

Redland & Cotham Amenities Society



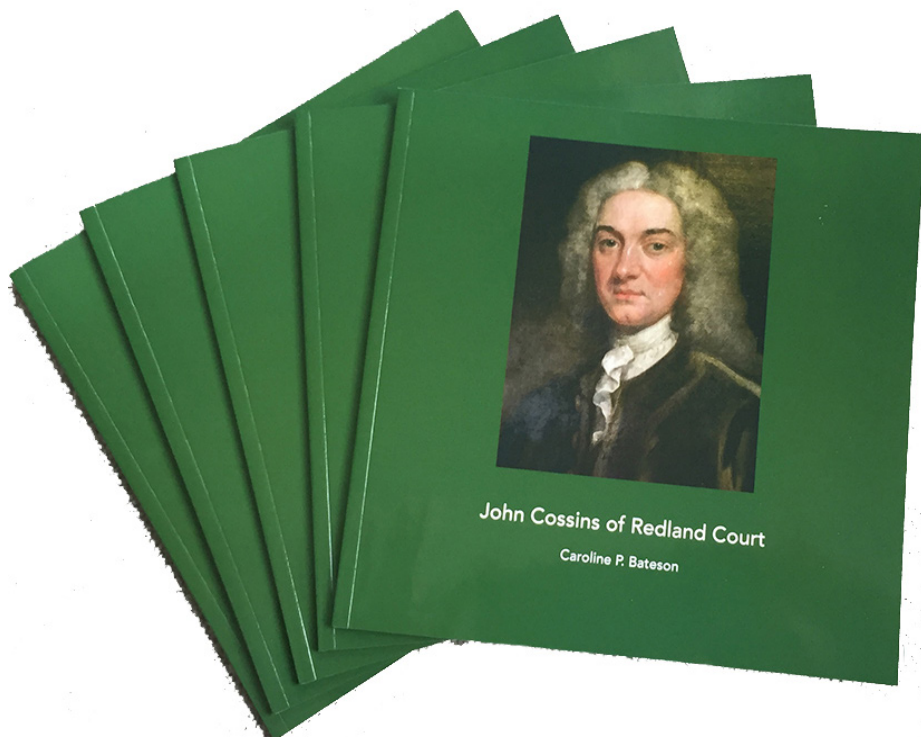
**Report from the Chair
AGM Minutes and Accounts
Cotham Hill wins Gold again
RCAS Gold Star awards
Community Partnership
Pull-out Information Section**



Front cover:

The cityscape changes yet again.

'The Vincent' development on Redland Hill viewed from Elm Lane.



In recent weeks Caroline Bateson, Headmistress of Redland High School from 2006 to 2015, has published a small illustrated booklet on the fascinating history of John Cossins, the owner and builder of our most famous local building, Redland Court.

RCAS has supported the publication of this detailed and very readable research. Members can obtain a copy of this high quality booklet through the newsletter editor. The price is £5 per copy.

If local residents would like their own copy of this special piece of local history, please contact me on

peter.wilde@doctors.org.uk
or telephone 0117 9739746

Peter Wilde
Newsletter Editor

Report from the Chair

First and foremost I would like to start with a big thank you to Roger Mortimer. Roger has been a huge contributor to RCAS for very many years and he has decided to step down from the committee whilst, of course, remaining an active member. Roger has contributed in so many ways to our local area and more widely in Bristol, using his planning and architectural skills to great effect. He has also been a regular contributor of articles and photographs to the newsletter. We shall miss you on the committee Roger but keep writing the articles!

It was a great pleasure to present Roger with a personal Gold Star Award at the AGM.

Much has happened this year and a lot of this has been reported in previous newsletters. I would like to devote much of this column to discussing the finances and governance of the Society. As you will have heard at the AGM (or read overleaf) the finances of the society are in an exceptionally healthy state, the balance of assets having slowly but steadily increased over recent years. You will see that our balance sheet at the end of 2016-17 stood at over £37,000 and this was before we received the very generous legacy of £10,000 from the will of Rose Jennings. This means we now have reserves of about £47,000.

This situation has arisen for a number of reasons. The subscriptions were raised seven years ago in 2010 but they remain at a very modest annual fee of £10 per household. Concession rates still apply. We have also gained from the May Fair which adds to our balance most years.

