

MINUTES.
Lockleaze and Horfield
Neighbourhood Partnership.
12th June 2008.
Fairfield High School.

Present: Emma Bagley (Chair-Councillor), Rosalie Walker (Councillor), Abdulrazak Dahir (BCC-Community Development Worker), Maria Damsel (CDW-Upper Horfield Community Trust), Scott Jacobs-Lang (CDW-Bristol Community Housing Foundation), Charleen Richardson (Snr Youth & Community Worker), Emma Parker (Young Bristol), Kay Armstrong (Sec'-Manor Farm Action Group), Tony Lewis (Chair-Manor Farm Action Group), Cheryl Ann (Resident), Brian McCutcheon (Avon Fire & Rescue Service), Virginia Rowan, Daniel Offord(BCC-Sustainable Communities), Will Greilish(Bristol Community Housing Foundation), Trudy Feeney(BCC-Waste Services), Rachael Cobb(Housing Manager-Bristol Community Housing Foundation), Matthew Symonds(VOSCUR), Cllr Sean Emmett.

Apologies: Jo Langley (Chair-Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust), Stuart Patterson (Anti-social Behaviour Manager), Cheryl Cole (Community Safety Officer), Trevor Haldaine (Resident), Sergeant Beatrice Hayes.

1. Welcome and introduction.

Those present introduced themselves.

Cllr Emmett joined the meeting.

2. Structures.

AD feels it important a structure is agreed to enable NP to go forward. He had prepared a paper prior to meeting which those present had access to.

One model to consider is that of Greater Bedminster Community Partnership.

Various members of group had looked at this and felt; Management committee to run NP. Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary and Treasurer required.

Some question as to whether NR steering group remit could be extended to take in NP. NP should not duplicate work already being undertaken by pre-existing groups. There are a number of such groups working in area. Can they all be brought together under NP umbrella?

Local groups should be given flexibility to work independently, but with lead and expertise that could be offered by NP. Possibly NP could have "reps" covering issues relating to young people, the elderly etc. The pre-existing groups working in area could then feed into NP, using the appropriate rep, without the necessity of actually attending meetings. NP, through the steering group/management committee could action issues as appropriate with its access to BCC officers/councillors and other service providers.

It is also important to reach out to residents who are not, either aware of, or engaged with, such groups. Promoting and communicating work of NP is, therefore, very important. Possibly via local newsletter?

DO queried purpose of group, what are its aims and objectives? SJ-L had mentioned during discussion “knocking heads together”, how can NP really work for residents?

AD believes NPs are about local democracy. Opportunity to scrutinise, and bring about improvements, in provision of services locally. Giving residents a real opportunity to influence service provision in their area. It gives residents access, at a strategic level, to service providers.

Could be useful to get details of service level provision in area, if this were possible. This would enable group to identify problems.

EB felt purpose of NP was to deal with large, multi-agency issues, at a strategic level.

VR feels it essential however that issues of importance to residents are also considered. For example there is a problem with road noise on Sheldon Road. This could, probably, be rectified by resurfacing road. AD agreed this was the type of local issue which NP could tackle.

EB asked if group felt there were other organisations who should be represented at these meetings. The police were mentioned and it was pointed out they had attended a previous meeting.

AD had received apologies from Sergeant Beatrice Hayes.

There are certain groups who should be contacted to ensure they are aware of NP. Somali, Bangladeshi, faith, VCSE etc.

MS advised VOSCUR had put together database of various groups, which might prove useful.

It might not be necessary for all these organisations to actually form part of the core group. It is important, however, that all relevant organisations are kept in the loop in some way.

This core group could include the four rotating councillors. Police, fire service, neighbourhood trusts, Community Cohesion Action Group, Lockleaze Voice. Any properly constituted local organisation could be considered, as long as it represented residents in some way.

To begin the NP process it was decided the core group should include the four councillors, police and fire services, BCHF, neighbourhoods trusts, Manor Farm, Lockleaze Voice, Horfield Action Group, BS7YPP, TMO, Safer Bristol.

It is also important reps from service providers can deal at a strategic level and can make decisions without having to refer back to their organisation.

