



St Agnes Park

St Agnes Lodge

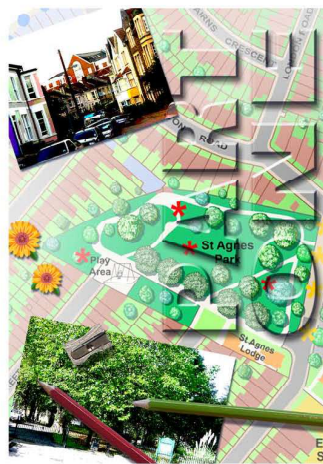
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Play Area



SAINT PAUL'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

PART ONE

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PART 1



What has gone before :

In 2003, the Partnership published its Neighbourhood Action Plan, which for the first time pulled all the aspirations of the community, across such diverse but interrelated areas as health, housing, safety, crime and drugs, learning and employment, physical dereliction and environment, arts and culture into one document for cross-community consultation and agreement. This formed the first part of the forward plan for all partners working in the area.

Outcome 1 Children and Young People have the best possible start in life

The needs of young people, children and families is one of the most significant and yet under-resourced areas of work. The need for childcare, holiday activities, a youth centre, and support for parents are always high on the list, if not top of the list, every time the local community is asked what it needs.

Young people in St. Paul's grow up with some of the worst of society's problems on their doorstep. Significant numbers of families are new to the area, many fleeing war, poverty and persecution. They arrive in St Paul's with little support, understanding of the language or knowledge of how to access services.

Academic achievement of young people from St Paul's, particularly black young people, is well below the city average (21% below the City average). Exclusions from school are disproportionately high for Black young people.

More recently there are clear signs that significant progress is being made within some groups, for example, African Caribbean girls. Much of this improvement is attributed to supplementary schools.

For over 5 years youth groups have been trying to find a suitable location for a Youth Centre. Following the most recent feasibility study on potential locations and use, it has been agreed that an open access youth centre will operate out of the St Paul's Settlement with the Crypt at the Malcolm X Centre providing an additional resource centred around music making and performance.



We want to create a positive future for all young people living in the area where they feel confident and have high hopes and aspirations. We want parents to feel confident in their role and have access to the support they want and need which is non-stigmatising and non-threatening.

In the recent **Street Ambassadors' Survey 2005** (a door to door survey by local people) people said they thought activities for children and young people was one area that had improved over the past two years: reflecting the resources that have gone into this work since 2001.

HOUSING PRIORITIES:



Increase stock of affordable family housing



Provide housing options for young adults wanting to stay in the area (See Chapter 4)

OUTSIDE PLAY PRIORITIES :



Develop St Paul's Park as a location where children and young people of all ages can be safe in play or just when hanging about. Plans are in place but additional funding is needed. St. Paul's Park forms a part of the Green Route through the neighbourhood.
(Traffic and Streetscape Chapter 7)

Improvements to the safety and security of the park are included in the Dove Lane Regeneration Strategy (see Chapter 6)

YOUTH WORK PRIORITIES :



Secure St Paul's Settlement as an open access youth centre with a range of local organisations offering structured youth activities.



Secure the Malcolm X Crypt for a music recording and rehearsal space.



Secure the resources needed to support the Ashley Youth & Play Partnership and support small youth work based organisations to secure funding and build their capacity.

LEARNING PRIORITIES :



Better partnership working between community, schools and Children & Young People's Services



Community based teaching/study resource to support young people from the area with coursework & homework including a targeted support service to young people not in school.



Stable funding for community based learning environments.



Appropriate resources to support young parents and pupils who do not communicate confidently in English.



Reduce the number of permanent and fixed term exclusions of pupils from St Paul's.

FAMILY SUPPORT PRIORITY ACTIONS :



St Paul's Children's Centre open 2008 providing a focal point for supporting families and children in the area through community and statutory organisations.



Establish 'Multi Agency Panel' to ensure effective and coordinated support to families by full use of a range of new and existing services with families making informed choices about the support they get.



Emerging locality structure in Children and Young People's Services should bring about a step change in the quality and availability of support to parents and support ongoing partnership working between agencies and local people.

EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING



Quality work placements and work-related training (see Chapter 5).



Inspirational Leadership training.

Outcome 2 Safe, Well maintained, Sustainable Communities

For a long time there has been a sense that 'anything goes' in St Paul's. The reasons for this are complex in part this is because of a transient population who have little connection with the area and feel no sense of responsibility to others who live here. However, some of the responsibility rests with service providers who, over decades, have failed to deliver a high standard of service.

Over time a culture sets in which is difficult to change - a culture of low expectations. Changing this culture requires service providers, local businesses and employers and local residents all to do their bit.

Over the past five years there has been a real change on the streets of St Paul's. Sustained police action and effective partnership working between local people and agencies have led to significant improvements in the quality of life for people who live and work in St Paul's. The 'Street Ambassadors Survey 2005' found that most residents reported an improvement in the general environment and safety. However, concerns about drug related crime and anti social behaviour remain a top priority for the community.

Drug supply and drug use have a big impact on the environment. As the intensity of street drug dealing has reduced, so has the amount of litter. The City Council responded positively in 2003 to the endless problem of discarded needles by setting up the Drugs & Sex Litter Service. Derelict and disused buildings are quickly taken over by drug users and become 'crack houses' creating a hazard for all. We have worked with the Environmental Health Team to insist that landowners take better care of their property so that it does not attract misuse and become a risk to local people.

