

Redland & Cotham Amenities Society



Report from the Chair
AGM Minutes and Accounts
Planning and Student Liaison
Gold Star Awards
Pull-out Information Section



Number 197- December 2022

Report from the Chair

It was lovely to see so many of you at the AGM on a very wet and windy night in November. Luckily, we were warm and dry inside and enjoyed some very good presentations from 2 of the 4 Gold Star winners and from Steve Smith from the University of Bristol. It is very encouraging to see both that there are better support systems in place for residents who are having issues with noisy student neighbours, and to see that there are so many people in our community who enjoy and contribute to the character of the local area by investing in good design

We were grateful to the Redland Club for giving us use of the hall without charge. You may remember that we helped with seed funding for their refurbishment project which brought in an additional £30K. The hall is a great asset for the community and is available for hire for talks and children's parties as well as putting on a number of dance classes and events and table tennis, Tai Chi, yoga and Pilates classes. Do you fancy spending Sunday afternoons dancing Argentinian Tango? Have a look at their website for details.

As we noted at the AGM, RCAS membership numbers are gradually declining and the committee is looking at whether the organisation of the society should be updated to encourage younger people in the community to become members. If the society wishes to have a voice in service provision, it needs to keep a sizeable proportion of the local community's support to show that it can represent a community view. We are aware that the current members value the society's work but need to work out how we can attract new members. Our committee members are fully committed to working in their current roles and do not have the capacity to take on more activities but if you know of anyone locally who may be interested in being part of the society or the committee or task groups, please do show them our magazine or point them to the website. If they have ideas for local projects, we have funds available to support them. Get in touch if you have any ideas and would like to help.





It is good to read in this newsletter about the new group for Redland Station, and the activities of the two parks groups, and the members of the Street Scene group who tackle the tagging and flyposting which blight our area of the city. It was depressing this week to see that someone had glued a poster to the front of our noticeboard on Whiteladies Road (see photo on opposite page). The amount of glue used was excessive and, despite our best efforts, cannot be cleaned off so we will have to fund a replacement panel. We have taken this up with the owners of the venue but they say they only hire out the space and cannot be held responsible; and though they have offered to get us a contact number for the organisers, we have little hope that our costs will be recovered.

On a brighter note, we were donated some daffodil bulbs by the Bristol Brunel Lions club which we planted under the trees on Lovers' Walk by Cotham Gardens, in an area less frequented by dog walkers, so we are looking forward to some bright spring colour once we have got through the winter season. We hope our community is coping with the colder weather particularly in view of the heating cost rises, thank you for your support for RCAS and for less advantaged members of our wider Bristol community through the Family Food Action charity especially, and wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year,

Alison Bromilow

Minutes of the 50th RCAS AGM

Wednesday 2nd November

Minutes of the Redland and Cotham Amenities Society held at the Redland Club at 7.00pm on Wednesday 2nd November 2022. Over 17 households with over 20 ordinary members were present. Apologies were received from John Dixon, Councillor Carla Denyer and RCAS committee members Kathryn Armitstead and Rob Harris.

Address by Alison Bromilow RCAS Chair

Welcome to the 50th Redland & Cotham Amenities Society AGM.

This address combined with the individual reports in our September newsletter is the RCAS Annual Report for 2022.

It is good to be back in person after last year's virtual meeting though we were very pleased to see a good turnout for our April meeting in person this year when the tree officers from Bristol City Council spoke about their powers to protect trees and the benefits of trees and shrubs to us and to wildlife in our area.

This year, the committee has continued to

- monitor planning applications, including applications for works to trees,
- to work with others to make improvements to our parks and greenspaces, and our streets
- to raise awareness of consultations and service changes by the council and other organisations like bus and rail transport and Bristol Waste
- to address issues with student waste management and noise in partnership with other local groups.

We are pleased to welcome Steve Smith from the University of Bristol to talk to us later in the meeting about his work as the student /community liaison officer.

We have been pleased to be able to support a number of small grant projects including

- sponsoring some tree planting in our streets and parks and
- supporting the coffee concession in Cotham Gardens, currently run by Roam Wild coffee, by providing some café chairs and tables for customer use and a storage container for the storage of this equipment.
- We offered sponsorship for street parties to celebrate the Jubilee this summer and also part funded hanging baskets for Chandos Road.
- We are always on the lookout for more projects to fund, particularly if we are also given support with the work to bring the project forward.
- This year, we paid for wildflower plug plants, which we planted around the trees along Lovers' Walk, unfortunately just before an extended drought; we hope that some of them will have survived to reappear next year, but we do plan to continue to

develop this greenspace with additional planting to support wildlife as well as please the eye. The increased number of dog owners using our local greenspaces is apparent and we have regretfully decided that planting bulbs in the more northerly section of Lovers' Walk/ Redland Grove greenspace is unsuitable but will be planting daffodils donated by Bristol Brunel Lions Club next weekend in the sloping avenue of trees in the southern section by Cotham Gardens.