All charities need to carry reserves but these are primarily aimed at being a safety mechanism to cover unexpected liabilities.

As we have no employees and no physical assets (such as property) we have low risks and thus we do not need large reserves.

The sum we hold at present, whilst being perfectly proper, is really too much for a small charity like RCAS. As a charity, our main duty is to spend the funds we receive in accordance with the aims of the society.

This brings me on to my second point, namely the aims of RCAS. We are regulated by the Charity Commissioners and in their records our aims are recorded as *'our aim is to protect and enhance our area, its architecture, trees, parks and amenities, for present and future residents'*.

The Charity Commissioners clarify this by stating *'The objects set out in a charity's governing document can sometimes be vague, general or expressed in outdated language. The way a charity takes forward its objects may also be influenced by the resources they have available or are able to raise. This section of the Register is the trustees' summary, in simple terms, of what the charity actually does as opposed to what their legal objects allow them to do'*.

The committee and I feel that we have got to a position where we must spend significantly more of our assets to avoid holding excessive funds. As stated in the wording above, we have a fair degree of flexibility about how we use these funds and in particular the phrase *'its objects may also be influenced by the resources they have available'* indicates that we probably have more flexibility than we might think.

We are thus making a general call to members for proposals for new projects that may be appropriate for us to support.

A number of ideas have already been put forward, many of which are worthy of consideration, but we need to bear in mind that we must not initiate expenditure that creates a financial risk. The most obvious way this would happen is by employing staff. If this occurred, we would be liable for employment costs and other liabilities (and a lot more work) as well as having to cover risks of redundancy. If we need to use the funds on labour, it would have to be on the basis of short term external contracts that were within our means.

Similarly taking on any asset, such as property or equipment, can introduce financial liability for maintenance, depreciation, insurance and other factors. Added to the above is the fact that we operate on the goodwill of a small voluntary committee who do not have additional time to devote to a more complex organisation.

Thus we are looking for useful community based ideas for projects that are practical and beneficial but don't get us entangled with issues that are inappropriate for RCAS.

Finally, some members might wonder why we can't simply reduce subscriptions or have a 'subscription holiday'. This is possible in theory but the big problem with this is that members pay in variety of ways, in particular by standing order. Dealing with subscription collection in a membership of approximately 760 households is already an onerous task and making changes would be a very difficult to manage.

In summary, we have a problem but it is a 'good problem'!

Please give this matter careful thought and feed back to me or the committee any ideas you may have. Once we have a collection of proposals, these will be carefully considered by the committee and we will be able to

narrow down the options that we might wish to pursue.

You will see in this newsletter an article announcing the launch of our new website. I know that some members are not keen on electronic communication but many of us increasingly use the internet and social media for getting information and communicating with others. The new website will hopefully bridge the gap in preferences across our membership and hopefully it will increase the appeal and access of RCAS to families and younger residents in the area. This project could not have been achieved without the huge contributions from Alison Bromilow, Bina Shah and Kathryn Armitstead. Do look at the new website, test it out, and add your own contributions.

In this last newsletter of the year, we have a pull-out section containing useful information for the following year. After listening to feedback from the members and the committee we have decided to discontinue the section on tradespeople. We have found that not many people use it and we have no real means of verification of the standards of work. Furthermore it is a very time consuming task to update. This information is nowadays much more easily obtained by other means.

Finally I would like to thank all members, volunteers and the committee for your continuing support. I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Helen Wilde

Minutes of the 45th RCAS AGM

**Redland Green School, Redland Court Road
Thursday 9th November 2017**

Over 40 in attended including 8 members of the committee and 25 other members. There were also 3 invited councillors and 4 guests. Apologies were presented from Kathryn Armistead, Carew Reynell and Bina Shah.

The event started with refreshments at 7.00pm. The meeting was formally opened at 7.30pm by the Chair, Helen Wilde, who welcomed members, visitors and councillors. Helen noted that this had been another successful year for RCAS and thanked the committee for their work during the year. She also thanked those organising and involved in Open Gardens, the newsletter editor and distributors, Cotham Hill in Bloom (4th year for the Gold Star 'Bristol in Bloom' award) and the May Fair.

