

Henleaze Neighbourhood Forum Notes – 7 September 2017

Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clare Champion-Smith (CCS), Geoff Gollop (GG) and Liz Radford (LR) – Councillors • Helen Furber (HF) - Facilitator • PC Andy Stamp (AS) • Approximately 45 members of the public
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clare Marshall, Jane Hole-Jones and PC Joanne Robertson

1. Introductions	HF welcomed everyone and explained the proposed format for the evening. She then introduced the Councillors and the Police representative.
2. Police update	<p>a) Introduction: AS advised that he was substituting for Joanne Robertson (Beat Manager for Henleaze). He then gave an update (statistics are for the ward of Westbury-on-Trym & Henleaze as a whole).</p> <p>b) Burglary: Fourteen burglaries took place in the three months to 31 August 2017 compared with four in the previous quarter. A large majority of the burglaries have been via insecure front or rear doors.</p> <p>c) Non-Dwellings (Shed/Garages): Thirty break-ins took place in the last quarter compared to twenty in the previous quarter.</p> <p>AS advised that as a result of carrying out revisits to premises where burglaries and non-dwellings thefts had taken place, individuals are still not making records of their possessions. He asked that Immobilise is publicised again – see www.immobilise.com</p> <p>d) Theft from motor vehicles: Fifty-four thefts took place in the last quarter compared to four in the previous quarter.</p> <p>As previously reported, the police have been deploying a covert capture car around the local area and have been getting some positive results from this.</p> <p>e) Anti-Social Behaviour: Reported incidents have decreased (thirty-nine over the last three months compared with forty-two in the previous quarter).</p> <p>f) Southmead Police Station: The Station closed at the end of March. The beat team has use of a small office within Southmead Fire Station (10am – 6pm) until a permanent solution is available.</p> <p>In response to questions raised, AS advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoplifting is taking place throughout Bristol. It is not possible to investigate all cases; traders are being urged to secure their goods as well as they are able to. • The police do not have sufficient time to proactively react to uninsured and untaxed motor vehicles.

3. Transport

a) Traffic Choices: Prior to the budget cuts, Bristol City Council (BCC) introduced an on-line process whereby residents can suggest highways projects (e.g. parking restrictions, changing lane markings etc) which they consider to be necessary and/or helpful. Due to a combination of Neighbourhood Partnerships ending and the budget cuts, the website (<https://www.trafficchoices.co.uk/>) is still active but, other than recording issues on it, BCC is not currently taking any actions.

In the last quarter three local issues were added to the website, these are:

- Parking at the end of St Margaret's Drive (potentially extending double yellow lines).
- Difficulties accessing a property in Henley Grove (parking restrictions suggested due to vehicles parking opposite and either side of a driveway).
- Driveway obstruction in Westbury Road (vehicles parking too close to both sides of a driveway make it difficult/ prevent access).

As the individuals who reported the above issues were not at the meeting, the specific issues were not discussed further. Ideally, if and when BCC funds become available, issues such as the above should be discussed at future Forums so that they can be understood and prioritised.

b) Cribbs & Patchway New Neighbourhood (CPNN): Proposals regarding the CPNN (including a potential park and ride in South Gloucestershire) are awaited. The West of England Mayor will receive a copy of the proposals and will be involved in the decision making. In addition, a 'task and finish' group has been set up.

c) St Ursula's and surrounding area: Contractors started working in Brecon Road (speed humps etc) on 31 July. The work has taken longer than expected as the scope of the work was underestimated. A discussion ensued with the following points arising:

- A resident has contacted BCC suggesting that the work is a waste of money as the traffic travels too slowly along Brecon Road to require traffic calming. No reply has been received. The Councillors will follow up.
- Brecon Road is an example of there being too long a time lag between suggesting actions and them being dealt with. The situation can change during the period without sufficient though being given to amending proposed actions. CCS is meeting with Councillor Mhairi Threfall (Cabinet Member for Transport and Connectivity) on 26 September and will raise the matter with her.

d) Cotham North Residents Parking Zone (RPZ): The RPZ has recently been extended; this action is highly likely to put further pressure on areas such as Westbury Park. It was agreed that residents would like to know what criteria BCC requires if there are to be further RPZs.

