



**Bishopston, Cotham & Redland
Community Partnership**

Minutes of the BCR Community Partnership Public Forum held on Thursday, 12th January 2023 at 7.00 pm (On-line meeting)

The meeting was attended by approximately 35 participants including five ward councillors.

1 Welcome and Introduction

1.1 The Community Partnership Chairman, Roger Gimson, welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the Bristol Local Plan Review consultation would be the main topic for the Forum.

2 Bristol Local Plan Review Consultation

2.1 Colin Chapman, manager of the Bristol Local Plan Team presented information on the Review.

2.2 The Council is inviting comments on the Review until 20th January. People can send in comments by post, email or via the Council's Local Plan website. Comments received will help to shape the finally agreed plan.

2.3 The Local Plan Review covers the following :-

- The Role and Status of the Review including the relationship with the national planning framework (e.g. policies relating to meeting housing needs).
- Planning applications are decided in line with the Local Plan which currently comprises three documents including the Core Strategy. The Review is a stage along the way leading to a new Local Plan that is due to be published in the Summer of 2023 and adopted in Autumn 2024.
- This is the second consultation following an earlier consultation undertaken in 2019.
- The four unitary authorities covering the West of England have decided not to proceed with a sub-regional spatial strategy but instead to consult with each other on their respective four local plans.
- The Review sets out a vision, aims, objectives and a total of 24 detailed policies covering housing needs, net zero carbon emissions/climate change, biodiversity, food sustainability, shopping centres, design and development locations.
- The Review proposes an average building rate of 1,925 dwellings per annum – 2,000 per annum in the period 2023 – 2027 and 1,900 per annum from 2028 until the 2040, the end plan date. In recent years the building rate has averaged 2,500 dwellings per annum.
- With regard to affordability the Council is looking at the issue of development viability.
- Five policies relate to achieving zero net carbon emission targets with new development being required to address the challenge of climate change.
- New development will also be required to contribute to achieving biodiversity and green infrastructure targets and to replace any trees.

- The food sustainability policies cover the protection of allotments, food growing areas and existing food growing enterprises.
- The shopping centre policies seek to support existing centres – the shopping hierarchy comprises the city centre, town centres (e.g. Gloucester Road), district and centres serving local needs. Detailed policies cover a range of topics including the night time economy, public toilets, temporary uses and markets. The Review seeks to retain all centres previously covered by the Local Plan and also adds a number of centres not previously listed (e.g. Alma Vale Road in Clifton).
- The section on design sets out an overall design vision supported by national design guides and codes. Many design issues have been covered in previous consultations including residential densities and tall buildings.
- New development is proposed at several new locations – in Brislington (Bath Road), Ashton Vale and Bishopsworth. A number of potential development projects are not being taken forward (e.g. Brislington Meadows).

2.4 The presentation was followed by a question and answer session :-

Q. While there are currently no major development schemes in our area but there is a possibility that large sites such as Horfield Prison and the Memorial Stadium might be redeveloped during the plan period. If so how will decisions be made on these sites?

A. Decisions will be primarily taken on the adopted local plan policies.

Q. What happens with regard to topics covered in the 2019 local plan consultation (eg. densities, tall buildings) ?

A. They will be incorporated into the new local plan taking into consideration comments received on the 2019 consultation.

Q. The loss of gardens to hard standing parking spaces increases the risk of surface run off. How does the local plan recognise and respond to this issue?

A. Policies in the Local Plan are applicable, and Section 4 rules prohibiting the removal of walls in Conservation Areas will still apply.

Q Are the net zero carbon and climate change policies in the Review in line with the Climate Change Act and other national policies on climate change?

A. The Local Plan Team are fully aware of the need and importance for the Review policies to comply with national policies.

Q. The target to build an average of 1,925 dwellings per annum is lower than the Government projected need figure of 3,500 dwellings per annum. Would you like to comment on this?

A The Government methodology is probably incorrect. A new paper being prepared estimates that the needs figure is 2,500 per annum. Any unmet need will be discussed with neighbouring local authorities and the City Council will also have the opportunity to comment on the housing targets set by these authorities in their respective local plans.

Q What is the balance between achieving the housing target through increasing densities and new build?

A. Much of the new growth will be achieved through the redevelopment of brown field sites in areas including the City Centre, St. Philips, Fishponds and Bedminster.

Q. Why is there nothing in the Local Plan Review about health, safety and security? Where will health appear? Have public health bodies been invited to contribute to the development and delivery of plans?

A. Health is a cross cutting theme which underpins all policies. The Council does speak to public health bodies.

Q. Do the housing need forecasts take account of the increase in student numbers?

A. Student numbers form part of the future housing needs assessment.

Q A number of local shopping parades in our area are not included in the list of local centres (e.g. shops in Ashley Down Road). Can these be added?

A. The Council realise that the list is not exhaustive and will consider additions to the list.

2.5 Colin Chapman encouraged everyone to include their points in their responses to the Review for appraisal, and to also to make suggestions for adding local retail centres.

2.6 Roger Gimson thanked Colin for the presentation and for taking questions.

3 Updates from Community Groups

Street Scene – Barney Dean

3.1 Street Scene are still active with volunteers still round and about at this difficult time of year weather wise.

3.2 Barney reported that Liz Kew had stepped down in the Autumn and will be sorely missed. (The Forum expressed its thanks to Liz for all she had done over the years for Street Scene and for our local communities).

3.3 While much work is done directly by volunteers Street Scene also reports street related issues to other bodies including BT, companies responsible for advertisement hoardings and Bristol Waste Company.