A special mention was made of the revamped RCAS web site and the newly unveiled placemaker at 'Whiteladies Gate'. An RCAS facebook page now feeds directly into the website. The work of Alison Bromilow in setting this up was acknowledged.

Helen reiterated that there are always plenty of opportunities for members to volunteer (especially someone interested in trees). Please just talk to a committee member or make contact via the web site.

1. Approval of last year's minutes

The 2016 AGM minutes as set out in the December 2016 newsletter were approved, being proposed by Roger Mortimer and seconded by Peter Wilde.

2. Annual report

The 2016 Annual report in the December 2016 newsletter was approved, proposed by Gill Penrose, seconded by Roger Mortimer.

3. Treasurer's report

In the absence of the treasurer, the chair presented a short summary of the accounts for 2016-17. Helen announced that there had recently been a very kind legacy of £10,000 from Ms Rose Jennings (formerly of Woodstock Road) and this would be put to good use by RCAS.

Helen circulated a copy of the accounts (also in the newsletter) which indicated a positive position. Helen pointed out that the legacy (received after the end of the 2016-17 accounting period) would enable some significant grant funding for 2017-18. Projects would be needed to fulfil the objectives of RCAS. Interested members should put proposals to the committee or submit via the RCAS website.

The accounts were approved, being proposed by Clive Stevens and seconded by Julie Hart. Helen thanked Carew for his contribution.

The accounts are shown on pages 7 and 8 of this newsletter.

4. Election of officers and committee

Elections for RCAS Committee were held and the following were successfully elected.

Annual appointments

Treasurer - Carew Reynell.

Proposed by Juie Hart and seconded by Alison Bromilow.

Secretary - Graham Rogers.

Proposed by Alison Bromilow and seconded by Gillian Penrose.

3 year appointment

Peter Wilde.

Proposed by Roger Mortimer and seconded by Simon Birch.

5. Gold Star Awards

Gold Star awards were presented by Simon Birch. Simon reiterated the criteria for award, namely completion in the last 12 months and in public view. There were four awards for 2017.

1. Elm Lodge on corner of Elm Lane. Award was presented to Simon Fitzgibbon
2. Kensington Cottage – Award presented to Quentin Alder.
3. Redland Parish Hall – Award presented to representatives from Redland Parish Church
4. Whiteladies Cinema – Award presented to Quentin Alder.

Full details given on pages 16 and 17.

Finally Helen thanked Roger Mortimer who was retiring after 25 productive service as a committee member. Roger received a gift and made a short speech outlining the progress made since attending his first AGM in 1973.

Councillor's Question and Answers

Three local councillors (Anthony Negus, Martin Fodor and Fi Hance) engaged in a lively and varied debate with the audience. The key focus was on student matters but topics included waste, maintenance of trees,

the parks petition, air quality, the 8 and 9 bus route, public toilets and the management style of Bristol City Council, including the inadequacy of the current scrutiny process.

Anthony Negus presented some figures on the scale of Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) in our area (for example Stanley Road where 80% are HMOs).

There will be a consultation in the New Year about policies and allocations. This was a complicated issue but needed to be recognised. There was concern from the audience that the HMO register was harder to access in Bristol than in other areas.

There seemed to be consensus that the position in relation to Council tax and business rates (not returned via Central Government) was disadvantaging Bristol. However, there was some confidence expressed that universities are beginning to recognise the issues created by student numbers and to engage constructively.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Graham Rogers
RCAS Secretary



Councillors Clive Stevens, Fi Hance, Martin Fodor and Anthony Negus

RCAS Accounts 2016/17

Income	2015/16	2016/17	Expenditure	2015/16	2016/17
Revenue a/c					
Subscriptions	6485	6480	Newsletter	3320	3740
Interest	55	19	Admin	258	192
			Survey	1	549
			Meetings/event s	25	40
			Surplus	2936	1978
Totals	6540	6499		6540	6499
May Fair					
Stall rents	5840	5435	Entertainment	1125	1035
Advertising	300	300	Toilets	1362	1362
Collection	968	1556	Security	644	619
Raffle (RGS)	75	100	Waste clearance	512	300
Donations	1300	300	Printing	270	371
Gift aid	245	390	Licences	110	581
			First aid	230	242
			Sound system	175	175
			Insurance	208	209
			Expenses	177	154
			Marquee	630	0
			Donation	1213	2345
			Surplus	2072	688
Totals	8728	8081		8728	8081
Projects					
Tree fund - donations	75		Trees	480	181
Cotham Hill in Bloom	1415	70	Cotham Hill in Bloom	1974	129
Gift aid	50		Chandos in Bloom		200
Donation			Parks		228
Gift aid	979	969	Whiteladies Gate		560
Deficit		259	Surplus	65	
Totals	2519	1298		2519	1298

