

**STOKE BISHOP AND SEA MILLS WARD FORUM**  
**@ Sea Mills Methodist Church, Shirehampton Road.**  
**Tuesday 2 October 2018**

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

Police officers PCSO Kelly Foyle (KF) and PCSO Rob Cole (RC)

Ward Representatives Peter Weeks (Chairman) (PW), Roger Gamlin (RG), Martin Farrell (MF), Gay Huggins (Sec) (GH) and approx 50 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Stephanie French, Judith Young.

**Welcome:** PW welcomed everyone and made the introductions.

**Meeting held on 12th March: the** Notes had been circulated. PW made a brief review of key points. No matters arising not covered by tonight's Agenda.

**Police Update:** KF has been the PCSO for Stoke Bishop & Sea Mills since January while RC is the PCSO for Westbury & Henleaze. They often work together. Their Beat Manager is PC Stephen Harding. KF advised us that the coming week commencing 8 October is Rogue Traders (RT) week and they would be visiting those roads which have in the past been targeted by RT delivering leaflets etc. KF is holding a Beat Surgery on 14 October by the Water Tower at 2pm and in Stoke Lane shops at 12 noon. They are concentrating on school patrols and parking when on their early shifts so will be out early and visiting schools. They are grateful to Stephanie French who organises Community Speed Watch, often at early times of the day.

At the moment, they are based at Bridewell but it is planned they will move to Southmead Hospital in the New Year. At present there is a small station in the Fire Station on Southmead Road. KF then went through local crime statistics – see:

[https://www.police.uk/avon-and-somerset/BN170/crime/stats/#crime\\_trend](https://www.police.uk/avon-and-somerset/BN170/crime/stats/#crime_trend)

PW asked where domestic abuse was covered in these statistics. KF stated possibly under “violence & sexual abuse” but she would check.

Cheryl Hawkins, member of Neighbourhood Watch, said members wanted to know about crime on the street as the figures were misleading. KF will see what can be done.

Mr Wallis, from Sea Mills, stated the roads are not built to take the number of vehicles passing through Sea Mills Square. Children must cross 3 main roads to get to and from school where there are no crossings, and the roads are not policed. KF planned to go into schools to talk about road safety.

PA advised there is a talk in the Watershed 16 October 6.45-8.30pm about pedestrian crossings. 20 free tickets are available. Please contact him if interested.

David Trivitt asked about vehicles left on the road untaxed and with no MOT, which he has been told is a police job; also abandoned vehicles. KF agreed to look into it. Any car with no insurance has to be caught being driven, not just parked. The police would request sight of an MOT certificate within 7 days. She asked people to report suspicious vehicles. David Trivitt mentioned one vehicle parked for over a year by a person who lives nearby and who moved a year ago from Kingswood but has not informed the authorities of his change of address. He also is running a commercial business from his property. KF will investigate.

David Marvel asked about the number of parked/static vehicles along Parrys Lane and Saville Road that appear to be lived in. The Councillors dealt this in their briefing – see below.

A lady from the Café in the Square stated that at 8.30am daily a car is parked fully on the pavement near Sea Mills Primary School. What are the police's powers? KF responded that if they are fully obstructing the pavement she can write a ticket. Such behaviour is not acceptable.

PW thanked KF and RC for coming. KF and RC stayed so people could speak with them at the end of the meeting.

**Councillors' Briefing:** JG opened by referring to David Marvel's question regarding parking of campervans and caravans on the Downs roads. They are parking on the highway. There is a process for removing travellers who park on the grass but it does take several days. There is a possibility of a change in the law on trespass to make it a criminal offence. Police are reluctant to use Section 61 of their powers on travellers. There was a consultation in the summer regarding the vans parked on the highway, and we are awaiting the results. We might get a bye-law in Bristol to allow us to move them on.

The big Bristol issue is that the proposed Arena has been cancelled. A lot of money has been spent on preparatory work for it. The big Stoke Bishop issue is Stoke Lodge. (More about this later).

JG confirmed libraries have been reprieved until 2020.

