



**St George Neighbourhood  
Partnership**  
**Operations Sub-Group Meeting**  
**16<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

Present: Rob Acton-Campbell (Chair), Abdulrazak Dahir (Area Co-ordinator), Diane Jones, Geoff Reeson, Grenville Johnson, Mary Taylor, Nigel Williams, Philip Bird, Susan Acton-Campbell, Tamsin Harcourt.

Introduction

The meeting was the scheduled Operations Sub-Group meeting. However, most of the meeting was used as a follow up to the working group meeting held the previous week discussing the future of the Partnership in light of the proposed Council budget cuts.

Agenda for NP meeting 29<sup>th</sup> March

AD noted that with the current situation it was too early to discuss the agenda for March in detail.

New Organisation - Review of Discussions to Date

RAC summarised the discussions at previous meetings. Notes of the last meeting were distributed and can be seen at [www.stgeorgenp.org.uk/StGeorgeNPWorkshop080217.pdf](http://www.stgeorgenp.org.uk/StGeorgeNPWorkshop080217.pdf) All those present at the previous meeting agreed that they were a fair representation. The conclusions had been that a new group should be formed to take over some of the role and tasks of the current NP and that the new group would primarily be a community of community groups.

The purpose of this meeting was to further discuss the structure of the new group. The notes below summarise the **conclusions reached** and points discussed during the meeting.

AD explained that it was envisaged that the Neighbourhoods Team would continue over the next two years with approximately 50% of the current staff. He asked the meeting to consider what support the new group would like from BCC. Requests made at the meeting are listed at the end of these notes.

Operational Area

**It was agreed that the new group would cover the same area as the existing NP, ie the three St George wards.**

It would be important to work with groups in surrounding areas and it may be appropriate to support cross boundary projects, or those outside the area if they benefitted St George.

## Membership

**Membership should be open to anyone who lives or works in St George or who has an interest in the area.**

**The group would hold a list of members (format to be decided).**

Any restrictions on membership may prevent people joining who would be an asset to the group. Local schools and businesses would be approached to join and / or work with the new group.

It was noted that residents, businesses and other organisations would only be likely to join if they could see a benefit from being part of the group. The award of Wellbeing Grants had previously been a way promoting the NP and attracting members.

## Equalities

**The group would be open to all and take due note of equality issues in all its activities. An equalities statement would be produced.**

It was suggested that it would be beneficial if the Council could continue to provide equalities training (see 'asks' below).

## Constitution

**The constitution should be kept as simple as possible, but would have to be of a form likely to be acceptable to grant giving bodies.**

## Committee

**A committee of up to 10 members would be formed. Officers would include Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer, Secretary and others as the committee deemed necessary.**

With no limits on membership numbers it was necessary to have a smaller committee to meet to run the group, agree meeting dates & formats etc.

## Appointing the Committee

**Committee members would be elected at meetings of the whole group. No more than one member of any household would be permitted to be an officer.**

It was important to avoid the group becoming 'cliquey' and there was a risk (to reputation & finances) if two people in the same household could sign cheques.

## Bank Account

**The constitution and structure of the group would be such that it could open a bank account and hold its own funds / apply for grants in the future if the committee decided that this was required.**

### Sub-Groups / Task-Groups

**Sub-Groups or Task-Groups would be set up as required to look at issues in more detail or to run specific projects.**

It was noted that the NP Environment sub-group had decided that it wished to continue in some form and this could be as a sub-group of the new organisation. Task groups may be useful for specific projects, eg events or development projects in the area. A communications / web team would be required.

### Meetings

**The group would hold open meetings for all members, committee meetings and sub-group/task group meetings at intervals to be decided by the committee and the groups.**

**Public meetings could be arranged as necessary to discuss particular issues and/or promote proposed projects.**

Discussions would be needed with the Police and other agencies about joint meetings. It was anticipated that the Council would be discussing the future of the Police PACT meetings (currently part of the NP Forum) on a city wide level.

### Relationship with Bristol City Council

**The new group would be independent of Bristol City Council.**

**Councillors would be welcome to join the group but would not automatically become members.**

**The new group would seek support from Bristol City Council where appropriate and aim to influence spending of Section 106, CIL and any other funds the Council may have available.**

**The new group would work collaboratively with Council officers to bring about improvements in St George.**

Councillors would be asked if they wished to be members of the new group. In any event it was envisaged that the group would work closely with the St George Councillors and that committee and sub-group members would meet with them regularly in addition to contact by email.

It was noted that depending on the future arrangements for allocating S106, CIL or other funding then there might be a perceived conflict of interest if Councillors were making decisions on spending and were members of the group which would from time to time be making bids for the funds to be spent.

Working with Council officers would include developing a community plan to set priorities against which decisions on spending could be made.

It was anticipated that Councillor surgeries would be where residents could raise problems in their area of the type that have previously been brought to the NP Forum and that the new group would help promote the surgeries.

#### Website, Twitter & Facebook

**The new group would take over the NP twitter & facebook accounts. It would also take over the website (subject to BCC agreement).**

A new domain would be required for the new group if it changed its name (see below). The name could be changed on the existing facebook & twitter accounts.

#### Name of the Group

**The new group would be called the St George Community Partnership, the existing logo would be retained.**



It was agreed that a new name would be required to emphasise that this was a new community led organisation. At the same time the existing contacts & followers should be kept where possible.

#### Timetable for Launch

**Provided there is general support from residents, Councillors and the Council then the St George Community Partnership would be officially formed in April.**

**The St George Community Partnership would be launched at a public meeting to be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May – the planned date for the next NP Forum.**

**The first full meeting of the St George Community Partnership would be on Wed 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017 – the planned date for the NP AGM.**

**Elections would be held at the first meeting, with an interim committee formed from NP members prior to that.**

It was felt that the new organisation should be launched as soon as possible so that a positive message could be given at meetings about a new start.

#### Asks of Bristol City Council

The following requests for future and ongoing support from Bristol City Council were noted.

- Provision of meeting venues or funding for venues;
- Provision of printing & other facilities for surveys, consultations etc;
- Ongoing maintenance of the community notice boards;
- Equalities training;
- Transfer of the website to the new group & funds to run it;

## **Actions**

Support for the above proposals would be sought at the NP meeting on Wed 29<sup>th</sup> March.

RAC to post information, including notes of this and previous workshop meeting, on the St George NP website.

NP members to consider whether they wish to join the interim committee to launch the St George Community Partnership.

AD to run a Doodle poll to agree a date for the interim committee to meet in April to organise the May launch.