

Team Southmead Minutes-300719

Apologies;

Helen Godwin, Stephen Ricketts, Toni Collins

Present;

Deana Perry, Anthea Mustard, Suzanne Dagggar, Mike Murch, Alan Piper, Michael Shields, Brenda Massey, Rob Poloha, Dawn Payne, Jacqui Searle, Christine Portch, Ricardo Sharry, Lucy Empson, Alan Morris, Hannah Walker, Maddy Burgess.

Lucy Empson-BCC Public Realm Works -Arnside Regen

Bristol City Council will be re-doing roads and pavements at Arnside with a cycle route on one side to avoid having bikes on the pavement.

Traffic surveys have been completed for Pen Park Rd, Dunmail, Arnside and Falcondale Rd as we need to predict the implications of traffic movement. Car parking at Arnside is still not at full capacity even on a Saturday and there is a high number of pedestrians.

The junction to turn into Aldi is difficult but historically no accidents reported there. They have been advised not to pedestrianise Arnside because this would push traffic out to surrounding areas with narrow roads.

The through road is still needed at Arnside for deliveries/Disabled/Loading. There will be a 3 hour time limit with the Aldi car park remaining as is with no time limit.

New parking bays along Greystoke Ave which will take up some of the green space. Michael Shields asked if the potholes along Greystoke can be fixed but the funding allocated does not cover this. Transport consultants have looked at the impact from other areas-A4018, Filton Airfield, Dunmail and Southmead Hospital. Mike Murch asks about making the Aldi car park a one way system as you have cars coming from all directions at the moment. Lucy says that this could become a planning requirement from the Council when Aldi start making plans for a new building. Council says its not really possible to open up the road that runs parallel with Greystoke Ave as there is not much room to turn before you hit the roundabout. Michael wants new parking spaces to be advertised. There are problems with the dentist on Greystoke as the staff between them have 6 cars. Residents that live next to the dentist wanted double yellow lines outside their homes but the Council felt the need to keep as much parking as possible.

Doncaster rd park to replace the green space lost at Glencoyne Square so it was felt that a new crossing was needed from Greystoke to the park. Lucy came to the last Inclusion meeting and many residents felt that an Island crossing was not suitable as people on mobility scooters or mums with buggies struggle to manoeuvre around the central island. It was felt that a push button Toucan style would work best. Infrastructure work on pavements/roads will start next summer 2020 with the Council working alongside the building contractors EG Carter.

Ricardo Sharry-BCC Reading With Children

We need to train volunteers to read in our Primary schools. Littlemead, Fonthill and Badocks Wood already have these but not enough. An organisation called ABLAZE provided mentoring for targeted children but this was at a cost. RSVP is the only organisation that does not charge. Early intervention is important because it has been proven that if a child cannot reach a certain level of reading by the time they get to secondary school they will never earn more than £21,000 per annum in their whole lives. Volunteers can choose which school they go to and it doesn't have to be in Southmead but another area maybe more convenient for them. Ric is going to arrange a 3 hour training session in Southmead in September and DBS checks can be completed in 5-10 days. Ric oversees more than 300 volunteers and Benda Massey asks about the possibility of moving up to helping adults that cannot read. Southmead Library already has Read Easy sessions held there and Ric will investigate as we know that some residents in Southmead cannot read or write and therefore cannot help their children.

Hannah Walker-Arnside Regen

Lots of feedback from events has been gathered and the Architects have produced the latest design with these in mind. Many many residents got a chance at the festival to not only look at the plans but see the design with Virtual Reality goggles!!.

There will be a new Health Centre and Library on Glencoyne and 120 Apartments. Residents have been giving their opinions of the type of buildings that they want to see and there is a preferred choice of materials/design. They want it to be bright and friendly with some red brick to match Arnside and tall windows. Residents prefer rounded shapes and not rectangular or angular buildings. The top floor of the buildings will be "stepped back" so as not to look too imposing. They also wanted modern buildings but with a homely look. There will be lots of seating with communal areas and planting. Some balconies will be inset but others will be on the exterior so that tenants feel they have an outside garden. The architects have tried to include all ages in their design and will have more formal painting so it will be a bit like a town centre. On the feedback board at the festival there was only one dot for totally disagree with the plans and Mike Murch asked the gentleman why he had said that. He replied that he had done that because he wanted Arnside to be pedestrianised. There was a broad agreement that the designs reflected the communities aspirations and planning permission will be put in this September. Lots of parking provision for the new homes will be made and we have been assured that the new buildings will have fire retardant materials used. There has been even more regulation on materials used especially after Grenfell.

Update On 20 Acres-Deana Perry and Alan Piper

Following a walkabout last November with Darren Jones MP, Local Councillors, Deana and residents of 20 Acres we heard nothing from the Council for months. The appalling state of the place seems not to be on anyones radar because of its location on the edge of Southmead. You wouldnt even know about it unless you live there. Residents have had enough and have even tried to sell their homes with no success as prospective buyers like the house but not the dilapidated state of the area. Deana emailed Darren Jones MP, Local Councillors and the Housing Officer for 20 Acres in May this year. Darren Jones secretary said that unfortunately Darren does not have any jurisdiction over Bristol City Council. Deana pointed out that the response from the Council around the issues raised at the walkabout was sadly lacking and did not mention the wider issues. A few weeks ago Joanne Brooks who is the Housing Officer for the area emailed to say that she would visit the estate with a surveyor to look at the specific areas raised in emails. This visit has now happened and there is a possibility that the area known as the back grass could be transformed into a community allotment as residents have wanted for many years. There is also a suggestion that the four huge concrete squares can be resurfaced and have planters and benches installed to make them a more sociable space. However this is very expensive and initially there would be a bid put in for funding for one square. If the decision is made to go ahead with this application the panel that will decide dont meet until February 2020 so nothing will happen overnight. Joanne will leaflet the estate to get their thoughts on having an allotment.

Alan Piper was very angry at the meeting because he has lived there for 50 years and what was once a wonderful community in a lovely space has gone. Deana christened "The Land That Time Forgot" and thats exactly what it looks like-desolate and uncared for with weeds up to 3 feet tall. Alan thinks the problem comes from the fact that the Council have adopted 20 Acres rd but not the whole estate. Lucy says its the same at Arnside-it is Council land but the huge pavements have not been adopted by the Council. Alan says that the residents of 20 Acres pay their Council Tax and the Council are derelict in their duty to take care of the whole area. Mike Murch states that 20 Acres will now be on the agenda every month at the BS10 Parks and Planning meetings.

AOB

Jacqui Searle says that St Stephens are open 3 mornings a week to take donations for the foodbank.

The clock at St Stephens has not worked for years and needs repairing as its the only clock visible at Arnside.£5,000 is needed and the Bishop Of Bristol has agreed to be the patron for this fundraising.Jacqui will start approaching organisations and hosting cake sales and quiz nights to fundraise.

Date next meeting-27th August 2019 (AGM)