

Notes of meeting 23 October 2007.

Attending: Ed, Kate, Helen, Margaret, Suzanne, Tim (Chair), Steve, Riaz, Catherine, Martyn, Veronica, Geoff, Nick, Conny, Adam

Apologies: Jonathan, Patrick

Agenda items

The attending members were asked to contribute items to the agenda. Several were received and added to the agenda.

Membership

TRESA has 131 members. A few more joined after the latest Talk of Totterdown with the insert was circulated.

Finance

Margaret gave an update on the position with funds. TRESA is now in receipt of several funds that are ring-fenced for particular activities. The largest of these is a grant for £10,000 from Awards for All for a publishing project being managed by Kate.

Authorisation of payments from the bank can now only be made by two signatories. This applies to all cheques and means that the internet banking arrangement has been withdrawn (it allowed for a single authorisation).

Other measures have been put in place to ensure good financial management.

1. Proposals for funding need to be approved by the committee in advance of submission.
2. Large projects need to have a timetabled project plan that is approved by the committee and is reported on by the project leader at committee meetings. Where the project deviates from the plan approval for the variation should be sought from the committee and where appropriate the funder. In any case the committee should be informed of expenditure in excess of £500.

Art Trail

Kate outlined the elements of the art trail that are being organised through TRESA. These include the A5 Art for all show (at Paintworks), an Art Trail Calendar, and two writing workshops: one for primary-aged children and the other exploring 'the dark side - Goth poetry'

Police issues

Martyn & Adam raised some issues that have come to their attention via the police. The first concerns reports of a flasher around 3 Lamps area. The second was an attempted theft of a bike from St Luke's Crescent. The third was an assault on Oxford Street.

Planning

Martyn brought to the meeting's attention two new websites giving information on planning: www.planningfinder.co.uk is an easy-to-use means of keeping up to date on applications in your area. <http://maps.bristol-city.gov.uk> gives details of Council-owned property in the city.

Wobbly Pavements

Veronica raised the issue of uneven pavement surfaces and urged people to complain to the Council when they find them as it is only through making the Council aware that any repairs can be made.

Daffodil planting and litter picking

A group of volunteers from UWE will be assisting with the litter picking and daffodil planting on Sat 27 Oct. All members are invited to join in the activity by meeting outside Tesco at 10.30 am.

Victoria Park Screening

TRESA has been offered the chance to organise a film screening in Victoria Park by a local resident experienced in undertaking such projects. Suzanne will pursue the idea.

Zone A

This small piece of waste land on Well's Road next to the Bush Pub was given to TACA (Totterdown Area Community Association) a number of years ago as part of a campaign to raise funds for a community centre. It has been the cause of much controversy and division in the community in recent years. TACA has announced an AGM on 7th November to discuss the issue.

TRESA was set up with the intention of not becoming involved in any activity around zone A, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore the space, particularly as new residents, with no prior knowledge of the controversies question its use.

After some debate it was acknowledged that the initiative for any action should rest with TACA and that TRESA would not become involved in Zone A until there was a clear public statement from TACA that they no longer intended to take any action with it.

Action: Tim will request an update from TACA after they have had their AGM with a view to finding closure on the issue.

School Road Park

The run-down facilities in School Road park have been of concern to TRESA and local residents for some time. Around 6 months ago Alice Cabanas led a group of residents in applying with TRESA for a grant from the People's Millions. It seems likely that the bid will make it into the final shortlist and a major publicity campaign to win public votes will be needed if this is the case.

The high level of funding (£80,000) has triggered the need for TRESA to look towards limiting the liability for the committee members by some form of incorporation. This move was approved by the meeting.

AGM

The date of the annual general meeting is Tuesday 12 December. The meeting will take place at Gregg's Café on Wells Road.

All the committee posts are open for nominations which must be received at least 2 weeks before the meeting.

Totterdown Health check

Despite the name this survey actually looked at shopping provision in the area and found it lacking. There was a general desire to encourage more shops into the area (particularly along Wells Road) by 1. Generally opposing planning applications that convert shops to residential dwellings, 2. Possibly conducting a survey of which services people would value.

Kate's departure

Kate Pollard, after much energetic input to Totterdown generally and TRESA particularly has departed for Windmill Hill. The meeting registered thanks for all the work she has put in over the past years and encouraged her to stay in touch.

Street Furniture

Martyn made an appeal for help with the street furniture survey – Nick responded.

Turnpike pub

The Turnpike has reopened as The Thunderbolt – a real ale pub dedicated to arts and music.