One of the highlights of the RCAS year is the Open Gardens Day. We had a wonderful selection of gardens to visit this year thanks to the efforts of the Open Gardens team, Abi, KellyAnn and Judith. This team have been organising Open Gardens for nearly 10 years and are standing down this year. We really appreciate their hard work over the years – they are going to be a hard act to follow- but followed they must be if the event is to continue and we need volunteers to carry the event on.

I am sure that members do appreciate this event, so I am asking now, is there anyone in the audience who would like to join the 2 people who have shown interest to spread the load? Even an offer of help with recruiting garden owners when the area covered is your own would be of assistance. Can you raise your hand if you would be willing to talk to the current team about the options for next year?

Many thanks to the Open Gardens team for all they have done over the years to make this event such a success and thanks to Meg Thomas for volunteering to join the group.

As always, my thanks go to the committee members who have worked hard as ever this year. Thanks too to the other people who work on behalf of the members in our task groups but do not attend committee meetings. A particular thanks to the comms team; the newsletter editors, the membership secretary and distribution leader, and to all the members who help with the newsletter deliveries.

Business

1. Approval of Minutes

The 2021 Minutes as set out in the December 2021 Newsletter and online were approved by show of hands.

2. Annual Report and Accounts

The Treasurer, Carew Reynell, introduced the accounts. He highlighted that RCAS had managed to spend more than it earned this year and that the Society still had capacity to take on more projects. There were no questions and the adoption of the accounts was proposed by Nigel Harradine and seconded by Arnold Mayes and were approved by show of hands.

3. Election of officers and committee members

- Peter Dunscombe as Secretary was proposed by Chris Shelley and seconded by Melanie Gallop and was approved by a show of hands.
- Carew Reynell as Treasurer was proposed by Julie Hart and seconded by Jerry Floyd and was approved by a show of hands.
- All committee members, by coincidence, stand for re-election this year and Chris Shelley stands for election for the first time. They are: Kathryn Armitstead, Alison Bromilow, Melanie Gallop, Rob Harris and Chris Shelley All were approved by show of hands.

Gold Star Awards

The chair handed over to Simon Birch to announce the Gold Star award announcement for 2022. Simon confirmed that four nominations had been received from members and all four had been awarded Gold Stars. Brief details are provided below.

42A Archfield Road

Imaginative use of former garage site to accommodate a two-storey house, carefully positioned to avoid any damage to the immediately adjacent mature tree. Attractive stone front wall with distinctive coping. The Panel considered that this development makes a very positive contribution to the appearance of Conservation Area.

18 Clyde Park

Surprisingly large wedge-shaped site located in between traditional Victorian villas. Initially refused planning permission with consent gained on appeal. Attractive gates to street. Ingenious space planning to provide a single storey two-bedroom house with open space to both front and rear. The Panel was impressed by the way in which this project fitted so seamlessly into the street scene and into the Conservation Area.

Redland Court

Very high-quality comprehensive development of the former Redland Girls School to provide over 40 residential units, a mixture of newbuild together with the conversion of the historic buildings. Landscape scheme to enhance the setting to the south. Discreet undercroft parking. Superb and positive contribution to the Conservation Area.

Clock House Meridian Road

Development of former garage to provide two elements – a traditional terrace house mirroring the adjacent terrace, and a single storey workshop, both with off street car parking. Fits in positively with the street scene.

Any Other Business

RCAS REVIEW:

The Chair highlighted that the RCAS Committee is very conscious that our membership numbers are slowly decreasing. This is a common problem with community groups, but while it is comforting to know that it is not just us, it is something that we wish to address. In December, the committee are meeting to discuss what we can do to widen our membership, whether RCAS should offer free membership – although that has implications for the newsletter and the funding of projects in our area. She asked members to come forward with any suggestions that they might have.

Guest Speaker: Steve Smith University of Bristol Community Liaison Officer - Steve was appointed to his current role in March 2022 but has made significant progress in addressing student misconduct eg: noise, poor waste management, anti-social behaviour etc. He responds to reports of misconduct by visiting the household together with the landlord and or property agent. Students will normally receive a warning for a first offence but if problems subsequently re-emerge penalties escalate up to fines of £250 per person. He provided data on the level of complaints and warnings which showed that he has a very heavy workload. He works with a range of third parties including the police, Operation Beach, UWE, landlords and agents – and does seem to be having a very positive impact on the problem. He was asked about what happened to the fines levied and he said that they were used to support events educating students on the issue.

