

STOKE BISHOP AND SEA MILLS WARD FORUM
@ Stoke Bishop Village Hall
Friday 1st February 2019

Present: Darren Jones MP (DJ) and Councillor Peter Abraham (PA).

Officer: PC Stephen Harding (SH)..

Forum Representatives: Peter Weeks (Chairman) (PW), Roger Gamlin (RG) and Martin Farrell (MF).
Stephanie French (Tree Champion) (SF), Gay Huggins (Sec) (GH), and approximately 90 members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor John Goulandris, Ian Beattie and David Mayer.

Welcome: PW welcomed everyone and made the introductions. He thanked Stoke Bishop Community Association for the use of the hall, and Bristol City Council (BCC) for microphones. He emphasised this meeting was to provide updates and information on matters within our ward.

Meeting held on 2nd October 2018: Minutes had been circulated. There were no matters arising.

Police Update: SH, our Beat Manager, went through the points raised at the last Forum: - 1) They had distributed 200 leaflets in the community about rogue traders and had received good feedback. They had stopped a couple of vehicles which were in good order, but it had warned the traders that the police were keeping an eye on them. 2) Parking outside schools - four parking tickets (+ points) had been issued during their patrols and PCSO Kelly is going regularly into Sea Mills school and talking to the children about safety and reading stories to get them used to the police uniform. 3) There is now a police station in Westgate House, in Southmead Hospital, which is just inside the turning off Southmead Road. This will make it easier for the police who have, up to now, been based in Bridewell. 4) Domestic abuse is recorded under Violence against a person. Cheryl Hawkins felt people were concerned about going out at night by the figures produced. SH did not think he would be able to break down the analysis. Statistics were provided but SH said there was no reason why some figures were higher than before. 5) SH advised that one vehicle on the Downs did not have a MOT but it cannot be ticketed unless it is seen to be driven. If it has no MOT then insurance is invalid. He advised people to report them. The vehicle can only be driven to get a MOT certificate. One lorry that was parked with no MOT was sold and had now gone. The Police deal with road worthiness and insurance. 6) Parking in the cycle lane on Parrys Lane – this was not enforceable by the Police, but they are doing advisory leaflets. Vehicles can be booked if parking on pavements. SH went on to report a noticeable increase in people using nitrous oxide (laughing gas). They had stopped two people with a considerable number of canisters, but it is difficult to prove they were dealing. Tickets were being issued for parking on the zigzags outside Tesco in Shirehampton Road.

Questions: Sue Harris asked about the motorhomes on the slip road and around the Downs. This was a Council issue and PA will deal with it.

Victoria Stocks again raised the problem on the Portway between Roman Way and Hotwells of cars undertaking in the bus lane. SH suggested they take the registration number and if possible film footage. The police can then take the matter up. He suggested they report the matter to the First Bus bus company.

SH advised the next Beat Surgery was on the 2nd March at Trymwood Parade shops 10-2pm.

He would be attending the DFNW AGM on the 2nd March at 2.30pm.

He would also be at the Bristol Noise Breakfast in Sea Mills on the 9th February.

PW thanked SH for coming. Many people would like to have a simple idea of the number of crimes in our area. SH said this was difficult to provide. (SH's contact details will be at the end of these notes).

Councillor's Briefing: PA went through several points as follows: - 1) He had met with the bus company and changes were planned for the Nos. 1 & 2. However, it was pointed out that we have problems with the Nos. 3 & 4 which are now half-hourly. PA said the meeting was only to deal with the 1 & 2. If there are problems with the 3 & 4, please write to him with the details. 2) A cycle lap was being proposed on the Downs. He had received a lot of letters from people worried about this. It has been referred to a special committee. 3) Stoke Lodge – A letter had gone out today to the Head of Planning regarding the legal advice given. They felt the house was not connected to the grounds. PA had asked months ago about that decision. They would seek Counsel's opinion to reassure him, but they have refused to give PA the "opinion", they have also refused his Freedom of Information request, despite him agreeing to look at it in confidence. PA has now appealed. The PROW Committee has received the second application for TVG. 4) Concert on the Downs – PA confirmed it will be run for two days – Saturday and Sunday – with possibly Madness appearing on the Sunday. Team Love expected 30,000 on the Saturday and 10,000 on the Sunday. 5) Another application (18/06624/F) was in for four detached houses where Casa Mia is in Bramble Lane. It was important for people to write to ensure the retention of the right of way adjacent to the property. 6) Parking on the Downs – PA had heard from the Mayor's office and also raised the issue at the Mayor's office meeting. It was made clear "there is no policy for Vehicle Development Encampment (VDE) but the Mayor is working on it". Continue to write to the Mayor over this issue. 7) Student parking – Liz Radford and PA met the Mayor prior to meeting the community rep with the Mayor later that day. They were helpful and positive and came forward with good suggestions how they can make the University take responsibility. They have reduced their charge for a parking permit, but it is still not good enough. 8) Café on the Downs – PA was concerned about the proposed roof and it appears the planners agreed with him. PA believes that amendments are likely in the next few days to the application.

