

A bright, sunny outdoor scene, likely a park or playground. In the foreground, there are large, leafy trees. In the middle ground, a playground structure is visible, and several people are sitting on a white bench. The background shows residential houses under a clear sky. The overall atmosphere is warm and community-oriented.

***Community
Action Plan
for
Brislington***

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Introduction

This Community Action Plan (CAP) is for people living, working, training and playing in – and planning for – Brislington. Since 2006, Brislington Community Partnership (BCP) has worked with the Environmental and Sustainability Unit, the community, and strategic providers to develop this Plan. It reflects the views of residents, workers, city officers and strategic providers.

Brislington Community Partnership (BCP) was founded in 1999 and is made up of residents, interested individuals, business representatives, members of community groups and representatives from schools, churches and statutory agencies. We are now a Neighbourhood Partnership (NP). NPs will assist local decision making on services and will be introduced across the city where local people can have more say in influencing delivery of services, bringing together local people, community groups, councillors, voluntary and statutory agencies.

Our vision for Brislington is:

- To be prosperous, harmonious and safe;
- To support a vibrant and growing local economy that is balanced with the protection of our local environment;
- That people in the area will have equal access to opportunities, including employment, training and education;
- That people in the area have opportunities to participate in local decision making;
- To be a sustainable community.

What does a sustainable community mean?

Sustainable communities are places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. They embody the principles of sustainable development at the local level.

‘Young people need a focus
and young and old need to
mix more for the young
to learn and the old
not to feel fearful.
Wicklea for all of us.
A COMMUNITY!’

This means that they:

- Balance and integrate the social, economic and environmental components of their community;
- Meet the needs of existing and future generations;
- Respect the needs of other communities in the wider region and internationally to make their communities sustainable.

The Brislington Sustainability Profile was produced in late 2006 to help the group leading work on the CAP to gain a picture of the sustainability needs of the area. The tool pulls together current information from the Bristol Quality of Life survey and detailed service performance data and matches it against an aspiration model of a sustainable community. This allows an assessment to be made of key issues for the area. The tool also looks at how well services are integrated and function within the community and applies a significance test to help in determining priorities for action.

The aim of this work is to provide more evidence of the key issues for the area and to ensure that planning takes place against an understanding of what a sustainable community would look like.

The profile and CAP can be found on the BCP website: <http://www.brislington.org>.

What is an action plan?

Working with Bristol City Council's Environmental and Sustainability Unit, Brislington Community Partnership (BCP) set up a Community Action Plan Working Group to work with communities to discover how they felt about Brislington now and how they wanted the Wards to develop in the mid- to long-term.

A Community Action Plan (CAP) sets out specific and measurable actions, which have been developed through BCP, community involvement and council officer and strategic provider consultation. A rigorous and comprehensive process aimed at the fullest representation possible. The CAP presents a realistic blueprint for the future of Brislington, with actions to be delivered by BCP and its associated working groups.

With regular review periods built in, the ongoing resourcing through Neighbourhood Partnerships and, most importantly, the involvement of the community in delivering actions we can begin to effect change in our community.

This action plan summarises our consultative processes in order to

- represent the facts of life in Brislington;
- identify issues and problems perceived by residents and others;
- recognise plans and/or action already in hand (by service providers or other means);
- highlight further areas for action;
- identify means to address action areas.

There were three stages in the development of this CAP. In 2006, questionnaires and drop-off boxes were circulated throughout the East and West Wards. After initial analysis, a Fun Day was organised at Wicklea Youth and Community Centre in Summer 2006 to gather more community views.

These activities formed the basis for an interim report, which was sent to key City Council offices. An 'executive summary' was printed as a leaflet and circulated to all Brislington postal addresses with information about a second-stage involvement exercise, which took place in Spring 2007.

The first two stages were synthesised to form a draft action plan, which was then circulated to City Council offices and a final involvement exercise was organised to account for the City's own strategic, long-term planning.

An action plan is always a work in progress. We have planned in review periods to address how far we have progressed against our objectives; see if there are any more issues that have come to light; and assess whether we have actually improved the quality of life in Brislington. The plan will be updated yearly. You can comment on it by signing up to <http://forums.e-democracy.org/groups/bristol-bris>.



For many, local shopping often means car-based transport, with little public transport or pedestrian provision (L). The old tramway at the corner of Sandy Park Road and the A4 Bath Road (R). Photo: Steve Pearce

Action plan process

In 2006, the CAP Working Group developed a questionnaire with BCC's Environmental and Sustainability Unit. These were posted to the www.brislington.org website and were distributed throughout the community in churches, schools, community spaces, shops and the Wick Road Library. This information was augmented with the views of the community gathered through other methods, specifically memory mapping, interviews and written feedback. We analysed these further responses with the aim of identifying those topics that seemed most important to the greatest number of people. Initial findings from these activities were presented in our Interim Report, and details are presented in Appendix 3 of this document.

Interim Reports were sent to over 100 key Council officers. An 'Executive Summary' was printed as an A5 flyer and delivered to all postal addresses in Brislington East and West Wards, with invitations to comment on the findings and to participate in a series of scheduled workshops to formulate the action plan.

The focus group workshops of Spring 2007 saw 130 people involved in a prioritising exercise that demonstrated that leisure, transportation and the environment were the top three key issues for residents. The top ten specific issues were public transport, perceived policing levels, transportation routes, parks, local shopping and banking, sports facilities, dog fouling, recycling, youth groups and the swimming pool. All key findings supported the conclusions drawn in 2006. Details of those focus groups are presented in Appendix 4 of this document.

The rich information produced out of these workshops was used to formulate the actions in

this document, a draft of which was used as the core document in an involvement exercise with Council officers. That meeting,

in January 2008, was organised through collaboration between the CAP working group, BCC's Environmental and Sustainability Unit and Neighbourhood Partnerships, was independently facilitated and was hosted by Brislington Enterprise College.