The members expressed appreciation for what he was doing and what he had achieved in a relatively short period.

The Chair closed the meeting.

Peter Dunscombe



Photo left : Steve Smith, Community Liaison Officer for University of Bristol, gave a very interesting talk at the RCAS AGM

RCAS Accounts 2020/21

	2021/22	2020/21
Income		
Subscriptions	5675	5807
Gift Aid	1265	1184
Donations	200	0
Interest	71	4
Other	53	0
Total	7264	6995
Expenditure		
Newsletters	4834	4064
Meetings/events	84	28
Overheads	326	543
Cotham Gdns - secure storage	1057	0
Jubilee street parties	562	0
Cotham Grove planting	523	0
Trees	295	0
BCR streetscene	0	600
Chandos in Bloom	437	467
Other	52	78
Total	8170	5780
Surplus/(deficit)	(906)	1215
Balance sheet		
Bank accounts	42712	44184
Debtors	1100	1200
Creditors	0	(950)
Held for CNA/BCR	(1124)	(840)
Net assets	42688	43594

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 Treasurer Carew Reynell at carew.reynell@gmail.com or on 9443042.

Carew Reynell Treasurer



After waiting so long for the shrubs along Grove Park to be cut back it was an unwelcome surprise to discover that the sign on the railings had disappeared.

Does anyone know of its whereabouts?

Planning Report

Pending decision

22/01845/F | Resubmission of application 21/02337/F - Conversion of existing maisonettes into 2no. Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) containing 6no. bedrooms (Use Class C4) and 7no. bedrooms (sui generis) respectively, with associated bin and bike storage. | 87A Redland Road Bristol BS6 6RD. RCAS objected July 22

22/03588/F | Creation of new hardstandings. | Basement Flat 23 Fernbank Road Bristol BS6 6PZ 5-car off-street parking provision using large area of back garden RCAS objected

22/03645/F | Detached single storey structure to the rear of the property for use as gym/home office, erection of a boundary wall to the rear, and bin storage. | Basement Flat 4 Elliston Road Bristol BS6 6QE – home gym- built larger than permitted and being advertised as commercial use- RCAS and Chandos residents objecting to retrospective application.

22/03665/F | Proposed extension and alterations to existing end of terrace to form 8 self-contained 1 bedroom flats over 4 floors. | 1 Eastfield Road Cotham Bristol BS6 6AA RCAS supported- good use of an end site and sympathetic design, though flats are small.

22/04333/H | Alterations to the front garden area and boundary wall to accommodate one no. off street parking space (resubmission of application 21/06021/H). | 7 Glentworth Road Redland Bristol BS6 7EG Resubmission with 3 m opening. Previous application to make a wider opening which RCAS objected to was refused at appeal.

Enforcement

21/30575/COU | Development deviating from plans approved pursuant to 03/04256/F - including unauthorised development to the front and the rear including excavation for underground development. | 12 Woodstock Road Bristol BS6 7EJ Enforcement case pending.

21/03029/F | Change of use of the upper floors residential unit from small 6 bedroom HMO C4 to large HMO (Sui Generis Use) for 8 bedrooms (Retrospective). | 71 Arley Hill Bristol BS6 5PJ Refused Enforcement action pending.

22/00273/F | Retention of rear annexe extension at second floor level, new parapet wall to rear elevation roof and new Velux roof windows. | 19 Brighton Road Bristol BS6 6NU Retrospective application withdrawn. Enforcement case.

Appeal

20/00542/P | Outline planning application for the redevelopment of the site comprising demolition of existing buildings (1-4 Home Gardens, 1-2 The Bungalows and associated garages and outbuildings) and the erection of two new buildings to provide up to 60 residential units (Class C3) (including 20% affordable housing) and up to 262sqm of flexible office space (Class E) to Whiteladies Road frontage and associated works. Permission sought for Access, Scale and Layout). | Land At Home Gardens Redland Hill Bristol BS6 6UR. Case hearing 15 Nov 2022

Alison Bromilow and Simon Birch

Planning Bordering Area

22/01221/F | Redevelopment of St Christopher's School Site

Traffic and road safety experts at Bristol City Council have criticised the proposals to build a luxury retirement complex on the former St Christopher's school site. The transport management department say the plans would be “detrimental to highway safety” and are calling for the plans to be withdrawn. The report from the transport management department says officers understand the current plan will be withdrawn by the developers, but if the plan is not withdrawn their recommendation is that it should be refused.