There does not seem to be any Lockleaze & Horfield Community Cohesion Group, except what remains from old Northern Arc NR area. Perhaps this needs looking at.

There was a general discussion around the level of resident participation and it was felt the involvement of the neighbourhood trusts would address this.

MS mentioned VOSCUR has a course with the Learning and Skills Council for people who wish to engage within the community. The course gives training on such things as; confidence, meetings, etc. MS handed out a few leaflets on course and suggested anyone who might be interested could be steered towards VOSCUR. This follows on from NR learning fund and the shadowing study is part of the same initiative.

AD agrees residents will be represented through various groups and can, of course, interact through events such as street parties etc.

It was originally agreed meetings of core group should be held bi-monthly, but group thought every 4/6 weeks might be better. Sub-group and special meetings could be called as and when required. There is also a commitment to an annual community conference, as a minimum. Possibly hold this Nov/Jan.

Resurrect Lockleaze Festival as a large event on Horfield Common, with participation of Horfield and Manor Farm residents?

There was also a suggestion a website be developed with "blog" facility. This could include survey, which might assist with identification of gaps in service provision. Residents could help prepare survey by putting forward questions, which might be asked.

RW advised the recent Horfield Festival had been a great success. This type of event would be a very good vehicle for promoting NP. MD and her team were congratulated for the way the event had been organised.

Next meeting will be held in Horfield and It space, surveys, consultation and bringing the wider message, should be agenda items. Some groups within area have already carried out consultation exercises, it might be an idea to contact them to ascertain the priorities they had identified.

BM feels consultation must be embedded as integral part of NP structure.

EB appreciates there were priorities identified at previous meeting and these will not be ignored.

Try to hold meetings on different days to give everyone best opportunity to attend. Evening meetings seem preferable.

Next meeting will, therefore, be held on Wednesday 30th July at 7:00pm. Venue TBC, but somewhere in Horfield.

3. Action-planning; Identified priorities.

Focusing on young people. What are the opportunities? What are the facilities and services? What are the gaps in provision?

CA explained present youth group in Manor Farm is extremely good. Original core group handpicked; had either physical or emotional difficulties. They have become very engaged with local issues, many of which would not be seen as youth related.

Funding came out of another piece of work in Manor Farm, which allowed for the use of a room for two hours. This funding stream is no longer available and group have ceased to meet.

CR advised funding and resourcing always an issue. Currently there is a job club in Lockleaze, and a detached session, which focuses on an area which has problems with anti-social behaviour. There is also a counselling service for people between 11-25 years of age, which runs out of the Blake Centre.

In Horfield there is a detached session, again focusing on areas where there is anti-social behaviour. There is a youth project running out of Eden Grove and a job club.

There is also some work being instigated around the skate park at Manor Farm.

There is a sexual health clinic at Monks Park School.

A young women's group will start in July and it is hoped a daytime advice, information and guidance service for young people will also begin.

Attempting to set up youth forum, based in Horfield.

BM suggests that for the next meeting, group outline what support is required, what are the financial implications and what facilities are available and how they are/can be used. For her part RW will look into possibility of utilising leisure centre more fully.

There are undoubtedly problems in certain areas and it is important to engage with young people. Whilst the police are active there must also be the "carrot" and better facilities are required. There are many sites which are there to be developed and the facilities already there in schools etc are underused and in some cases need improvement.

VR attended meeting at BDA relating to Moslems and Jews. There she met the organiser of the Moslem Scouts. They take both boys and girls from 6 to 25 years of age.

VR also met, at the same meeting, workers from Radio Salaam, Shalom, who are looking for people to work at the station. This is not exclusively for Moslems or Jews and would be a very good group to engage with.

MD asked whether BCC has a lead officer for "My Place", which is a good opportunity to access funding. Neighbourhoods should also be formulating an idea of what they want their communities to provide for young people over the next 10 years. This kind of work is already being undertaken by BS7YPP and can be rolled out across whole area. Good communication between BCC and local communities essential.

My Place bid will be in by end of August, beginning of September and group will be kept informed of developments.

WG believes violence a real problem. A high percentage of people in Ashfield Young Offenders Institute are from Lockleaze and Horfield area. This is definitely an issue which needs serious attention.