Balance sheet				30/9/16	30/9/17
Bank account				36266	39588
Less creditors				-1213	-2859
Less held for other orgs				-1806	-620
Plus debtors				1832	1578
Net assets				35079	37687
Represented by					
Revenue a/c				11353	15773
May Fair a/c				4726	5414
Project a/c				19000	16500

Gift Aid

Many of you have kindly completed Gift Aid declarations, enabling RCAS to reclaim tax on your subscription.

For a Gift Aid claim to be valid, you must have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) which you donate to will reclaim on your gifts for that tax year. Other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. RCAS

will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 of your subscription and any other donations.

If you have any concerns that your Gift Aid declaration may no longer be valid, please contact our Treasurer, Carew Reynell, at carew.reynell@gmail.com or on 9443042.

Carew Reynell
Treasurer

Planning Group

Redland High School, Redland Court

Revisions have been made to the proposed development including material changes for the new upper floors of the Science Block extension, but no changes have been made to the three houses on Redland Court Road which have raised the most objections. RCAS has reiterated their comments about the design of these units, which are overbearing and will set a precedent for future development of the garages along the backs of the Woodstock Road houses.

RCAS has also voiced concern about the height of the Science Block and the impact on the setting of the Redland Court building, and that the developer has not responded to the request to reinstate the Georgian glazing bars in the windows of Redland Court.

Kwik Fit, Whiteladies Road

An application has been made to change the use of this building to a retail unit. RCAS has commented on the proposal, asking that parking bays on the street frontage be removed and that the entrance relocated to avoid impact on local residents if the building has late night opening.

Kingsley Road

RCAS has objected to the proposal to build three residential units on the parking area behind 139-141 Cotham Brow because the building is out of keeping. The units are not set back to the building line of the adjoining buildings, and the accommodation provided is cramped and has no outside space. There are also likely to be issues with waste and cycle storage for the new building and the existing buildings.

Coldharbour Road

RCAS has objected to the proposal to demolish the workshop behind Elworthy on the corner of Redland Road and build 2 residential units because of concerns of overlooking of adjoining gardens. A single unit with an outdoor space would be more appropriate.

21 Lansdown Road

A retrospective application to change a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) from a 5 bed to a 7 bed unit has been made. This area is already unbalanced by the number of non-permanent student residents, and any addition is being resisted. Chandos Neighbourhood Association has surveyed the area and has established that there are at least 705 students living in the area rather than the 572 in licensed HMOs. RCAS has objected.

22 Woodstock Road

RCAS has objected to an application to fell the mature lime tree in front of this property. The tree is an important element in the area.

Alison Bromilow

Simon Birch

Whiteladies Gate placemaker

Many of you will have seen the new sign which RCAS has installed at the junction of Cotham Hill and Whiteladies Road, opposite the Clifton Down shopping centre.

The board includes a local map, a history board, a board for community notices and a board with a directory of traders on Cotham Hill and Abbotsford Road. This local shopping street has a number of excellent independent traders, but many people who come to the area are unaware of the existence of the many local businesses on Cotham Hill, so the placemaker is a way to support them.

Cotham Hill was the main road to the ferries at Aust and the street name Whiteladies Gate marks the location of the turnpike gates. For those of you interested in the history of the area, have a look at the Bristol City Council

Know Your Place mapping system, which overlays the ordnance survey maps, (and the bombing photos from the second World War) so you can trace the development of the area, and see the little arcade which connected Whiteladies Road and Cotham Hill where the Penny pub now stands.

www.bristol.gov.uk/knowyourplace

You can also upload your own photos and information on the site.