The council's highways department has lodged a formal submission stating that the plans for an £85m integrated retirement community should be rejected. Its report says that while the site is suitable for residential use, the parking and servicing arrangements for the proposed development are unacceptable.

Additional concerns have been made about the excessive number of mature trees that would be felled because of the development.

Student Liaison

There was an interesting and very useful gathering of local Residents Associations at the Redland Club on Burlington Road in October, organised by Andrew Waller of the 'noise pages' and chaired by Alison Bromilow from RCAS.

This is the first meeting of local residents' associations since the former Community Liaison Group meetings were terminated by University of Bristol (UoB) over 2 years ago. Since then, there have been regular 'Zoom' meetings and an email "conversation" regarding the student/ community relationship via the new organisation created by UoB, the Bristol Student Community Partnership (BSCP).

This meeting of the local residents' associations highlighted the importance of getting together in the same room to discuss what is happening in each area and the different issues that the areas have. There was much sharing of information and incidents and a discussion about the next BSCP meeting as to what it is we want to happen.

During the last 2 years the BSCP meetings do appear to have improved the response from UoB and Bristol City Council (BCC) in terms of them taking more action and the general feeling of all the associations was that progress is being made. I hope we can meet up again soon!

The benefits of BSCP were discussed and the positive outcomes.

- UoB now routinely contacts landlords and agents when dealing with complaints about students.
- BCC Private Housing Service (PHS), have joined the BSCP. They issue the House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) licences to landlords. PHS are now offering guidance as to how Landlords might meet their HMO licence obligations to manage tenant behaviour better. This is a positive action which hopefully will encourage landlords to get more involved. PHS could use their enforcement powers more when landlords do break the licence obligations given that they do not enforce as much as some other Local Authorities.
- PHS has asked the local residents' associations for comments relating to their landlord guidance initiative.

Landlords could put specific clauses in the Tenancy Agreement (TA), to manage tenants. That is to highlight the tenants responsibilities regarding noise and waste collection.

There are a host of clauses that deal with tenant behaviours but most are difficult to enforce. A clause in the TA mirroring the UoB 'student agreement' conditions, that

each student signs at the beginning of term, would reinforce the message. A problem may be that tenants do not actually read their TA before signing it.

They may also not read the UoB Student Agreement. This is an important document which specifies the rules that student should follow. An executive summary at the beginning which highlights the important points is essential.

- PHS action. Landlords' contact addresses are kept on the BCC HMO register (access by pinpoint on the BCC website). It is important that this is reliable and kept up to date. Recently a particular landlord's address on the register was found to be incorrect due to the landlord having moved some time before. As HMO licences last for 5 years it is important to keep contact details up to date. There is an obligation for the landlord to update their details with BCC within 14 days of moving.

The Hallowe'en weekend this year has proved to be a quite a noisy one! The Noisepages reported many incidents which disturbed neighbours in the vicinity.

Operation Beech is now regularly used by the public regarding noisy late night parties. It is proving to be a great asset in times of need. Depending on how busy they are the Police often visit a party house within 30 minutes and the effect their visit has is surprisingly good. The Police then report the incident to the UoB community Liaison, so the incident is on record.

There is a link on the UoB website for Operation Beech. The process for notifying the police is as follows:

"TEXT 07773 816 248 between 8pm and 2am on Operation Beech dates if experiencing house party or street noise disturbance that is believed to be caused by University of Bristol students. Please include street name and the house number and the extra Police patrols will respond on a priority basis.

Operation Beech started on 1 September 2022 and will continue to operate until further notice. Operation Beech runs between 8 pm and 2 am every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday"

Finally, UoB is a big business. It moves slowly but it does care about its reputation. This is evident and explains the new helpful approach they have adopted. The new Community Liaison officer, Steve Smith, recently appointed by UoB has made a big difference with his proactive approach and his knowledge of policing methods.

Rob Harris



Bristol Recycling Centres

The Bristol Waste Reuse Team keep good condition items in use. There are three Reuse Shops and they also sell from their Ebay shop. Please do consider dropping reusable items to the shops. Items that you may no longer have a use for will be very welcome. There is a list of items they take, just search 'Reuse Shop' on the Bristol City Council website.

The Reuse Shop donated £10,000 to St Peter's Hospice in the financial year 2021/2022 and they hope to make an even bigger donation this financial year. They also donate physical items to charities that can make good use of them, such as Bristol Brunel Lions, St Mungos, Independent People 16-25, Aid Box, St Peter's Hospice and Baby Bank. Since August 2020, they have donated more than 5,500 items to charity, including 3,000 pairs of glasses.

