

Henleaze Neighbourhood Forum Notes – 20 September 2018

Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Furber (HF) – Chair • Robert Cole (RC) – Neighbourhood PCSO • Liz Radford (LR) and Steve Smith (SS) – Councillors • Approximately 35 members of the public
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Geoff Gollop, Janet Brewer

1		<p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>HF welcomed everyone and explained the proposed format for the evening.</p>
2		<p><u>Police update</u></p> <p>RC was welcomed to his first Forum.</p>
	a	<p>Statistics: RC gave details of the recorded crime statistics for Henleaze and Westbury-on-Trym for the last year – see attached.</p>
	b	<p>Community SpeedWatch: RC explained that the process is that volunteers are given the equipment to record speed data in nominated streets. If sufficient evidence is collected about vehicles speeding in a street, the Police can send a safety van to the location. Volunteers are asked to contact RC if they would like to get involved.</p>
	c	<p>Southmead Police Station: It is hoped that the new Police Station, based at Westgate House, Southmead Hospital, will be open before the end of the year but there may be a delay of a couple of months.</p> <p>When the new Station opens it will have an enquiry office. The temporary office at Southmead Fire & Rescue Station will close when the new Station opens. Currently RC and other Officers who will be based at the new Southmead Station are ‘parading’ from Bridewell. This means that their time in the local area is shortened. One consequence is not currently being available for school patrols.</p>
	d	<p>Beat Surgeries: Surgeries will take place every six weeks in Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze i.e. four a year in each of the two locations. Details regarding future Surgeries will be advertised (including sending details electronically to those registered to receive Henleaze Forum emails).</p>
3		<p><u>Public safety</u></p> <p>The possible effects from having inadequate street lighting and cycling (particularly pavement cycling) were the two issues discussed.</p>
	a	<p>Street lights: Several instances were cited of poor/ insufficient lighting which residents regard as potential safety hazards.</p>
	i	<p>Where street lighting is not working, the first action should be to contact Bristol City Council using the link on the website (see Appendix). If you are unable to use the web link, or timely action is not taken by the Council, please contact one of the Councillors.</p>

	i	Residents mentioned issues with the lighting in Lawrence Grove, Grange Park Road and Upper Cranbrook Road. If you view lighting in any streets in our area to be inadequate, please tell the Councillors. To help them, please give as much detail as possible (e.g. name of street, number of lights and why you believe the lighting is inadequate).
	b	Cycling: Some concerns were raised in writing.
	i	<u>Inconsiderate cycling:</u> “A mother and son cycled down the Henleaze Road pavement (vicinity of Parsons/ Molesworths/ Chandos Deli) and continued across the pedestrian crossing.”
	ii	<u>Travelling too fast/ on pavements:</u> “During recent roadworks on the northern end of Henleaze Road (new water main), some cyclists transferred to the pavement to avoid traffic lights. They did not slacken their speed. At any time, it is not unusual to have a cyclist pass the front exit of my block of flats (by the Dorset Road bus stop), sometimes narrowly avoiding a collision. Children on scooters or skate boards also pose a similar hazard, here, in the shopping area, and sometimes even in shops.”
	iii	<u>Other concerns:</u> During the Forum concerns were also raised about incorrect cycling through the Downs (signage has ‘gone missing’ – the issue was raised at a recent Council meeting), inconsistent road markings (e.g. top of Blackboy Hill) and bikes with no lights on them.
	iv	<u>Actions:</u> It was accepted that cyclists are helping Bristol’s congestion and environmental issues but we also need to find solutions to the issues raised – to make our roads/ pavements safer for all users. RC advised that the Police plan to visit schools to give talks about cycling safety. In addition, a leaflet will be prepared.
4		<u>Cribbs Development</u> The long-awaited highways review has been promised for this autumn. It was noted that the possible siting of an arena in North Bristol is a further factor to consider.
5		<u>Buses</u>
	a	First Bus Service 2: Feelings are still running high about the buses serving our area – particularly Service 2 where First’s Managing Director James Freeman (JF), accepts that it is not up to the standard required.
	i	<u>Potential changes to Service 2:</u> After the June Forum, JF confirmed, in an email to SS, that there will be a Consultation in early autumn about potential changes to Service 2 in January 2019. JF commented, “This is one of the busiest routes in Bristol and also one of the most difficult to operate reliably, because of where it goes. We have recently been doing some work to try to improve short-term reliability, with some effect, but we are considering what more fundamental changes we can make to take it to the next stage. We plan to do some public consultation in early autumn (for potential January implementation) and will be glad to work with you when we are putting this together.”
	ii	<u>Resident’s submission:</u> A resident submitted the following in advance of the Forum: “There is a bus stop just outside Poundland next to the pedestrian crossing – can Services 1 and 2 be allowed to pick up passengers there particularly for those people who have attended the Eye and BRI Hospitals as this would save them from having to walk up Union Street to the stop there?”

