



AGM Statement 2017

Chair

2017 has been another good year for Totterdown with a range of activities that fit within our three main categories: Guest Speakers at public meetings, Local Projects, and Campaigns.

We have held six public meetings and seven directors' meetings. Public meetings have included guest speakers covering a range of topics:

- CASS Bristol - Mental health services in Bristol
- Bristol Civic Society - Local heritage and understanding the planning system
- ClairCity - International project with UWE aiming to improve air quality

A future meeting is scheduled to include "We Care & Repair" - home improvements for the elderly.

Work has continued on projects to improve the local area with work parties in the community space, community orchard, Zone N, and Zone A. Most work parties have involved litter picking and weeding/clearing. A new mosaic was installed to commemorate the recent history of Totterdown, and was the focus for the annual garden festival where local residents were recognised for their efforts to make Totterdown a more beautiful place. Further details of our projects are detailed below.

We track and review the large developments on the Totterdown border such as the Arena site and the University of Bristol. Part of our remit is to ensure Totterdown residents are aware of the scheme and potential impacts so are more able to get involved with consultations. TRESA is working with other local resident groups to consider the impact of development within the Enterprise Zone and along Bath Road.

For all the projects and campaigns, we continue to issue the quarterly newsletter (Talk of Totterdown), which also advertises for local businesses. This remains the most viewed "face" of TRESA and remains a key part of our organisation.

Finally, recent cuts to local government provide threats to our area within the near future. TRESA will keep working on our aim to bring together residents in Totterdown with the aim of improving and protecting our local environment and to promote a vibrant cultural life.

Simon Hobeck
Chair of TRESA

Company Secretary

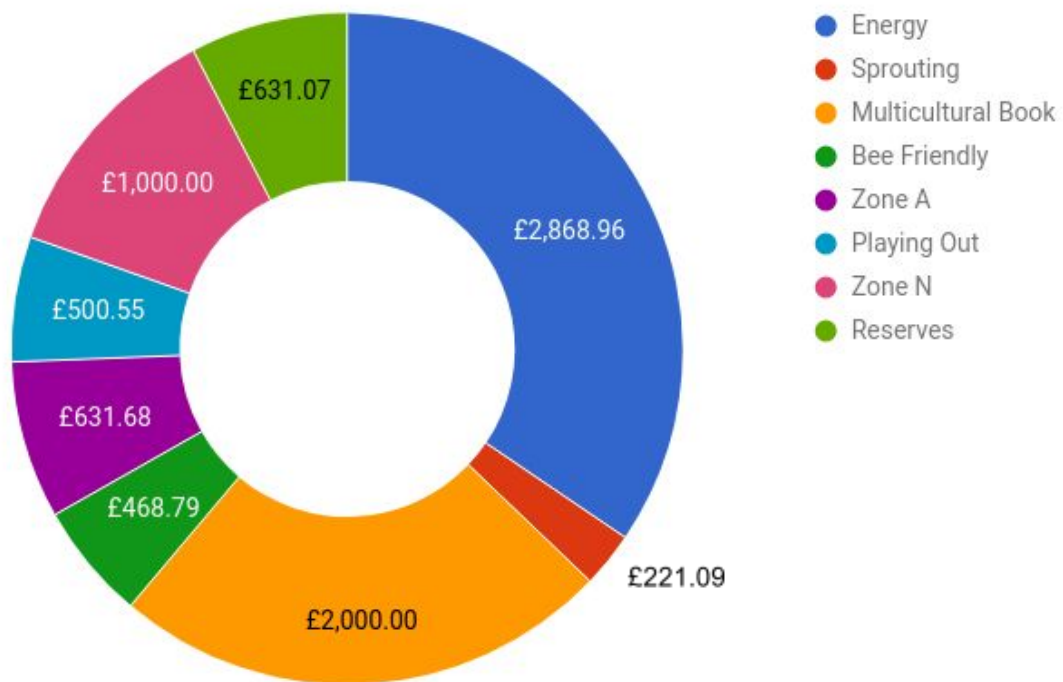
TRESA's 2017 Accounts and Annual Confirmation Statement were filed with Companies House, and the online Companies House register of company directors and other relevant details was kept updated in accordance with statutory requirements'

Membership Secretary

Membership activities have continued to include weekly checking of the TRESA boxes at the three sites and then corralling the collections of any membership fees and the emails pertaining to Paypal subscription onto both the spreadsheet and the TRESA email list.

