

Voscur Area meeting in Bristol South
@Symes Community Building, Symes Avenue, Hartcliffe
Bristol BS13 0BE

Report of the meeting

Attendees

Becky Johnson (BJ)	Grounds4Change
Lerraine Smith (LS)	Grounds4Change
Simon Bale (SB)	CCISR
Sue Walker (SW)	Hartcliffe Health and Environmental Action Group (HHEAG)
David Waters (DW)	Brislington Community Partnership
Teresa Driscoll (TD)	Brislington Community Partnership
Sabrina Lee (SL)	Voscur, Funding Advisor
Matthew Symonds (MS)	Voscur, Participation Manager
Polly Stewart (PS)	Voscur (minutes)

Introduction

MS welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that Voscur Area meetings are open to all Voscur members, and give information about relevant current issues through a range of speakers. They also offer an opportunity for members to network.

Agenda

- 1. Smoke Free Homes Campaign**
- 2. New Funding Opportunities to help you go Green**
- 3. Redundancy Advice Reminder**
- 4. Local roundup**

1. Smoke Free Homes Campaign

Wendy Parker (Bristol PCT Senior Health Promotion Specialist)

Wendy Parker (WP) outlined the current campaign to promote smoke free homes.

Three key messages were highlighted:

1. Second hand smoke kills
2. Smoke free homes protect people
3. Go outside to smoke

12 March is national no-smoking day and they hoped to tie the campaign into the publicity for this day. WP emphasised that even if people felt unable to give up smoking, then at least they might sign up for smoke free homes, once they

realised the damage caused by second hand smoke to other people within their home.

Second hand smoke contains the same number of toxins as smoke directly from a cigarette, and is dangerous to both children and pets, who have no choice about the smokey atmosphere. 17,000 children under five were hospitalised last year as a result of breathing in second hand smoke. Pets were also vulnerable to the impact of the smoke.

WP advised that if possible, people should go outside to smoke, as standing by an open window did not resolve the issue. In flats, she advised that one room might be used for smoking, and the windows opened to help remove the smoke. Clearly there was a need to ensure that children were not left unsupervised.

In response to a question, WP confirmed that smoking in cars was not illegal, but it is illegal to smoke in any vehicle used by the general public.

The question was also raised about whether more people were smoking at home now that they were unable to smoke in public. WP thought it was too early for research in the UK, but that studies in Scotland and Northern Ireland, where the bans had come in earlier, did not show this to be the case. It could be that people had taken up the opportunity to give up smoking entirely.

Smoke Free Homes literature handed out at the network meeting will be available from http://www.voscur.org/networks/area_networks

2. New Funding Opportunities to help you go Green

Sabrina Lee, Voscur Funding Adviser

Sabrina Lee (SL) presented information about new funding opportunities from the following trusts:

1. Conservation:
 - Esmee Fairbairn Foundation
 - Landfill Communities Fund
 - The B&Q Awards
2. Energy Efficiency:
 - Community Sustainable Energy Grant (UK)
 - EAGA Partnership Charitable Trust Grant Programme (UK)
 - Pilkington Energy Efficiency Trust (UK)
 - Grants for Green Power Generation (UK)
3. Natural Environment:
 - Woodland Trust – Community Tree Planting Fund (UK)
 - Bristol Council Clean and Green Campaign
 - It's your Community (Conservation Foundation and 02)

For full details of what each fund offers and for contact details visit http://www.voscur.org/networks/area_networks/ or email: sabrina@voscur.org and ask for a copy of this information sheet.

SL promoted the Funding updates page on the Voscur website: www.Voscur.org.uk/funding and advised people to check this page regularly for details of new funding opportunities.

A question was asked about the foodlinks bid, and SL explained that Claire Milne was working on this bid with the City Council. Contact: claire.milne@bristol.gov.uk

David Waters from Brislington Community Partnership asked whether any money was available for on-going youth work, since the funding for their project was due to end in May/June this year. SL assured him that several funds provided on-going funding and invited him to take part in a Funder Finder session in the Voscur office.

Lerraine Smith from Grounds4Change noted that the Youth Offending Service of the City Council had been given some funds to use for groups. SL would investigate this further and promote any results of the Voscur website.

3. Redundancy Advice Reminder

Matthew Symonds, Voscur

Matthew Symonds (MS) distributed several handouts. Most of the participants had attended Voscur's information session on how to deal with redundancy, and had found it to be very helpful.

4. Local Round Up

A. Plans for Hengrove Park

MS had displayed plans and pictures of the new Hengrove Park scheme and explained that the deadline for a response to the planning application was 12 noon on 10 March 08.

B. Relaunch of the Bristol Compact

17 Mar 2008, 12.30 – 3pm at the Council House. Consultation has recently ended on the “refresh” of the Bristol Compact. The Compact will be re-launched at this conference. For more details visit <http://www.voscur.org/node/2766>

C. Sue Walker (HHEAG)

SW noted a worrying trend towards funding being removed from the provision of child care. small, long-established play work projects, such as their own after schools clubs and holiday clubs had lost funding. Their after school provision and holiday clubs were award winning, and yet they were losing funding.

SW asked whether this was something that other groups had noticed and wonder if Voscur might take up this issue?

Those present from Brislington Community Partnership agreed that they had also experienced difficulties in finding funding for small, childcare groups in the community.

MS agreed to discuss this with the Voscur Children and Young People's Worker, Cheryl Wycherly.

D. Becky Johnson from Grounds4Change

BJ was pleased to announce that the City Council had been instructed to find funding to keep Grounds4Change running in some shape or form. How it would work was unclear as yet.

E. Sue Walker – Postcards from the Edge

Sue explained their recent campaign for funding, which had involved sending out postcards, featuring pictures of all areas of HHEAG's work (children/ walking/ healthy food etc.) to people who they felt could influence their campaign to prevent funding cuts.

F. Simon Bale

- (i) SB announced that the Bristol Partnership was inviting views on its alcohol harm reduction strategy. There is a link to this from the Bristol Partnership website: www.bristolpartnership.org also on www.askbristol.com
They want to hear people's thoughts on cheap booze, licencing laws etc.
- (ii) The last Bristol Partnership meeting focussed on faith and community cohesion. The Faith Forum will be taking this forward and continuing this work to explore how they can help to promote cohesion.

There being no further business, MS thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.