It was agreed that the Henleaze Forum should write to Peter Mann BCC's Service Director and/or Tim Bowles, West of England Mayor, raising Transport issues (within their individual remits) arising at the meeting.

e) Sight lines: A question was raised as to whether BCC consult about sight lines with an example being given of a problem in White Tree Road. GG advised that action was scheduled to take place regarding White Tree Road and that he would follow up. However, due to the budget cuts it will be difficult to deal with further sight line issues.

f) Civil Enforcement Officers ('parking wardens'): The point was raised that BCC does not appear to take sufficient action in Henleaze to enforce parking restrictions and issues such as cars parking on pavements. It was agreed that:

- BCC should be asked to supply statistics for our quarterly Forums on an ongoing basis. This will enable us to monitor action taken in our area and possibly to dispel the perception that wardens are not (sufficiently) active in Henleaze.
- Residents need to be proactive in notifying the police if pavement parking is a problem. Generally, no action will be taken if sufficient room remains for a double buggy to use the pavement.

Graham Donald advised that he has spoken with BCC's Head of Parking Enforcement with particular regard to (a) keeping the traffic flowing in routes into and out of Bristol and (b) safety around Schools. He then referred to a meeting which is being held on 9 October entitled, "Pavement Parking: Problems and Solutions." Places can be booked through the Bristol Health Partners website at <http://www.bristolhealthpartners.org.uk/events/view/2017/10/09/pavement-parking-problems-and-solutions/252>.

g) Accident in Henleaze Road: A lady was 'knocked over' on the zebra crossing by Cavendish Road a couple of months ago. Fortunately, she was not badly injured. It was reported that vehicles travel too fast along the Henleaze Road when approaching this crossing.

GG advised that the crossing would not be installed under current regulations. There is insufficient room to install a traffic refuge. Although it will take time, the CPNN traffic flow plans may help with safety at the crossing as traffic flow will almost certainly be affected. The only other 'solution' would be to take the crossing out but it is unlikely BCC would do this without statistical information to support this action.

LR agreed to check that the recent accident has been recorded; if not she will deal with the reporting.

h) Statistics re Accidents etc: Details regarding road accidents for the last three years are included in the Traffic Choices website – go to (<https://www.trafficchoices.co.uk/>) and select 'view traffic accidents in your area here'.

	<p>i) Buses: A number of issues were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concern was again expressed about the reliability of First Bus' number 2 service (especially post the demise of the Wessex service). Residents are urged to make complaints to FirstBus. - CCS confirmed that it will be possible to use bus passes on the new Metro service. - New bus routes need to be commercially viable. - A consultation did take place to enable the bus stop in North View (approaching central Bristol) to be moved to the taxi rank opposite Waitrose. However, budget cuts may mean the move will not happen. - Concern was expressed about the new bus stop in Henleaze Road (Rockside Drive) in that, not long after the stop was installed, workman dug up the new paving that had recently been laid. LR agreed to check that no repairs are necessary. - Problems still arise with the electronic indicators at the bus stops. The bus companies have responsibility for machines on their vehicles. BCC is responsible for the bus stop indicators. All organisations need to work together for the system to be effective. <p>j) Henleaze Parking Review: As previously advised, this is likely to be a casualty of the budget cuts. To have any chance of moving matters forward, the Councillors will need to request funding and will have to be able to demonstrate that their constituents are lobbying them for action.</p>
<p>4. Environment</p>	<p>a) Green bins: The Councillors have been dealing with complaints from residents about the recent change from the weekly to fortnightly collection of green bins. BCC issued letters addressed to 'the occupier', they were unfranked and bore no BCC identification.</p> <p>b) Trees: The position regarding the tree budget, specifically concerning pollarding etc, is still uncertain. It also appears that further internal communication is required within BCC.</p> <p>Some notices about tree felling have appeared in Westbury Park; the implication is that there must be some budget available – at least for the current financial year. CCS will follow up regarding pollarding and the tree budget.</p> <p>It is noted that some residents have been dealing with epicormic growth themselves. However, there is an issue, particularly in the Golden Hill area, with accessibility if epicormic growth is not dealt with. There are particular safety concerns about the growth penetrating the highways and affecting cyclists. Councillors will report the issue and try to get some action from BCC.</p> <p>c) Sensory Garden: The Old Quarry Park project has been further delayed due to role changes within BCC. A revised proposal should have been available for the Forum but staff illness prevented this. Details will be shared with those on the Forum mailing list and a Consultation will take place as soon as possible.</p>