	iii	<u>Agreed</u> : It was agreed that, in addition to any individual comments submitted in the anticipated Consultation process, a consolidated submission should be sent by the Henleaze Forum (it will be important to stress the need to retain a direct bus service from Henleaze/Westbury Park to Bristol Temple Meads).
	b	MYFIRSTMILE : The trial period for MYFIRSTMILE runs until December. To keep this service running, our community needs to use it. We are in a 'use it or lose it' situation. Details were provided about the extension to the trial service in terms of hours, pick up points and ticketing. The key points to be aware of are:
	i	From 8 October concessionary travel passes can be used after 9.30am.
	ii	The fixed route runs from 7am to 3pm (timetable is available at https://myfirstmile.co.uk/).
	iii	After 3pm the fixed route stops. Until 7pm taxis take you from the Co-Op at Gloucester Road to wherever you need to go within the service area.
	iv	Stops covered (after the starting/end point of the Co-Op on Gloucester Road) are along Kellaway Avenue (Longmead Avenue), Wellington Hill West (Cherington Road), Henleaze Road (Service 2 stops), Coldharbour Road (Devonshire Road, Halsbury Road and Springfield Grove) and Kellaway Avenue (Phoenix Grove).
	v	You can ask to leave the taxi at any stop.
6		Traffic Choices It is no longer possible to see traffic issues that have been reported to the Council (previously they were available from the Traffic Choices website). Nor do the Councillors have access to this information. The Councillors will again try and establish what is happening to the information 'we' are submitting.
7		Highways issues
	a	Speed limits
	i	It is anticipated that the results of the recent 20-mph Consultation (which included Henleaze Road) will be available in November.
	ii	Concern was expressed that the 20-mph sign outside Tesco Express, Henleaze Road is obscured.
	iii	There was support for having some flashing speed warning signs to encourage motorists to reduce their speed.
	b	Written issues received from residents
	i	<u>Crossing by junction of Henleaze Road with Cavendish Road</u> : "Potholes on the pedestrian crossing have caused an elderly neighbour with impaired sight to stumble badly, wrenching herself in avoiding a fall and badly 'bruising' her confidence. Southbound traffic is held up by traffic turning right into Cavendish Road and parked cars on the left. As the blockage inches forward, the left-hand lane becomes clear and

