



**ST GEORGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP
WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2008 7.00pm
BRUNEL ACADEMY**

PRESENT:

Councillors, BCC officers, service providers and members of the Steering Group

Councillor Ron Stone	St George West
Councillor Fabian Breckels	St George East
Councillor Anthony Potter	St George West
Councillor Charlie Price	St George East
Councillor Terry Cook	Executive Member, Neighbourhood & Involvement
Stefan Simms	HMCS Community Engagement Project
Sgt Darren Wall	Avon and Somerset Police
DC Jones	Avon and Somerset Police
DC Goodwin	Avon and Somerset Police
Laura Hayward	Avon and Somerset Police
Julia Gagliardi	Safety Officer Bristol East/Barton Hill
Sam Parry	BCC Area Green Space Plan Project Officer
Tony Billinghamurst	BCC Young People's Services
Jimmy Taylor	BCC Youth and Community Worker
Kenny Poucher	BCC Street Scene Enforcement Officer
Steve Rogers	BCC Environmental Services
Sarah Sparks	BCC Snr Housing Advisor, Speedwell
Richard Bevan	BCC Pest Control
Andrew Spicer	BCC Traffic and Transport
Amy Lokuciejewska	BCC Neighbourhood Housing Services
Abdulrazak Dahir	BCC Community Development
Pauline Draisey	BCC Democratic Services
Hassan Dahir	Sound system
Grenville Johnson CHAIR	Chair - Kensington Road Residents' Association -
Ann Radnedge	Chair - Meadow Vale Community Association
Susan Acton-Campbell	Chair - Friends of Troopers Hill

Residents

31 OTHER RESIDENTS SIGNED THE ATTENDANCE SHEETS.

1. Welcome, Introductions and Explanation of the Neighbourhood Partnership

1.1 Grenville Johnson, Chair, welcomed all to this, the 3rd conference for the St George Neighbourhood Partnership. He gave the following explanation about Neighbourhood Partnerships:

- Neighbourhood Partnerships gave residents, councillors, officers and service providers the opportunity to work together to address issues of concern and to make improvements to the area to make it a better place in which to live.
- These meetings were an opportunity for local people to influence local decisions and regular meetings would help to ensure that residents' concerns were resolved.
- The Steering Group met regularly between the open meetings to ensure actions were taken forward. Members of the Steering Group introduced themselves.
- Residents were asked to write their concerns on the cards provided which would be used later in the evening to identify the priority concerns from which an action plan would be drawn up.
- Updates on the concerns raised at the previous meetings would be given during the workshop sessions. Ongoing feedback would be provided through the newsletters, consultation events and through the Steering Group.

2. St George NP Action Plan

2.1 Councillor Ron Stone explained that following the first NP meeting a year ago an action plan with 4 priority areas was drawn up from the issues residents had identified. The following points were made:

- The action plan empowered local residents to influence what services the council delivered to the community. It was flexible to take account of concerns raised during the year.
- This meeting was the time to set the priorities for 2009. Issues raised would assist ward councillors and other groups to progress items through the work of the partnership and the Council.
- The Steering Group took responsibility for the action plan and have monitored and chased actions during the year to ensure the success of the plan.

2.2 Residents were asked to support a lottery bid by the Meadow Vale Community Centre during a voting process to be held on 27 November 2008.

2.3 Work with local primary schools had resulted in Government funding through the Pathfinder Play Initiative to provide £50,000 towards a play area in St George's Park. Councillor Stone had invited children from the local primary schools to suggest ideas for a play space and ideas from 350 children between 3 and 10 year old had been received. The total cost of the scheme would be £87,000 with

the balance being provided from Section 106 funding from building development schemes in the area. The scheme should be in place by April 2009.

3. Report Back on Progress – Workshop Session

3.1 Residents were reminded that the following workshop sessions were the opportunity to raise any concerns they might have. Feedback sheets and a freepost envelope were included in the information packs which residents could also use to raise any concerns not addressed during the meeting.