Treasurer

TRESA finances currently stand at £8,322, yet £7,961 (93%) of this is ring fenced for various projects. This leaves £631 (7%) available as free reserves for TRESA to use for insurance, talk of totterdown, web hosting, etc.



Talk of Totterdown

It's been another busy year working on Talk of Totterdown – our newsletter delivered quarterly to all residents and businesses in Totterdown.

This year I have been trying to give coverage to some wider Bristol initiatives and issues – this has fitted in well with our speaker programme. We have covered mental wellbeing and routes to help, air quality, and coming up in the Autumn will be looking at what financial incentives are available to make repairs to our houses for those on low income.

The regular contributors also add another 'voice' and perspective to the newsletter. I enjoy these individual contributions enormously, and am always keen to see what take our contributors have on wildlife matters, urban gardening and key issues affecting our community. A big thank you to them all – Dan, Barry, Anne, Suzanne and Simon. And of course, Lavender Broom, who has a very distinctive view on the comings and goings in Totterdown!

Because of deadlines and long lead in times, much of the content of the newsletter tends to be long term focused or relates to community activities as opposed to hard hitting news expose. That said, TRESA remains very involved with issues likely to impact on our locale, and most pressing of these in 2016/17 has been the number of planning applications being brought forward in the area. The impact of a substantial increase in residents and vehicles needs to be addressed, and the potential Bristol Arena and Bristol University Temple Quarter Campus will significantly alter our views in and across the city and whilst they may bring opportunities they also bring concerns. We are joining with other local amenity groups to request more joined up thinking and consideration from Bristol City Council in this regard.

Totterdown is a great place to live – and our local businesses contribute so much to that feeling of wellbeing and community. Please support these small independents - chat to the business owners, linger over a coffee in your local café and take time to appreciate what these dedicated people have to offer.

As we move into another year, I would like to sincerely thank the editorial contributors, the advertisers who support us, and our volunteer deliverers who get the newsletter out there.

Project - Multicultural Totterdown book

TRESA is collecting 'stories' for our multicultural Totterdown book (funded by Bristol City Council and Aviva). We are asking people who live or work in Totterdown, and were born or have ancestry in another country, to tell us something about their heritage and how they came to be living or working in Totterdown. Our aim is to collect 50 stories from at least 25 different countries. We have recruited three photographers to help with the book, which will be published locally by Tangent Books. For more information contact:

suzanne.audrey@btinternet.com

Project - The Big Lunch

In June 2017, we held the third Big Lunch street party on Park Street, Totterdown. Now emerging as an annual major event in the Totterdown calendar, this event gives residents and fans of the area the chance to come together for a street party, share food, have a BBQ and get to know each other further. This year we made use of the Park Street community space in addition the community orchard and the road and are grateful that the space continues to serve the community for events such as this. Over 65 people came along to enjoy activities such as crazy golf, and music from Laurie and Karen Burn. We wish to say a huge thank you to Simon Hobeck, Thea Kelly, Nu Tran, Linn Waite, Anne Silber and Jules Noble for organising this event.

Project - The Park Street community space

Following a successful campaign in spring 2016, TRESA was successful in saving the Park Street Community Space from being sold by the council. A petition against the sale gathered over 600 signatures and the new council administration in May 2016 took the community space off the market. Although pro-social housing, TRESA discovered that the sale of the space would only have raised sufficient funds for one new council home, and so campaigned to retain the space for the benefit of the hundreds of households. It remains the only safe outdoor space on the east side of Wells Road for many residents, and represents the nearest thing to a community centre that we have.

TRESA has worked with volunteers from the area to keep the Park Street community space well-maintained, including through regular clearance work parties. It is used for a range of events throughout the year, including Apple Pressing in autumn, wassailing in January, playing out events, and this year the new Festival of Light - a lantern making and light event to celebrate winter nights. There have been a number of BBQs in the new BBQ area organised by different people, and we are delighted that residents are spontaneously enjoying this outdoor community asset.

