



# Neighbourhood Partnership

## **St George Neighbourhood Partnership Public Meeting**

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2008**

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## **1- Introduction.**

- 1.1 The second St George Neighbourhood Partnership open public meeting took place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2008, at the Bristol Brunel Academy, in Speedwell. As stated in the group's Terms of Reference the group is to hold three open public meetings a year.
- 1.2 The aim of the event was to identify and prioritise local residents concerns in St George.
- 1.3 The event was well attended by residents particularly by residents living in the Speedwell area. In total we had over 31 local residents attend, some of which include representatives of resident groups in their locality.
- 1.4 Local councillors and representatives from the Police and Bristol City Council were also present.
- 1.5 Fran Stewart, who is a local resident from St George East, chaired the event. She gave a brief presentation of what the Neighbourhood Partnership is about, how it works and how residents can take part.
- 1.6 At the end of the public meeting, steering group members of St George Neighbourhood Partnership stayed behind to look at emerging priorities, which would inform the Neighbourhood Partnership Action Plan.

## **2- What has been achieved so far**

- 2.1 Cllr Ron Stone who is also the chair of St George Neighbourhood Partnership and Abdulrazak Dahir Community Engagement Officer for Bristol City Council presented a full account of the partnership achievements since November 2007.
- 2.2 The partnership has made progress on all previously identified priorities, which were:
  - Extending facilities available at the Meadow Vale Community Centre
  - Involve young people in Troopers Hill
  - Develop Partnership Newsletter
  - Tackle litter and rubbish dumping in Public Rights of Way near Kensington Road
  - Reinstate street trees back in Kensington Road.
- 2.21 Meadow Vale Community Centre and the lack of community facilities in Speedwell area is one of the key priorities expressed by local residents. Currently the centre has limited facilities and is subject to vandalism from young people in the area.

Members of the Meadow Vale Community Association are barely running the centre on a shoestring and are struggling with higher fuel bills and repairs. With the help of Cllr Ron Stone the group submitted a funding application of £50,000 to the Peoples Million, which is part of the Big Lottery Fund. The out come of this application is still pending.



2.22 Friends of Troopers Hill have successfully managed to organise an innovative activity designed to engage young people into group activities. Some of these activities included a “Work-party” organised by Friends of Troopers Hill on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2008. Duke of Edinburgh candidates were invited to take a proactive part in this event by helping to build steps at Troopers Hill.



Another example is Friends of Troopers Hill assisted local children to learn about the history and wildlife of Troopers Hill, they used art performance and recycling skills to present a very successful “Trooping the Hill” event. This was funded by a grant from Awards for All, and supported by Bristol Parks’ Local Nature Reserves. Although this priority has been achieved the group is determined to continue efforts to reach out to young people in the area.

2.23 Develop Partnership newsletter: A sub group made up of steering group members has been set-up to take forward this priority. The group is considering different options to make the Partnership newsletter available before the next Neighbourhood Partnership

open public meeting scheduled for Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

2.24 Tackling litter and rubbish in Public Rights of Way in Kensington Road: An action had been taken on fly tipping. Members of Bristol City Council Street Scene came on several occasions to clear any fly tipping from the Public Rights of Way. However following clearance more rubbish was dumped at the site, it seems as though people who are causing this nuisance are not paying any attention to the calls of local residents. Kensington Road Community Association and Neighbourhood Watch group are closely monitoring activities at the site.

This action will be ongoing until the partnership finds a sustainable solution to this nuisance.

2.25 Kensington Road tree replacement project: Kensington Road Community Association and Neighbourhood Watch group have campaigned for 3 years for the cause of this project. Over the years 4 new trees were planted in Kensington Road. Since the Partnership had been involved 3 additional trees were promised to replace existing London Planes before autumn this year. 6 more trees are needed to complete the project. Due to insufficient funds to complete the whole project the partnership will carry this priority forward to the 2009/10 financial year.