If you have notices about community events that you would like displayed in the board, please contact info@rcas.org.uk

Alison Bromilow



Houses in multiple occupancy (HMO)

The importance of community awareness

Within Redland and Cotham, changing the use of a house from domestic (C3) to an HMO (C4) requires planning approval and an HMO licence, both controlled by Bristol City Council (BCC). Most landlords are aware of these rules and abide by them. There are however occasionally cases where changes of use take place without planning approval. It is very important that planning approval is applied for through BCC and made available for public comment during the planning process. Only then can the suitability of the proposal be scrutinised.

Recently a local resident noticed building works in progress at a house in Redland and from discussions with the builders found out that the works were to increase the number of bedrooms in the house by dividing 2 of the existing bedrooms in half. The house in question was in fact an existing HMO but with permission for only 5 tenants. The

adding of 2 extra bedrooms/tenants requires planning permission and a change to the HMO licence.

This house is now let as a 7 bedroom HMO and retrospective planning permission has been applied for recently. It will be interesting to see the outcome of this. Professional landlords use specialised letting agents and should be aware of the proper procedure. If BCC grant approval for this it could be seen as condoning improper practice by the landlord/letting agent and it would be a green light to the many HMOs with a similar room configuration in this area, increasing population density and further unbalancing the community.

RCAS would like to encourage us all to take an interest in developments such as this in the interests of protecting our community.

Rob Harris



The attentive RCAS audience at the AGM

Gold Star Awards

The AGM saw the presentation of the much sought after Gold Star Awards. These are given to development projects in Redland and Cotham completed since the previous AGM, which make a positive contribution to the appearance of our area and which are visible from public vantage points. So no interiors and very few rear extensions can be considered!

This year we were fortunate to have four excellent projects selected as recipients of Gold Star Awards.

Whiteladies Cinema

(see photo on back cover)

The return of this prominent building to cinema use after some 15 years of closure is greatly welcomed. The Listed Art Deco structure had been the subject of various proposals for unsuitable uses such as fitness

centre. The building had previously been damaged internally by conversion to 3 screens, and was in poor condition when Everyman took over. They have fully repaired the structure, including its distinctive tower, and reinstated the elaborate period plasterwork etc. We do however regret that the large and ugly external corner sign above the entrance has not been replaced by more sensitive signage.

Whiteladies Picture House - Everyman Cinema

Client: David Lewin

Architect: Quentin Alder Architects

Redland Parish Halls

The Parish Halls have been a valued amenity for our area since opening in 1994. The need for additional and more

Below:
Redland Parish Halls



flexible space, together with upgrading of the existing services and structure has been imaginatively and skilfully met. The new complex considerably enhances the appearance of the halls from Redland Green.

Redland Parish Halls
Client: Redland Parish Church
Architect: O'Leary Goss Architects

Kensington Cottage

This house, built on the site of two lock-up garages, and sandwiched between the road and railway embankment, shows what can be achieved by good design on a very small site. The house has a natural stone elevation to Kensington Road.

No windows were allowed to the railway boundary. The design provides small outdoor living spaces, including a balcony to the open plan first floor.

It is hoped that if further garage sites are developed here they will be to the same standard.

Development of new house Kensington Cottage at 11 Kensington Road
Client: Charlie Franklin, R.J.Franklin & Son
Architect: Quentin Alder Architects

Below:
Quentin Alder receiving one of his two awards from Simon Birch (left) and Helen Wilde



Elm Lodge

This small and unusually shaped cottage on its corner site has been subject to much alteration in the past, as the slight variety of natural stone shows. The latest extension, which was refused planning permission by Bristol but allowed on Appeal, is a skilful design that respects the historic structure and materials.

House Extension at Elm Lodge, 2 Elm Lane

Client: Peter Doyle

Architect: Richard Pedlar Architects

Simon Birch

Elm Lodge

Below:

Kensington Cottage



An Extra Special Gold Star Award!



Roger Mortimer stepped down from the RCAS committee this year, having joined the committee 25 years ago and Chaired for 3 of those years, having retired from a career in architecture and development.