The meeting aimed to introduce the Action Plan to Bristol City Council (BCC) officers and managers with the purpose of identifying similarities and gaps between the CAP and BCC priorities. It was also an opportunity to promote Brislington Community Partnership's (BCP) status as a Neighbourhood Partnership (NP), therefore enabling officers and BCP representatives to establish a network. Officers were identified from relevant council departments, which match the CAP priorities working in Brislington East and West. Briefing sessions were held in advance of the meeting, which meant that everyone was fully prepared and understood both the aims of and individual roles in the process. Those attending were enthusiastic about this inclusive process and welcomed Brislington's involvement in developing such a plan. Similar meetings every 4-6 months are suggested.

This CAP is a result of this fully inclusive process. The text was drafted by Brislington Community Partnership, with input from the Environmental and Sustainability Unit and Neighbourhood Partnerships.

Environment

Our 2006 and 2007 consultation exercises showed that people care about the appearance and cleanliness of local streets and green spaces. From Ward profiles it appears that Brislington residents also respect wider environmental issues by being energy efficient and good waste and water recyclers.

Consultation with the community in 2006 indicated that litter, fly tipping and dog fouling were key issues, followed closely by the lack of trees along local streets.

Focus group activities in Spring 2007 confirmed residents' concerns with dog fouling and fly tipping. While people were generally supportive of the City's recycling and composting schemes, they felt that other residents needed more education to ensure that they complied with the new rules.

Brislington is blessed with a range of formal and informal green spaces, but these are under pressure from the demands of new housing and commercial development. Given residents' awareness of the pressures on wasteland and desire to protect these spaces, there are significant opportunities for bringing together a wide range of service providers and stakeholders to develop systems strategies rather than one-off activities. We see this as the goal of community action.

'We need to protect our remaining green spaces from developers. Not to do so would be a crime for all. We should work together to improve access and slow traffic so our children can play in our beautiful parks!'

Key stakeholders that need to be involved in producing and implementing actions include:

- Bristol Extended Schools Partnership (BESP)
- Retailers
- Friends of Nightingale Valley
- Living Rivers
- Arnos Park Action Group
- St Anne's Park
- Bristol City Council officers
- Allotments Association

Vision

For Brislington to make positive use of derelict and unmanaged spaces for sustainably lit cycle ways and walkways, for community gardens, for play spaces, for education.

Actions

- 1** The Neighbourhood Partnership will engage with the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy at the Local Area Action Plan stage.
- 2** As a Neighbourhood Partnership working with Community Development, Dog Wardens and Living Rivers we aim to set up Litterpicker, a collective of residents who take responsibility for the streets on which they live and along which they walk.
- 3** As a Neighbourhood Partnership working with city planners, the Brislington Conservation and History Society, Reflex camera club and local oral historians we will produce a Green Map of Brislington to identify areas for community, not housing development.
- 4** The Neighbourhood Partnership will seek to work with other stakeholders to produce an inventory of Brislington's green spaces, with a view to focusing on these as community resources rather than housing development opportunities.
- 5** The Neighbourhood Partnership would seek to work with other stakeholders to produce an inventory of Brislington's derelict land, with a view to focusing on these as community resources rather than housing development opportunities.
- 6** The Neighbourhood Partnership will liaise with the University of the West of England Faculty of the Built Environment and with University of Bristol to provide learning opportunities for students in appropriate disciplines.
- 7** There will be ongoing support for existing working groups generated by BCP – Friends of Nightingale Valley, Arno's Park Action Group, St Anne's etc.
- 8** BESP to work with Parks, following best practice and elsewhere (e.g. Blaise Castle) to explore Teaching and Learning innovations.
- 9** We aim that all should live within 300m of open space.
- 10** Quarterly progress reviews with Community Development.

Employment

Both the 2006 and 2007 community consultations indicated that Brislington is perceived to offer only part-time, casual work in local retail centres. These results were surprising because of the large numbers of companies based in Bristol. There appears to be a real disconnection between jobs and people living in Brislington, with people often travelling long distances for work.

Residents felt particularly strongly about what they perceived as the lack of apprenticeship opportunities. However, Brislington Enterprise College has been working hard with local employers to run apprenticeship and mentoring schemes. This suggests that the issue may be more to do with perception than on-the-ground realities. This presents an opportunity for local employers to publicise their initiatives more visibly within the community.

Bristol City Council has also signalled its willingness to work with Brislington to develop further employment opportunities within the Wards.

‘Employment prospects in the area are not what they used to be: No major employers, apart from the various retail outlets that pay basic rates of pay.’

There are clear overlapping concerns between employment, education, transport and young people. Key stakeholders that need to be involved in producing and implementing actions include:

- Brislington Enterprise College
- BRAVE
- Traders' Association
- Business West

Vision

For Brislington to make positive use of derelict and unmanaged spaces for sustainably lit cycle ways and walkways, for community gardens, for play spaces, for education.

Actions

- 1** As a Neighbourhood Partnership, work with Bristol Extended Schools Partnership and Business Associations to identify possible business / schools relationships and develop and publicise mentoring and apprenticeship schemes.
- 2** Liaise with traders' association to explore the types of employment offered in the area.
- 3** Work with the city to produce an employment map of Brislington that identifies the range and type of residents' employment and identifies possible gaps in provision.
- 4** With the Government's plans to bring parents into the workforce when their youngest child is 7, the Partnership should work with stakeholders to investigate the possible implications for raising residents out of poverty.
- 5** Drawing on the experiences of such initiatives as the Greater Bedminster Community Chest, adopt best practice in facilitating employer networks.
- 6** Using the employment map (Action 3) and liaising with Bristol City Council and the Department of Work and Pensions, produce a database of potential work placements for Brislington residents.
- 7** Yearly progress reviews with key stakeholders, employers and city officers.

Older people

Great strides are being made in terms of caring for people within their own homes. However, when older people wish to lead independent, full lives outside of their home they often face obstacles. Both the 2006 and 2007 consultation exercises and sustainability profiles indicate that access issues were of primary importance to older people.

It is clear that travel impinges on many aspects of life in Brislington. People who rely on public transport to travel both within the Wards and outside the area to access many services may be excluded from accessing necessary services.