Project - Stanley Hill & Playing Out

This year, the Stanley Hill monthly street party continued, giving residents of this infamous rat run street the chance to have a breather for an hour once a month. Volunteers have counted 540 cars attempting to use this narrow residential road in 1 hour 40 minutes, demonstrating how relentless the traffic stream can feel to the residents. The street party has been a chance to have fun together in the street, enjoying a range of activities such as water fights in summer, crafts, and fancy dress parties. Children have relished the chance to play outdoors, and adults have enjoyed coming together to talk over a cup of tea and cake. What has been unique to the project is that people of all generations and those with or without children have participated - which may not have happened if this had been only a play based project or in a park. Huge thanks to all the volunteers who have made this possible - it is a hard volunteer job when drivers are not happy to find the rat run closed - and thanks to those in the community who have participated and supported this project.

The campaign to address the rat run has continued, and we have sought and been given assurances by the council that the £10,000 of S106 funding promised in 2014 remains available and will not be re-allocated despite the ongoing austerity programme councils face. We are working closely with the council to determine the best use of these funds to combat the use of narrow, steep residential streets by such a huge (and fast) volume of traffic. Feedback submitted by residents in the consultation in 2015 remains top of the agenda for TRESA. We will continue to update residents on this project.

A design for a road calming measure on Stanley Hill has been completed and is awaiting approval from Highways and hopefully will be implemented later this year. The turning from the Bath road on to Angers Road will remain open for now and together with highways we will look at measures to make the turning 'slower'.

Project - Zone N

Zone N or "Bushy Park" has seen a real change this year. Working with the council, volunteers have been cutting back, digging up and clearing to make the space more open and feel more welcoming. There has been planting of new trees and some wild flowers (including wildflowers on the traffic island by Tesco's) Already people have commented on how the park is being used by more people. Volunteer work parties have been a great success drawing adults and kids. They will continue and we hope attract more people. There are applications in for funding in process that if successful will enable the park to have some elements for park 'furniture' for kids to play on/seating and to install edging for planted areas to prevent erosion.

Project - Garden Festival and Front Garden Awards

I was delighted to start noticing in Spring that so many people were starting work on tidying up their front plots and clearing out their old hanging baskets. The Front Garden Awards have proved really popular over the past few years, and this year we awarded over 420 Certificate of Merit 'Good Garden' Awards in our neighbourhood!

That's a really high percentage of gardens that are receiving dedicated care and attention –

and the wildlife as well as the general public really appreciate it! The Award winners were announced at this year's Garden Festival in early July. There was a very relaxed atmosphere and sunshine for our celebrations up at Zone A.

We celebrated our new mosaic and were honoured to be joined by local celebrity, Lavender Broom, who presided over the awards and had some very complimentary things to say about our mosaic and other community projects.

Thanks to local organisations who got involved: Floriography and Banco Lounge, as well as publisher of many books on Totterdown, Tangent Books. Performances from The Road Zombies and the Shiny Pop-up Dance Emporium were supplemented with impromptu additional shimmies from a number of local residents.

Project - Totterdown Sprouting

Our main projects are the Community Orchard, the raised brick beds in Oxford Square and the street planters. The Community Orchard continues to thrive and is producing lots of seasonal berries and fruit with growing numbers of people visiting the area and picking the fruit. There have been several work parties, some combined with other events such as apple pressing and Julian Noble should be particularly acknowledged for his maintenance and strimming work and Simon Hobeck for clearing and planting new trees on land above the Community Space.

The street planters have been revived with some replanting but some are still in need of improvements and re-painting. The recent dry weather has been a challenge and those planters where we have been able to create a greater depth of soil are doing better. There are opportunities for volunteers to adopt a planter and keep them watered.

A new venture has been the Gardening Club which meets on the second Monday of the month to work on the Oxford Square beds. The main focus has been weeding and replanting with lots of chat and socialising and this group is gradually growing. The very dry Spring and Summer has resulted in some casualties in our planting but most of it is doing ok. The theme of the two beds is herbs, medicinal and culinary and we hope to add some sign boards with information about the plants.

Going into the Autumn we will be planning for Spring with bulb planting, combined with some pruning and clearance work as well as planning to pick and press the apples in the Orchard again.