

## Minutes of 13 March 2006 – TRESA Committee Meeting

### TOTTERDOWN RESIDENTS ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL ASSOCIATION (TRESA)

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING 13 March 2006

Blue = jobs!

### PRESENT:

The following committee members were present:

Tim Sterling  
Ed Bramall  
Suzanne Audrey  
Steve Sayers  
Kate Pollard  
Helen Sterling  
Patrick Hulme  
Margaret Davis

Joined by the following guests from BAC (Bristol Arena Concern)

Anne-Marie Rogers  
Stephen Petter

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Kerry Chester and also Richard Jones, who had been another invited guest.

#### 2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

These were agreed.

#### 3. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS/COMMITTEE MEMBER CHANGES

Two membership applications had been received via the Patco postbox which were passed on to Ed to deal with. There was a discussion over how much, if at all, to involve any newly joined members in meetings. It was agreed that members would be made aware of TRESA projects that they could get involved in to a greater extent than would be the case simply by reading *The Talk of Totterdown*. Importantly, as detailed in the constitution, members also have voting rights at the AGM and other general meetings and they are therefore directly involved in the running of TRESA.

Dan's resignation has taken effect and the Committee wanted to their give their thanks to him for helping during the important start-up period. He had delivered two-streets worth of *Talk of Totterdown* since then, which was beyond the call of duty. TRESA wishes him well with his home move. Steve was nominated to 'replace' Dan and was elected by 7 votes with no votes against or abstentions.

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### 4. BRISTOL ARENA CONCERN

Anne-Marie and Stephen from BAC were welcomed. They explained the background to setting up BAC. It had been an initiative of Anne-Marie's and Roy's. BAC now accepted the Arena as an inevitability but were concerned to obtain alleviation of the problems that would come out of it. BAC considered that another inevitability will be increased traffic and large trucks bringing in sets and equipment for events and exhibitions. All of this will exacerbate existing traffic problems. The proposed Park & Ride arrangements are also a farce. They feel that Planning Permission is a bit of a farce, too. Stephen added that the Arena will be used by punters from the whole region and that integrated traffic solutions will be vital. Integrated transport had been promised by SWRDA, but there is no more info available on this. Tickets with a travel card attached are one BAC suggestion. To get some improvements for Totterdown should be another objective, eg a good footpath on the Totterdown side of the river down to Temple Meads. Section 106 funding may or may not be available and it may not be much. A discussion about developers in general liking to install Pelican Crossings etc as being an 'easy option' ensued. Stephen also raised the fact that the Canary Wharf experience that he was familiar with showed that the negative side of a large new development stemmed not only from the development itself, but also the nuisance over the years of construction.

BAC aim to draw together various organisations and people who have an interest in the Arena development or who might be affected by it. This extends beyond the area represented by TRESA and it is possible that different views might be found in different areas.

Tim re-capped on TRESA's position, which need not be recited here but included all previous contact with SWRDA, the first pre-consultation which he attended and reported in his article in TACA's *Signpost*. He works as a traffic engineer and risk management specialist and had subsequently attended a professional seminar that included a presentation from the Arena's transport planning consultants (Buchanan's are carrying out the traffic modelling). He had also attempted approaches to SWRDA and then handed over to Steve who was having more success. Steve has been in touch with them but they had not been pinned down to consultation with TRESA or Totterdown. Stephen is now in touch with 'Local Dialogue' which has taken over the Consultation role.

TRESA was interested to hear what progress BAC has made: their contact has been through Jeff Bishop who is not working for SWRDA any longer.

There was a discussion about TRESA's position in all of this, bearing in mind that there are subtle differences of opinion on the Arena within TRESA itself. TRESA's general aims were discussed and whether TRESA was a campaigning organisation or a conduit through which other community groups could work. Although some of TRESA's members formerly in TACA had publicised Arena concerns via *Signpost* in the past, only 8 people had got in touch. Although a few Totterdown residents had verbally expressed worries there was no generalised response or show of interest.

