

STOKE BISHOP AND SEA MILLS WARD FORUM
@ St Mary Magdalene Church Stoke Bishop
Tuesday 12th March 2018

Present: Councillors Peter Abraham (PA) and John Goulandris (JG).

Officers: PC Neil Cutler (NC) and PCSO Claire Fisher.

Ward Representatives: Peter Robottom (Chairman) (PR), Roger Gamlin (RG), Graham Donald (GD), Stephanie French (Tree Champion) (SF), Alan Preece (AP), Gay Huggins (Sec) (GH), and approximately 50 members of the public.

Apologies: Ella Davies, Peter Weeks and David Mayer.

Welcome: PR welcomed everyone and made the introductions.

Meeting held on 28th November: Minutes had been circulated and there were no matters arising which were not being covered by the agenda.

Councillors' Briefing: JG reported on local events. The budget has been set by the Mayor and Council Tax will increase by 4.99%. Despite amendments being submitted by JG and PA to reduce the planned services cuts, they had been rejected. It is still possible that Sea Mills and W-O-T libraries could close, although they both have friends' groups who are willing to help keep them open. They have also had the new swipe card system installed which is used out of hours. The plan to make parks self-funding is not viable except in the case of the Downs where there will be an increase in users. Most parks need civic funding. There is good news in that the street tree funding has been restored for at least twelve months, but JG said he would be very surprised if we have this battle next year.

PA told us that one of the successes was following his speech in a debate and helped get the whole Council's support to put some money into a project for a City Planning Officer to work with the University on the halls of residence and student accommodation. Overseas students and those studying for Masters degrees want accommodation for 4-5 years tenure, and preferably in the City Centre area. The Council needs to work closely with the University.

Regarding the Downs, the budget has been set for the next two years and it should break even. The Downs is able to raise sufficient income to pay for itself. They are working very successfully with Team Love and its representatives regarding the Concerts.

Regarding double yellow lines around the Rockleaze area, no further funding is available to work on these schemes. All funding is going to the Metro at present. However, PA will investigate this as the TRO might be time-limited.

Questions to the Councillors: PR asked about the Sea Mills Station parking scheme. Nothing was on the list about it, as no formal consultation had taken place. The Council are not prepared to spend money on this.

They were asked whether it was possible to limit the number of learner drivers in the area. This is not possible as they were legally on the road.

Chris Brennan asked about the gents toilet on the Downs which are closed due to vandalism. He had written but was told they were privately owned. PA informed him they are half owned by the Downs Committee which is comprised half by the City Council and half by the Merchant Venturers. The Downs Committee had undertaken to re-open them as soon as possible. GH asked that they be made vandal-proof with no toilet seats and the washing facilities built into the wall so they cannot rip the sink off the wall.

GH asked if something could be done about the increased motorhomes on the Downs. Mike Huggins also asked that if they are living in the van, what are they doing about their water and toilet

requirements. PA responded that there is insufficient staff now in Environmental Health to deal with this. PA and JG are totally opposed to the proposed 2-day concert which would encourage campers. The simple solution would be to bring back the Downs Patrol, run by the Downs Committee. All the London parks have their own people preventing motorhomes, etc.

GH also asked about the signs for FunderWorld which have been put up on three stakes and hammered into several areas of the Downs. PA stated these are totally illegal and was total abuse of the system and he would be taking action to get them removed.

Russell Wilkins asked what would happen if the travellers came back on the Downs again, as they did last summer. PA advised the Council can act but must do it through the courts. However, the Police can use Section 61 and the travellers must move on immediately. If the police get enough complaints, the police will issue Section 61. It upsets people to see the travellers on the Downs and PA has made representation to the Police Commissioner for the police to act promptly and positively.

PA was concerned about the development on the airfield at Filton and the resulting traffic. There are no plans to change the Crow Lane roundabout, which is already a bottle-neck. Alan Aburrow, Chairman of the former NP Transport Group, reported that we have been waiting for three years for plans for the A4018 corridor. The whole of the development is in South Glos, which means the money generated belongs to them, and there is little coming our way. The cheapest option from the BCC Highways engineers is a bus lane all the way from Cribbs to the top of Whiteladies Road. David Trivitt asked about making Station Road two way, but AA advised this has been hit on the head.

