

Notes from Community Space meeting

6 March 2018, 6pm

Terrace Room, Barton Hill Settlement

Chair: Ted Fowler (TF)

Councillors: Ruth Pickersgill (Easton) (RP), Marg Hickman (Lawrence Hill) (MH)

Minutes: Claire Green (CG)

Apologies: Councillor Afzal Shah (Lawrence Hill)

RP explained that the CIL process is the successor to Neighbourhood Partnership, and that this year's decision making process is somewhat rushed due to a lack of clear guidelines. Going forward, the planning and decision making process will be much more structured.

Two projects per ward must be put forward for consideration, alongside those from all other wards. Those unable to attend tonight will be given the opportunity to vote on the proposed projects via Up Our Street.

Questions:

John Asher (Sustrans) queried the stipulation that all projects must be complete within a year. RP clarified that the proposal and planning stages must be complete, rather than the entire project.

Liz from Easton asked for confirmation that Highways will come up with their own list of proposals. RP clarified that their proposals will be a parallel process, some of which would fall under the 15% allocation and added that there are a number of channels for the public to alert Highways of issues.

Projects Proposed:

Easton

Heather Cullimore - Severnside Community Rail Partnership Improvements to Stapleton Road station

- The Partnership is the interface between the community and rail industry.
- The station and surrounding area has deteriorated over the last 2 years - approach roads, accessibility problems, safety concerns.
- It is not clear where responsibility lies as tracks and access are owned by Network Rail and the platforms by GWR.

- A workshop is taking place at the Festival of Solutions to look at community priorities for improvements: safety, lighting, slope access and the re-establishment of the volunteer base.
- The intention is to provide a well signed, well-lit welcome to neighbourhood, to help to encourage people off roads and onto trains.

Reethah Desai, resident
Stapleton Road street improvements

- Celia from Up Our Street has been assessing the road, which is very long and has some parts in need of improvement.
- Trees in the urban environment are important - more on Stapleton Road would improve the area.
- On Whiteladies Road traffic calming measures have been combined with trees in the centre of the road. Could this be a possibility, around the Istanbul Supermarket area and further up.
 - Beneficial to promote the numerous eateries on that part of the street, and increase safety between the station and Robertson Road area.

John Asher – Sustrans
Bristol-Bath Railway Path improvements

- The path opened in 1979, there are 2.5m journeys every year and up to 700 people per hour using the path.
- In recent years, complaints and issues have increased - speed of cyclists, antisocial behaviour, bikes and pedestrians mingling but there has been no real response.
- Up Our Street have taken direct action and done some trials. For 40th anniversary would like to re-imagine path to cope with levels of demand and the number of different uses: commuting, green space, dog walking etc.
- This is a community-led process so there is no fixed solution yet. Possibly greener, or use of traffic calming measures. Usage is increasing 10% year on year, especially in view of the Chocolate Factory development.

Easton and Lawrence Hill

Zoe Banks Gross - Plansmith Associates
Eastern Connections

- An ecology & community engagement to benefit Easton and Lawrence Hill.

- There are many schools both within the two wards and in surrounding areas, and walking or biking connections are quite poor, involving busy roads etc.
- There are several green spaces too so the intention is to connect schools using green spaces, working with older people too and engaging with school goers, looking at the history of the Frome and Eastville Park.
- There are bad health inequalities in Lawrence Hill and Easton - these improvements would help alleviate this by getting people into green spaces moving around and engaging.

Lawrence Hill

Finlay McNab (in connection with OMCA)

Lawrence Hill Roundabout

- The eastern side of the city is cut off by the M32 and Lawrence Hill roundabout. New developments will increase traffic and make this barrier even worse.
- Proposal to redevelop the council-owned space, potentially for community led housing.
- Small amount of funding only required - transport modelling to be looked at. The area is the size of 5 football pitches, land could be put for better use.
- If put forward to housing, this would in turn then be liable for more CIL funding.
- Unpleasant underpass to use so people run across a busy major road instead.

MH mentioned that the Princes Trust has looked at this before in 2012 and that a small amount of work has already taken place - is feasible. £350k set aside but nothing is moving currently. This area Straddles Old Market ward also and may come under a more central budget. [clarification: Lawrence Hill roundabout is outside the Old Market Neighbourhood Plan area and so will **not** be eligible for CIL from developments in plan area]

Sue Ramsay and Ruth Cochrane - Hannah More Primary School

Hannah More community learning space

- Community learning space proposed as an extension of the existing community room, where there is a wide range of opportunities available for parents from a broad range of sources, independent of school budget.
- Training for volunteers is provided. The school has doubled in size due to building work around it, putting an increased demand on learning. Housing continues to increase in the area.

- The room currently houses six courses per week, clubs, workshops and a crèche alongside in a storeroom. There is a need for language, health, wellbeing etc, courses and an out of hours facility.
- Two areas are proposed, one to enable cooking classes and a purpose built crèche facility. Many disadvantaged families use it and older residents may also benefit.

Ali Hender, resident

Dings Park

- There is a youth club in the park in a converted shipping container, which has been in place for ten years now and needs refurbishing - lights and toilets need fixing, just a small amount of funding - £5k or £10k.
- Youth club is managed locally but is at risk of closing as rent-paying youth services are being lost.
- Play equipment needs replacing, as do lights on ball courts so children can play safely. Previously, lights came on with streetlights and off at 11pm, which worked.

**Annie Oliver - Community Development Manager at Barton Hill Settlement
Barton Hill Boxing Club improvement**

- This is an important facility for young people - there are 500 members who get loyalty, focus and discipline, and avoid anti-social behaviour.
- Great community cohesion exists - with Polish, Somali, white British members and 50% female attendance. This is important in an area with the highest level of deprivation in city which is getting worse due to increased population.
- Car park and five-a-side court need resurfacing, signage replacing and electricity improving. Roof could do with improvements.

**Louie Herbert - ACORN tenants union
Report and study on impact of infrastructure changes survey**

- There are hidden impacts - increased rents, response of residents to friends and family being forced to move. There are 32,000 people in Easton and Lawrence Hill ward and Acorn is well supported.
 - Looking to fund equipment for volunteers to carry out a study and report - ipads, phones, tables etc.
- RP believes an infrastructure proposal would be needed in order to make this a valid project.

Other proposals received by RP

- Self-cleaning public toilet to replace closed facilities.
- Reinstate parts of Easton safer streets road closure proposals:
- Traffic calming on Hinton Road
- Easton Road zebra crossing.
- Badly executed dropped kerbs in Whitehall near old people's homes are dangerous for mobility scooter-users and are in need of repair.
- Anti-social behaviour near Moorfields house. There are no funds for security - proposal for CCTV and improved locks to help older residents feel safer.

The old Neighbourhood Partnership list included some road problems in the Dings. RP to check.

MH - Playing Out

Twinnell House in Lawrence Hill ward has an area with play equipment for children aged around 7-12 and opposite the building is a playground for older children however there are many children aged six and under there with nowhere to play.

Up Our Street has worked with Playing Out at Twinnell House for past two years to engage residents. There are proposals for models to resolve this and potential for small amount of legacy money. Tamsin agreed that this is ongoing.

Next steps

People who couldn't attend the meeting have until 14 March to vote. RP will provide an update on the outcome on 14 or 15 March.