

Minutes of NRRF

At the Greenway Centre, Southmead

Date: 4th September 2007

Attending:

Name

Ann Hawker	Lawrence Weston
Kathleen Horseman	Southmead
Esther Orchard	Southmead
Phil Morris	Barton Hill
Yasmin Raqfique	Easton
Matthew Symonds	Voscur
Emma Rice (Note-taker)	Voscur

			Action
1.	<p>Updates</p> <p>(a) Ann – all has been quiet in Lawrence Weston</p> <p>(b) Esther / Kathleen – Kathleen has noticed over the summer particularly how much Southmead has changed. Although NR has made the area cleaner and tidier the sense of community is not the same and people do not seem to mix as well. She had thought that NR would unite people but it seems as though it has focused on specific problems and people are as far apart as ever! NR has not worked in a cohesive way.</p> <p>(c) Phil- the sports pavilion has opened on the Netham. The mini-recycling centres outside the flats are now fully operational. There seems to have been problems created by the introduction of all 8 bins at the same time. It might have been better to introduce them gradually e.g. glass bin, followed by the plastic bin.... rather than all in one go which has been confusing and difficult for some residents to grasp.</p>		
2.	<p>Neighbourhood Governance Questionnaire</p> <p>(a) Feedback from the NRRF was taken to the Neighbourhood Management workshop that was attended by MS, LB, KG, PM, JW and RM</p> <p>(b) The council are introducing Neighbourhood Partnerships that will cover all areas (not just NR areas) and will be a chance for residents to influence decisions made in and about their area.</p> <p>(c) Feedback from the July NRRF has also been forwarded to the Bristol Partnership (BP) team so that they can influence the discussions at the next BP meeting in September.</p> <p>(d) The next BP meeting is on 25th September at the Council House from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm (food will be served from 1.00 pm)</p> <p>(e) KH, AH and EO would like to attend the BP, MS will arrange transport.</p> <p>(f) A questionnaire has been prepared to capture any thoughts attendees may have in advance to the meeting and was handed out to this group</p> <p>(g) Voscur are organising area meetings during the next year (MS to circulate dates and venues). The meeting will include an update about Neighbourhood Partnerships.</p> <p>(h) MS is also writing a guide to how decisions are made in Bristol and this will</p>		MS

include a section about the Neighbourhood Partnerships. When the guide is complete MS will make sure all NRRF members get a copy.

3. Publicising the NRRF

- (a) Flyers have been sent out to group members as well as NR facilitators and managers and community newsletters
- (b) MS is still trying to recruit new members for all areas. If anyone knows someone who might be interested please let Matthew know.

4. Next Steps Workshop

- (a) MS talked about holding an additional NRRF meeting to discuss the next steps and where the NRRF will go after March. It was agreed this would be a good idea. MS to draft an outline for the meeting to be agreed at the next meeting.
- (b) PM suggested that the meeting be held in Barton Hill, and NRRF residents could also have a tour to see the new developments in this area.
- (c) It was agreed that the additional meeting would take place on Friday 16 November, 12 – 4pm. Details will be confirmed at the next meeting and transport arranged.
- (d)

5. RG Brief

- (a) **The Withywood Centre** – the Centre asked for Reallocation money and got it. Other centres have questioned this decision this has raised 2 questions: (i) Who made the final decision about the Withywood Centre getting the money? (ii) What process was used to decide the Centre should receive it?
- (b) **Presentation from Crime Group** – information on the alcohol free pub has it been sent?
- (c) **State of the Neighbourhood Survey** – the accuracy of the data has been questioned. Comments have been made about projects failing but there had been no evidence to support these claims. Will the corrected version be available at this meeting?
- (d) **After NR funding ends** which projects will be able to continue?
- (e) **Objective 2 Under-spend** - £26,000 will be clawed back!

6. Regeneration Framework

- (a) **Paul Drew / Imogene McClain** arrived to answer questions on the re-drafted framework
- (b) No major changes have been made to the Framework since the first draft , although work has been done updating facts and figures.
- (c) PD gave an outline of the Framework- the idea behind it was to form a strategy that improves the way the Council target and plan how they focus on regeneration.
- (d) It is about creating opportunities to link the greatest needs with the greatest opportunity.
- (e) The Council is looking at things on a bigger scale to get the best benefits
- (f) It has also been considered, how can the council and its partners influence regeneration in the City and Bristol influence in the wider Region?
- (g) Because the Council have only ever had funding for small pieces of work at different times, it has been impossible to join up work. This has meant that they have been unable to transform the neighbourhoods or to narrow the

- gap, as they would have liked.
- (h) By doing regeneration in a different way is it possible to speed up and sustain regeneration?
 - (i) Feedback from the original Framework has been that it should only focus on economic development in deprived areas. But the Council feel it is necessary to include a citywide picture, as this is essential to planning and development.
 - (j) This Framework will act as an umbrella for other plans and will set the scene by stating what is important to taking regeneration forward through the next 5-10 years.
 - (k) The Framework is not yet complete as it needs to be agreed who is leading on these things and how they do it.

