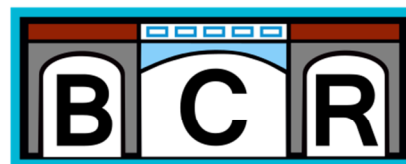


# Bishopston, Cotham & Redland Community Partnership



**Annual Report 2022-2023**

***bcrpcp.org.uk***

Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Community Partnership (BCR CP) was formed in February 2018. This is the Annual Report for its fifth year of operation, up to 31 March 2023.

## **Introduction**

BCR Community Partnership was formed to fill part of the gap left by the former BCR Neighbourhood Partnership, which, along with all other Neighbourhood Partnerships in the Bristol city area, was dissolved in 2017.

We set out to continue the Neighbourhood Partnership practice of holding public forum meetings at which local residents and community groups could gather to discuss local issues. Our aims (see [bcrpcp.org.uk/aims/](https://bcrpcp.org.uk/aims/)) and constitution (see [bcrpcp.org.uk/constitution/](https://bcrpcp.org.uk/constitution/)) remain as approved at the inaugural AGM on 18 February 2018.

## **Public Meetings in May and January**

We have only held two public forum meetings in the past year (2022-2023). This has reflected the lack of 'hot topics' to discuss in our area, the small amount of funding available from the community infrastructure levy (see below) and the continued reduction in Council services due to austerity and cuts.

There does seem to have been a reduction in activities from some community groups, though others such as The Ardagh and Family Food Action have been growing to meet the changing priorities since the pandemic.

The Public Forum in **May 2022** was the first in-person meetings we had held since February 2020, due to the pandemic. Held at the Quaker Meeting Hall on Gloucester Road, it was attended by 25 people including Councillors from the three wards in our area. We also made the meeting accessible via Zoom, though two of the three who attended this way reported that their online experience was poor.

In **January 2023**, we reverted to holding an online-only public forum in the expectation that many who were now familiar with Zoom meetings would prefer this to coming out on a cold winter evening. This seems to have been the right choice as 35 people attended, including five Councillors from our three wards.

Full reports of all public forum meetings are available on our website [bcr.org.uk/reports/](https://bcr.org.uk/reports/).

## Communications

Our Facebook page ([@bcr.community](https://www.facebook.com/bcr.community)) and website ([bcr.org.uk](https://bcr.org.uk)) continued to be used to publicise issues such as public consultations of local interest during the year.

We continued to send out email newsletters to a circulation list of approximately 750 subscribers. The frequency of these has reduced reflecting the lack of issues of local concern, but they remain the main way of publicising our meetings.

## Community Infrastructure Levy

During 2022, Area Committee 2 allocated funding to one project in Bishopston & Ashley Down ward – £4,000 for the installation of pencil bollards outside Ashley Down primary school. Other allocations made to projects outside our area, totalling £58,700, meant that the AC2 CIL budget was overspent.

Minimal further CIL funds have arisen in the subsequent months, so it is predicted that the AC2 CIL budget will remain overspent during 2023. Because of that, there will be no allocation of CIL funding to projects during 2023. This, in turn, has meant there is no reason for us to call public forum meetings to advise Councillors on funding allocation during 2023.

Roger Gimson (Chair)  
BCR Community Partnership

## Finance [The figures are round numbers – full accounts available on request]

This report covers the period from 30th April 2022 until 30th April 2023.

At 30th April 2022 we had a balance of £975 of which £600 was unspent money from Bristol City Council grants received in 2018-19 and 2019-20 for running community meetings in our three wards.

Since then we have held one in-person community meeting. Our other expenses have been annual renewal of our public liability insurance, our website and email subscriptions, and the cost of hosting zoom meetings.

At 30th April 2023 we had a balance of £799.

The unspent money provided by the Council in previous years now stands at £424. This was considered sufficient to meet the cost of future meetings for the following year and we therefore decided not to bid for further Council meeting funds for 2023-24.

Kevin Chidgey (Treasurer)  
BCR Community Partnership

29 June 2023