

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

EASTER 2017



Neighbourhood Partnerships

Over the last five years the Community Association has worked closely with the two neighbourhood partnerships covering Westbury Park on a range of community issues. The Association has also been fortunate in securing funding from the neighbourhood partnerships for a number of projects (eg. The cost of printing the Walking Trail leaflet, the hanging flower baskets in North View, the flashing halos on the Coldharbour Road Crossing, our two notice boards).

Due to severe financial constraints the Council has taken the decision to withdraw its support for neighbourhood partnerships. Discussions are now taking place to explore what might happen in our neighbourhood partnerships areas and across Bristol when Council support for neighbourhood partnerships comes to an end in June .

At the last Henleaze Forum meeting held in February there was support for maintaining the Forum as a conduit for dialogue between local residents, ward councillors and the City Council on local issues. If the Forum is continued local community volunteers would have to take on greater organisational responsibility in lieu of Council support.

The Community Association are in contact with local councillors about possible future arrangements which might involve continuing the ward forum meetings but also having occasional meetings as required with both Henleaze and Redland ward councillors on specific Westbury Park issues.

The demise of the current neighbourhood partnership arrangements will mean that there will be no more funding opportunities for community projects under the Wellbeing Fund initiative and no more devolved funding for minor traffic schemes. Arrangements for managing Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies, currently devolved to each neighbourhood partnership, will need to be agreed. At a recent public meeting called by the Council the SIL issue was very contentious with the Council pushing for a more streamlined decision making process which would effectively take responsibility away from individual neighbourhood partnership areas and local community representatives.

The next meeting of the Henleaze Forum is on Thursday 11th May, 7.00 pm at Henleaze Library. The final Stoke Bishop, Westbury on Trym and Henleaze Neighbourhood Partnership meeting is on Monday, 22nd May.

The Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Neighbourhood Partnership has called a public meeting at 7.00 pm, Tuesday, 25th April at Redland Green School for local community groups and residents to discuss the next steps in setting up an organisation or network to replace the Neighbourhood Partnership.

99 Devonshire Road Protest, 20th April

The saga of 99 Devonshire Road has dragged on for over two years with no sign of the developers, Diverse Construction, completing the partly built and unsightly development despite assurances given in late 2016 that they would be back on site in early 2017. Local councillors and the Community Association have tried, without success, to contact the developers to ascertain their intentions.

With the support of local councillors the Community Association is now planning to hold a protest (with banner) at 99 Devonshire Road at 10.30 am on the morning of Thursday, 20th April with the aim of generating publicity and a response from the developers. The protest will be accompanied by a press release that will be circulated to a range of media outlets including the Bristol Post and Points West.

We hope that as many local residents as possible will come along on the 20th April to support the protest.

Westbury Park Festival 2017

Plans for the 2017 Festival are now firmly in place. The Festival will run from Friday, 23rd June until Sunday, 9th July. The provisional list of events is as follows :-

Date	Event	Venue
Friday Evening , 23 rd June	Quiz	St Albans Hall
Saturday Evening, 24 th June	Kids Disco	St Albans Hall
Tuesday Evening, 27 th June	Grounded Music	Grounded Cafe
Wednesday Evening, 28 th June	Antiques Evening	St Albans Church
Thursday Evening, 29 th June	Tree Walk	Downs
Saturday Daytime, 1 st July	Arts Fair	Methodist Church
Saturday Evening, 1 st July	Film Night	Methodist Church
Sunday Afternoon, 2 nd July	Open Gardens	Local Area
Tuesday Evening, 4 th July	Summer Buffet	Westbury Park Pub
Wednesday Evening, 5 th July	Westbury Park through Maps	School Hall
Thursday Evening, 6 th July	Poetry Cafe	Caffé Arabica
Friday Evening, 7 th July	Ceilidh	St Albans
Saturday Afternoon, 8 th July	Garden Party	St Albans
Sunday Morning, 9 th July	Festival Service	St Albans

At a recent meeting of the Festival Committee it was agreed to support two charities in 2017 – Cancer Research UK and Bridge Foundation, a Bristol based charity which provides counselling to young people.

The Festival leaflet giving full details of each event and where to purchase tickets will be circulated to every household in Westbury Park in early June.

Henleaze Library

The Council are looking to make large savings to the Libraries Budget in the next year and in successive years through to March 2020. A major question is whether there will be sufficient resources available to maintain the new Bishopston Library, Westbury on Trym Library and Henleaze Library (even with a heavy reliance on staff volunteers). You can make your views known when the consultation about Bristol libraries gets under way in mid May.

Resident Parking

After many months delay the extension of the Redland Resident Parking scheme to the Manor Park area is expected to go ahead in the next month or so. The delay was caused by a fundamental disagreement between local residents and the Council about the type of scheme that was appropriate and the proposed loss of so many on street parking spaces. Thanks largely to the efforts of residents and local councillors, Fi Hance and Martin Fodor, a more acceptable scheme has been agreed although there is still considerable discontent among residents about the outcome and the way the Council handled the whole process.

After receiving representations about parking problems from a number of residents living in other parts of Westbury Park the Community Association are planning to organise a survey to ascertain the level of support for resident parking in those parts of Westbury Park that were formerly included in the proposed Redland RPS area in 2013. However, the survey has been placed on hold following news that the Council are working on a report setting out the criteria they will use when considering further resident parking schemes in Bristol. A request was made to the Council in March for more information on this alleged report and a reply is awaited.