Changes after the Feedback

- (l) Framework is now easier to navigate
- (m) There is a glossary of jargon included
- (n) A section on what has and hasn't worked has been included
- (o) Implementation section- what the Council will do
- (p) Context and policy update according to Central Government
- (q) The statistical content has been trimmed down

The final report will be posted electronically, to make it easier to update. The Regeneration Group will be able to monitor progress against the targets included.

Questions invited:

PM – What is the purpose of the Framework?

PD – Previously, there has not been a document on why regeneration is important. The Framework is important to create a shared vision and to set out aims. Documents such as this are also good for attracting investment into the City, as most funders like to have a strategy to investigate. The Framework provides one place to set out the important targets, aims and problems faced.

PM – Why should anyone have confidence in the Framework?

KH – NR started by stating that nobody should be disadvantaged because of where they live, but things have moved on from this original vision. Long term planning is vital. The Framework states that there needs to be a mechanism whereby residents can hold the council accountable, this needs to be strengthened to ensure residents have this procedure in place. Residents have no confidence in statistical data given to them by the Council but without accurate statistical data, how can we plan?

Residents need to have their opinions respected and the correct forum to give these views. Something should be included in the Framework about the process of the Council listening to residents, as it is good to have processes incorporated into documents like this.

PD – Neighbourhood Partnerships are part of a balanced sustainable community and a big part of how communities like these are created. Important decisions about regeneration cannot be made without the involvement of residents.

PM- When will the Framework be finalised?

PD – We are hoping very quickly after it has been looked at by the Regeneration Group. It needs to be formally signed off by the Cabinet and then will become a

working document.

PM- Why is there is no reference to transport in the Framework?

PD- References were made but were removed from the Framework after feedback, that this was an over-arching document and should be general rather than identify each problem. It was felt that specifically highlighting the transport problem was not necessary, as this Framework is about how regeneration as a whole is moved forward. A balanced and sustained communities framework is very important to the delivery framework. It is about ensuring there are opportunities in place and transport is a way to ensure these opportunities as well as training opportunities, etc.

KH – Bristol to the outside world, is considered a very rich City. All the issues that need to be addressed will require money to fund solutions. Where will this money come from? Are we selling ourselves as a City both nationally and in Europe?

PD- Bristol does struggle to convince, even regionally, other places that we do face issues. Although we have an outward appearance of being rich, beneath the surface Bristol does face challenges and we need to convince Europe (For European Social Fund Money) that Bristol does need to be prioritised.

We are not just looking at the traditional means of gaining funding such as grants from Central Government, but also at new ways to fund regeneration. One of the ways considered has been the forming of partnerships with the private sector and businesses. A lot of businesses were very interested in working in partnership over the recent Broadmead re-development, but it may be harder to convince businesses into partnership over more inner city areas. There is a lot of money out there that the Council is trying to tap into! We need to think on a bigger scale and are already investigating the potential of private / public partnership. We also need to think creatively about what we do with our land assets.

The Symes Avenue / Morrisons re-development was funded through private money.

It is not just about working with the private sector because they have capital; it is also about working with them on the Council's terms. For example setting conditions that the re-development of areas must include employing a local workforce.

Public Service Agreements should have neighbourhood targets that are set nationally; so local interests do not get lost in the bid to hit national targets.

AH- Regeneration is not (in the past) about helping communities! When local focal points get closed down communities are lost.

PD – There has been a lack of joined up working previously, it is hoped this Framework will help to start this form of working.

EO – Nobody understands what is meant by the word 'regeneration' everyone is just doing their own thing!

PD – This is what we hope the Framework will stop and to achieve a sense of joined up working.

MS- When do you expect the Framework to be completed?

PD – It is important to get it completed as quickly as possible, but obviously this depends on the length of the consultation process, this is to be agreed on Thursday at the Regeneration Group.

7.

AOB

(a) PM, YR, AH and KG will attend the RG Meeting on Thursday

NRLP Learning Workshops

- (b) ER will check with HP if Henry (Kathleen's husband) can attend the trip to Cardiff as Kathleen's carer
- (c) AH, KH (and HH), EO wish to attend the Cardiff Trip
- (d) AH, KH and EO – Basic computer skills
- (e) AH, EO – What's happening in Bristol
- (f) EO and KH- Public Speaking
- (g) Who are the Council Anyway? – AH, EO