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TRESA agreed that only door-to-door canvassing would elicit responses at this stage and that local interest and participation would probably be galvanised when the Arena became more imminent.

A summary of the respective TRESA/BAC positions is:

- Neither group claims to represent all of Totterdown.
- There ARE benefits as well as problems for Totterdown
- BAC feels that Consultation is needed although it accepts the development will happen anyway
- It seems impossible to reach the decision-makers – only the PR team is available. Consultation via Community Involvement (Local Dialogue) may be more fruitful
- TRESA is not in a position to state that it supports BAC. However, TRESA is pleased to have established contact with BAC and anticipates that there will probably a lot of common ground between the two groups
- TRESA looks forward to a healthy working relationship with BAC

At this stage all delegates decided to take the discussion on a stage by making a co-ordinated start on listing concerns and possible remedies in respect of access (vis a vis anticipated gridlock and double parking, no towing away of same, if the Ashton Gate experience is relevant) and generalised traffic measures. Then to list what compensation measures could best benefit Totterdown as well as useful measures to avoid gridlock and multiplied car use. Suggestions included 1. The wished-for footpath; 2. Enticements for punters to use public transport - (this latter cannot be enforced by law but whatever they are, the Arena Consortium should cover the costs). Integrated transport - Park & Ride etc, (though people were extremely sceptical about effective solutions either being planned or being effective). As we do not know what planning information is currently available in the Planning Office, [BAC volunteered to go and find out](#).

All agreed it had been a productive discussion and there had been huge areas of agreement between the two groups. TRESA then re-iterated that it was that it was not in a position to support BAC but with its (currently larger) size and local organisation, it was in a good position to network between involved groups and publicise through Talk of Totterdown.

**PS:** Kate is in email touch with Sally Allman of the Dings CA and will continue to network with her over what their plans or concerns are to report back to TRESA.

### 5. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS – THE YMCA**

The current status of the application was not known. *Focus* says that on the one hand the application is now in the Inspector's hands and on the other that Mark Bailey is inviting concerned people to write 3 copies of a letter of objection to Alf so that he and Mark can back a community facility of the site to the Planning Inspector. TRESA people have either already written or are not of the same mind so any further action was left in the hands of individual committee members.

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### 6. FUTURE PLANS, ACTIVITIES & DEVELOPMENT

#### **The Front Garden Challenge**

TRESA was disappointed that Sarah Townsend had not visited the meeting. Talk of Totterdown carried entry forms with a closing date of 31 March, so we await any enthusiasm from Totterdown residents - or not! This may mean we have to be more proactive and the competition will have to be launched again later. [Kate will contact Sarah](#) and find out if she is still interested and whether she has had any feedback from ToFT's Oxford/Cambridge Streets competitions. Kate also has a friend who would be able to give a 'Behind the Scenes at the RHS shows' talk illustrated with digital photo projections and also bring plants along for a sale as an added strand to the event. [Ed, Margaret and Suzanne offered to form a subgroup for this project.](#)

#### **Waste disposal noise problems affecting parts of Totterdown**

This is an as yet localised campaign in upper Totterdown which was presented as 'The negative side of Totterdown life in ToFT. They have no plans to involve TRESA at the moment although the committee agreed that this is precisely the sort of environmental issue (affecting Totterdown folk) that we should be supporting. They hope to get the 5 offending yards (their doubling up is now in the pipeline) into being covered over. The yards are already breaking their conditions by starting work earlier than they should in the mornings. Some of these problems are localised but it was agreed that Totterdown campaigns should be Totterdown-wide. [A campaigns sub-group was suggested.](#)

#### **Litter Picking**

Litter picking – either in front of Tesco's or behind that row of shops backing on to Wells Road, could be a future TRESA project for when better weather arrives. It could also be publicised and be a recruitment tool. Although on the surface an unattractive project, VPAG have turned their Park litter-picking project into an annual 'Spring Clean the Park' event. Tesco's is renowned to be the least community-active supermarket nationally – would they respond to a request to donate to a litter picking event or indeed the garden comp?