Police Update: PC Neil Cutler gave the statistics for our area for the last three months. Of the 18 burglaries, 13 were non-dwellings, i.e. garages or sheds. Of the remainder, two were gained access through unlocked patio doors and unlocked windows. Five people had been arrested. NC had information packs available. A lady, recently arrested, had been gaining entrance to porches and committed 40 offences. He advocated the use of alarms, dogs, and lights. He mentioned again the Nottingham Knockers now that the evenings are getting lighter and asked people to ring 999 immediately so they can be caught. If they do not carry a pedlar's licence, they can be arrested. Descriptions of people and vehicles always welcome.

Mr Trivitt had experienced problems with the 101 service and was advised to contact the Inspector.

Mike Huggins asked if the response times had been affected now that Southmead Police Station was closed. NC advised there were a small police presence at Southmead Fire Station during the day, and North Bristol was covered by Patchway.

PR asked if we had a PC allocated to this area. NC advised the Beat Manager's job was being advertised at the present time, and PCSO Kelly Foyle is around, but had not been available for this meeting.

Jill Dumfry asked about cars and hedges being torched, which is criminal damage.

Gyl Evans mentioned that, with the presence of events on the Downs such as FunderWorld and the Concert, damage to cars and burglaries increased. PA was not aware of this but asked people to report to him so that he can get the promoters to increase security.

Maurice Husbands asked about information on Neighbourhood Watch, and NC had brought it.

PR thanked NC and Claire for coming. They stayed so that people could speak to them at the end of the meeting.

Updates and Information:

1.

- a) **University of Bristol:** RG advised us that Bristol University is making changes in Pastoral care. Their plan was to make four "centres" or "villages" – Temple, Clifton, University Precinct., and Stoke Bishop. This is because they plan to have a massive increase in students – 5,000 in the next five years. They are withdrawing the campus wardens at the end of this academic year which is a large concern to the local residents due to noise and parties in the halls, together with a reduction in the

number of staff employed in pastoral care, despite the increase in suicides, drugs and depression. Each centre will have a Head of Residential Life, and a deputy, together with undergraduate staff, who, in our case, are likely to be in Badock Hall.

b) Bristol Local Plan: This is under review and can be seen at: www://bristol.citizenspace.com the consultation is open until the 13th April. Section 4.3 is about the Bristol University plans. The problem is where are they going to locate these additional students. The standards of some private accommodation and prices having to be paid are concerning the University. Stoke Bishop has the biggest land area with development potential, including the tennis courts, meadow at the top of the Downs, and we need to find out what is happening and be consulted. An additional 1,500 students could change our lives. There is a meeting on the 28th March, which David Brown will attend on behalf of SB Residents Planning Group. We need to ensure the developments are car free and ensure students do not park cars elsewhere in the City. In the Plan, it states there must be no adverse effect on the surrounding community and area. The review also includes sections on high rise building and Homes of Multiple Occupancy (HMO). There are problems with houses in the City which have been converted to HMOs. A supplementary planning document (SPD) is being issued by the Council. Gyl Evans asked if we should do an analysis of our own about the impact on the area. PA thought this a good idea. Temple Quarter has planning permission and they have the money. Some universities ban students from bringing cars but Bristol University have reneged on this in Stoke Bishop. UWE have a ruling of no student cars within a two-mile radius and if found, they are fined. There are spaces for 70 cars on the Stoke Bishop University Hall campus, but as they cost £120 each, at 9.45pm Tuesday 6 March there were only 7 cars parked.

2. Community Speed Watch: Stephanie French reported as follows:

Recruitment has gone well in Westbury/Henleaze. We shall be working towards splitting the Group between Stoke Bishop (inc Sea Mills) and Westbury/Henleaze. We hope to recruit one or two new volunteers from Sea Mills and get a site on The Square in Sea Mills. Meeting at The Cafe on Saturday 24th March at 1.30 pm to explain CSW and recruit. We now have an Inspector who is responsible for SpeedWatch.