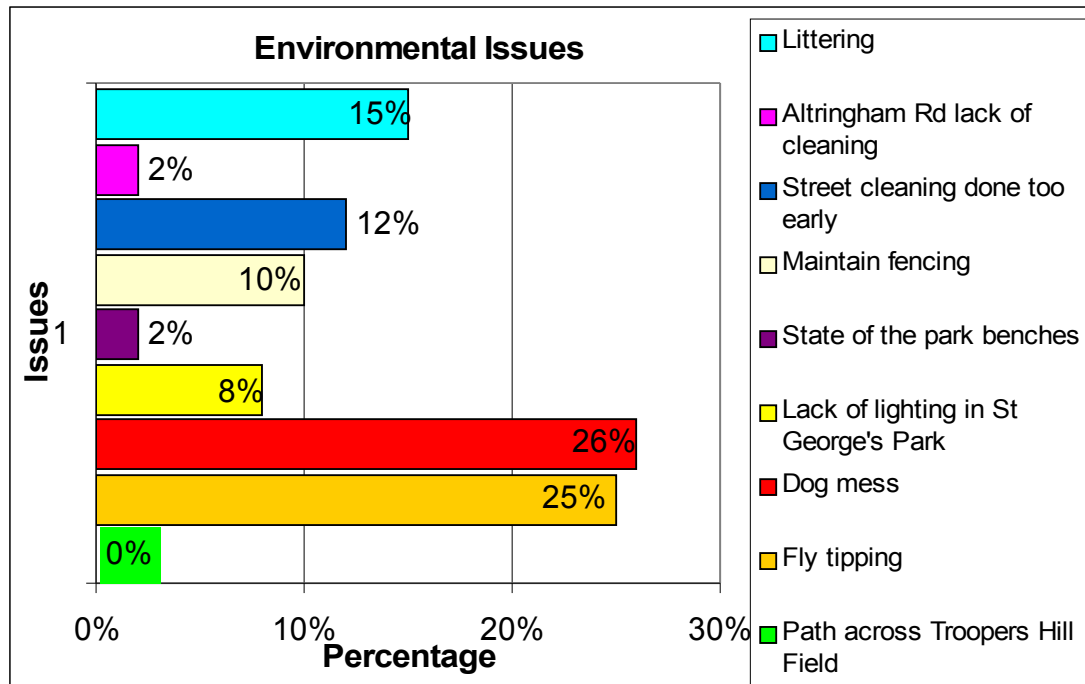
### **3- Discovering local issues & priorities**

Local residents were asked to participate in one of 5 workshops organised in the main hall. Each workshop had a facilitator and scribe. Participants discussed in detail what they considered the local issues to be. They also considered potential solutions for the identified problems. A detailed list of all the issues identified is available on request.

Carol Hayward Corporate Consultation Manager from Bristol City Council brought an interactive voting tool, which is very similar to the popular TV show Who Wants to be a Millionaire “Ask the Audience”.

Carol gave brief introduction and practice session before leading to proceed with the voting. Issues identified in the workshops were organised into 4 themes namely; Environmental, Transport, Leisure, Crime & Safety. Participants votes as follows:

**Fig 1: Environment**



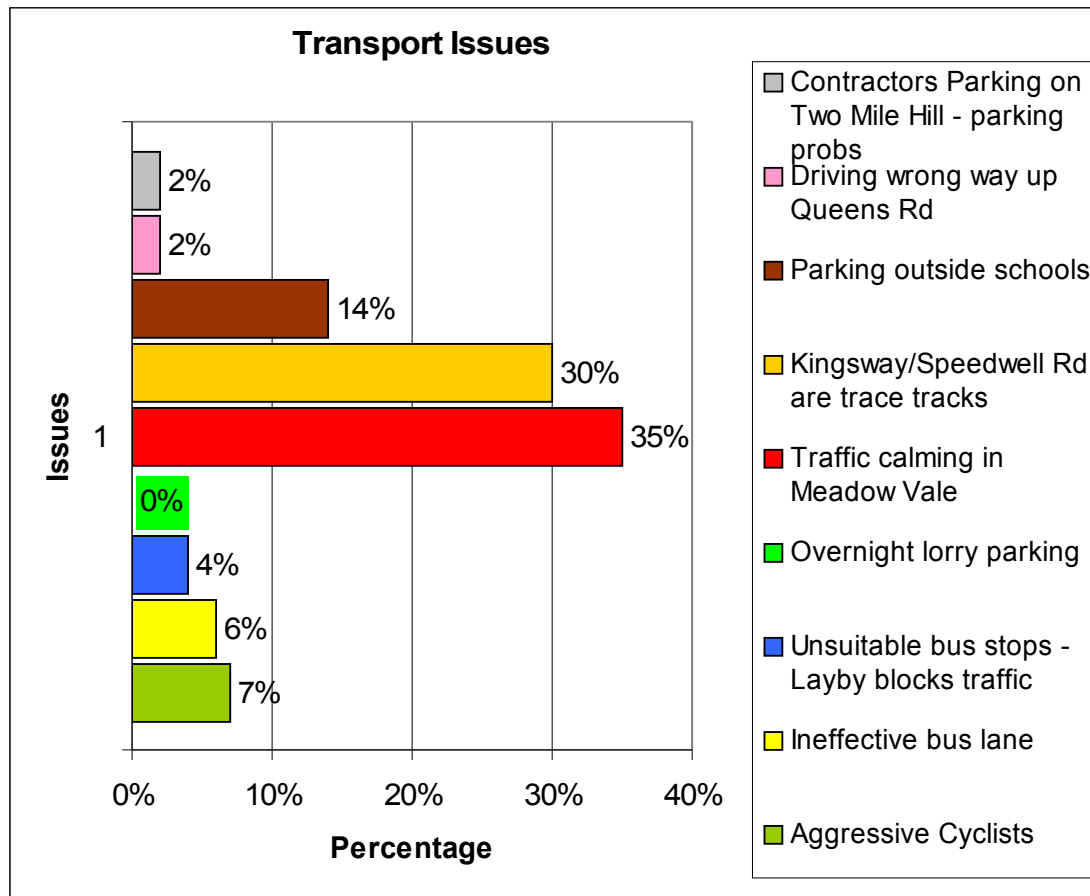
Under the environmental theme the two top priorities were “dog fouling” closely followed by “fly tipping”, with 26% and 25% respectively. Areas mentioned for fly tipping are Speedwell Road, Ventnor Rd, Cossham Rd/Church Rd end and Beaufort Rd, St Georges Park car park and Barnes St all types of rubbish reported.

Other environmental issues ranged from general littering and cleansing in the area. For example Altringham Rd was mentioned for lack of cleansing.

It was pointed out that fencing around the newly built Bristol Brunel Academy has been left incomplete and needs to be finished for health and safety reasons.

Improvements for St George Park and Meadow Vale Park were mentioned. It was suggested that “more lighting” is needed, It is unclear whether this was referring to Meadow Vale Park or St George Park or both.

