are yet to announce formally that they will fund future meetings, although they are suggesting that circa £300 may be available to the Councillors for WoT and Henleaze Forum expenses - including venues. It was agreed that we should investigate venues that would be prepared to host the Forums for no charge.

v. CIL and S106 funding

A wide ranging and ultimately incomplete and inconclusive debate was held with regard to whether or not the current level of CIL and S106 funding generated by developments in WoT would continue to be made available to the Ward to fund local projects. This is because BCC have signalled that they are considering pooling this money with a view for it to be concentrated on Wards with areas of deprivation.

vi. Promotion of the Forum

It was agreed that one of the roles for the group would be to extend the promotion of future Forums, in order to engage with a larger proportion of local residents and Community Groups.

d) Frequency of Future Meetings

It was agreed that there would be four quarterly Forums each year, avoiding August and December, leading to the adoption of January, April, July and October. It was also agreed to adopt the second Wednesday in the month as the rule of thumb. However, due to the current uncertainties with regard to venue funding, it was agreed that the first Meeting of the agreed cycle would be the Meeting in October.

e) Westbury Parish Council

Despite the advantage of being able to charge a precept on the Council Tax for WoT residents to raise additional funds to pay for local services and projects, it was felt that unless Parish Councils were adopted across the whole of the City, it was unlikely to be a viable solution for WoT in isolation.

4) Open Forum

a. **Highways**

Alan confirmed that the Minor Traffic Schemes agreed by the NP would be taken to completion, including implementation of the Westbury Parking Review, but this was currently bogged-down within BCC's legal process. Graham Donald reported that a recent Petition to Council for a new Zebra Crossing on Canford Lane had been passed to the Mayor and this subsequently received a response along the lines that it would have to wait until funding was available.

b. **Trees**

Stephanie French reported on the dire situation that has recently arisen due to council budget cuts. In short, street trees would no longer be maintained to the current standards and this would inevitably lead to more trees being felled and not replaced. Full details are available on the NP's website:

www.activenp.co.uk/2017/05/bristols-street-trees-in-crisis/

c. **Environment**

Alan Preece confirmed that he would be seeking confirmation at the next NP (22 May) that projects already agreed and funded from S106 contributions, such as the Sensory Gardens at Stoke Lodge and Old Quarry Park, would be completed. With the uncertainty of CIL and S106 going forward (see Item 3 c v, above), there appeared little point in convening any future Meetings of the Environment Group.

d. **Planning**

Cllr Geoff Gollop reviewed some of the more controversial local Planning issues such as Redevelopment at 48 Stoke Lane (Refused); Expansion of Facilities at Red Maids' School (Refused) where the Application had received many objections on the grounds of any expansion exacerbating all-day on-street parking and school busses obstructing Westbury Road; Redevelopment of 12 Southover Close (Refused but currently the subject of an Appeal). **Jill Kempshall** also advised that the recent Appeal against refusal for a housing development on the playing field adjacent to Wesley College had been dismissed by the Planning Inspector. **Sue Mayer** raised an issue of Coombe Dingle Sports Complex erecting a 2-storey viewing and hospitality pavilion (with a tannoy type sound system) all without Planning Permission. Sue confirmed that she had requested BCC to compel Bristol University to apply for retrospective Planning Permission. She had also asked Cllr Gollop to intervene. However, Cllr Gollop replied that there was little he could do and advised Mrs Mayer to seek legal advice.

e. **Older People**

Graham Donald reported that the NP's "Working Group for Older People" was likely to continue but would not be able to fund trips for the elderly unless new funding sources became available.

f. **Communications**

We continue to use our website www.activenp.co.uk so long as Knowle Media Centre is prepared to host the site on behalf of BCC. **Helen Furber** confirmed that the Communications WG has not met for some time due to the uncertainty introduced by BCC on what it will and will not do to support Local Democracy following the Cabinet decision not to continue to fund the Neighbourhood Partnership in its current format.

5) Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 11th October 2017 - Venue and time to be confirmed.

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/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/PowerPoint-for-Open-Forum-May-2017.pdf