We have received both thanks and rude gestures.

The 30 mph is largely obeyed. 20 mph not obeyed. Driving more than 30 mph in a 20mph zone seems to be on increase (it was unusual). So, drivers slipping back into old habits? SF was asked what it entails, and she explained.

3. Trees: SF reported. Money for carrying out Street Tree Maintenance for this year has been found. No promises for next year. Council urgently seeking a new model for caring for all of Bristol's trees that is not so costly for the Council. There is talk of setting up a Trust (Trusts can bid for grants from charities etc whilst Councils cannot) but not much progress yet. Other Local Authorities' efforts being studied. There are new trees, which were paid for by the NP before its demise - 12 around Dingle Close, one on The Square, a Cedar of Lebanon on Stoke Lodge Parkland and 4 trees on Church Road. If developers' contributions to the city's funds are devolved to residents' groups then we shall bid for replacement trees but there may be less money over what will be a wider area (we have been grouped into Area 1) with some very pressing and different priorities.

It is still possible to sponsor replacement trees at only £295 per tree. Where a street has lost a lot of its trees, residents could work together, as they have done in Roman Way, to pay for replacements.

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/museums-parks-sports-culture/treebristol-planting-trees-in-bristol>

4. Sea Mills Update: Jason Budd gave an update. The four community groups have come together to work out the best NP arrangements. Their first event was on the 21st February in Sea Mills Library when they discussed a lot of local items. He is working closely with Ella Davies (our Ward Rep). The next event is on the 11th April at 7pm, again at Sea Mills Library. Funding has been received for the Community Plan from Quartet to pursue a Neighbourhood Plan.

The Future: PR advised that a small amount of funding is available to Councillors to pay for Forums. The Mayor might attend our next meeting so a date is not yet finalised. If we intend to continue, we need to have Ward Representative elections at that meeting and it would be good to get new people on board. Also, we would need to adopt a formal constitution. SF asked if the present Ward Representatives were to stand down, and not offer themselves for re-election, and no new people came forward, presumably the Forum would die. PR agreed. JG felt this would be a shame if it did not continue.

Any Other Business:

1. JG explained the possibility of CIL funds. However, the Council has created a bigger area from the Harbourside to Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston so it will be more difficult to get some of the 15% for local infrastructure money on offer, but we have people who will go and try to get some of this money for our area. The meeting to allocate available funding will be in September under arrangements to be agreed in May.

2. AP gave a brief update on Stoke Lodge. The decision from the Judge from the Judicial Review, which took place in November 2017, is still awaited. AP is trying to register four Public Rights of Way (PROW) across Stoke Lodge in case the TVG fails. If anyone has used Stoke Lodge regularly over the last 20 years, please contact Alan Preece on 9681068 email a.w.preece@btinternet.com

3. Alan Aburrow reported that the demise of the highly successful NP3 Transport Working Group had removed an important link with BCC Highways' function for raising traffic issues and their possible rectification, by the allocation of funding previously devolved to Bristol's 14 NPs. However, the public can still raise traffic issues directly with BCC by using one or other of these Online Webforms:

For general faults – “Report a Street Issue”:

www.bristol.gov.uk/en_US/report-a-street-issue

Changes to the highway – “Request a Change to a Road”:

www.bristol.gov.uk/en_US/streets-travel/request-a-change-to-a-road

All the issues raised will be logged and dealt with by BCC where possible, or added to a list for future consideration – if and when funding becomes available.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9pm.

FEEDBACK: Our Ward Representatives would be grateful if you would give them some feedback on this meeting.

Please write to Peter Weeks at 2A Druid Road, BS9 1LH or email any of them as follows:

Ella Davies: ella.davies@yahoo.co.uk

Graham Donald: grahamdonald@blueyonder.co.uk

Roger Gamlin: rogergamlin@aol.com

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