The 2007 exercise clearly demonstrated that perceptions of opportunities for older people are particularly negative. A further key issue was the lack of opportunities for community involvement.

‘Lack of facilities for the elderly.’ ‘In desperate need of very sheltered accommodation.’
‘Community infrastructure – where is it in Brislington?’

It is difficult to determine whether problems identified are to do with the lack of opportunity or problems with access. In order to refine this work, key stakeholders that need to be involved in producing and implementing actions include:

- Age Concern
- Bristol PCT
- Crossroads
- Adult Community Care
- BCC Health officers
- Sheltered housing
- Access equalities
- First Bus
- BTCV
- Bristol Extended Schools Partnership

Vision

For older people to have access to the services that they want and for more intergenerational communication and opportunities for dialogue.

Actions

- 1** Service providers and local representatives to research the relationship between transportation and local service provision. Consult with older people to discover specific issues and arrive at recommendations for improvement.
- 2** The Partnership and stakeholders should aim to conduct a services audit of Brislington in order to publicise existing services for older people and highlight gaps in provision.
- 3** Make links with organisations such as Crossroads to investigate the potential of initiatives such as LinkAge — a skills and resources swap shop run for and by older people.
- 4** Encourage the implementation and expansion of the Expert Patients Programme.
- 5** Work with Bristol PCT and local doctors to encourage links with older people's activities, such as outreach services to existing social activities and residential situations.
- 6** Work with BTCV 'Green Gym' initiative to explore fitness opportunities for older people in Brislington's green spaces.
- 7** Work with Bristol Extended Schools Partnership to explore opportunities for older people to contribute to younger people's teaching and learning experiences.
- 8** Quarterly reviews with stakeholders and service providers to monitor progress and adjust

Younger people

Across both the 2006 and 2007 activities, people identified the lack of opportunities as a problem, rather than young people themselves. However, this is a category that is emotive and charged with well-documented contradictions. Younger people often request more activities, citing boredom as a reason for anti-social behaviour. However, many youth groups are undermined by anti-social behaviour taking place within them and play and activity areas are frequently vandalised.

Given that the Brislington communities recognise the need for engaging activities for young people, future research might focus on tactics that enable young people to take on more responsibility for the provision of activities so that they can develop a sense of shared ownership and pride. It would seem that mentoring could play a key role in facilitating this.

‘Little or nothing for young people to do.’ ‘The park in Hungerford Gardens has been taken away for some time ago, nothing has been put in its place.’?’

It is difficult to determine whether problems identified are to do with the lack of opportunity or problems with access or uptake. In order to refine this work, key stakeholders that need to be involved in producing and implementing actions include:

- Bristol City Council Youth Services
- Respect
- Wick Road Library
- Bristol Extended Schools Partnership
- Substance misuse agencies
- Connexions
- Paintworks
- Briz Skate
- UK Government’s Every Child Matters programme for joined-up services

Vision

To work with young people and service providers to encourage active youth participation in identifying problems and developing creative solutions.

Actions

- 1** The Partnership and stakeholders must involve young people themselves in identifying problems and devising solutions.
- 2** Within the Every Child Matters agenda, the Partnership and stakeholders should aim to conduct a services audit of Brislington in order to publicise existing services for young people and highlight gaps in provision.
- 3** The Partnership and the Extended Schools Partnership could work with local businesses to identify junior entrepreneurial opportunities to develop services for young people run by young people.
- 4** The Partnership and stakeholders should explore the potential for young people's allotments and a farmer's market to sell produce.
- 5** Encourage establishment of cafes in public parks
- 6** Encourage the use of Play Rangers in parks and investigate the suitability of using older children and older people as park sitters.
- 7** Investigate business potential for a café operated by young people.
- 8** Work with PACT and police to develop driving opportunities for young people.
- 9** Work with Young People's Services to address the needs of young people outside of education.
- 10** Secure ongoing funding for detached youth workers.
- 11** Encourage the Respect project to develop innovative ways to recognise good practice and leadership.
- 12** Quarterly monitoring of Young People's Services in the delivery of Every Child Matters.

Planning

In 2006 and 2007, consultation confirmed the Sustainability Profile and suggested that essential services are no longer in walking distance for many residents. There is also concern that Brislington's built heritage is being eroded through unsympathetic planning and development. Brislington Village was seen to be in particular decline.

The lack of appropriate local shops and banks was the focus of many responses, with parking provision figuring strongly, too. However, this does not correspond with the City Council's findings on local amenities (<http://tinyurl.com/2n3xj8>) The lack of good-quality affordable housing forces younger people to move away from families and supportive networks.

This is a significant opportunity for Brislington to feed directly into the Regional Spatial Strategy by identifying areas for economic growth.

'The appearance and apparent quality of new-build is appalling. No attention to aesthetics, sustainability – a disregard for the community.'

To reverse these trends requires a change in strategic planning by all public services. In order to refine this work, key stakeholders that need to be involved in producing and implementing actions include:

- Housing Associations and social landlords
- Developers
- Brislington Conservation and History Society
- BCC Planning Policy
- BCC Development Control
- Planning Aid
- Bristol Neighbourhood Planning Network
- Housing Services

Vision

To work with stakeholders to encourage innovative development to ensure affordable housing and effective services that are sensitive to residents' needs.

Actions

- 1 Brislington Village could be a focus for regeneration, making it a place with a rich and diverse street scene that people feel they can safely use. Work with Planning to restore local service provision, develop affordable family housing and revive neighbourhood centres.
- 2 The clear majority of responses to local shopping and banking suggests that future research be undertaken in collaboration with local retailers and residents to identify where provision is lacking and to undertake a feasibility study into the kinds of smaller businesses that Brislington could sustain across its neighbourhoods.
- 3 Strong responses about lack of affordable housing suggest that stakeholders need to revisit current development plans to investigate whether 1- and 2-bed flats are addressing this gap.
- 4 Strongly negative responses about parking suggests the need for a working group to collect photographic evidence of parking patterns in areas suggested for development. This will entail positive working with the City's Garage Strategy Project.
- 5 Work with ESP and BCC Planning Department to develop initiatives to involve young people in the planning process, under the Every Child Matters programme.
- 6 Encourage retention and development of family housing near schools.
- 7 Set up a planning subgroup to work closely with the Bristol Neighbourhood Planning Network (BNPN), BCC Planning Department and Strategic Planners to ensure that Action Plan objectives are woven into the City's wider planning cycles.
- 8 Quarterly progress reviews to ensure both local and city-wide initiatives are both monitored and actioned.
- 9 Draw up S106 'wish list' to feed in to Community Involvement process, facilitated by Bristol Neighbourhood Planning Network.