PA talked about the South Glos development and increased traffic in our area. He suggested caution at the moment. The proposed expansion of Cribbs Causeway shopping has been turned down by the Government. He advised us that the Sneyd Park traffic management scheme is moving forward and decisions will be made in the next few weeks. Four additional staff are being employed in Traffic Management Department, which should help ease the backlog.

#### **Questions to the Councillors:**

Keith Sheather asked for clarification on the Sneyd Park scheme and mentioned that Stoke Park Road suffered from vehicles parked by University students. The issue of University parking was discussed. The University had cancelled a proposed meeting on this matter. Residence car parks are empty as the University charges £120 per space, which on top of £20,000 in fees and residential costs is too much. This matter is ongoing.

Jacky Whitworth asked about parking on Parrys Lane in the cycle lane. PA explained that the Council introduced that cycle lane, but it is not enforceable, and there are no double yellow lines. The police put cones around the entrance to Shaplands to stop cars blocking. PA asked residents to email the Council about this. Both JG and PA have asked for the cycle lane to be enforced.

Gyl Evans mentioned a car parking on Downleaze on the pavement, and also asked for details of the University Beat Manager. KF will look into this.

Vicky Stocks mentioned speeding traffic on the Portway and cars undertaking along the bus lane. KF said the mobile camera unit was often on the Portway. Vicky Stocks asked if a permanent camera could be installed. This would have to be a joint venture with the Council.

**Stoke Lodge:** David Mayer, Chairman of Save Stoke Lodge Parkland (SSLP), thanked all for their support in the fight to maintain public access to Stoke Lodge. SSLP now has an active partner 'We Love Stoke Lodge' (WLSL). David introduced Helen Powell (HP) and Emma Burgess (EB) who gave a presentation. WLSL was formed following SSLP at a meeting in St Marys Church last May, as a result of the outcome of the Judicial Enquiry, and with a key aim of raising awareness through

social media. A Facebook page was set up, and there are now nearly 900 members in the WLSL group. They also have accounts on Twitter and Instagram and a website.

The website has had over 11,000 visits, mostly from the community. They have distributed 7,500 flyers and put up posters across BS9. They have worked with SSLP to set up community events, such as walks, tug-of-war at the picnic, etc, with more events to come. They have had two meetings with Cotham School and are working with councillors and Darren Jones MP. At a meeting arranged by Darren Jones on 20 July WLSL put forward proposals to work in partnership with the School, addressing their safeguarding concerns at a lower cost and with continued free public access. The School responded with two alternative proposals; A – a 2-metre high black mesh fence with restricted public access. B – a higher fence with no public access.

A further meeting was held on 14 September, when the School turned down proposals put forward by WLSL with no reasons. They outlined again their plans to build a fence. A further “sounding board” meeting was discussed on the design of the fence, on condition that WLSL stop all campaigning, close the Facebook group and stop making freedom of information (FoI) requests. This left WLSL with no choice but to submit a further TVG application that day.

Cotham School erected three signs on Stoke Lodge on 24 July. BCC has placed an enforcement order which was due to be resolved on 2 October i.e. today. WLSL has written to the Council with strong legal arguments as to why the School should not be allowed to erect the signs without full planning consent. They await a response.

WLSL is working towards the future of Stoke Lodge with a clear vision of a shared space with Cotham School and self-funded community provision. Future events include a Halloween Party at the end of October, and next Friday 5 October at 4pm all to a “Floss Not Fence” event.

Helen Powell then took questions.

Ella Davies asked about the application for a new pavilion. The application has been rejected for a second time because the School made no provision for traffic. The School stated that there would not be an increase in traffic, even though the changing rooms would be double the size of the original. There is nothing to prevent the School putting in another application, but they need to think more carefully about the traffic issue.

WLSL advised that it is not reasonable to expect the community not to exercise their freedom of speech and to access information to which we have a right under legislation. For example, the 2014 Risk Assessment by the School (2 pages) which was accessed via a Freedom of Information request has shown how inadequate the reasoning is for safeguarding concerns.