The Reuse Shops are also looking for volunteers in a variety of roles to help maximise the items they can resell or donate to other charities.

Explore your neighbourhood

Bristol City Council website allows users to find out about their neighbourhood (and other neighbourhoods) and explore areas to see to find lots of useful current and historical information. The My Neighbourhood search also provides useful updates on planning applications nearby and contact links for local councillors.

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/people-and-communities/my-neighbourhood-search>

<https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/pinpoint/>

My Neighbourhood search

Bristol Pinpoint Local Information

Tree Sponsorship

Have you considered sponsoring a tree for our area? There are two street tree spots available now and they are shown on the map below.

We are all aware of the benefits of trees.

- Capturing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen
- Improving air quality by filtering harmful pollutants
- Help absorb water and decrease flooding
- Create shading and cooling
- Provide habitat for insects and other wildlife
- Increase health and well being
- They are beautiful

Changing weather patterns (longer, hotter, drier summers and increased periods of heavier rainfall) have highlighted just how important trees are. If not sponsoring a tree through the Street Trees scheme, then maybe you might consider planting one in your own garden. There are a huge variety of species to choose from and something suitable for every spot.

Please visit Bristol's Trees for Streets page for further information about the tree sponsorship scheme <https://sponsor.treesforstreets.org/provider/bristol-city-council>

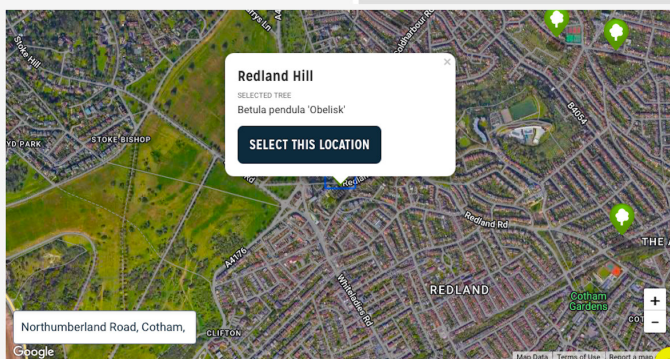
Choose from one of the tabs below, then either zoom in on the map to see the available pre-approved locations, or drop a pin to show where you'd like your sponsored tree to be planted.

Select a pre-approved location

We've surveyed 404 suitable locations. Select a location, make your donation and the tree will be planted.

Or, choose your own location

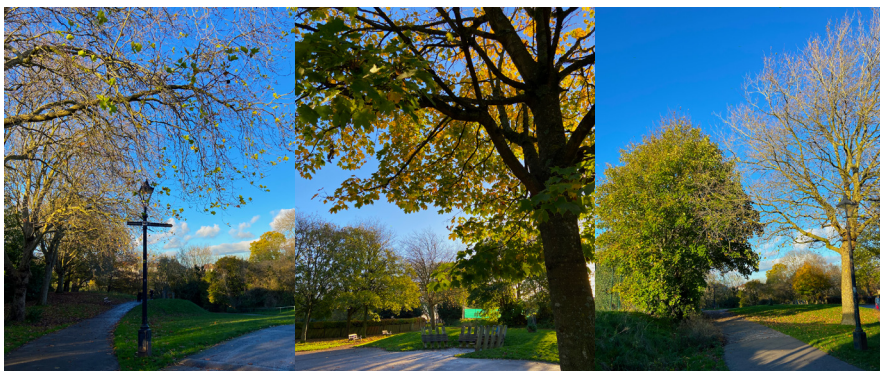
Place a marker exactly where you'd like your tree. The council will need to approve your location.



Email us a question

Parks

Redland Green



Redland Green Community Group (RGCG) intend getting active in early 2023 as autumn has been taking it's time to give way to winter. The trees have not finished losing their leaves and the ground is still soaking up the rain after the very dry summer. The brambles on the old meadow need to lose their leaves before we start to clear them and plant some fruit trees. Replacement tree planting for the planted trees that have died will take place a bit later than planned. Strimming the meadow area by the Metford Road steps is also delayed as the grass is so wet and there are still some plants flowering there!

The Green Party did a litter pick in early November and removed two bags of litter. Thank you.

Bristol City Council are consulting until 23rd December 2022 on proposed Budget cuts for 2023-24 and onward.. We suggest that everyone takes a look at and responds to the proposals on the Council website. The Parks department is in for swingeing cuts which will have severe implications for parks and green spaces in the city. The Council does as Landlord and owner of Redland Green (a registered Village Green) have a responsibility to maintain Redland Green for the recreational benefit of it's surrounding community. We mustn't let them renege on this duty.