Health

In 2006 and 2007, consultation suggested a lack of locally accessible health care, especially dentists. This is in contrast to the findings of the Sustainability Profile and therefore requires further investigation. Poor transport options, however, significantly affect affordable access to good health care provision. This is particularly the case with access to dental care, which attracted negative views when compared with other health case issues.

The Sustainability Profile also identifies an issue around healthy lifestyles with people in East Brislington leading less healthy lifestyles. The reasons behind this, and the support for change, are possible areas of action around smoking, eating and enjoyment of green space (improving public health promotion).

‘The GP surgery is overcrowded and needs longer opening hours — especially to deal with new flats and houses.’

In order to refine this work, key stakeholders that need to be involved in producing and implementing actions include:

- Brooklea Health Centre
- Riverside Health Centre
- Bristol PCT
- Director, Public Health
- Substance Misuse Department
- Bristol Drugs Project
- Safer Bristol

Vision

To work with stakeholders across departments to encourage healthy lifestyles and tackle more chronic social health issues.

Actions

- 1** Work with communities and service providers to promote healthier lifestyles and active uses of green space.
- 2** Continue to lobby for increased NHS dentist provision.
- 3** As with issues pertaining to older people, it is felt that small-scale, community-based provision is on the whole good. There is an opportunity to adopt best practice from community-based teams into other sectors of health-care provision that would appear to coalesce around distributing facilities. Investigate getting outreach health care into Wicklea, Wick Road library etc.
- 4** Work with food sellers, ESP and Bristol PCT to investigate availability/ provision/uptake of healthy eating options.
- 5** Encourage Bristol Dental School and other healthcare professionals to come into schools to talk about dentistry as a career option.
- 6** Investigate outreach healthcare provision by means of a Health Bus.
- 7** Support substance misuse work in the Wards to address longer-term social health issues.
- 8** Work with BTCV 'Green Gym' initiative to explore fitness opportunities in Brislington's green spaces.
- 9** Six-monthly progress reviews.

Education

It is clear that pre-school and primary provision is seen as a real strength in Brislington. However, people do not feel the same about secondary provision and more research needs to be done in Brislington to explore the specific reasons why there is such a gulf between perceptions of primary and secondary provision. There is a desire from the community for the local school, Brislington Enterprise College (BEC) to regain its status as the secondary school of choice for local young people.

The current new build at BEC will address some of these issues. Changes to Bath and North East Somerset's Education Service, in particular, the closing of Broadlands School, will have a significant impact on the take-up of secondary provision within Brislington.

Education touches on all aspects of the Community Action Plan and there are important opportunities for lifelong learning and for increased communication and interaction between learners of all ages and residents and workers in Brislington.

'If all our children went to Brislington Enterprise College, we would have an improved school.'

The key body with which to liaise is the Bristol Extended Schools Partnership. Under the Every Child Matters programme, the ESP seeks to ensure joined-up teaching and learning together with the range of children's and family services. The ESP is becoming an effective mechanism by which to deliver information and learning opportunities through communities.

Vision

To continue to work with Extended Schools Partnership to ensure that residents participate in local opportunities for lifelong education.

Actions

- 1** Identify opportunities for extended use of buildings to address lack of recreational, arts and sports facilities in the area.
- 2** Extended Schools Partnership to liaise with younger and older people, employers and so on to bring their own knowledge and experience into schools.
- 3** Promote the use of open spaces as classrooms.
- 4** Encourage traffic and transport agencies to go into schools and work with young people.
- 5** Monthly updates from Bristol Extended Schools Partnership at Brislington Community Partnership meetings.

Leisure

The 2006 and 2007 consultations highlighted a decline in community meeting places, resulting in the loss of cross-generational contact and possibly resulting in more crime. The decline is likely to continue with the planned closure of Jubilee Pool and the lack of community spaces. This could mean no sports and community facilities in the area, leading to more people travelling out of the area. This is a particular issue for East Brislington. It also supports the conclusion under the education theme for greater out-of-hours use of school buildings.

The consultation showed strong support for the library despite restricted opening hours.

The consultation also showed Brislington to be an area strong in and proud of its heritage. There are significant opportunities to encourage public awareness and foster learning and respect for conservation and the historic built environment.

‘The library is an excellent facility. The staff is superb and committed. But the building needs expansion and revamping and then it can really be a community asset.’

In order to refine this work, key stakeholders that need to be involved in producing and implementing actions include:

- Parks
- Open Spaces
- BCC officers
- City Archaeologist
- Retailers
- Paintworks
- ITV
- Arts Council England
- Planning

Vision

That Brislington’s leisure activities and opportunities are accessible for all.

Actions

- 1** The Partnership and stakeholders should aim to conduct a spaces audit of Brislington in order to publicise existing leisure spaces. They should coordinate with Planning and Parks and Green Spaces in order to ensure spaces are reserved for leisure activities.
- 2** Focus on Library and Extended Schools Partnership as key locations for publicising and coordinating joined-up leisure activities in the Wards.
- 3** Work with council officers and independent organisations to audit all available sporting opportunities.
- 4** Work with council officers and independent organisations to audit all available arts activities.
- 5** Work with local pubs to identify opportunities for community involvement.
- 6** Link with CAMRA to explore opportunities for community run pubs, to address lack of community spaces.
- 7** Quarterly progress reports to assess development of audits.