PA raised the matter of the A4018 between Crow Lane and Blackboy Hill. This is going to affect us all. There are details of the plans at Westbury on Trym library via leaflets, together with the following drop-in sessions:-

In addition to the leaflet, BCC has arranged five drop-in sessions where people can come to speak with council officers about the plans. These sessions will be as follows:

Westbury library - Saturday 9 February, 11.15am-3.45pm
Westbury library - Monday 11 February, 2.15pm - 6.45pm
Henbury library - Saturday 23 February, 11.15am-3.45pm
Henbury library - Wednesday 27 February, 2.15pm-6.45pm
Westbury library - Monday 4 March, 2.15pm-6.45pm

Questions to the Councillor: Gyl Evans asked if the concert would create people camping on the Downs. This would be the responsibility of Team Love's security to ensure no camping. PA was keen for the Downs to have a wide variety of usage in order to pay for its upkeep.

Michael Andrews had seen a notice on the Downs detailing Team Love's application for a licence for three consecutive years. What is the decibel limit? PA advised this will be set by the Licensing Department. He had no reason to believe it would be not be the same as before.

Stephen Small stated that for the last two years they have exceeded the limit, thereby breaking their agreement. He will meet Team Love and ask for better monitoring.

Constituency Updates: Darren Jones MP had battled through snow down the M4 to get here. He briefed us on local issues.

- 1) Café on the Downs – we should ask him to make representation to the Committee.
- 2) Transport – He had managed to get the University to reduce prices of parking spaces and to put more bicycle hire on the Campus. He also enforced some of the outstanding double yellow lining around the Downs. PA advised this work will start in June.
- 3) Buses 3 & 4 – These routes have the very old diesel buses and need to be changed. They get delayed and then taken out. They are down to a half-hourly service, which most people are not happy about. As an MP he has no direct power, but he is working on a solution of three new transport hubs, linked to the Park N Ride at Portway, Henbury Loop and Lockleaze. Please refer to his website.
- 4) Bristol Arena – Now moved from Temple Meads to the Brabazon Hanger, Filton, but he is concerned this will cause gridlock on the roads especially on Fridays and Saturdays.
- 5) Libraries – managed to keep them open till next budget cycle. Need to be modernised.
- 6) Stoke Lodge – He had tried to mediate with the school with no success, but he can get answers to questions from the Government bodies.
- 7) National Issues: - Brexit – it is very busy, but nothing is really happening. The date could be put back again. Ruled out no deal. PM again back in Brussels. Feedback on Thursday 14th February.
- 8) Immigration – bill introduced last Monday with a minimum threshold of £30,000pa salaries which is too high for people such as nurses, doctors, etc.
- 9) More funding of nursery schools.
- 10) More research on ME and other diseases.

Questions to the MP: Gyl Evans asked if University students in their first year get free bus travel but must pay in the 2nd and 3rd years. DJ was not aware of this.

Stephanie French felt the transport problem in our area was restricted. You can go in and out of the City but you cannot go across. Many people want to get to Westbury on Trym and Henleaze for their basic needs but there is no direct bus, so we must use our cars. DJ hoped the hubs would help with this.

Chris Brennan asked if DJ was in favour of a second referendum. DJ had stated in his literature before his election that he was very clear about this, it should go back to the people. Parliament is stuck and we cannot stop Brexit without further democratic mandate.

Jenny Weeks asked about electric bikes. DJ said a lot of the cycles for hire are in the centre of the City. If you cycle to the hub, you need to be able to lock your bike safely.

