Planning Meeting Notes 25th APRIL 2018

Apologies –Don Alexander, Jo Sargent, Matthew Melias, Charlie Brown,

Present – John Morris, Alison Bromilow, Steve Ware, Christine & Phill Chard, Julie Morgan, Eileen Jarrett, Carole Jenkins, Paul Alexander, Lin Davies, John Chaplin (Bristol Port Co) Kate Royston

No Conflicts of interest were advised

Previous minutes agreed

The Local Plan Review was explained to the members who were not present at the last meeting.

The meeting welcomed **John Chaplin** **from The Bristol Port Company**, who came to give the meeting an update on developments at the Port.

Members looked at a map of the Port, and John explained that the areas coloured yellow/green are the Port’s landownership. He noted that the Chittening Estate and other areas are also owned by The Port but not shown under Port control.

**N Berth** – Costains are building a temporary jetty for the Hinkley C project, this should be completed next year (2019)

**T Berth** – Balfour Beatty have planning permission for works at T Berth to enable construction of the water cooling tunnels for Hinkley C Project, this has been looked at, it involves a factory being built to make the precast concrete tunnel segment units and associated works including temporary tower cranes to help with the “heads” .... Balfour Beatty may be willing to come to a meeting with the group to discuss their plans etc.

**Sims Application** – meeting confirmed that we had put in objections regarding the proposed extended operating hours, and had asked that consideration was made regarding a batching plant to put the processed scrap into bales to help reduce noise and dust pollution for residents during the loading process, these comments were made to Susannah Pettit and Peter Westbury(BCC – planning dept) Sims have their own berth on the Port and are responsible for the use of the cranes being used for loading ships, this land is leased from the Port.

The meeting mentioned their concerns regarding the noise from the loading and that we felt that conditions are not always complied with, also the explosions. It was advised that we contact BCC Environmental health with our concerns and request they do an “unannounced visit” when ships are being loaded.

**Hansons** – import cement by ship & train, and have a planning app., which is “pending a decision” for a Batching plant

**Cruise ships** – this is a business at S Berth, and is attractive for the Port, there is parking for the tourists and a customs shed.

**Query raised by members –** regarding the tidying up/housekeeping on the Avonmouth side of the Port compared with Portbury, ie the condition of the roads, which could be adding to dust pollution for residents, we were advised this is an ongoing process, which links with trying to get new business into the Port to support this. Portbury was a “blank canvass” when it was purchased, which made it easier to develop and improve. The general feeling of the meeting was that Avonmouth needs to have the roads etc improved to prevent lose gravel/products gathering and then becoming a dust pollutant, this would also help to show the Village that the Port is a good neighbour.

Boundary planting – this was requested as it was felt that a lot of shrubs and trees had been removed over the last few years, but, not replaced to the same degree and this was part of the cause of dust causing problems as the trees seem to help with preventing this, also that the problem with rodents in the village has increased since the demolition of buildings and thinning of shrubland.

Redundant buildings will eventually be removed, but, this will need to be done with care due to possible dust/noise/rodent or bird disturbance.

**Clayton Street Car Park** – following complaints and problems with this being mis-used, the Port are taking it back into their boundary and will be fencing it off. This will not prevent people walking around the neighbouring area with their dogs. The meeting expresses some concern re the impact on parking in that area during the day for people using the trains or working nearby, but, it was suggested that we contact local councillors regarding the car park by the Customs House, which has a time restriction, to see if this can be replaced with a longer restriction, which would ease any potential problems.

**Portbury** – the land that was formerly farm land, near the Portbury 100, is to be used for car storage, this has been extensively discussed with local residents and their local Councillors.

**Gloucester Road Gate** – in view of the planning app for the Rowntrees site on Gloucester Road, the meeting asked if there were plans to re-open the Gloucester Road Gate for the Port use, which we were told no. A question was raised regarding using this for “island residents” if there is/was a problem with the level crossing gates preventing emergency access etc, we were advised no there shouldn’t be, but, to raise with Network Rail and ask them to discuss with the Port and residents., as it can be opened for emergency use.

**Flies** – there have been a couple of complaints to the Port regarding flies, John confirmed there is no RDF storage on the Docks. The meeting considered that the flies could be coming from Wessex Water Sewage works, NewEarth Solutions site or other industrial sites beyond the village and Port. The Group will monitor the situation and report to BCC if it becomes worse.

John asked if there would be any interest in a trip around both sides of the Port, which we agreed there would, so John is going to try to arrange this and put an article in The Bridge letting residents know how to apply to take part.

The members thanked John for coming and for the information he was able to give to us.

**AOB** – **Rowntrees application** – this was discussed and it was felt that the issue of road safety and vehicle movements in connection with the roads and weight limits in the area need to be put on the comments of this planning application, Steve Ware will do this for the group, but, members were encouraged to put their own comments in as well.

**11 Green Lane** – meeting updated that this is now leased to Elim Housing for 10 years, for 3 individuals and not a family, we have contact details, so if there are any problems, these can be resolved. Meeting was told that Elim are a responsible landlord.

(HMO’s = 3 unrelated people in a property in Central Bristol National definition = 3 storey home & 6 people – again meeting expressed our concern about keeping a balance between HMO’s and family homes in a village community, to preserve the community)

Planning group to contact the Housing Department re: HMO licensing

**Royal Hotel** – this has been sold, but, not completed as yet, there is concern regarding the “listing of the building & its history” feeling that fittings are being removed, this is to be looked into and reported if this is the case

**Nat West building** – again concerns regarding the number of people thought to be living in the 5 flats, and how people are feeling uncomfortable walking past due to residents using the pavement as a meeting area, making some residents feel intimidated, group to report housing department @ BCC for them to investigate

There is to be consultation on a Proposal to bring in an HMO licensing scheme in 12 wards in the Bristol area. We asked how to check if a property was registered/licensed and this can be done through – **Bristol.gov.uk/pinpoint**

**Nos 1-2 Gloucester Road –** ask our Councillors to register with Housing Department our concerns via – private.housing@bristol.gov.uk

**Robin cousins** – reported to meeting that SCAF have also met with the owner of this site regarding his plans

**Kingsweston House Tennis Courts** – this was brought to the meeting, as although the work that is happening on the Tennis Courts is not Avonmouth, local people use the area and there is some concern about what is happening, there is a SCAF meeting 2nd May 7pm Shire Public Hall and this will be on the Agenda, it seems the area may be used by a dramatic arts group? Yard Arts

There was some concern from residents re potential work involving cleaning of drums at back of Green Lane/Davis Street, we will keep an eye on this

A table was hosted at the Links meeting for Planning Group which resulted in some interest in the work we are trying to do

Next Meeting –30th May @ St Andrews Church Hall 7pm

Notes for next Agenda :