The disposal of rubbish has long been a problem in the area. The number of flats in converted town houses and basements make storage very difficult for some people. High numbers of people unused to the culture and language mean we have to find better ways of communicating and helping people to understand how local services work and what is expected of individuals and households.

We want to improve the local environment by increasing public art, undertaking more planting, promoting building projects that aspire to high standards of design and quality of construction, ensuring disused and derelict buildings are brought back into use. We want our parks and public spaces to be well used by people of all ages and cared for by all.

We want to do this in a way which retains the integrity of St Paul's. We want to improve the quality of life for people who live in the area and we want to celebrate difference and take pride in the eclectic nature of the area. Finding this balance is not easy.

Priorities :

A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK :



Challenge the negative reputation and stereotypes



Maintain a consistent police presence



Develop a comprehensive action plan to tackle the impact of drug use and drug dealing on the community. Design out crime



Reduce the concentration of drug and high support services in the area



Address crime and safety issues impacting on local businesses



Improve the relationship between police and local community

HOUSING :



Coordinated and improved housing management in the social and private sector



Effective use by all landlords of existing protocols and procedures e.g. crack house protocol and addressing anti-social behaviour



Effective involvement of residents/tenants in decision making about housing



Quality housing of different sizes and tenures built to last

RAISE THE QUALITY OF THE GENERAL ENVIRONMENT :



Change the culture so that all partners (agencies, businesses and residents) do their bit to improve the quality of the environment including rubbish, maintenance of shrubs and open spaces



Improve St Paul's Park and make it a top attraction for all ages



Ensure service providers of grounds maintenance and waste management meet contract specifications



Green-up the area. Protect existing trees and open spaces



Derelict or disused buildings are made safe and brought back into use

Improve the quality and maintenance of play space

Reclaiming spaces through public and community art

COMMUNITY :



Create opportunities for all parts of the St Paul's community to come together



Create social space for older people



Invest in a network of financially sustainable community buildings



Create an asset base so less dependence on grants and making a stake for the community in the neighbourhood for the long term

Outcome 3 Achieve Economic Well-being

Improving the local economy underpins everything we want to achieve.

The Ashley ward unemployment rate is consistently higher than the rate for Bristol. This unemployment is not spread evenly over the ward but is concentrated in St Paul's. Research consistently shows that Black and Minority Ethnic people (BME) are discriminated against in the labour market; with about over 50% of the St Paul's/St Agnes population being BME people the high unemployment rate is not a surprise. However, all residents, black and white, report postcode discrimination. Addressing unemployment will require new, imaginative ways of reaching people who are not working, despite a thriving economy and relatively low unemployment across the city as a whole.

These new approaches need to take account of:

- the need for flexible childcare
- 'the poverty trap', particularly where there is a tradition of supplementing income in the informal economy
- negative attitudes among employers about St Paul's and the people who live in the area
- high numbers of well trained and qualified refugees and asylum seekers who are not able to provide evidence of their training or skills, do not know how to access 'the system' and who need help to speak and read English in order to use their skills and knowledge.

We want to build a culture for young people where they aspire to well-paid meaningful employment. For black young people in particular there are too few positive role models. Where are the black teachers, council workers, doctors, police officers, entrepreneurs, Local Councillors?

Employment is only part of the picture. It is striking that St Paul's is literally 'over the road' from Bristol's commercial district. The mixed land use – residential areas alongside commercial and retail areas – does lend itself, however, to a thriving local economy although much of this is of poor quality and under pressure from housing developers. We want to protect this employment space and bring it back into use. Stokes Croft is an example of neglect and under-investment (despite recent improvement through the THI initiative) and yet it could be a thriving 'high street' serving passers by, city centre workers and the neighbouring resident communities.

Left to market forces there is little evidence we will see the thriving economy that we believe is possible. We need public intervention to help facilitate regeneration that meets the long-term needs of the St Paul's community.

Creating a thriving local economy is integral to achieving long term, sustainable renewal. The goal is to keep money in the pockets of people living and working in the area. The New Economics Foundation described the economies of 'disadvantaged' neighbourhoods as 'leaky buckets' – money comes into the area in wages and benefits, but quickly leaves because goods and services are provided only from outside. Our aim is to stop up those leaks.

Priorities :

ECONOMY :



To create a thriving economy by harnessing the area's greatest asset - the creative and cultural capital of the people

JOBS AND GENUINE OPPORTUNITY :



Work with employers to understand the skills they are looking for and train local people



Job preparation courses and all round support for those who have been out of work for a long time, learning from 'LEAP' project in Harlesden, London



Positive action to significantly increase the number of people from St Paul's, particularly black and minority ethnic people in the public sector and in local organisations



Harness the entrepreneurial flair of the 'informal' economy and create pathways into the 'formal' economy'



Flexible childcare provision



Support and training for people who are not confident communicators in English

INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE TO AIM HIGH :



Good quality work placements that inspire young people and reflect positive role models



Quality leadership programme involving senior public sector officials to encourage young people to aspire to senior roles in the public sector and understand the workings of public sector institutions

DEVELOP EMPLOYMENT LAND :



Retain employment land and create workspace to retain existing businesses and attract new ones

PROCUREMENT - BUYING LOCAL :



Build a culture of buying from local businesses

Following on from this, the second part of the Neighbourhood Plan reflects and builds on Part One, concentrating on how changes to the physical and economic environment of St. Paul's can support and deliver the vision and aspirations set out above, and the capital investment required to bring about these changes.