Crime & safety

The consultation exercises indicated that people in Brislington wanted more visible policing, more community involvement and better street lighting. These responses and the relative lack of responses about enforcement suggests that people in Brislington are concerned more with perceptions of safety and do not feel that the Wards are particularly unsafe.

The Sustainability Profile supported the results of the consultation, which showed lack of local facilities discourages walking. The fewer people on the streets, the less welcoming the street scene becomes. There was some concern that after dark the only people on the streets are young people in groups, which many residents perceive as potentially threatening. This could be addressed through planning for more active streetscapes to encourage a more diverse range of people using their streets and improve communication among age groups.

The most significant mechanism for addressing

‘Too much CCTV - not enough community involvement’

and actioning crime and community safety issues is the new Home Office initiative Police and Communities Together (PACT). PACT will liaise with other crime and safety organisations and with Bristol City Council to identify action points and to monitor progress.

Vision

To foster a perception of Brislington based in fact, which emphasises the relative safety of the Wards and works with service providers to focus on vulnerable areas and communities.

Actions

- 1** To incorporate PACT into monthly Brislington Community Partnership meetings.
- 2** To support PACT in identifying and monitoring monthly action priorities.
- 3** To continue working with Respect to secure ongoing outreach youth development workers, the provision of which has impacted positively on anti-social behaviour in the Wards.
- 4** To continue working with Avon and Somerset Constabulary

Traffic and transport

The 2006 and 2007 surveys and Council's Quality of Life Indicators show that most residents and workers travel by car, despite the fact that people feel very negatively about the congestion on the A4 Bath Road.

Transport is a key to many of the themes within this Community Action Plan. However, it is unclear whether the answer lies in improving alternative transport modes to the car; by providing services more locally; or a mix of these. Choices are highly dependent on public sector services and the restrictions within which they operate.

The Bath Road was identified as being particularly pedestrian unfriendly. It requires much more active frontages to encourage use and self-policing. This can only be achieved through increased walking and cycling.

'Make footpaths cleaner and easier to use — to get people out of their cars!'

In order to refine this work, key stakeholders that need to be identified and involved in producing and implementing actions include:

- Transport Policy Group
- Sustrans
- FirstBus
- Friends of Bristol Suburban Railways
- Bristol Waterways
- Public Transport Team
- Bus User Group
- Employee travel plan managers

Vision

To work with service providers to transform Brislington from a commuter 'rat run' into a transport flagship community.

Actions

- 1** Work with strategic planners to encourage development of local employment opportunities to ensure that employment site allocation policy is sustainable.
- 2** Work with employers to develop more flexible working conditions for Brislington residents, to include home-working and decentralised employment.
- 3** Work with planners and employers to explore new uses for old buildings to develop them as flexible working environments.
- 4** Work with local motorcycle dealers to encourage 'bike experience' opportunities to promote motorised two-wheelers as commuter vehicles.
- 5** Work with Lifecycle and Sustrans to promote bicycle use.
- 6** Work with traffic and transport to develop licensing for bicycles.
- 7** Work with traffic and transport to develop effective strategies for sharing space in the public realm for vehicles, cycles and pedestrians, particularly for A4 Bath Road.
- 8** Investigate feasibility of a water-bus to capitalise on Brislington's waterway links in to the city.
- 9** Quarterly reports to ensure that this singularly important issue within Brislington continues to be progressed.

Appendix 1: *History*

Brislington today comprises two Wards of Bristol City Council (Brislington East and Brislington West) and has a population of approx 22,000 (see map). It has a long and illustrious history.

The remains of a Roman Villa were found during the building of terraced housing in Winchester Road and in the 15th century King Henry VII came through on pilgrimage, on his way to St Anne's Chapel. For most of its history, it was an agricultural area centred on a small village between Bristol and Bath.

From the middle of the 18th century it began to be the chosen retreat for the new merchant class, many of whom had made their fortunes through the slave plantations of Virginia and the West Indies. The green spaces away from the City became the home of many of Bristol's 'lesser gentry'.

In the 19th century it was described as 'the prettiest village in Somerset' and right until the early 20th century it was still semi-rural, with several working farms, small-holdings and market gardens. Indeed, until 1933 Brislington was still part of North Somerset, while the village smithy continued until the 1940s.

Brislington has a long history of commerce and development, too. From the 1890s, many of the large estates were broken up and sold off to developers to build terraced housing for the new rail workers.