Peter Hobbs asked if cycle lanes could be alongside bus lanes rather than in them – DJ said this would be great but may be too expensive.

DJ had leaflets available for people to contact him or a private mobile App. They are just setting up a podcast. You can submit questions to his office and his staff will investigate.

PW thanked DJ for coming.

Stoke Lodge: Emma Burgess (EB) and Helen Powell (HP) brought us up to date. We Love Stoke Lodge now had 1300 members. Last Sunday 800 people turned up for a fun run. The school had erected three signs, but they had to make a retrospective application for the third and this was rejected, so it had to be taken down. The school has put it up in another place. According to the Council's legal department the fence did not need planning permission, despite a letter from our QC. Diggers rolled in on the 14th January, but we prevented action for a week. The first post went in on the 21st

January, but a group managed to stop them drilling into a gas main. Every day people have been there protecting the trees. The TVG application was validated and if we win the fence must come down. There is always hope. The school is appealing again last summer's application for the rebuilding of the pavilion. There is still no provision for parking and no transport plan. Please send in your letters by the 28th February. Enormous thanks to DJ and Councillors (ours and from other wards) for their support.

Questions: Derek Hawkins asked if all objections previously made are put to the Inspector, do we have to write again. What has changed is the fence. The extensive hours of use of the pavilion 8am – 10pm when the fence will be locked, as well as overnight would leave little access to the public.

PA agreed and urged people to write in again. You can refresh what you said last time.

Johnny Johnson, of West Dene, wished to thank both Helen and Emma, and all who have supported the campaign. He recommended everyone to read the circulated issues.

Education and skills funding agency – DJ was taking it up with the minister. DJ sent questions to them using his MP letterhead so he will get answers.

Keith Sheather asked what possible transport plan could they put in place? EB and HP said they have spent a lot of time to find answers to this, but there is no solution.

Andrew Barnes felt the issue was with the 40 cars that come at the weekend rather than the school. The only entrance will be via West Dene, and it is likely to get much worse.

PW thanked HP and EB for their update. Posters and leaflets were available. He had seen 200 children on the site this morning enjoying snowball fights!!!

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and S106 money: RG outlined the source of this funding which now has been spread over 6 wards in the North of Bristol. There are 13 Councillors covering this area who form a committee. They look at the applications. We initially take our ideas to our Councillors and they put them forward to the committee. We have four to date and time is short.

- 1) The new scout hut in Kewstoke Road.
- 2) A pavement is needed at the junction by the Mill House pub. BCC already has drawn up the plans for this and costings.
- 3) Additional street lighting in Sea Mills Square by the church and playground.
- 4) Wheelchair access to Stoke Lodge arboretum and sensory garden.

Mike Whitworth questioned the path in the arboretum going over the roots. SF confirmed the path would be of a certain grade and not one which will damage the roots of the TPO trees.

Any further ideas please contact RG and PW for help.

100 years of Sea Mills – Mary Milton: Mary told us of events that had occurred, such as the lighting up of the phone box for Christmas turned on by a WW Veteran, and the plans to make it a museum. There are talks in Sea Mills Library, Snack n chat events, a heritage trail. Lots of research going on. The phone box was due for a repaint this weekend. More information on the website:

seamills100@gmail.com

PW thanked Mary for her presentation.

Tree Update: SF told us that developers must replace any tree they have had to chop down, either on the site or they have to pay BCC to plant a tree in the area. She asked us to look on the Council's tree sponsorship site and tell her where you want them to put a tree. There is enough money for 7 trees in our area. Please email her on stephanie@srfrench.co.uk
Mark Ashdown, Chair of the Bristol Tree Forum, has worked tirelessly sending emails everywhere about the trees on Stoke Lodge. PW asked her to write to him to express the thanks of the Forum and this was unanimously agreed.

Open Forum: Alan Preece said the Item 2 under CIL had been drawn up before the demise of the Neighbourhood Partnership and had been paid for – PW advised this was being checked.

There being no other questions, PW thanked all the speakers and helpers and closed the meeting at 8.58pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 22 MAY @ Sea Mills Methodist Church 7-9pm.

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We love Stoke Lodge: welovestokelodge@gmail.com

Community infrastructure levy: www.activenp.co.uk/funding