

**Neighbourhood Partnership Residents' Forum
Thursday 26 February, 2 - 4.30pm**

Attending: Neighbourhood Partnership area	Name
Ashley, Easton and Lawrence Hill (Inner City)	Kwame Bennin (KB), Stacy Yelland (SY)
Avonmouth and Kingsweston (A&K)	Ann Hawker (AH)
Brislington Community Partnership (BCP)	Steve Pearce (SP), Simon Bale (SB)
Greater Bedminster Community Partnership (GBCP)	Ben Barker (BB), Diane Jones (DJ), Celia Weightman (CW)
Horfield and Lockleaze (H&L)	Virginia Rowan (VR), Kay Armstrong (KA), Tony Lewis (TL), Trevor Weeks (TW)
Stockwood and Hengrove (S&H)	Gavin White (GW)
Voscur	Matthew Symonds (MS),
Bristol City Council	Sarah Cox (SC)

Appologies: Neighbourhood Partnership area	Name
Bishopsworth, Hartcliffe and Whitchurch Park (B, H & WP)	None
Bishopston, Cotham and Redland (B, C & R)	None
Cabot, Clifton and Clifton East (C, C & CE)	None
Eastville, Frome Vale and Hillfields (E, FV & H)	None
Filwood, Knowle and Windmill Hill (F, K & WH)	None
St George East and West (St G)	John Hooper
Henbury and Southmead (Hy & Sd)	Esther Orchard, Kathleen Horseman
Henleaze, Stoke Bishop and Westbury on Trym (H, SB & WOT)	Audrey Lennox
Bristol City Council	Andrew McGrath (AM)

Updates from Neighbourhood Partnerships

MS asked clarification on whether the NPs represented at the meeting had established a NP steering group (or working group) in their area, if residents were included on the steering group and if the NP had held any public events yet.

NP area	Steering group (SG)	Residents on SG?	Launch event held	Held public events
Inner City	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not yet
A & K	Yes	?	Yes	?
BCP	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GBCP	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
H&L	No	No	Yes	?
H&S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Planned

Update on NPs not represented at the meeting

NP area	Steering group (SG)	Residents on SG?	Launch event held	Held public events
Hy & Sd	No	No	Yes	No
B, H & WP			Yes	Yes
B, C & R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
C, C & CE	In progress	Yes	Yes	
E, FV & H	No	No	Yes	Yes
St G	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
H, SB & WOT	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F, K & WH	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

KA said that there were still problems with the NP in Horfield and Lockleaze. The four councillors have been rotating the chair but normally only 2 out of the 4 turn up at any of the meetings and so there has been a lack of consistency. The councillors don't seem keen to establish a proper steering group but others feel it is necessary to move the NP forward.

Brislington has a similar make up of councillors (each party represented) and has a good working relationship with all of them. The councillors attend meetings regularly but don't hold any officer posts. It was suggested that they might be approached to see if they might approach their colleagues in H&L to offer advice. AH also invited H&L reps to see how the NP is working in A&K.

BB suggested that this problem could be passed to the Thriving Neighbourhoods Board (TNB) to ask them to iron out the problem in H&L. BB to discuss with members of the TNB.

CW said that the F, K & WH NP has a very active steering group that she has attended in her role with Avon Fire and Rescue. CW said she would encourage them to come along to the NPRF

Thriving Neighbourhoods Board Update

Ben Barker (chair of the thriving Neighbourhoods Board TNB) said that the board had met for the first time formally on Monday 23 February. Two of the three places for people from NP have been filled by Liz Venn (Brislington) and Grenville Johnson (St George). BB is in the process of identifying who will fill the third NP.

The TNB brief is wide – looking at the social, economic and environmental health of every neighbourhood in Bristol. The first meeting tried to pick out the things where the board could really make a difference. Two issues were identified both focussed on NPs.

1. Get the NPs working, what things are needed to ensure this happens.
2. Engaging local people, what does this mean in practice? How can NPs be more representative?

NP Budget Update

Andrew McGrath sent apologies as his son is unwell. MS had received the following clarification on NP budgets for 2009/10.

- The procedure for NP budgets in 2009/10 will be very much as it has been in 2008. NP budgets will increase to £10,000 per ward in 2009/10.
- The 10k can be used for community events, projects, training etc. The ward councillors will need to sign off the expenditure, not necessarily all of the councillors, but there must be some kind of written verification, such as an e-mail, minutes etc, confirming at least some of the councillors are on board.