We are hoping to do Christmas song singing on the tarmac by the play area on Saturday 10th December 2022 at 6.00pm.

We are pleased to be part of the planned afternoon celebrations on Monday May 8th 2023 Coronation Bank Holiday with will be centred round Redland Church Halls from 2-5 pm.

Please keep an eye on the RGCG website for information on future activities.

Lois Goddard RGCG

Cotham Gardens

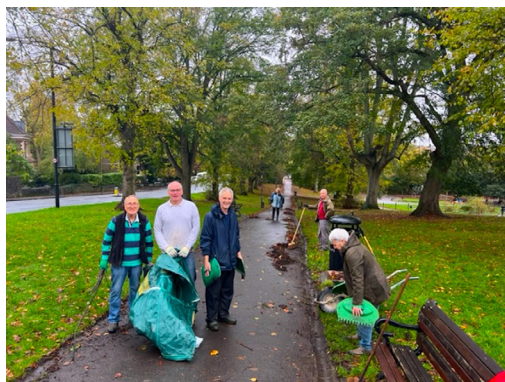
There was a good clean-up of the paths and gutters in Lovers Walk and the top end of Cotham Gardens on 5th November. Donated daffodil bulbs were also planted between the trees opposite the playground end alongside Cotham Grove and we hope to see a good display in the spring.

There is a newly formed Friends of Redland and Montpelier Stations group (see separate article on p). Together our two groups have a view to working with Network Rail to refurbish the Lovers Walk railway bridge which has sadly been neglected for many years.

We will be installing a secure storage unit for park clearing tools and litter pickers in the Gardens before the end of the year.

We meet at Cotham Gardens on the first Saturday of every month to keep the Gardens clean and do gardening work as necessary. We shall have coffee and mulled wine after the 3rd December meet up for volunteers who attend or have attended any park working parties this year.

Chris Shelley



Bishopston Cotham Redland Community Partnership

BCRCP (Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Community Partnership) will be meeting in January 2023 (date tbc).

The main topic will be the Local Plan consultation which is due to start on November 28th 2022 and run for 7 weeks. This sets the policies for all development in the city for the next 10+ years and will supersede the current Local Plan which was adopted in 2011-2014. It is important to keep the Local Plan up to date as developers can argue that the policies do not reflect current conditions, when the plan is out-of-date, and can therefore be disregarded.

It was intended to bring forward a strategic plan for the West of England to help guide the Local Plans for the 3 authorities (Bristol BANES and S Glos) but there was no agreement on the plan, so each authority is now drawing up their own plan but is working with neighbouring authorities to agree eg housing numbers.

Bristol has been set an updated target of new homes by central government, which the council say is not based on evidence; the disparity between current local targets and the central government number is giving developers an opportunity to push for increasingly large residential developments to be approved. This is despite the fact that there are many schemes which have already been given planning permission but have not been built out.

The new plan will address topics such as the 'Vision' ie the objectives and aims, Housing need and requirement, Affordable housing, Net zero and climate change, Biodiversity gain and nature recovery, Design, Sustainable food, Shopping, services and the evening economy and will include an Update on development locations and allocations. It will build on the previous Local Plan Review consultation in 2019.

BCR CP has invited a planning officer to attend the January meeting to help explain some of the issues. If you wish to be notified of the meeting and are not on their email list please sign up at bcrp.org.uk

Alison Bromilow

Updates

Bristol City Council Budget Consultation

Council budget consultation please take part in this important consultation on the council budget proposals for 2023-2024. The consultation is open from 11 November to 23 December. The council has a cost of operating crisis which will affect its ability to provide the services and activities that it has previously provided. The consultation can be found at ask.bristol.gov.uk or by phoning 0117 922 2848

Clean Air Zone and bus services

The new Clean Air Zone (CAZ) has come into effect as of Monday November 28. The timing of the CAZ comes at a difficult time for many of Bristol's residents. There is a charge for driving a vehicle that does not meet the emissions criteria into the CAZ area. Generally, the vehicles incurring a charge will be older vehicles. However, it comes at the same time as First Bus have announced that they will be cancelling about 1,500 bus journeys a week in the Bristol region due to a shortage of drivers. The cuts will affect 19 routes across Bristol immediately and will continue at least until April 2023.