Jacky Whitworth asked about Public Rights of Way. Application for 4 PRWs were submitted and validated. Should the School submit a further application, then the matter of PRW would be moved forward. PA played no part in this discussion as he is on the PRW committee.

Gyl Evans asked for confirmation that balloons from the Fiesta had landed on Stoke Lodge. This was the case. Pictures are on the website.

Susan Hollywood asked how much is the land worth and how much is the lease? DM replied that the value of the land with planning permission might be £90m. The cost of the lease is a peppercorn rent, but Cotham School pays Coombe Dingle (U of Bristol Sports) £17-18K pa to maintain the land.

Paul Richardson asked what is the relationship between Cotham School and the University, and are the latter providing any money? Any link has been denied but suspicions remain. The School says it has no plans to develop the site. The University had been “casing” Stoke Lodge in the past as the base of a future “International Sports Hub”.

David Marvel asked what is the present position? The application for the fencing was withdrawn. Two applications for a new pavilion have been refused. The TVG decision went to a Judicial Review, which ruled that the School lost on all substantive arguments but that the Council should look at it again due to procedural errors by BCC. The Council then rejected the TVG on a hung vote with the Chair casting the deciding vote.

The whole of the Stoke Lodge estate is Grade II listed which is a significant obstacle to fencing. If they put in another application there would be a huge fight. However the School cannot make an application now because of the second TVG application.

Sue Harris asked if anyone had asked Cotham how they are funding this and how do they justify the costs? Legal and planning costs to date have been met from School reserves. We understand that the School is grant funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, so all money is taxpayers' money and open to scrutiny.

MF mentioned that Cotham had got Sport England grants in the past. EB and HP confirmed that no grant funding has been provided by Sport England; this was a misunderstanding by BCC.

GH asked if WLSL and SSLP were working together. DM confirmed that they are working closely together but assured her the database held by SSLP was not available to WLSL. Communications from them are sent out by the SSLP secretary.

David Trivitt asked where Cotham School had their playing fields before Stoke Lodge. This was confirmed as Kellaway Avenue. They had their own site there yet sold it off for development.

PA stated that he and JG were working with DM and WLSL who were doing fantastically well. PA has to be careful as he is Vice Chair of the PRW committee. He had been the casting vote on the original TVG application. We want to keep everybody informed on all issues. What Cotham are trying to do regarding the signs is to keep people out of Stoke Lodge. JG and PA are trying to find a particular way to engage the Council. The Council is working both as the owner of the land and as the giver of permission. They are endeavouring to keep it all transparent.

Sport England has changed their view on fencing. They want to see people walking near sports grounds and seeing sport being played. They encourage shared use of sports grounds.

PW thanked Helen and Emma for their presentation.

### **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and S106 money:**

DM explained there are new rules applicable to how these funds are spent. CIL money – 85% goes to BCC and 15% is legislated to be spent locally on matters close to where it was originated. S106 is part of planning application consent. BCC changed the rules as to how this money is going to be spent and decided upon. We live in Area 1 which consists of Avonmouth, Lawrence Weston, Shirehampton, Stoke Bishop, Sneyd Park, Westbury on Trym and Henleaze, Clifton Down, Clifton, the Harbourside and Hotwells. The 13 Councillors covering these wards are from all political parties. Two informal meetings have been held to kick start the process and a short list of projects has been investigated and will be presented to a formal meeting tomorrow night (3 October). Our projects primarily came from those raised by the NP. However, it is necessary for future projects to be raised by the local community and he suggested you go to the NP website [www.activenp.co.uk/funding](http://www.activenp.co.uk/funding) for guidelines.

There is £227,109.46 in the CIL account! Rules are complicated and it is very bureaucratic. If you want to apply, go to [www.bristol.gov.uk/people-communities/funding-local-projects](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/people-communities/funding-local-projects). The next round will be starting in the New Year.

