

MINUTES.
St George Neighbourhood Partnership.
3rd July 2008.
Summer Hill Methodist Church.

Present: Susan Acton-Campbell (Chair & Friends of Troopers Hill), Abdulrazak Dahir (Community Development Worker), Gary Hoare (Deacon, Summer Hill Methodist Church), Sgt Darren Warr (Fishponds Neighbourhood Policing Team), Grenville Johnson (NW Kensington Rd) and Neil Burwell (Safer Bristol).

Apologies: Ron Stone (Councillor), Julie Bowle (Neighbourhood Inspector), Ann Radnedge (Chair, Meadow Vale CA), Fran Stewart (Resident), Angie Hoare (Minister, Summer Hill Methodist Church) and Jean Pickering.

1. Welcome and introduction.

Those present introduced themselves.

2. Minutes and matters arising.

It was agreed the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting on 3rd June 2008.

3. Structure of St George steering group.

Sub-group have met.

Chair, Cllr Ron Stone.

Vice-chair, Cllr Charlie Price.

Draft structure document to be circulated prior to next meeting and can be discussed at that time.

Any feedback to sub-group before that meeting, ratification of document will be agenda item.

Action: All to send their comments to AD

GJ proposed vote of thanks for SA-C and sub-group, for preparing paper.

4. Newsletter.

This sub-group has also met.

AD advised preferred option had been to issue as insert within Observer. Costings however indicate this would be expensive. £2,178+vat, which includes delivery. Same type of newsletter in black & white would cost £1742.

Another option was to have a print done at around £179. This would then be delivered by Observer. Cost of this would be £203+vat. This seems a more realistic option.

The 23rd of July is now fast approaching, the deadline for getting the newsletter out before this date is may be unrealistic.

AD has only recently contacted family of David Stephenson (St George Local History Group), who may be interested in this project. Idea is to attempt to contact group already involved in such a project who might be of assistance.

DW wonders if there could be a commercial organisation in the area, who might be prepared to sponsor the Partnership newsletter. Alternatively would it be worthwhile approaching local MP, Kerry McCarthy? It is, of course, vital NP remains and appears to remain, politically impartial.

There are some 8,300 households in area. Do group wish to deliver to every house or concentrate on community groups/facilities?

Group agreed that, in view of time constraints, it would be best to delay production of newsletter.

5. Planning for public event.

Sub-group met at Fishponds Police Station. Event is to be held at The Brunel Academy, either in the dance studio or hall. The hall has much bigger space than the studio, and it can be divided into two separate rooms. Dance studio may be too small, comfortable for maximum of around 30 people.

AD has been informed that the police are holding another “public meeting” at the academy on the same night. This will, obviously, need clarification. DW wonders if this might relate to priorities identified in Fishponds area.

Action: DW to look into this.

GJ points out a decision needs to be taken quickly. The group therefore decided to hold the meeting in the hall with the screen in place, at least at the start of the meeting.

AD will e-mail details to DW/SA-C so event can be promoted. Public meeting to run 7:00-8:30pm to be followed by closed session to discuss issues. DW could produce promotional material within a day or so. This would then be distributed to various public buildings, libraries, schools, etc. Anyone needing posters can obtain from DW.

Action: agreed to provide some to GJ via local police officer.

It is important to ensure that the workshops are properly facilitated, so everyone gets to put forward their priorities. We should also make available on flip charts priorities that have been forwarded by persons not able to attend

the event. DW thought attendees might be provided with three stickers so they could identify those priorities they agreed with.

AD advised Carol Hayward (BCC, Corporate Consultation Manager) can provide voting handsets for use at the meeting. AD explained how these worked and the group were keen to utilise the technology.

Structure of meeting could be changed slightly to allow 10 minutes for Carol's team to type up priorities identified to enable attendees to vote on them. During this time facilitators could take one of the priorities back to their group to discuss possible solutions.

Action: AD to check how long Carol's team would need to prepare identified issues on the night for the voting session.

It would have to be made clear at the public meeting that whilst only the three main priorities would be taken forward, this did not mean the remainder would be ignored.

It appears there should be around 13 people attending the closed session, with representatives from the council, including councillors, police, housing, education, youth and various residents groups. Quite a strong and representative group.

Agreed for facilitators to meet prior to 23rd of July to discuss their role. Suggested meeting date, Tuesday 8th July 7:00pm at Fishponds Police Station, alternatively, Monday 14th July or Tuesday 15th July.