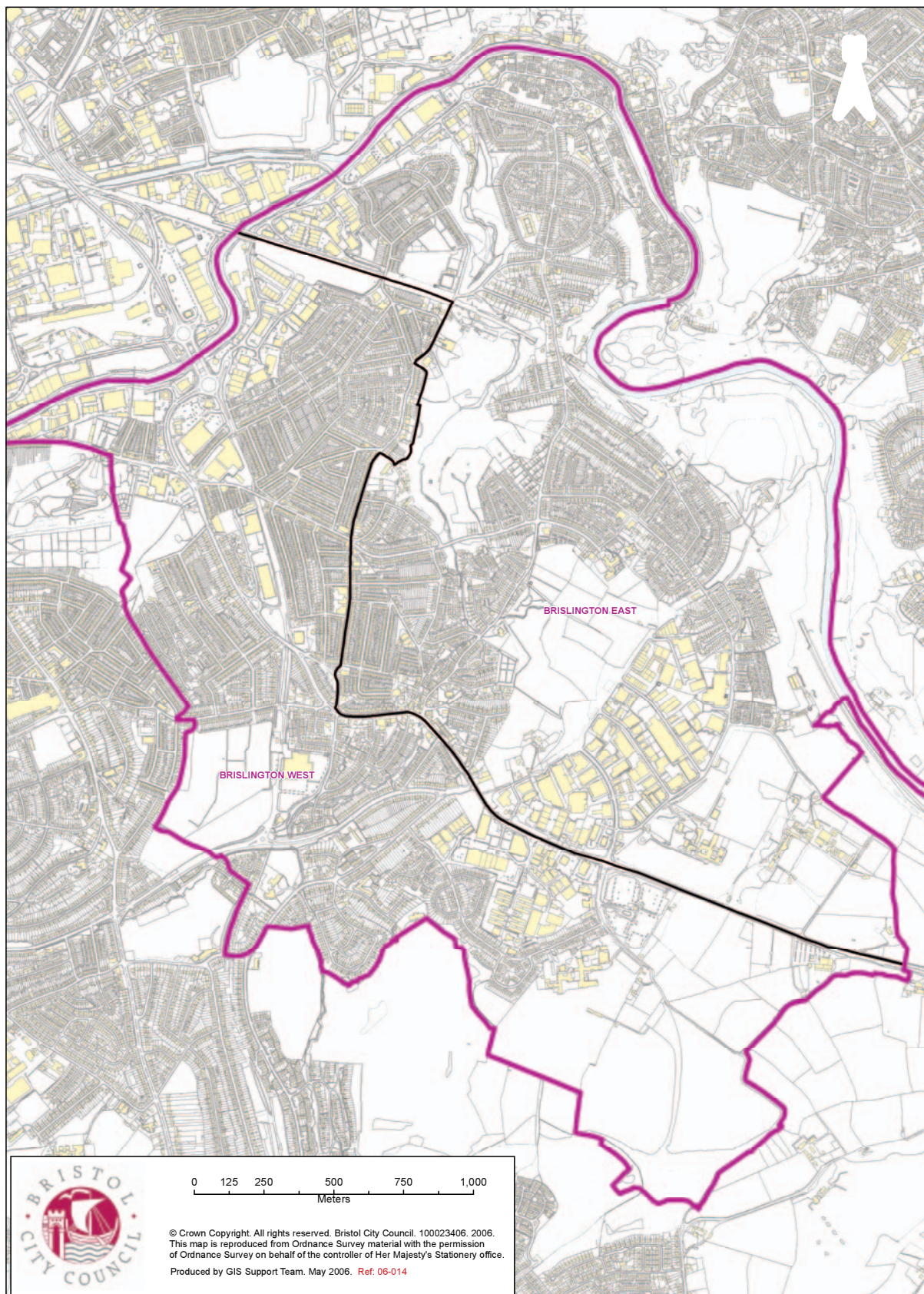
The village as it was in 1969, during building of Council flats.

Photo: Ann Mugford

In 1904, two trading estates were built. Although major industry ceased in the 1980s, many buildings have been re-developed or replaced by alternative commercial users. The heart of the old village was changed beyond recognition in the 1960s when the A4 was widened, but there are still traces of the older, slower-paced way of life, and a lot of green spaces - if you know where to look for them!

For many people Brislington today is just a suburb of Bristol on the main A4 Bath Road. It's a place known for its traffic jams and a place you want to get through on the way in or out of the City. But what do its 22,000 residents think? What drew them to live here and how do they see their neighbourhood? It is for these people, and those working in our area, that this Interim Action Plan Report has been produced.

Map of Brislington wards



Appendix 2:

2006 Questionnaire Results

Number of questionnaires: 78

Total individuated responses to topics: 810

A2.1 Environment

Overall, only 16% of responses were positive out of 111 individual responses to the environment.

Dog fouling was the focus of 32% of the total response, with street cleaning coming second figuring in 26% of responses. There are clear issues around Brislington's streets and paths as used by pedestrians and future work in this area should explore how the communities might work together with local authorities to empower residents to take more responsibility for the environment outside of the home. Of the responses in each category:

- 42% were positive about recycling provision.
- 95% negative about levels of dog fouling.
- 90% negative about the frequency of street cleaning and amount of litter.
- 93% negative about local dumping.
- 40% positive about the provision and state of allotments.
- 75% negative about the lack of trees along streets.

A2.2 Employment

Overall, 92% of responses were negative out of 40 individual responses to employment opportunities in the area. Of the responses in each category:

- 92% were negative about the amount and quality of local employment.
- 85% negative about local employment opportunities.
- 100% of responses cited the lack of apprenticeships.

Responses were evenly spread across these three issues. Although respondents did not list a large number of issues in this category, it was obvious that people felt as though Brislington offered them only part-time, casual work in the large supermarkets. There are clear overlapping concerns with education and young people, as indicated in the thematic map that follows. With further study in this area, including interviews with local employers and schools, opportunities could be identified for more coherent strategies in this area, possibly drawing on co-operative models of post-secondary youth employment and by drawing on local expertise in and memory of apprenticeships.

A2.3 Older people

Overall, only 23% of responses out of a total of 47 individual responses were positive about care and leisure activities provided for this group. Access to services was the focus of 53% of the total response, with leisure activity provision figuring in 32% of responses. Clearly great strides are being made in terms of caring for people within their own homes and this has been positively identified. However, it would appear that it is when older people wish to lead independent, full lives outside of the domestic environment that they face obstacles. Future research in this area might be structured around focus groups run through existing leisure activities in order to probe the specific issues that this group faces in order to identify clear recommendations for improvement.

Of the responses in each category:

- 80% were negative about leisure activities.
- 57% positive about support available for care at home.
- 85% negative about access to services, including bus services for older people.
- 75% negative about the opportunities for older people to participate in the neighbourhood communities.

A2.4 Young people

Overall, 85% of responses were negative out of 73 individual responses to young people's opportunities. This is a category that is emotive and charged with well documented contradictions. Young people often request more activities, citing boredom as a reason for anti-social behaviour. However, many youth groups are undermined by anti-social behaviour taking place within them and play and activity areas are frequently vandalised. Given that the Brislington communities recognise the need for engaging activities for young people, future research might focus on tactics that enable young people to take on more responsibility for the provision of activities so that they can develop a sense of shared ownership and pride. It would seem that mentoring could play a key role in facilitating this.

Of the responses in each category:

- 90% were negative about youth group provision;
- 82% negative about the provision of play and activity areas; and
- 80% negative about mentoring opportunities.

The provision of play and activity areas was the focus of 49% of the total response, with youth group provision figuring in 41% of responses.