Ella Davies asked if we had any projects being raised at tomorrow's meeting. DM confirmed Stephanie French had applied for 14 trees. Additionally, a combined application had been made to

fund:- a replacement bin and bench in Sea Mills Park, a bench on the Pentagon next to Sea Mills Health Centre, two combined litter and dog waste bins at (a) the entrance to the Adult Learning Centre and (b) the Portway Park and Ride bus stop, two Notice Boards at (a) Sea Mills Park and (b) the Children's Play area adjacent to the Adult Learning Centre.

PW suggested that if decisions are made quickly they could be included in the notes of the meeting. DM would report to GH.

**ADDENDUM** – At the meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October it was agreed that CIL money would be spent on the above projects.

David Marvel asked how the money was calculated to different areas. These are a matter of fact. CIL funds generated in this area could be spent in any of the areas covered in 1.

Paul Richardson asked how far £55,000 would go. It depended upon the size of the project, for example, a BMX park would swallow all of it, SF trees are £4,500, a zebra crossing is £30,000+, while white lines £1,000.

### **100 years of Sea Mills – Mary Milton:**

Mary gave a short presentation of the plans to celebrate this. She was working with Jason Budd and Ella Davies and others to promote it. The hub will be in Sea Mills Library, and she would also be looking at the Records Office and Bristol Archives. There are plans to use the telephone box in the Square as the smallest museum. . Further details can be found at [www.seamills100.co.uk](http://www.seamills100.co.uk). If you have something which might be of interest, please email: [seamills100@gmail.com](mailto:seamills100@gmail.com)

David Trivitt has information on the construction of the community centre. He and Mary would liaise.

**Tree Update:** SF was not available to give her report. See Appendix 1 below. PW recorded thanks to her for her fight for trees in our area.

### **Open Forum:**

Keith Sheather had previously asked whether the 508 bus which stops at Sea Mills Square and goes to Southmead Hospital could come into Stoke Bishop village. PA stated the whole bus situation was under review and he asked that people wrote to him with this request. There was no money to pay for this but he could take it up with the bus company.

Peter Hobbs said he understood the Nos 3 and 4 buses were going to run on a half-hour basis, rather than every 20 minutes, in non-rush hour periods. This goes against recent announcements to encourage us to use the buses. PA stated it was all to do with finances.

PW asked the audience whether they had any objection to the next meeting being in the Stoke Bishop Village Hall on a Friday evening. There was only one objection (depending on which Friday!). He said that if the next meeting is on a Friday he would invite MP Darren Jones to attend.

PW thanked all the speakers, the Councillors, and the Council for the loan of the sound system, and all for advertising this meeting. He thanked RG and MF for organising this meeting and asked for feedback and comments from the audience.

The meeting closed at 8.56pm

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2019 @ Stoke Bishop Village Hall.**

**Darren Jones MP has accepted an invitation to speak at this meeting.**

**FEEDBACK WELCOME:** Please email any of the Ward Forum reps:

Roger Gamlin: [rogergamlin@aol.com](mailto:rogergamlin@aol.com)

Peter Weeks: [peter.weeks@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:peter.weeks@blueyonder.co.uk)

Martin Farrell: [martin@mfarrell.co.uk](mailto:martin@mfarrell.co.uk)

**APPENDIX 1 – Additional tree report from Stephanie French:**

The new Area 1 Councillor Committee met on 3 October to decide upon spend of development funds - Community Infrastructure Levy CIL and S.106 funds – allocated to Area 1. I had put forward a bid for spend on trees from both funds.

As former NP3 Tree Champion my bid was for replacement Street Trees in all three Wards (i.e. including Westbury & Henleaze). For Stoke Bishop and Sea Mills Ward the successful bid will see trees in:

Funded by Community Infrastructure Levy

Sabrina Way (2), Bell Barn Road (2), Roman Way (1), Woodleaze (1)

Funded by Section 106 development agreements

Reedley Road (1) and Bell Barn Road (3)

These will now go to the Council's tree department. We should see these trees planted this season (just started). They will probably make the second batch i.e. Christmas onwards.

For reasons beyond my control they might not all get planted!