

FOCUS



Produced, Delivered and Funded by Volunteers. Printed on recycled paper. **OCTOBER 2019**



Chris and Gary with Mary Page viewing plans for the new school and community centre

OUR NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL

We can continue to give good news on progress, following an extensive period of community engagement. As we write plans are being submitted for the new school on Daventry Rd and the £6.5M brand new community facility. Many people came in to view the plans and some helpful suggestions have produced minor modifications, but the overwhelming response has been "Great, let's get it built". Given the number of partners (government, school, community trust, council and community) getting the details right has not been simple, but great credit is due to all involved. We know local residents, through the Futures planning group are supportive, and that is welcome when time is so critical after our 20 year wait .The purpose

and plans continue to impress trusts and foundations around the country and progress is very good on raising the top-up funds needed for the community facilities to be delivered in full without delay.

TOO SUCCESSFUL!

Many organisations and services have thrived and prospered in the can-do attitude that pervades everything at The Park Opportunities Centre in Daventry Rd. Few though can match the astonishing record of The Park Football Club. Set up some 5 years ago, with assistance from the ever helpful Dave Wherret, to encourage local people, particularly those with disabilities, into activity, it has grown to an organisation that boasts 500 members. It has teams for those with disabilities, able-bodied adults, youngsters and women and continues to grow.

They have taken a few battered old classrooms and school toilets near to the football pitches at The Park, and with volunteer effort turned them into changing rooms with facilities, a welcoming club room and a cafe that helps their finances. That works very well but they now need to expand their facilities. They made enquiries about using other pitches and facilities in the area.

The cash starved Council Parks department have a problem with the dilapidated changing rooms at Redcatch Park. Gary spotted the possible solution and with Chris has made the necessary introductions. We hope that the football club can work their volunteer magic again and restore the changing rooms for their use. This will provide the additional facilities and pitches they need and will also generate rental income for the park.



BROADWALK DEVELOPMENT

Discussions are taking place between the developer, housing associations and various partners, and the developers are looking at requests for improvements in design. It is unlikely that the next stage, which includes a detailed planning application, will be progressed until there is some clarity about the Brexit situation. We already knew that the retail market was very poor but there have been some jitters in the general property market, so we must hope that the rescue plan is not in danger. Meanwhile a detailed list of S106 planning obligations have been drawn up which must be met if the scheme proceeds. (Developers contributions to the council for community improvements)

RESIDENTS' PARKING SCHEME ?

One of the key planning obligations (see previous article) would be a residents' parking scheme - IF residents want one. We have almost finished collecting completed surveys from the houses in the area which might be covered and the results are not unexpected. In the Victorian houses and the streets off the Wells Rd there is roughly a 2-1 majority in favour of a scheme, but we have yet to do a detailed analysis of the design details preferred.

In the Knowle Park area that might have been covered, although there is some support, the vote is reversed and this is not surprising as there is very little reliance upon on-street parking.

IF the scheme is to go ahead then council officers will take into account preferences expressed in our survey. Whatever is suggested we have insisted upon, and received agreement for, an "open book" management, where the finances are accounted for separately to council funds and details are publicly available. Any scheme, if one happens, must be for local residents' benefit and not a money raiser for the council.



DYING ON OUR STREETS

Nothing has exposed the incompetence of the mayor more than his failure to produce a clean air plan for the city. There have been demands from opposition Councillors for some years for action but, despite 300 people a year dying because of air pollution, it was not until central government demanded a plan that anything at all happened. Unfortunately the attempt was to try to keep the government off his back rather than to really tackle the problem and he failed again and again to do that, as the plan was late, and the performance below even the government's not very demanding standards.

Would people be so relaxed about this if we saw a violent death on the streets of Bristol every day? Because the problem is not visible does not make it unreal. The appalling proposals completely fail to address the issues and there should be a diesel ban on a few restricted streets.

We have offered proposals that would work. Firstly the area covered needs to be wide. People are not just dying in a few central streets. Secondly all vehicles, not just selected ones, need to be subject to standards. Thirdly any charge needs to start with very low penalties and go up over the years to give fair warning and time to adjust,. Fourthly any charge applied needs to be graduated so that a vehicle just exceeding the standard does not pay the same as a polluting monster. Fifthly we need a vehicle exchange scheme that is subsidised for those on low income. Motorists were encouraged years ago to go diesel and they still produce less greenhouse gasses than their petrol equivalents. Many of the vehicles that are a menace in town are exactly what is needed in remote rural areas so these should not be scrapped.