Roger has contributed a huge amount to the Society and our urban environment. It is difficult to list all his achievements but his major contributions have included:

- Working tirelessly on the RCAS Planning Group, commenting constructively on proposed developments, and consultations about Council Planning Policies, including the important Conservation Area Policy.
- Promoting and lobbying to reduce the impact of 'houses in multiple occupation', mainly student houses.
- Joining the national lobby on new licensing laws, achieving recognition of dangers of 'cumulative impact' of late night venues.
- Promoting improvements to our two parks, Redland Green and Cotham

Gardens. Co-design of new play areas and features, including the 'human sundial' seating at Cotham Gardens.

- Promoting street and park tree planting and supporting the refurbishing of historic cast iron street lights.
- Contributing to and co-editing the 'Living Here' series of local history books.

When asked for his thoughts as he stepped down, Roger Mortimer said *'With the current withdrawal of many Council services I believe that voluntary action is even more important to help maintain many of the fine qualities of Redland and Cotham. RCAS has made a valuable contribution our fine area, and I hope will continue to attract supportive and active members'*.

Having contributed so much over the year, Roger was presented with an individual Gold Star Award by the Chair.

RCAS Committee

Cotham Hill Scores a Fourth Gold!

Although the flower enhancement scheme in Cotham Hill is over, there is still one piece of good news to relay.

Our entry into the Bristol in Bloom's Garden Competition won yet another Gold Award; in the "ShoppingArea / Street Category".

The Cotham Hill in Bloom scheme has been running for five years and this is the fourth Gold Award in a row! Congratulations to all who participated.

Each summer the scheme has been promoted by RCAS as a not-for-profit initiative. It is intended to help make the street a colourful attractive environment in which to shop, reinforcing community spirit and neighbourhood identity. There have been planters on the pavements and hanging baskets on premises mostly sponsored by

traders and all implemented by the Council's Blaise Nursery.

As the grants for this project have now come to an end (which previously had helped pay for lamp post baskets as well), this year the Cotham Hill in Bloom Scheme will be the last that RCAS promotes.

Hopefully traders and residents will organise it themselves next year. So we thank the following traders and residents for their support in 2017 and encourage even more RCAS members to shop in Cotham Hill:

Travis Perkins, Costa Coffee, BS6 Community Magazine, Ministry of Beauty, Simon Lee's Aesthetic Clinic, Rubicon Too, Residents of Cotham and Westfield Park

Gillian Penrose

A Visit from the CHEESE Team

Readers of the newsletter may remember a previous article on the Cold Homes Energy Efficiency Survey Experts. The CHEESE project is a Bristol based not-for-profit community enterprise that aims to reduce energy bills, improve health and wellbeing, and reduce our carbon emissions.

The unique aspect is that their technical experts have devised very low cost thermal imaging using adapted iPhones and laptops. Their trained surveyors visit your home, looking at all your nooks and crannies, and very quickly identify cold spots, draft entry and a variety of other energy wasting issues.

Although our Victorian house was in reasonable shape with double glazing in most large windows, we were surprised to find drafty spots round windows, cold air

coming down chimneys, unlagged hot pipes in the cellar and several places where heat was being wasted. The good news was that most of the findings were relatively easy and cheap to remedy.

The CHEESE business model is great, charging (reasonably) for those who can afford a survey and doing free work for those in fuel poverty who are struggling with the pennies.

We highly recommend this approach which is a 'win-win' project.

More details are on their website:

<https://cheeseproject.co.uk>

Peter Wilde



About RCAS

Our Aims...

- to protect and enhance our area, its architecture, streets, trees, parks, open spaces and amenities for present and future residents

Our Activities...

- we run the annual Redland May Fair - which was established in 1977
- we organise Open Gardens days for our members
- we present Gold Star Awards for excellence in local developments
- we contribute to improved design, detail and landscaping on developments through our planning group
- we fund improvements and support direct action in our area including in Cotham Gardens, Lovers' Walk and Redland Green
- we sponsor and encourage tree planting in parks and streets
- we run projects e.g. for the restoration of appropriate street lights and street furniture
- we work with the University, Bristol City Council and other organisations to support good relationships between our temporary and longer term residents



RCAS Website Relaunch

RCAS has updated the website at

www.rcas.org.uk

and we have opened a Facebook page too.

Those of you who do not use Facebook will still be able to see what is posted, as the new website front page includes updates from our new Facebook page. We feel that many people now rely on social media to keep up with what is going on, and that it is important that RCAS moves with the times.