In the last newsletter we gave details of bus routes on the edge of our area that were due to be cut. Happily, two of the routes have been maintained. The 72 serving UWE Frenchay Campus to Bristol Temple Meads and the 505 serving Ashton P&R to Southmead Hospital. FirstBus has retained the 72 route and new operator to Bristol the Big Lemon has taken over route 505. The 72a route has been cut.

We are also pleased to report that community minibuses used by many older and disabled people are returning. Elderly residents and those with disabilities were affected after Bristol Community Transport ended its Dial-a-Ride and community group transport services. A £435,000 cash injection from the West of England Combined Authority has meant that four companies (The Big Lemon, Lawrence Weston Community Transport, CATT Community Bus and The Sprint) will together take over the running of these services.

Mobile phone mast

The proposed site of a mobile phone mast near Redland Court on Redland Road has been rejected.

Can you help?

RCAS depends entirely on volunteers to carry out its activities and there are many ways that you can get involved – from just an occasional few hours now and then through to regular participation in one of our groups. It is so important that we look after the amenities that we all enjoy. We would urge everyone, if they can, to participate in the many activities arranged both by us and other local groups to maintain and enhance our local area. It doesn't need to be a regular commitment just an hour or so whenever you can.

Bristol City Council (BCC) is facing severe financial constraints for the foreseeable future and many services that they have previously provided will be curtailed or reduced. Parks are being run with very little budget provision although there has been a marked increase in the use of parks since the pandemic lockdowns. It is fantastic that the community is using these wonderful places more often but that means we need to ensure they are kept in good condition.

After pressure from stakeholders BCC has agreed to hold a consultation on the New Parks Strategy, allowing interested parties to give their views. We will update on the consultation as it progresses. RCAS, Redland Green Community Group (RGCG), and Friends of Cotham Gardens (part of RCAS) all welcome help in the regular work parties and other activities they arrange throughout the year. Please get involved! You can read about their latest work in the Parks reports in this newsletter.

There are many groups in our area who are looking for volunteers to help them. Obviously, we'd like you to volunteer with us and please do get in touch if you would like more information. The Open Gardens team have done a fantastic job for many years now and we are looking for members to take over the reins from next year. We don't want to lose this annual event which brings so much pleasure to so many. Please do offer your help if you can.

In this newsletter we have a piece by Jerry Floyd from The Rotary Club of Clifton encouraging RCAS members to become involved in their efforts in the community. This group is entirely separate from RCAS but we hope you enjoy reading about what they do.

Often, we have several groups of volunteers whose work and interests overlap. One such case is the pedestrian bridge at Redland Station. This bridge has fallen into disrepair and several people in the Friends of Cotham Gardens group (FoCG) have been in touch with the Parks Officer about it. The Parks Officer raised the condition of the listed pedestrian bridge with Network Rail. FoCG have proposed doing some work to protect the rusting structure.

As it happens a group of local residents have come together to create the 'Friends of Redland & Montpelier Stations' voluntary group. This group are responsible for the refresh of the edible planters at both stations and for getting the recent tags removed from the station building.

Another group of volunteers is Bishopston Cotham and Redland Street Scene Group (BCR SSG). They have also been working with Bristol Waste Company (BWC) on tackling the tagging on the garages next to the station and have been cleaning up any new tags since BWC did the big job of overpainting most of the garage doors (two of the owners did not want their doors painted) as well as cleaning tags on the bridges etc.

A happy coincidence for all of these groups that Network Rail volunteers are coming to remove the tags on the murals at both stations. The team leader, Maedoc Ellis, is the new Community Rail Relationships Lead. He will be the liaison for further work to the footbridge. The Network Rail volunteers workgroup for starting remedial work on the footbridge is pencilled in for December 16. An opportunity for lots of volunteers to get involved in a great project, meet other groups and make connections. Details about the work party will be sent out by RCAS when they are finalised or see below for contact details at Severnside Rail.

Family Food Action is another group in our area who are providing community support for families and children in food poverty. There are several ways in which you can help this organisation, either by becoming a donations collector on your street or by donating food or making a financial contribution.

There are lots of other ways that you can help. Please look at our website or get in touch with us (details in the pull out section).

Below are the contact details for all of the groups mentioned.