#### **Other Initiatives discussed**

Suzanne had some very positive ideas which combine **developing TRESA social activities** and also making an attempt to turn the Oxford around. The Oxford would also be suitable for a big 'open' night. It apparently has to multiply its income in the next few months or close. Various accounts of the Oxford experience were discussed and Suzanne and Steve undertook to do some ground research after the meeting. Folk music nights and TRESA quiz nights at the Oxford were suggested.

It was decided that if [Suzanne and Kate's Jazz night/s initiative](#) went any further then Paintworks would be a good venue.

Margaret has networked with a woman who would like to barter advertising in Talk of Totterdown in order to start a **dance** group locally. She suggests providing TRESA people with a 'mock' class to write about! This led to an exchange of ideas about arranging a public dance taster session, maybe on the 'square' by Tesco's.

This led on to use of the same square for **markets** (like the Tobacco Factory one) – maybe a monthly one – or other events on the square. [This could be looked into by anyone interested.](#)

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**The Constitutional Club** was raised again as a possible venue. It is quite empty and eminently usable but more discussion with the manager is needed.

**The next TRESA meeting** could be open to all members, to which we invite whoever's behind the Southville market and the Oxford landlady to discuss the above.

**LOVE BRISTOL** – Elaine Temlett from the Love Bristol project had contacted Kate to ask if TRESA would like to collaborate over any activities in Totterdown. There was a little confusion and Tim explained that Love Bristol was a project that he was involved in which was being organised by various Christian churches in and around Bristol with the support / endorsement of the City Council, Police and so on. He also clarified that Love Bristol is funded by volunteer and Church contributions.

During July, 1,000 volunteers will be based at Hengrove Park and they will each give 5 days of voluntary action to the communities that make up South Bristol. There will also be a free festival for the local community at Hengrove Park. Community action projects will include renovating public spaces, rubbish clearing, gardening for the elderly, skip filling, graffiti clearing, football training, basketball coaching, elderly holiday clubs, kids clubs, detached youth work and so on. Therefore, although the organisation and motivation behind the project is Christian, the projects are practical and 'secular' (rather than 'religious') in nature. Tim also explained that areas such as Hartcliffe, Knowle and Withywood (rather than areas such as Totterdown) were the main focus of the project. More details can be found at [www.lovebristolfest.org](http://www.lovebristolfest.org)

It was felt that TRESA was not in a position to collaborate or participate in Love Bristol. Nevertheless, it was agreed that as this was a positive and major event that was happening in neighbouring south Bristol communities, it would be good to include a short article on Love Bristol in The Talk of Totterdown. [Kate to contact Elaine with reply. Tim to draft an article.](#)

### 7. CONTACT ADDRESS AND TRESA'S WEBSITE

The contact address and letterbox are in place and Kate and Suzanne were thanked for getting it fixed up. TRESA needs a poster to place outside Patco's.

Steve showed us the early stages of the TRESA website he has been working on. TRESA members expressed their stunned delight and impressed thanks for all the work he has put it and what it has already achieved in terms of pictures, links, the Talk of Totterdown, project publicity and much more. [Patrick, Margaret and Tim are to have it emailed to them to make suggestions.](#)

### 8. FUTURE MEETING VENUE

Margaret reported that the YMCA (via Darren on the frontline desk) were interested in swapping publicity in Talk of Totterdown for meeting space in the building. Margaret will try to confirm it for TRESA's next meeting.

[If it is possible to arrange this venue then all of the TRESA membership will be invited to attend.](#)

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### 9. 'THE TALK OF TOTTERDOWN'

Circulation of this is now complete and there has been some positive feedback. Margaret will circulate the [Delivery Rounds List](#) so that deliverers can sign up to specific roads now avoiding much organisation next time.

### 9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is at 7:30pm on Monday 24 April, hopefully at the YMCA, (this to be confirmed). [If at the Y, please try and bring along the 3 new members we all agreed to recruit!](#)