REDCATCH PARK TENNIS COURTS

Chris and Gary are currently exploring options to flood-light the tennis courts. There is the possibility of funding for this from the Lawn Tennis Association. Currently the plans have to be found for the existing electrical supply from the previous lighting. We are keen to ensure as much free public access as possible is retained. Acknowledging the need to generate income, to ensure sustainability, their preference however is to charge just for the use of the courts during the time the floodlights are used. It needs to be seen if there is enough income generated from this, along with other sources such as hire charges for group use by the local club and coaching classes, to support the operational and maintenance costs. There is currently no funding for maintenance, and resurfacing is required in another 3 years. Of course consultation with the local community will be carried out before any works are planned.

REDCATCH COMMUNITY GARDEN



Gary and Chris with Mike Cardwell at their Open Day - another of their hugely successful events.

There was something special about the founders of the community garden project. It was evident from the start that they would make a go of things, and produce something both inspiring and useful, on what had been the old bowling green. We could not however have anticipated the quite remarkable progress that they have made over the first couple of years.

When they were getting started they were surprised the council were not able to supply a lease, but we were able to help by getting a licence facility. This has been OK for the first couple of years and they have been successful in accessing some grant funding.

Through their hard work and innovation the success of the group is clear, but they are in danger of being blocked if a lease cannot now be arranged. A lease is needed to access some of the larger grants that are

available. We are now assisting them by cutting through the council red tape and inertia.

PAIGNTON PARK PLAY EQUIPMENT AND FRIENDS GROUP

Tender documents are finally being issued for the new Paignton Park which occupies the middle section of what used to be Salcombe Rd Rec. There are two sections with a fenced in children's play area, and a landscaped area with tree planting and shrubs outside the play area. The contract is for completion by 20th March 2020.

We are hopeful that a resident's Friends of Paignton Park will be formed to oversee the area, decide which equipment they would like installed eg swings monkey bars, roundabouts etc. and help protect and even improve the facilities. Please contact us if you would like to be involved and we can put you in touch with other residents who are interested.

With 1 Redcatch Road nearing completion at last, and the refurbishment of the old building society offices on the Wells Road (rumoured to be a hairdresser and a take away) we look forward to welcoming more new business to Knowle.

WOODBIDGE ROAD TRAFFIC SCHEME

We have just received this e-mail from the city Traffic Engineer about the Woodbridge Rd traffic scheme. "I have just found out that the contractor is very unlikely to have the resources to deliver this scheme before the end of the financial year, meaning the construction of this project will not begin until April 2020. We realise this will be very disappointing for the residents and the contractors will continue to work on this scheme as a priority, with the intention of delivering this work as soon as the contractor has the capacity to do so. They may have the opportunity to begin the work earlier if other projects are delayed." We will monitor the situation closely and push for an early start to the work.

GOOD NEWS - More funding for Knowle!

The Area Committee of Councillors representing 6 wards has approved funding from S106 and CIL money (developers funding obligation for community improvements) to carry out the £100,000 scheme for a new pedestrian crossing on the Wells Road between Somerset Rd and Broad Walk. In a further surprise success our proposal to approve, with a small trim, a grant for the Knowle Park Centre in The Square was also agreed, This will allow for infrastructure improvements including a new boiler.

AIRPORT RD /CALLINGTON ROAD CYCLE WAY

The widened pedestrian / bike path was badly constructed when it was installed, causing flooding and we have been pushing for this to be corrected. This will be remedied before the winter weather sets in. Action was delayed as the team have been very busy with the installation of the western section of the pathway which, following our insistence, will now join Airport Road pathway to Callington Road pathway. The final stage of signage along Brislington Brook will create a continuous safe cycleway from Hartcliffe Way to Brislington.

Knowle Community Forum Meeting

The next meeting will be held at The Park Daventry Road on November 14th 7pm. All residents are invited to come along to hear about any future plans for Knowle and to ask questions and contribute ideas. Our role is to act on residents' problems and needs so your opinions are important to us.

18 Years of Hard Work in Knowle

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS - We are available every day not just at elections

Chris Davies
Tel: 0117 3773528
43 Norton Road
Knowle
Bristol
BS4 2EZ



Christopher.davies@bristol.gov.uk

Gary Hopkins
Tel: 07977 512159
4 Preston Walk
Knowle Park
Bristol
BS4 2TP



Gary.hopkins@bristol.gov.uk