Also enquiry about how £10,000 funding is to be used.

RW suggests Cllr Terry Cook would be good contact at present as he is the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods. MS advised Cllr Cook is to attend upcoming VOSCUR assembly on 26th June.

MS spoke about Extended School Partnership Agenda. This relates both to "in" and "after" school activities, both for young people and the wider community. What work has been done in NP area through this partnership? In other districts children have been asked what they want in schools and it has been established what the actual provision is.

SE suggested Governors from local schools be invited to a meeting of group to discuss these issues.

He has also been contacted by St Werburghs City Farm re their Environmental Education Space. This is designed for difficult young people to attempt to engage them with the environment. The new facility is to be sited in Lockleaze.

SE is happy to be contact with local schools, in order to promote engagement with NP.

Possibly look at the Bristol Gang Awareness Project or Link, a project in London, which works with gangs. They may be able to arrange a visit to the group.

The idea mooted in Bristol is some kind of artistic endeavour, which can be taken to schools. Possibly this could be piloted in Monks Park/Fairfields. Obviously funding would be required if this project were to reach fruition.

RW felt some of NP £10,000 funding might be used to support this project.

CR advised Extended Schools Partnership were funding project to look into the question of knife crime.

Possibly group could be kept informed of progress of such projects.

WG believes projects which introduce young offenders to music/drama/arts are a good way to prevent re-offending. Such projects already running have a proven record in this respect.

SE mentioned Lives not Knives campaign which was most successful within target communities.

AD suggests sub-group meeting could be arranged to discuss young peoples issues within Horfield and Lockleaze.

ACTIONS:

- Youth groups to meet up and work up bids.
- Need clarification on Floodlighting and extended facilities at Fairfields.
- My Place Youth Services bid; more information needed, eg who is doing when and how.
- Extended Schools Partnership; invite Chairs of governors.

4. Paper from Brian McCutcheon.

BM has been looking at partnership working in area with Avon Fire & Rescue sports representative. Can fund up to 30 individuals to become coaches. The service can provide coaching courses and work with community to form teams. However the local community will need to provide the individuals who wish to become coaches. There is an ex Arsenal footballer working for the service who can provide some expertise.

It is possible to seek further funding through grantfinder program to support the project if needed.

BM also approached Sport for England, who have grant opportunities for up-grading football/sports pitches.

Once community coaches and funding bids in place fire service will back off and leave local community to continue. Service can then find other ways to engage with community.

SE reiterated there were several possible sites within area where such improvement work would be invaluable.

Group to consider how best to take advantage of assistance offered and how to promote this.

Contact BM with details of anyone interested in taking a coaching course.

5. Any other business.

SJ-L has been asked by Filton Ave traders to mention group possibly contributing towards the brightening up of this area. Idea is to place some planters/flowers along the Filton Ave retail space.

The traders have also enquired about a crossing on Toronto Rd. This is believed to be part of Section 106 agreement, so should be done at some stage.

Also keen to have notice board giving details of what the traders have to offer and giving contact details for anyone interested in renting space on Filton Ave.

There is already a notice board on Dorchester Rd. Contact Neighbourhood Action Group or Southmead Area Office for details. SJ-L feels this is too far removed from Filton Ave for the trader's purposes.

BM feels, as grant pot is relatively small, group need to ensure cohesion/engagement projects are prioritised. If, in due course, there is an underspend then such smaller localised projects could be considered. Possibly NP could use its influence to generate sponsorship/interest elsewhere.

Perhaps approach Grounds for Change, who might be interested. There was also the opportunity to apply under the Environmental Improvement Budget. Unfortunately the closing date has passed and the funding might not have been as well promoted as it might have been.

Possibly group might lobby to have closing date extended. EB will look into this.

MS advised VOSCUR are actively promoting involvement of both residents and VCSE in NPs. Are facilitating residents forum for NPs. MS had draft flyer promoting this. First meeting is planned for July.

There are six meetings planned before April 2009, four at The Council House, one in North Bristol and one in the South.

MS will send out further information in due course.

6. Date of next meeting.

Wednesday 30th July 2008 7:00pm.