	<p>d) Hill View/ Park Grove: The triangular area at the junction of Hill View and Park Grove needs some attention as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The sign for Hill View has been stolen and visitors have been experiencing difficulty in differentiating between Hill View and Park Grove. BCC has been contacted but residents have been unable to get any action. LR agreed to follow up. - The post box needs painting and letters fall out of it! With regard to painting, it is understood that the Post Office can provide the paint if volunteers are prepared to do the painting. - What remains of the grass, after Bristol Water Works carried out some work, has not been cut. - Agreed that the issues need to be reported to BCC and if residents do not see the necessary actions taken, they should contact the Councillors. <p>e) Grass cutting: Councillors to ask BCC if residents are permitted to cut grass etc on BCC land (community garden?). Also, to ask about the insurance position.</p>
<p>5. Planning</p>	<p>a) Belvedere Road: Although the road is just outside of Westbury-on-Trym & Henleaze ward, a nursing home development which has already led to a road closure for eighteen months does impact on noise, parking and traffic flow in our ward. A further development is now proposed alongside the one that has caused the problems for the last eighteen months. Councillors to consider the impact on parking and traffic flow.</p> <p>b) Red Maids' High School: GG and CCS have had meetings at the School. Talks are continuing.</p> <p>c) 99 Devonshire Road: Workers wearing hard hats have been seen at the site recently; it is hoped that this means work will recommence. Currently the site does not appear to be sufficiently dangerous for BCC intervention take place.</p> <p>d) St Ursula's: Although the new School building opened last November, and the traffic calming measures are in progress, residents are still concerned about the future of the old building and the site currently occupied on a lease by SHINE.</p> <p>It is understood that BCC remains keen to retain the sports hall as a community facility. SHINE's lease runs to September 2018.</p> <p>BCC officers have visited the site and are preparing recommendations as to the way forward. LR will follow up.</p> <p>e) Over development: GG repeated the advice given at the last Forum that in Westbury-on-Trym there have been planning applications in the last few months for large developments on single sites. He suggested that if residents become aware of similar examples in Henleaze they should let the Councillors know as soon as possible. Councillors cannot act on behalf of residents unless they are requested to do so.</p>

<p>6. Consultations</p>	<p>a) Closure: The BCC Consultations on Libraries, Public Toilets, School Crossing Patrols, Community Links and the withdrawal of funding for Neighbourhood Partnerships closed on 5 September. It is understood that Westbury-on-Trym & Henleaze residents were responsible for providing the largest response to the Consultations.</p> <p>b) Next steps: A discussion ensued about the way forward and any actions that can/ should be taken. Points arising were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Scrutiny 'task and finish' group will receive a Report in the next couple of months. - Councillors and members of the public have until the Report is published to try and influence decisions. - Suggested actions included writing to local media, e.g. Bristol Post, contacting local TV stations and signing the Bristol libraries petition - http://epetitions.bristol.gov.uk/epetition_core/view/LibraryClosures
<p>7. Contacts</p>	<p>Any emails sent to henleazeforum@hotmail.com will be forwarded to the relevant contact. Please also send an email to the email address if you want your name to be added to the Henleaze Forum mailing list.</p>
<p>8. Next meeting</p>	<p>7pm on 30 November 2017 at Henleaze Library.</p>