- Meeting expenses, room hire, refreshments etc, will be met from Andrews McGrath's budget and will not be paid for out of the 10k.
- Andrew McGrath (AM) will, in effect, still hold the funds and will release these on the request of link officer/councillor.

Those present identified the following questions that still needed answering:

- Do transport costs fall under meeting costs?
- How much has been spent per NP in 2008/09?
- Will the NP budget not spent by NPs in 2008/09 be carried over to 2009/10?
- Can NP be held by another organisation in the NP area (e.g. ring fenced in another VCS organisations bank account)?
- Why are some NP being asked to submit invoices to claim their budget after they have spent the money while others have been given their budgets in advance?
- Will all NPs be given their budgets to manage and then asked to provide invoices to BCC?
- How will NP budgets be audited?

MS will forward these to AM for clarification and invite him to the next NPRF meeting.

Briefing on Sustainable Communities Act (SCA)

Sarah Cox (SC) explained the Sustainable Communities Act and how the council will be proceeding. A short briefing paper was distributed (see attached). The council is now seeking suggestions from groups or individuals that must aim to improve the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of an area or areas in Bristol, making it more sustainable. The full list of sustainability criteria that has been identified by parliament are outlined in the briefing paper.

Suggestions can be made now until Friday 1 May, 2009. Suggestions can be made online or a paper copy of the form can be requested from Graham Starmer on (0117) 922 4917 or email graham.starmer@bristol.gov.uk

Bristol City Council has to convene a SCA panel that is representative of Bristol's population. The panel will consider the proposals put forward and identify a shortlist of ideas that will be put forward to a councillor panel (Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee), the council cabinet and finally the Local Government Association (LGA) who will make final recommendations to the Secretary of State. The briefing paper outlined how ideas put forward will be considered.

SC said that the council are currently thinking that the panel could have representatives from each NP, one councillor from each party on the council and a representative from each equality forum. SC asked the NPRF for their views on who should be on the SCA panel.

The group felt that it would be difficult to make the panel represent the city if it is restricted to a small number. The NPRF suggested that the panel could include representatives from the NP. The panel could be formed from the citizen's panel which is already made up from a cross section of the city's population. There were suggestions that the assessment of the SCA short listing process would be best coordinated by an independent group or organisation rather than the council.

More information is available on the council website at www.bristol.gov.uk/sca

Any other business

A meeting has been arranged for Thursday 5 March, 3.30- 5pm to look at the NP website and e-forum issues discussed at the last NPRF. KA, TW, SY, BB, VR and GW expressed an interest in attending. MS to confirm and forward details of the meeting to those interested.

Neighbourhood Partnership E-Forum

Ben asked for details of the e-forum to be sent out to people. MS said that the e-forum is live and that he will email NPRF and invite everyone to join.

<http://lists.voscur.org/forums/>

Visit the website above, register. Once you're registered you can log on at anytime to post a comment. The post you make will go to everyone who has signed up to the e-forum. They can then post a reply. The Neighbourhood Partnership discussion forum is under 'Networks'

Agenda Items for the next NPRF meeting.

The following items were suggested for the next meeting.

Invite new Cabinet lead for NP to speak with the group.
Invite AM to reply to questions on NP budgets
NHS Bristol on how they will work with NPs

Dates for future meetings

The dates for NPRF meetings for the 12 months will be:

- Tuesday 19 May, 2 - 4pm, The Council House (TBC)
- Thursday 16 July, 6-8pm, Venue to be confirmed
- Saturday 19 September, 10am - 12.30pm, Venue to be confirmed
- Tuesday 24 November, 2 - 4pm, Venue to be confirmed
- Thursday 28 January, 2010, 6-8pm, The Council House (TBC)
- Saturday 27 March, 2010, 10 - 12.30pm, Venue to be confirmed

Date of Next Meeting

The next NPRF meeting will take place on Saturday 28 March, 10 - 1pm at the Witherwood Centre, Queens Road, Witherwood, Bristol, BS13 8QA

Since the last Neighbourhood Partnership Residents Forum meeting Councilor Bev Knot has been confirmed as the Executive Member for