RCAS Contact details in the Pull Out Section

Redland Green Community Group membership@rgcg.org.uk

Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Community Partnership (BCR) <https://bcrcp.org.uk>

BCR has links to many groups involved in the area including StreetScene and Family Food Action

Family Food Action <https://familyfoodaction.org.uk>

Faye Keane Severnside Community Rail Partnership 07724 028021 faye@severnside-rail.org.uk

Friends of Redland and Montpelier Stations contact details to be finalised

Friends of Cotham Gardens via RCAS

Gold Star Awards

At the AGM presentation there were four Gold Star Awards:

42A Archfield Road

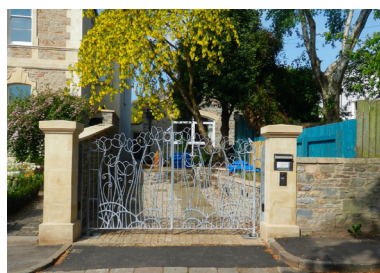
Imaginative use of former garage site to accommodate a two-storey house, carefully positioned to avoid any damage to the immediately adjacent mature tree. Attractive stone front wall with distinctive coping. The Panel considered that this development makes a very positive contribution to the appearance of the Conservation Area.



Accepting the award were John Weir the architect and Susan Draper the owner

18 Clyde Park

A surprisingly large wedge-shaped site located in between traditional Victorian villas. Ingenious space planning to provide a single storey two-bedroom house with open space to both front and rear. The Panel was impressed by the way in which this project fitted so seamlessly into the street scene and into the Conservation Area.



Accepting the award was Charles Gregory the owner and designer of the house

Redland Court

A very high-quality comprehensive development of the former Redland High School to provide over 40 residential units. A mixture of newbuild together with the conversion of the historic buildings. Superb and positive contribution to the Conservation Area.



Accepting the award was Jon Morgan of Juniper Homes. Architects AWW & Nash Partnership together with KWL Architects

Clock House, Meridian Road

Development of a former garage to provide two elements – a traditional terrace house mirroring the adjacent terrace, and a single storey workshop, both with off street car parking. The development fits in positively with the street scene.



The owners and developers are Clive and Wendy Hughes. Architect Logic CPS.

The Rotary Club of Clifton



Do you have some time to spare and skills to share?

If so, Clifton Rotary would like to hear from you!

You might have heard of Rotary but here are a few things you may not know about us.

We are a non-religious, non-political worldwide organisation with 1.2 million members worldwide. The UK has a membership of 40,000 men and women whose purpose is to work collectively, using our individual skills on behalf of the community, and to have lots of fun whilst doing this.

We meet every Wednesday for an enjoyable and social lunch at the Redland Green Club. We always have a speaker who gives a short presentation on an interesting topic. Lunch is between 12.45 and 2.00pm and there is absolutely no obligation to attend every week.

We are not a business networking club. The majority of our members are retired, Former careers cover a broad range of professional occupations, e.g. teachers, consulting engineers, solicitors, doctors, bankers, dentists, construction services, financial services and many more. We are open equally to men and women.

Clifton Rotary supports 22 local charities in their important work in the community. Much of this is possible from our main source of income, the proceeds of the Bristol Fireworks Fiesta at Canford Park. This event, jointly run with the Round Table, attracts thousands of spectators, and enables us to generously support many local, national and international charities. Three of our members are trustees of a social club for adults with learning difficulties, the Clifton Gateway Club.





Young musicians (above) and Youth Speaks the winning Intermediate Team (right) and Senior Team (top right)



Other local organisations, such as Barton Camp and Young Bristol, who work with disadvantaged children and adults also have members of our club on their boards.

In addition to helping local charities we also run a number of competitions for pupils from local schools.

The competitions are: Young Musicians, Young Chef, Young Photographer and Youth Speaks – A Debate. These develop the skills of the young people, and are most enjoyable events for both the contestants and the members of Clifton Rotary

An annual favourite is our outing to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm for children with disabilities and their helpers from Claremont Special School. The wheelchairs are heavy to push but the event is very fulfilling for everyone.

At the other end of the age spectrum we organise a Christmas Carol Concert at Clifton College for pensioners living in residential care and we transport a small group of pensioners to a weekly lunch at Christchurch, Clifton.

It's not all work!! As well as our lunches, we also have a range of social activities such as barbecues, Christmas parties, local walks (never more than 5 miles), a weekend away and some intra-Rotary sporting activities such as boules, skittles and golf.

Prior to Covid we also welcomed members from our twinned club in Brittany, France and made occasional visits to see them in Combours, events we hope to resume.

So, there is a lot going on at Clifton Rotary. If what you have read here is of any interest to you to discover much more check our website at <https://cliftonrotary.org>

Better still, why not come to one of our lunches and meet us. Simply contact us by email at: Secretary@cliftonrotary.org or just phone 07748 636 028.

We hope to see you soon...!

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.



It's always fascinating to wander around the area and make new discoveries. This blue plaque for Sir Allen Lane, who founded Penguin Books with his brothers, is on Cotham Vale.