Please have a look at our new website and let us know what you think.

One of the features of the website is that we have now put our most recent newsletters online, so if you have not kept your copy, you can still find the past year's articles on our Newsletter page. Because the newsletter is only available to our members, the newsletter archive is password protected. The password is 'News'.

If there are any members who would like to help with keeping our Facebook page up to date and would like to help us, please contact us at

info@rcas.org.uk

Bina Shah
Alison Bromilow
Kathryn Armitstead

Bristol City Council Budget Consultations

Bristol is currently consulting on the proposed Corporate Strategy 2018 - 23, and budget for the next financial year.

They are specifically consulting on

- Parks and Green Spaces
- Removal of remaining funding for neighbourhoods
- Culture services income generation and efficiencies
- Financial Assessment consultation for Special Guardians and families with children voluntarily looked after by the local authority

RCAS is specifically interested in the impacts of the proposed budget cuts on Parks and Green Spaces.

The consultation asks for your response to their proposals to generate income from parks and to reduce existing service provision.

There are 14 proposals, the first five being on income generation.

- Increase income from cafes and concessions
- Introduce 'appropriate' advertising
- Introduce new fees for business users eg professional dog walkers
- Introduce new fee-paying activities eg bouncy castles, adventure trails
- Increase money from events in parks

The next 7 are on service reduction:

- Only operate chargeable sports facilities where they generate no cost to the council
- Reduce the number of days Hengrove Play Park is open
- Reduce the level of grounds

maintenance

- No longer provide hanging baskets and formal bedding displays
- Bring in flexible opening hours for parks facilities such as toilets and St.Andrews paddling pool (volunteers may be found to extend these hours)
- Remove play areas and play equipment when they are no longer safely usable, and not replace if there is suitable provision nearby
- Look for opportunities for community groups to take over management, maintenance of parks

Two additional proposals are:

- To increase the number of pay and display spaces in parks and increase charges
- To transfer the parks service to a trust or similar organisation

There is an option for free text so if you have any good ideas do include them in your responses.

Over 80 statements in support of the Bristol Parks Forum petition 'Protect our Parks' were presented to the council, and the petition had well over 3,500 signatures.

Bristol Parks Forum presented the petition at full council on November 14th and pointed out that the aspiration to make parks 'cost neutral' had been the subject of a parliamentary enquiry and found to be unworkable, also that examples of parks which are self-funding have an income from property which is not on offer in Bristol.

A Trust to run all of Bristol Parks would need a substantial property portfolio or continued funding from Bristol City Council, as the

Bristol Parks department year long study had failed to identify sufficient income streams to maintain our parks.

At the meeting, Councillor Asher Craig confirmed that the council was no longer proposing that parks would be cost neutral but did not confirm what level of funding for parks would be provided in the future. The budget still proposes a further £632k of savings in 2018-19 and £1.272m in 2019-20 (i.e. £1.904m in total across these two years). This is on top of the £963k already agreed in the 2017-18 Corporate Strategy.

The outcome of the debate, was that 'the petition be noted and referred to the Mayor / Deputy Mayor for Communities for consideration and response', so watch this space.

Consultation is at <https://bristol.citizenspace.com/bristol-city-council/corporate-strategy-and-budget-consultation/> or link from the Bristol City Council homepage. www.bristol.gov.uk

Alison Bromilow

Don't lose your vote – make sure you're registered to vote

This short article was circulated by Bristol City Council.

The council wants to make sure that as many citizens as possible have registered to vote.

The electoral register (sometimes called the 'electoral roll') lists the names and addresses of everyone who's registered to vote and we need to ensure it's as complete and as accurate as possible.

Those who aren't registered quite simply will be unable to vote and may find difficulty in obtaining a bank account or credit. It's also a legal requirement to register to vote and citizens could face a fine of up to £80 if they don't register.

If you need to register to vote, the quickest and easiest way to do this is online at:

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

If you need help to register online you can visit your local library or the council's Citizen Service Point at 100 Temple Street.

If you can't register to vote online, you can print paper forms from the gov.uk website. You can also call the council on 0117 922 3400 and they'll send you a registration form. You can't register over the phone.

