

St George NP Development Plan

Notes of Working Group Meeting Wed 08/02/17

Present: Rob Acton-Campbell (Chair), Abdulrazak Dahir (Area Co-ordinator), Diane Jones, Fiona Russell, , Geoff Reeson, Grenville Johnson, Mike Kimber, Mary Taylor, Nigel Williams, Susan Acton-Campbell.

Introduction & Context

The meeting was held as a follow up to the meeting on 12th December (see Appendix A) the aim was to establish where gaps would be left if the NP ceased to exist and which of these (if any) the group felt would need to be filled by a new organisation.

Information available included the St George Neighbourhood Profile and lists of groups in St George.

Rob explained that the current expectation was that the March meeting of the NP would be the last in its current format and that the June meeting would mark the transition to whatever new arrangements were put in place. It was unlikely that there would be any significant NP budget going forward. Arrangements for the allocation of devolved S106 & CIL had not yet been confirmed.

Priorities to be met by any new organisation

The group considered a list of current activities of the NP – see Appendix B.

The following were agreed as items that were a priority that we should endeavour to ensure continued:

- The existence of a group covering the whole of St George and giving the area an identity;
- Networking and exchange of information between community groups, Councillors, the Police & others;
- Continuing the website, Facebook and Twitter feeds and to support community notice boards.

Priorities to be met by others

It was agreed that the role of the Forum in allowing people to raise issues in St George could be done at Councillor surgeries (as it is now), with Councillors then discussing issues at networking meetings.

Environment and Traffic & Transport sub-groups, these groups would need to discuss how they wanted to continue. They could be linked to any new St George organisation or come

under the umbrella of existing city wide groups eg Bristol Parks Forum, Bristol Walking Alliance, Cycling groups.

Other Points

It was agreed that any new organisation should start small;

The new group could continue to use the St George Neighbourhood Partnership name and logo if it wished to;

Income streams outside BCC should be explored eg sponsorship of noticeboards to cover repair costs;

In the future the group may need a bank account, but this was not required initially;

Membership of the new group would primarily be representatives of St George community groups but all residents of St George should be welcome to join;

The group should continue to reach out to businesses and other organisations;

If projects were suggested to the group then they would be referred to existing community groups if appropriate.

The new group could consider taking on projects itself in the future as the group develops.

Conclusions & Next Steps

All agreed that a group should be formed.

The new group would primarily be a community of community groups.

Further discussions on the structure of the new group could be held at the planned Ops Sub-Group meeting on **Thurs 16th Feb 7.30pm St George Library**

Appendix A

St George NP Development Plan

Working Group Meeting 12/12/16

Strengths/Achievements:

- Green Spaces - Improving/investing in Green Spaces
- Collaboration – Bringing together people/groups who wouldn't otherwise
- Budget – Makes things happen (wellbeing/delegated funds)
- Councillors – Regular Contact with councillors
- Accreditation/Promotion – on the map
- Info. for residents – website/Facebook, etc.
- Local focus - One stop shop
- Strength in numbers
- Solve local problems before they escalate
- Joining up local services that central council does not/ cannot
- Not having to run a building
- Small groups working independently/together.
- Volunteer time

Opportunities:

- Linking existing groups together
- Focus for local planning
- Experience of raising money
- Specific projects/priorities in sensible timescales
- Consultation – broad = Opportunity to get mandate from St George.

Weaknesses/Problems:

- Council – Imposed bureaucracy
- Not reaching all residents / not inclusive
- Residents do not identify with “St George”
- People don't know NP exists
- Older people most involved
- Decisions take time to action = Frustration & Loses people
- Communications (Marketing) Lacking – Newsletter/other
- Perceived as part of the council – good/bad

Threats:

- People want things to work but don't want to put time in themselves.
- End of funding
- People don't see the benefit of their input (not fun)
- Not seeing the impact of small gains.
- Adopting the wrong model (legal)

- Lack of focus – Trying to do everything for everyone.

Moving forward/Next steps:

- 1- Research:
 - Neighbourhood Plan
 - Map local groups
 - Ward profile (health/ Wellbeing/ inclusion)
- 2- Priorities/Gaps
 - What would not happen if there was no NP?
 - Priorities to fill the gaps
- 3- Consult/Plan
- 4- Headline Project(s)

Actions:

1. Collect relevant data (from BCC & others) to help with the mapping of groups and residents' needs.
2. Ask BCC to confirm their funding intentions (as far as possible given the budget consultation), i.e. will it be reduced for 2017-18 and then end completely in March 2018?
3. Meet to analyse the data gathered above to identify provisional priorities/gaps.
4. Use this analysis to consult initially with your existing members, and then more widely.

Next Meeting:

3rd or 4th week in January to carry out action 3.

Appendix B

What does St George NP Do Now?



Communication

- Quarterly Meetings (including Councillors)
- Quarterly Forums (including Police)
- Website
 - Twitter (839 followers)
 - Facebook (1,018 likes)
- Notice boards
 - Provision
 - Maintenance
 - Co-ordinating display of notices
- Sub-Groups to discuss issues
 - Environment
 - Traffic & Transport

Funding of Local Projects/Activities

- Wellbeing Grants
- Allocation of devolved S106 & CIL
- NP Budget – Clean & Green, Transport, Other

Other

- Networking Opportunities
- Point of Contact
- Gives identity to St George as an area
- Influence