**Fig 2: Transport**



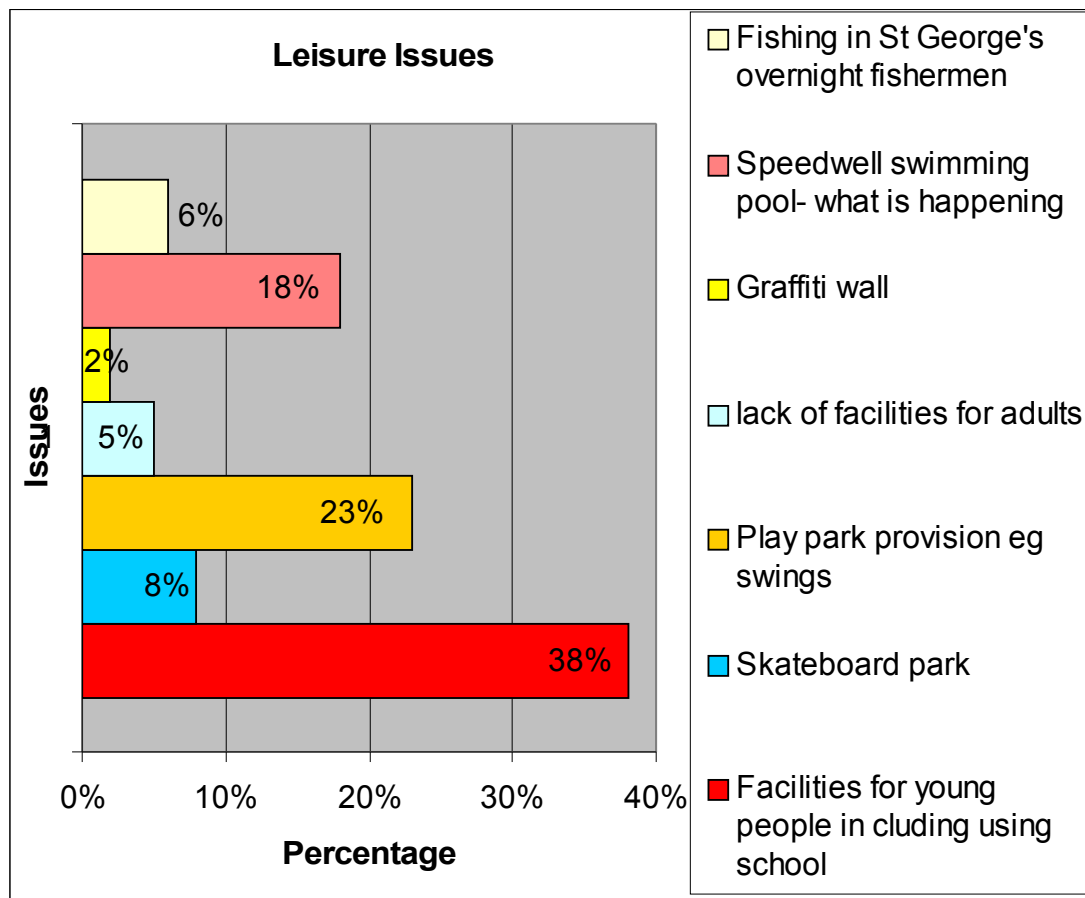
Under the Transport theme, with 35% of the votes participants prioritised traffic calming in Meadow Vale and this was followed by “Speeding in Kingsway/Speedwell Rd” with 30% of the votes. Other comments included “Kingsway and Speedwell Rd are just racetracks with motorbikes”. Cars are driving too fast and skidding near Meadow Vale shops from 6pm onwards.

Traffic issues amount to anti-social behaviour, parking problems when dropping or picking children up from Summerhill Schools were mentioned.

Traffic on bus lane Church Rd and Summerhill Rd were mentioned along with people parking along the showcase bus route during the restriction period (4.30pm to 6.30pm). It was suggested to have more parking attendants checking on the A420 bus route to deter illegal parking.

Other traffic related issues were cars going the wrong way up Queens Rd, cars speeding in Whiteway Rd, and Troopers Hill Rd.