A2.5 Planning

Overall, 90% of responses were negative out of 67 individual responses to planning concerns. Local shopping and banking was the focus of 55% of the total response, with parking provision figuring in 18% of responses. Given the clear majority of responses to local shopping and banking in this category, we suggest that future research be undertaken in collaboration with local retailers and residents to identify where provision is lacking and to undertake a feasibility study into the kinds of smaller businesses that Brislington could sustain across its neighbourhoods. There was a feeling that what local shops did exist did not cater for needs. This is a significant opportunity for Brislington to feed directly into the Regional Spatial Strategy by identifying areas for economic growth.

Of the responses in each category:

- 80% were negative about the conservation, preservation and accessibility of historic features.
- 95% were negative about the provision of local shops (in particular, green grocers and chemists) and banks.
- 100% were negative about the provision of affordable housing.
- 75% were negative about household parking.

A2.6 Health

Overall, 58% of responses were negative out of 78 individual responses to health care provision. Access to surgeries and clinics was the focus of 41% of the total response, with access to dentists figuring in 29% of responses. There would appear to be two significant issues underlying these responses: the lack of integrated transport across Brislington when compared with transport directly into the city centre; and the long-term decline of NHS dentists. As with issues pertaining to older people, it is felt that small-scale, community-based provision is on the whole good. There is an opportunity to adopt best practice from community-based teams into other sectors of health-care provision that would appear to coalesce around distributing facilities, rather than centralising them in difficult-to-access areas.

Of the responses in each category:

- 59% were negative about access to surgeries and clinics, with most citing bus provision.
- 54% positive about access to hospitals.
- 68% negative about the provision of NHS dentists.
- 55% positive about how community health concerns are handled.

A2.7 Education and training

Overall, 61% of responses were negative out of 76 individual responses to education and training opportunities. Of the responses in each category:

- 81% were negative about the wider use of school premises
- 60% negative about schools' integration with the local community
- 62% negative about lifelong learning opportunities
- 67% positive about pre-school and primary provision
- 59% negative about secondary provision.

Use of school premises was the focus of 28% of the total response, with secondary provision figuring in 22% of responses. Further research in this area that focuses on interviews with teachers, governors and parents could identify a range of areas in which the extended use of school premises impacts positively on perceptions of integration within the community and perhaps raise the profile of secondary schools themselves.

It is clear, however, that pre-school and primary provision is seen as a real strength in Brislington. More research amongst parent groups needs to be done to explore the specific reasons why there is such a gulf between primary and secondary provision. While in more affluent areas of the city the flow of secondary students into the private sector is buoyed up by higher wages, more research needs to be done in Brislington to ascertain the reasons why residents feel negatively towards the secondary schools.

A2.8 Leisure and recreation

Overall, 68% of responses were negative out of 116 individual responses to leisure and recreation. Of the responses in each category:

- 96% were negative about the availability of local swimming facilities.
- 95% positive about the local library.
- 60% negative about the state of local parks.
- 75% negative about heritage opportunities.
- 86% negative about arts provision.
- 92% negative about the provision of sports centres and clubs.

Parks were the focus of 30% of the total response, with swimming facilities figuring in 22% of responses. The Wick Road library was very close to respondents' hearts and was the clear favourite feature of Brislington. It is therefore extremely important that the Community Action Plan works hard to maintain the role of the library in the community. To do this, further research might be carried out into the specific reasons for its excellent performance as this may indicate positive strategies to adopt in other areas.

While most respondents wished for local swimming and sports centre facilities the capital expense of such projects needs to be considered within future planning activities. A cost-intensive project such as this may lead to unwanted trade-offs in other areas that require investment. Brislington residents also use facilities on the periphery of the area such as Jubilee Pool, although residents noted it was in poor condition they felt it important to secure its future.

A2.9 Crime and community safety

Overall, 73% of responses were negative out of 82 individual responses to crime and community safety. Policing was the focus of 45% of the total response, with street lighting figuring in 17% of responses. Although perceptions of policing did not fair as badly as perceptions of other security measures, such as CCTV, it is clear from the dominance of responses concerning policing that it is an extremely important topic for residents.

Door-to-door interviews could assist in identifying the exact causes for such negative perceptions, but from the responses it would seem that the issues reside in the area of funding for police activities. However, this is national issue and it has been demonstrated that overall crime levels have remained largely unchanged over the long term and that increased police visibility is an exercise in anxiety management rather than having a real effect on neighbourhood crime. Within the sustainability ethos we would suggest that before increased investment is made in the area of policing we should develop further opportunities for community mentoring and communal responsibility initiatives, as indicated above.

Of the responses in each category:

- 80% were negative about street use.
- An equal (50%) split was positive and negative about provision of street lighting.
- 82% negative about the perceived lack of CCTV.
- 78% negative about local policing, in particular the lack of visible policing and the length of response time.
- 70% negative about perceived levels of action against racial discrimination.

A2.10 Traffic and transport

Overall, 94% of responses were negative out of 120 individual responses to traffic and transport. Integrated public transport was the focus of 28% of the total response, with main route congestion figuring in 25% of responses. Unsurprisingly, the lack of reliable buses and the prevalence of traffic figured highly for respondents, although the link between these two was not identified in any of the questionnaires. This may be an area that could benefit positively from a series of workshops on sustainability to make people aware that the more they drive into town the later the buses become.

The Greater Bristol Transport Plan has identified the A4 as a route for the Showcase Bus Route scheme. The routes will be improved as flag ship public transport routes with improved bus lanes, signage, bus stops and busses. However, the survey identified that there are also real issues around fare structures, with some respondents pointing out that it can be cheaper to drive or even take a taxi than it is to go by bus. The Showcase Bus routes will not address this issue, and there is an urgent need for the city to engage in discussion with the bus providers to identify new ways of working and providing transportation.

Of the responses in each category:

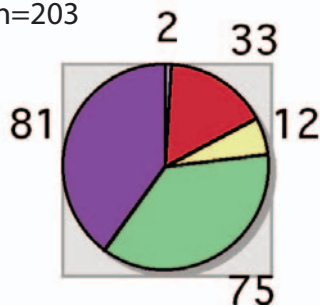
- 93% were negative about congestion on main routes.
- 97% negative about integrated transport, in particular bus provision.
- 90% negative about traffic segregation.
- 96% negative about parking regulations in the area.
- 92% negative about access to schools, shops, etc.
- 91% negative about street features.