3.2 The meeting broke into the following workshops:

Crime and Safety Issues
Transport Issues
Environment Issues
Young People

4. Her Majesty's Court Services - Community Engagement Project

4.1 Stefan Sims, HMCS Community Engagement Project Officer, explained the project:

- The two-year project, which commenced in July 2008, hoped to raise public awareness of the work of the courts and the partner agencies and to raise the present low level of confidence the public had in the court, probation, police and crown prosecution services.
- The project would also give magistrates and judges a better insight into how communities worked. Members of those communities would also have the opportunity to speak directly to the magistrates and judges to express their views and concerns on such things as levels of punishments given by the courts.
- A panel of 2 magistrates, 2 crown prosecutors, a legal advisor and representatives of other organisations such as the probation and youth services, would attend a meeting at the Brunel Academy at **7.30pm on 21 January 2009** when members of the public could put questions and concerns to the panel. Information would also be available on how to become a magistrate.
- This was a new initiative for the court service and was a unique opportunity for the community to find out about the justice system and raise concerns. Residents were encouraged to attend and promote the event in their community. The event would be fully publicised nearer the date.

5. Area Green Space Plan

5.1 Sam Parry, Area Green Space Plan Project Officer, presented the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy:

- The Strategy, adopted in February 2008, outlined how the council would improve parks and green spaces in Bristol over the next 20 years.
- The strategy was based on 3 new standards:
 - Quantity** - how much of the different types of green spaces should be in each Neighbourhood Partnership Area
 - Distance** - how far should people live from the various types of green spaces

Quality - all green spaces and park should be classified as 'good'.

- The cost of the Strategy over 20 years would be £87 million. This would be funded by:
 - £15 million - Section 106 funds from developers
 - £21 million - Lottery funding
 - £41 million – Sale of low value land
 - £10 million – Council Parks' budget.
- A series of stakeholder engagement sessions would be held in 2009 for residents to gain further information and express their views. Venues had yet to be agreed and the sessions would be publicised in December.
 - 9 February An open meeting to view the plan
 - 11 February Site visit to the various green spaces
 - 19 & 24 February Engagement sessions
 - 3 March Value session – identification of low value sites to sell
 - 15-19 March Site specific sessions
 - 26 March Summary session to complete the process
- The same process would be carried out in all 14 Neighbourhood Partnership areas. A draft plan for the whole of Bristol would be drawn up in April 2009 with public consultations from June to August. Between August and December 2009 the plan would be revised and adopted.

5.2 Residents/stakeholders were invited to give Sam Parry their details if they wished to be involved.

6. Votes on Issues Raised And Summary of Priorities Identified

Residents were invited to vote on the priorities identified during the meeting through an interactive voting system.

Voting was as follows:

What are your top crime and safety issues? (Choose 3 in order of priority)

1. More police walking around St George – 33%
2. Antisocial behaviour – increase police presence – 29%
3. Anti-social behaviour in Ventnor Road/Meadowside – 25%
4. Increase the dispersal date for Speedwell – 13%

What are the top transport issues? (Choose 3 in order of priority)

1. Traffic claming in Meadowvale and surrounding areas – 20%
2. Large vans parking near road junctions and on Whitehall Road – 15%
3. 30mph zone in Crews Hole Road – 13%
4. Traffic problems in Ventnor Road/Meadowside – racing etc – 12%
5. Cars parking on pavements – 11%
6. Increase bus services, especially after 6.00pm – 10%
7. Safe pedestrian crossing on Crews Hole Road – 7%
8. Residents' parking – 6%
9. Speeding 6%

What are you top environment issues? (Choose 3 in order of priority)

1. Poor lighting on footpaths – 19%
2. Avoid selling off the wrong green spaces for development – 17%
3. Dogs fouling on pavements – 14%
4. Involve people in the Area Greenspace Plan – 14%
5. Rubbish problems – including area around shops in Ventnor/Harewood Road – 12%
Dog bins on leisure land – i.e, Meadow Vale Park – 12%
6. Improvements to Chalks Road recycling area – 7%
7. Fly tipping at the back lane of Ventnor Avenue – 5%

What are your top issues for young people? (Choose 3 in order of priority)

1. More for kids to do – 39%
2. Improve facilities for young people, including Rodney Rd playing fields – 32%
3. Kids making noise on bikes and spinning cars in Ventnor Road – 19%
4. Youths throwing stones/kicking footballs in Selby Road – 10%

What are your top issues for Community Services? (Choose 3 in order of priority)

1. More facilities for the whole community – all ages and groups – 39%
2. More use of community centre – 31%
3. Council to make aware things that are available in plain English – 11%
4. Not to be used and manipulated by government officials – 9%
5. Self defence club – 5%
6. Art and craft club – 3%
7. Dance club – 2%

What are the most important local issues?

1. Crime and safety – 27%
2. Environment – 21%
3. Young people – 21%
4. Community facilities - 21%
5. Transport – 10%

In which part of St George do you live?

1. St George West – 73%
2. St George East – 23%
3. Neither – 4%

How satisfied are you with your local area as a place to live?