**Fig. 3 Leisure**



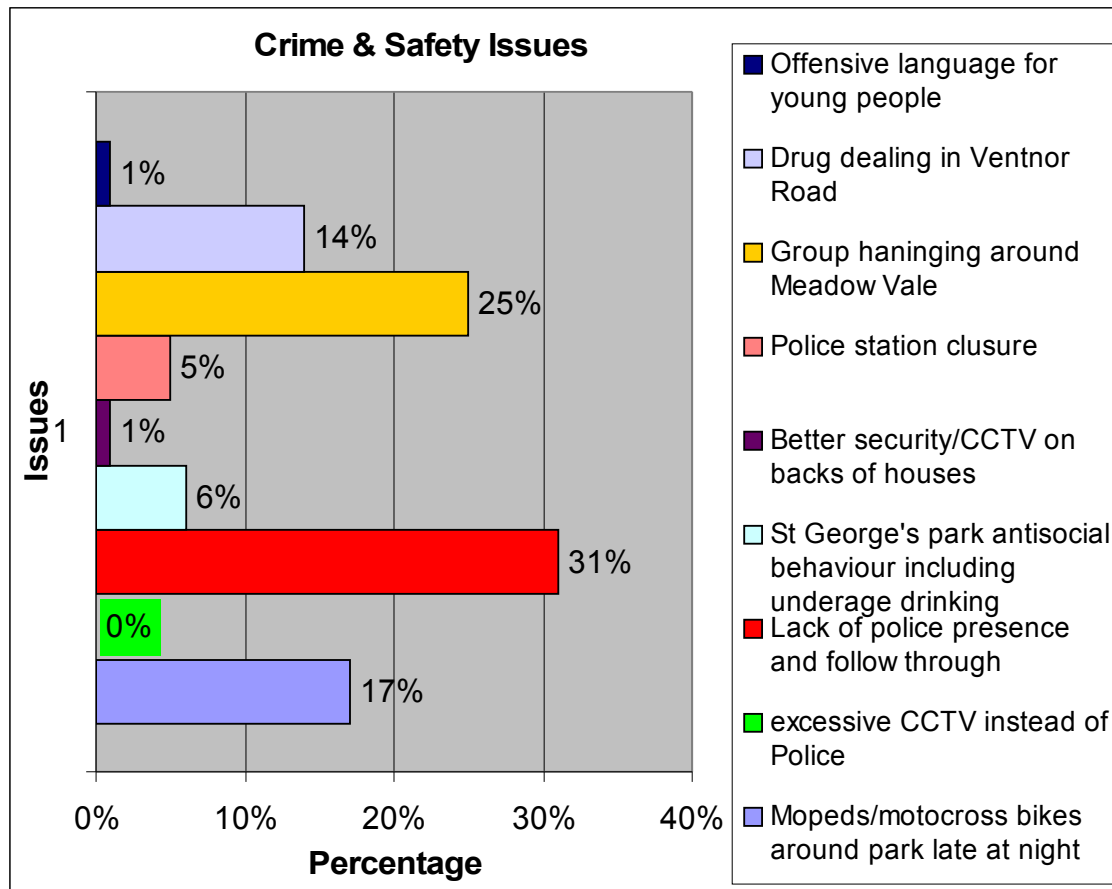
Under the Leisure theme lack of “facilities for young people” in the area was voted as the key top priority, with 38% of all the votes. This issue dominated workshop discussions. It is said that young people don’t have anything to do or anywhere to go in the area. This is seen as one of the key factors contributing to the high level of anti-social behaviour caused by young people in the area. Teenagers gather around in St George’s Park and there is nothing for them to do was also mentioned.

The above priority was followed by to improve “play park provision” in Meadow Vale Park. There was a general consensus that there is a lack of leisure facilities for all sectors of the community.

There was a genuine concern expressed by local residents about what was happening to the closed-down Speedwell Swimming pool.

Some of the suggestions residents made to tackle the high level of anti-social behaviour include; create a designated area for off road bikes and skateboards; create a playground for younger children in Meadow Vale, create more youth activities; make a connection to access the newly built facilities in Bristol Brunel Academy a reference was made to trampolining.

**Fig 4 Crime & Safety**



With 64%, Crime & Safety theme was voted as the most important theme. Under this theme with 31% of the votes “Lack of police presence and follow through” was voted as the top particular issue. Concerns were expressed that there was lack of police response to serious anti-social behaviour. Other comments made by the participant suggested residents were not reporting crime because they felt it would not make any difference.

There is high level of fear of crime in the area and residents associated “group of young people hanging about in Meadow Vale” as a key problem. Other problems highlighted under this theme include: “Late night motorbike activities disturbing residents, a group of young people hanging around Meadow Vale and St Helen’s Walk aged between 14 to 20 years of age wearing hoodies, there is noise from 10pm onwards weekdays and weekends. Residents reported that there is underage drinking, drug dealing and substance misuse in Ventnor Rd.

**4- What next?**

A closed panel meeting followed the open public meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to devise an Action Plan that would respond to what people have prioritised. Key agencies who were present at the meeting took part in this meeting along with St George Neighbourhood Partnership steering group members including local councillors and residents.

The steering group is responsible for monitoring the Action Plan and would negotiate on behalf of local residents with key agencies as to how they would respond to identified priorities.

The next Open Public meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008**, at Bristol Brunel Academy. It is hoped that agencies would feedback to local residents any progress on the top five identified priorities, which formed the Action Plan.