	<p>traffic accelerates away, ignoring the crossing. I was less than one metre away from being hit while crossing and twenty minutes later (from my seat in Cafe 96) I saw a repetition. Others have told me of similar experiences. No right turn into Cavendish Road would resolve the problem economically.”</p> <p>It was agreed that crossing does cause problems. However if ‘we push’, the only action likely to be taken by the Council is to remove the crossing as it is located in a position that would not be acceptable for a new crossing.</p>
ii	<p><u>Waterford Road junction with Henleaze Road</u>: “The elderly who cross here feel vulnerable and have difficulty monitoring traffic streams from five lanes, with visibility along Waterford Road impaired by the bend in front of the church. A central refuge would enhance confidence and safety.”</p> <p>It is unlikely, (even though there is sufficient road width) that this will be considered by Highways due to a lack of funding. However, we need to record concerns such as this in case funding does become available which leads to Council Officers asking us to prioritise Highways issues.</p>
iii	<p><u>Relocation of North View bus stop to Westbury Park Pub lay-by</u>. “This hazard persists for the elderly with sticks, mobility aids or shopping trolleys, rendering leaving or boarding south-bound buses dangerous. One neighbour with a stick and a trolley had to climb off backwards. A further hazard is crossing North View in heavy traffic.</p> <p>I’ve heard that the Waitrose Northbound bus stop is to be up-graded. At least it is safe to use, so why waste funds on unnecessary works, when the southbound stop’s safety must be a higher priority? Relocation would benefit Library users and diners at the Westbury Park Pub.”</p> <p>At the Forum the resident was advised that the bus stop was unlikely to be relocated as the Council Officers had not taken all of the necessary legal steps and lacked the funds to do. However, a few days after the Forum, the Councillors were advised as follows “The inbound bus stop on North View called Northumbria Drive will be relocated to outside the Westbury Park Pub, opposite the Waitrose Car Park, (due to re-surfacing works). It will be re-located today from 15.00hrs onwards. After the re-surfacing works this will be a permanent relocation. ... Notices for passengers have been put up and there is a bus stop flag outside the Westbury Park Pub.”</p>
8	<p>Environment</p> <p>A number of concerns were expressed both in advance of and during the Forum.</p>
a	<p>Frontage outside Tesco Express: “The Henleaze Road frontage of Tesco Express is an accident waiting to happen. Many elderly neighbours complain about the excessive corrugations caused by tree roots and one, gaining confidence by using a Rollator mobility aid, fell, when the ridge deflected the front castor wheel, tipping her Rollator over and taking her with it. It needs urgent attention. It’s unreasonable to expect people to avoid this stretch of pavement, connecting shops and Post Office with the rest of Henleaze shopping centre.”</p> <p>It was confirmed that this issue had been raised at the last two Forums. Council Officers had advised that no work is necessary on the footpath. LR confirmed that she had arranged to meet a Council Officer so she could ensure they had seen the extent of the damage to the pavement.</p>

b	<p>Other pavement issues: “Poor/dangerous state of pavements - Undulations and insecure/tilted slabs are hazardous to the elderly. I find constantly looking down has badly affected posture and thus balance. My Doctor agrees he's heard similar complaints from other patients. One elderly neighbour felt so unsafe, she stopped using her mobility scooter.”</p> <p>Following on from the written submission about the state of the pavements, a discussion took place about other pavements close to Tesco Express that require attention. LR agreed to raise these with the Council Officer alongside the planned visit to the ‘Tesco Express pavement.’</p>
i	<p>Council Officer’s visit: On 11 October, LR took a walk of the pavements on Henleaze Rd with a Council Officer. It was agreed that the wobbly paving stones outside of Boots, the Dog Shop and TUI will be repaired.</p>
ii	<p>Repair of paving outside Tesco Express: The pavement outside of Tesco Express is regarded as a bigger job. The visit has led to Officers accepting that work needs to be undertaken. If there is enough money left in the relevant Council budget, the pavement will be repaired at the end of this financial year; if not it will be first on the list for the next financial year.</p>
c	<p>Advance comment regarding road sweeping: “I saw two road sweeps in Lawrence Grove who barely picked up anything as the road is generally tidy but there is no weeding - although I did see weeding operation in Falldon Way recently.”</p>
d	<p>Hedges obstructing pavements – “In the past the Council has reacted swiftly when notified. As of the week ending 16 September, no action has been taken on the obstruction at the corner of Henley Grove with Henleaze Road. The hedge has grown out and hedge or trees hang down at a point further obstructed by street signage. There's barely room for one person and during wet weather it worsens, with no room to use an umbrella. It's erroneous to believe that space for one person through an obstruction or pavement-parked vehicle is adequate; many elderly need to be accompanied, or have mobility aids/scooters, so cannot squeeze through.”</p> <p>The resident was asked to let the Councillors know if no action is taken within a reasonable time.</p>
e	<p>Lawrence Grove road surface: “I had to put in a number of complaints to the City Council who agreed there were 5 or 6 potholes all close to one another. Some, not all, have been filled. My further complaint is they had not identified the very poor surfacing breaking. They came out again but missed other areas and potholes. These are dangerous and winter is coming, making this very dangerous for cyclists and cars.”</p>
f	<p>North View bus stop visibility: It was noted that there is overgrown foliage covering the bus stop in North View by Downs Park West [Westbury Road D].</p>
g	<p>Trees: The Forum took place after funding submissions had been submitted so the results were not known at the time.</p>
i	<p>Responsibility: It is important that residents have in a say in where trees are planted. LR will work with trustees of The Henleaze Society and the Westbury Park Community Association to discuss tree planting options (however they are funded).</p>
ii	<p>Outcome of funding decision: On 3 October the Area 1 Committee met and agreed</p>