1. Very dissatisfied – 31%
2. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied – 28%
3. Fairly satisfied – 24%
4. Very satisfied – 14%

5. Fairly dissatisfied – 3%

Have you heard about St George Neighbourhood Partnership before?

1. Yes – 75%
2. No – 21%
3. Don't know – 4%

Do you think it is a good idea to have St George NP as a way to improve your area?

1. Yes – 63%
2. No – 30%
3. Don't know – 7%

What are your preferred methods of communicating with St George NP?
(Choose 3 in order of priority)

1. Website – 29%
2. Newsletter – 28%
3. Local community groups – 25%
4. St George NP meetings – 18%
5. E-forums – 0%

Do you agree with the following statements?

“I can influence decisions that affect my local area”

1. Tend to agree – 40%
2. Strongly agree – 21%
3. Strongly disagree – 21%
4. Neither agree nor disagree – 11%
5. Tend to disagree – 7%

<p>“By working together people can influence decisions that affect their neighbourhood”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strongly agree – 54% 2. Tend to agree – 19% 3. Strongly disagree – 15% 4. Neither agree nor disagree – 8% 5. Tend to disagree – 4% 	
<p>“I can influence decisions that affect the public services I personally use”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tend to agree – 30% 2. Strongly agree – 22% 3. Strongly disagree – 22% 4. Tend to disagree – 19% 5. Neither agree nor disagree – 7% 	
<p>About you</p>	
<p>What is your gender?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Female – 59% 2. Male – 41% 	<p>What is your age group?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Under 18 – 7% 2. 18 – 24 – 4% 3. 25 – 39 – 15% 4. 40 – 59 – 44% 5. 60 - 69 – 11% 6. 70+ - 19%
<p>Do you consider yourself to be from a black or other ethnic minority?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No – 96% 2. Yes – 4% 	<p>Do you consider yourself to be disabled?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No – 78% 2. Yes – 22%

Grenville Johnson thanked all for attending the meeting. Residents were asked to contact Abdulrazak Dahir or any of the Steering Group if they wished to join the Steering Group. Thanks were also given to the guest speakers and the Corporate Consultation team for their input to the meeting.

The next public meeting would be held on **Wednesday 25 March 2009** venue to be confirmed.

Points raised

Transport Issues Workshops – Andrew Spicer

- To use the footpath down Crews Hole Road it was necessary to cross this very busy road on a dangerous corner. There was no speed limit sign and no streetlights at this point. The crossing point needed to be made safer
- Traffic speed and lack of suitable pedestrian crossing points along The Kingsway. This issue had been addressed. Crossing points outside the school and on the bend were to be widened (and the road narrowed). A new crossing point would be installed outside the shops.
- Rubber strips to reduce the speed of traffic approaching the mini roundabout at Speedwell Road/Whitehall Road were not permitted under Highway regulations.
- A temporary single white line had been installed at Sycamore Close to assist with parking problems in the short term. Waiting restrictions in the area were being reviewed and it may be that double yellow lines could be installed at some future point.
- Andrew would obtain further information on Resident's Parking scheme from Gary Firth and forward to Laura Protheroe. It was felt that this would be a wasted priority at this stage.
- Data supporting traffic calming measures in Meadow Vale/ Speedwell Road/ Whiteway Road raised at the previous meeting had been forwarded to the data collection team. The results should be available within the next 2-3 months.
- Concerns were raised about the inconsistent bus service from the Kingswood/Hanham area after 6.00pm. Andrew would pass on the concerns to Conrad Coleman. Suggestions for a bus service from the St George area to Temple Meads would also be passed on.
- It was suggested that the Brook Road field would be a suitable site for a City Farm.

Young People Workshop- Jimmy Taylor & Tony Billingham

- Kids want something in the park near where they live (Meadow Vale Park); more facilities like children area, bike ramps, football pitch and parent's seating area.
- Repeat of the community fun-day
- Youth Centre/Younger children
- Bristol Brunel Academy; Girls club, dance, DJ workshops, Boxing, Football teams (boys/girls), rugby
- What can be done with kids in the park? Activities for kids in St George Park
- Where do young people go? Resources needed
- Information on what is happening needs to get to the people.

Environment Workshop Kenny Poucher & Richard Bevan

- Chalks Road bottle bank recycling area needs improving; Collection rate of dumped rubbish around bins, Plastic bag bank
- Selling of Green Spaces; more support needed from Neighbourhood Partnership.
- Dog bins on leisure land, i.e., Meadow Vale Park.