AD will attempt to make contact with Carol Hayward to invite her to facilitators meeting. AD/DW to liaise to provide facilitators with details of structure of event, prior to meeting on 8th.

**Action: AD to circulate dates to all facilitators.
GJ agreed to e-mail suitable photographs, which could be used for presenting on the public open meeting to AD.**

6. Up-date on quick wins.

Difficult to discuss this in absence of RS.

DW is aware, however, that RS has been doing a lot of work in relation to St Georges Park. This is, currently, under-used and RS has been collating views of local children to put to council. There is, apparently, to be a display of their ideas in the foyer of The Council House.

Action: AD to contact RS and see if we could have them on display at the public open meeting.

GJ has heard from the council's horticultural officer and the three trees prioritised at the first meeting are to be replaced as required. Six gaps yet to be filled but GJ feels progress is being made. Eight trees have been replaced within last year.

7. Information pack for steering group members.

AD wishes to put together a pack about the area, its problems and what can/is being done.

AD would like to invite an officer from "policies", to a future meeting, to discuss what is happening in St George. This will allow the steering group to see how this NP compares in city-wide or even nationally. AD thinks this session would require around 20 minutes on agenda.

GJ thinks this is a good idea. The pack could include details of steering group members, what they do, which areas they represent and their contact details.

There could be information about school results and crime stats for area. Also possibly details of residency, how much rented/owner occupied accommodation, etc. Statistics for employment, health and incomes where available.

A detailed map of area giving street names would also be useful.

SA-C thinks the information provided needs to be in plain English, so steering group members can easily understand what the statistics mean and could explain these if required.

AD confirmed, in answer to a question from GJ that the stats provided were up-to-date.

GH asked whether it was possible to ascertain why the police helicopter had been deployed? DW advised the information could be obtained from police website and GH confirmed this was the answer he had already received.

Group felt it important that success in dealing with priorities could be measured. In a years time, for example, it would be useful to look at the priorities identified and see how things had improved. This might also enable group to see where there were gaps in what had either been achieved, or prioritised.

NB believes it is important information in pack should assist group solve problems in the area. He appreciates, however, that other more general information would be useful too.

ACORN information which DW can supply, should enable group to ensure NP has engaged all appropriate groups/communities in area and also that all such groups/communities are represented on Steering group.

DW would like a future steering group meeting to look at community engagement and formulate some strategy to deal with this. The meeting could also look at ensuring difficult to reach groups were well represented.

GJ points out, for example, that there is no representative from St George East. Both NB and DW accept there will always be people who do not wish to attend meetings and it is vital that the partnership makes every effort to engage with these communities, even if they are not active within NP.

8. Any other business.

GJ has some notes passed to him by AR.

Re newsletter, Fiona Alcock (contact details provided) can deliver 300 copies in Speedwell area at 1p per copy. May also be able to organise delivery of a further 500 at the same cost.

Re information pack, GJ will advise AR of discussion.

Can skips be put into Speedwell as “quick win”? This to counter act problems of fly tipping.

Bushes to replace dead trees on Meadow Vale.

Security gates to eliminate harassment of elderly residents

Speeding, traffic noise, a problem on Meadow Vale/Whiteway Rd.

Has anyone contacted Army & Air-force Cadets in Speedwell to invite them onto partnership?

Action: AD will look into this.
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Finally could future meetings be on different night so as to avoid clash with other commitments?

DW suggests AR put issues in writing so they can be considered at public event. GJ to discuss this with AR. Will also provide her with posters promoting event for distribution.

DW also asked GH if priorities postcards could be given to people using the church.

DW wishes to be kept advised of which groups were engaging with process. This will allow him to see where the gaps are.

DW confirmed, in answer to a query from SA-C, that people could be canvassed electronically to discover their priorities. SA-C can also use the website to gather such information.

DW can provide GH with supply of cards and the letter-box.

Newsletter to be put on hold until after public event.

Group were thankful to both AR and GJ for bringing these matters forward.

Group will be provided with JPs contact details in case access to church is required during GHs absence.

SA-C suggests that at next meeting dates are agreed for remainder of year. This should be agenda item, so group members know to bring their diaries.

9. Date of next meeting.

Wednesday 13th August 2008, 7:00pm, venue TBC.