3.4 Bristol Waste Company has recently introduced a village approach to waste and recycling collections which has brought teething problems (e.g. street litter bins not being emptied). Early morning prioritising of removing graffiti in the City Centre has also meant less priority being accorded to the removal of graffiti in our area.

3.5 Barney urged people to report street related issues to the City Council.

3.6 The Street Scene newsletter is still being produced but there is not much to report at the moment.

3.7 Steve Smith (University of Bristol) asked Street Scene to contact him about engaging students in their project.

SENDaWelcome Project – Daniella Radice

3.8 Daniella reported that new funding had been awarded for the project which supports people with special educational needs and disabilities. The project offers a range of support including coaching and work experience placements and social activities including a youth club.

3.9 Daniella asked people to get in touch if they knew of anyone who might benefit from the project.

Redland and Cotham Amenities Society (RCAS) – Alison Bromilow

3.10 Alison reported that working parties still attend Cotham Gardens on the first Saturday of each month to carry out tasks to maintain and improve the Gardens. One recent RCAS project was to provide a storage unit for the café tables and chairs for the use of customers of the coffee concession van. The work party installed the bases for the storage unit as well as clearing up the playground and sandpit.

Westbury Park Community Association – Kevin Chidgey

3.11 The St. Christopher's saga continues as the planning applicant submitted revised proposals in early December aimed at addressing at least some of the design and overdevelopment issues attached to the original application (122 extra care units on this prominent site close to the Downs). The revisions did little to allay the concerns of local residents and many have continued to object to the proposed development: the number of objections now stands at circa 1,300. It is anticipated that the Council will make a decision on the application in March.

4 Updates from Councillors

Councillor Emma Edwards (Bishopston and Ashley Down)

- A school street proposal for Ashley Down School has been agreed – Olveston Road which runs behind the school. A public engagement event has been planned for 24th January to learn about the school street. CIL funding has been obtained to fund safety bollards for the street.
- There is still some way to go before all the roadworks in Muller Road are completed. The roadworks may well impact on the timetable for the new Ashley Down Station.
- Funds have been raised (£250k) to develop a café and workspace on the Horfield Prison frontage.
- A cycle day has been arranged by the police at the Ardagh Centre to offer advice on bike security. This is partly in response to the high incidence of bike thefts in the area.

Councillors Fi Hance and Martin Fodor (Redland)

- Traffic dangers close to schools and how to deal with them is a major concern, particularly with regard to Bishop Road School.
- Money is in place for a new pedestrian crossing on Cranbrook Road but the project has been delayed as there is an issue about the design of the crossing following consultation: the design may be simplified.
- A review is underway on the CIL Area Committee decision-making process with the intention of improving the process.

- Vehicles parked close to road corners are causing a problem for refuse collection vehicles. Records will now be kept of incidents to help prioritise yellow lining.
- The problem of ghost buses – buses shown on electronic display boards at bus stops but not turning up – is being addressed by bus companies. The electronic boards need to show actual buses running rather than those timetabled to run.
- Delays in deciding planning applications is increasing the danger of more applications being decided by the planning inspectorate rather than the City Council as applicants appeal against non-determination.
- Congratulations go to Lucy Mitchell at Golden Hill Community Gardens who was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Years Honours. The Community Gardens encourage people to grow their own food.

Councillor Mohamed Makawi (Cotham)

- Monthly surgeries are held from 10.00 – 12.00 at Kingsdown Sports Centre on the first Saturday of each month.
- A new contractor has been found to manage Kingsdown Sports Centre, starting in March.

Councillor Guy Poultney (Cotham Ward)

- Student complaints are coming down.
- People are reporting waste collection problems.
- It is unclear what is happening to the Chandos Road pedestrian bid that was made to the West of England Combined Authority (WECA). Chandos Neighbourhood Association residents and traders have been investigating possibilities and consulting the local community on traffic calming on the road for some years but have not proposed closing the road. Concerns have been expressed by local businesses about the complete closure of the road as announced by Cllr. Don Alexander, the cabinet member for transport.

5 The City Council's new Committee Led Structure -

5.1 A new Council decision making structure is due to be introduced in May 2024 following the referendum which voted to end the current mayoral system..

5.2 Councillor Poultney explained that a Committee Model Working Group comprising twelve councillors have been meeting for almost six months to explore how the new system should be set up, including what committees are needed, how other councils have transitioned to a committee system, and if there are any examples of best practices to follow. Models elsewhere being looked at include Brighton and Sheffield.

5.3 It is hoped to reach agreement on the new system by May with a view to having the new structures in place well before the changeover. In response to a question Councillor

Poultney commented that the new Committee structure may be less radical than people had envisaged at the time of the referendum.

5.4 Decisions will have to be made on many aspects including the level of devolved responsibilities to Committees and individual councillors, whether there should be area committees, whether neighbourhood working arrangements should be re-introduced, etc.

5.5 With regard to community engagement three meetings have taken place with handpicked community representatives (none from our area). It is unclear whether there will be public meetings and if there are, what form these will take. Will there, say, be proper consultative meetings or possibly Council working party meetings where community groups will be invited to speak?

5.6 Councillor Poultney pointed out that councillors will be able to organise ward consultation meetings.

NB There is a City Council web page devoted to the Committee Model Working Group which states that the Council will be promoting future engagement sessions through:

- *this web page*
- *social media channels*
- *councillors*
- *the council's community networks*

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/council-and-mayor/how-council-decisions-are-made/committee-model-working-group>

Roger Gimson thanked people for attending the meeting which ended at 8.30 pm

KC / BCR CP 16th January 2023