Louise Wardle
Marketing and Communications Officer

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Bishopston Cotham and Redland Community Partnership



The new community partnership has now drafted its aims and constitution, set up its new website and moved the Facebook and Twitter accounts to the Community Partnership (CP) and is ready for the inaugural AGM in early Spring 2018.

The interim steering group comprises members of the former Neighbourhood Partnership, local ward councillors and some new recruits. The CP covers the neighbourhoods in and around the wards of Bishopston and Ashley Down, Cotham and Redland.

A lively forum was held on November 21st with updates from local parks groups including RCAS and from councillors and other community groups. Topics included the current budget consultation, the Street Scene Group activities, residents' parking schemes, an update on the Fire Authority, emerging Air Quality improvements news, Link-Age, police updates, Library closure proposals and Gloucester Road trader groups news about Gloucester Road art banners and Christmas shopping events.

The community partnership is inviting local community groups and individuals to sign up as partners to support the aims of the CP, which are to

Encourage and promote community spirit and cohesion, and the involvement of local people in community affairs;
Seek to safeguard and improve the social,

physical and cultural character of our area
Help people in our area to have a greater influence on decisions affecting their lives
Support local community groups, institutions and businesses to contribute positively to the quality of life in our area

Anyone is welcome to join or attend meetings. Currently all meetings are being held in the new Bishopston Library at 100a Gloucester Road BS7 8BN because the CP does not have funding to pay for other venues.

Financial contributions are being made by community groups who are signing up to be founder partners of the CP and it is hoped that the councillors will receive some funding to support community meetings in the future; however, this has not yet materialised.

For more information, please check the website

bcrcp.org.uk

Alison Bromilow

redland 2018 **may fair**



MAY FAIR UPDATE

Put the date in your diary

Bank Holiday Monday - 7th May 2018, 1-5pm

The clocks have gone back and we're looking forward to the 2018 Redland May Fair on Bank Holiday Monday, 7th May 2018, 1-5pm on Redland Green.

Planning is already under way so if you would like to find out about having a stall at the fair please email us at mayfairstalls@rcas.org.uk for more information. We like to keep it really affordable and so there are different fees per pitch for different types of stalls.

If you are able to help out for an hour or two on the day please email redlandmayfairvolunteers@gmail.com to be added to our pool of potential volunteers and we will be in touch nearer the time. You don't have to commit yourself to doing

it every year. On the morning of the fair it's mostly about helping stallholders as they arrive and find their pitches, or in the afternoon handing out programmes to fair-goers and helping with the bucket collection for our nominated charity.

The May Fair is a not for profit, free community event and is organised by a small sub-committee of volunteers on behalf of RCAS. Whether it's as a stallholder, a fair-goer or a May Fair volunteer put the date in your diary and we hope to see you there!

Abigail Shepherd

On behalf of May Fair Committee

www.rcas.org.uk/may-fair

The Redland May Fair is the biggest free community event in the local area and is organised and run by volunteers. If you'd like to get more involved, we'd love to hear from you!

FRIENDS and NEIGHBOURS may want to join RCAS

The annual subscription is £10 per household.
The postal subscription for those living outside the RCAS area is also £10.

We prefer to collect subscriptions by Standing Order in order to reduce work for our distributors. We will supply a Standing Order mandate form on request. For those who do not wish to use Standing Order, subscriptions will be collected by distributors in May

Those wishing to join should contact the Membership Secretary

Kathryn Armitstead
52 Redland Court Road
Redland
Bristol
BS6 7EH
Email: membership@rcas.org.uk

Please give a full contact address and telephone number. Please include your e-mail address if available.

Alternatively, please complete a new member form which can be found on our website, rcas.org.uk under the 'contact us' page

Please make the following declaration if you are a taxpayer - and sign and date it. This means that the Society can claim Gift Aid.

'I want the Redland & Cotham Amenities Society to treat all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid. I know that I must pay an amount of income/capital gains tax at least equal to the tax the charity reclaims on my donations in the tax year'

Do mention if you are able to help with any RCAS activities.



This page:
The Chandos Road Street Party in September was again a great success. Photos Alastair Watson

Back cover:
The familiar restored stonework on Whiteladies Cinema which received a Gold Star Award this year