		funding decisions which included trees for the Henleaze area. Fifteen trees (at least one per site) were approved for Bibury Crescent, Cavendish Road, Harbury Road, Henleaze Park Drive, Hill View, Kellaway Avenue, Laurie Crescent, Oakwood Road, South Croft and The Crescent.
9		Planning A recap was provided regarding what permitted development is. Progress was also reported on concerns about the potential demolition of garden walls.
	a	Permitted development: Permitted development: In essence, planning permission is not necessary if the work to be undertaken is covered by what is known as permitted development. However there have been instances in Henleaze where permitted development rights have been used and the work has altered the character within streets – e.g.s. paving over front gardens and alterations to hip gabled roofs.
	b	Potential demolition of garden walls: A meeting took place in July to discuss concerns about garden walls being demolished in some streets within a Conservation Area. It was attended by local residents, The Henleaze Society and SS. Council Officers have recognised the amount of time already spent considering the issues and will probably set up a formal consultation process in order to receive residents' written comments about the need for the removal of permitted development rights relating to the demolition of garden walls.
10		Other matters It was noted that a new bookshop has opened in North View. It is Max Minerva's and is being run by Henleaze residents Jessica Paul and Sam Taylor.
11		Consultations Available at https://bristol.citizenspace.com/ .
12		Next Forum 7pm on Thursday 22 November 2018 at Henleaze Library.

Privacy/ Contacts

Your privacy is important. The Henleaze Forum (administered by Helen Furber) only uses your email address to send you information about Forums (including related papers) or to respond to information requests from you.

Your address is held within a separate Henleaze Forum database. Your contact details are not shared with other entities, e.g.s. The Henleaze Society, the Westbury Park Community Association or your Ward Councillors without your prior permission.

APPENDIX 1 – Crime Statistics

See attached.

APPENDIX 2 – Contact Details/ Further information

Henleaze Forum	Email: henleazeforum@hotmail.com
Henleaze Character Appraisal	https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/0/Henleaze+character+assessment/1719a373-1617-4f53-bb97-eccbce1c5b89
The Henleaze Society	Email: ths.newsletter@gmail.com
Westbury Park Character Appraisal	https://westburyparkcommunityassociation.weebly.com/uploads/2/9/5/4/29540263/wpca_character-assessment_(1).pdf
Westbury Park Community Association	Email: westburyparkca@gmail.com
Ward Councillors	Geoff Gollop – Email: cllr.geoffrey.gollop@bristol.gov.uk ; Tel: 903 9946 Liz Radford – Email: cllr.liz.radford@bristol.gov.uk ; Tel: 0739 210 8806 Steve Smith – Email: Cllr.Steve.Smith@bristol.gov.uk ; Tel: 07769 285266
Bristol City Council & Cabinet Meeting	Full Council and Cabinet meetings are available via live and recorded webcasts. https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bc_r=1
Bins and recycling	https://www.bristol.gov.uk/en_US/bins-recycling
Street issues	Examples include street lighting, drains, graffiti and damaged roads/footpaths. https://www.bristol.gov.uk/en_US/report-a-street-issue
West of England Combined Authority	https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/