Appendix 3: 2007 Focus Groups

Environment

Overall

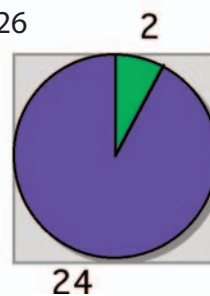
n=203



- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

Dumping and tipping

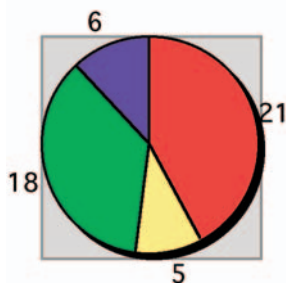
n=26



- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

Recycling

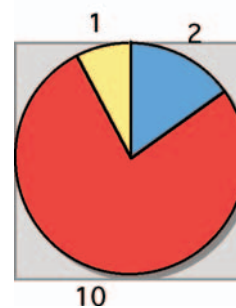
n=50



- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

Allotments

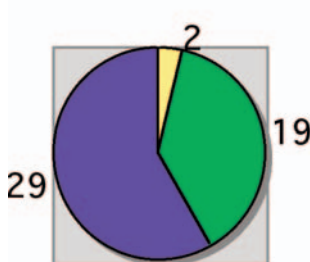
n=13



- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

Dog fouling

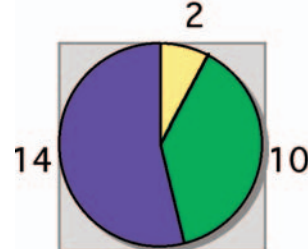
n=50



- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

Tree planting

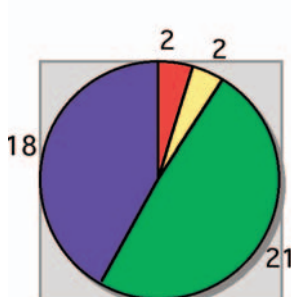
n=14



- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

Street cleaning

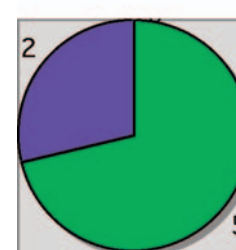
n=43



- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

Wasteland

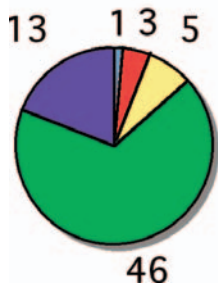
n=7



- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

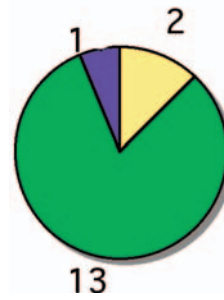
Employment

Overall
n=68



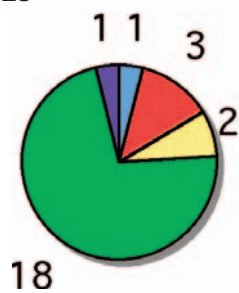
- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

Opportunities
n=16



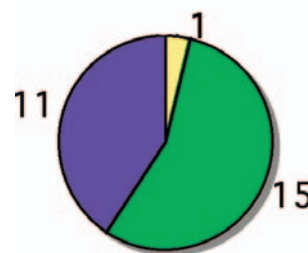
- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

Local
n=25



- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

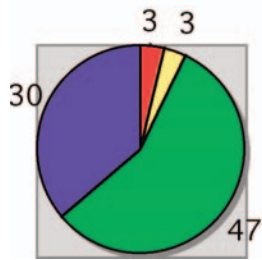
Apprenticeships
n=27



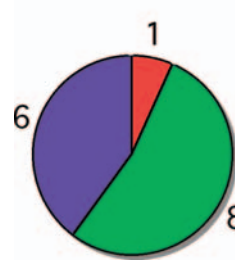
- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

Older people

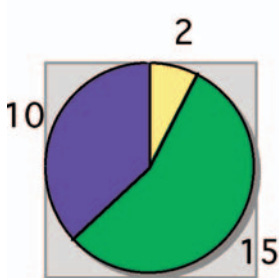
Overall
n=83



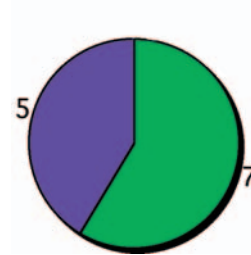
Access to services
n=15



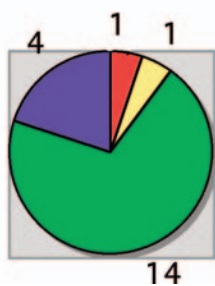
Leisure activities
n=27



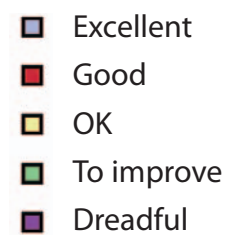
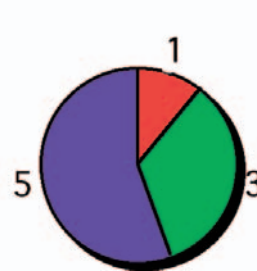
Participation
n=12



Support at home
n=20

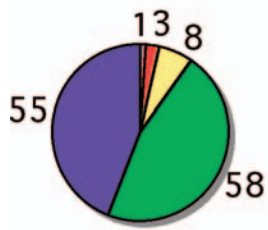


Transportation
n=9

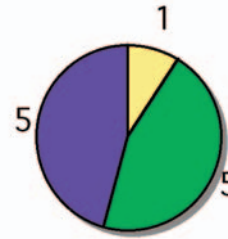


Young people

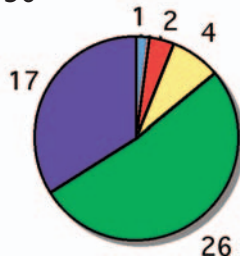
Overall
n=120



Safe places to be
n=17



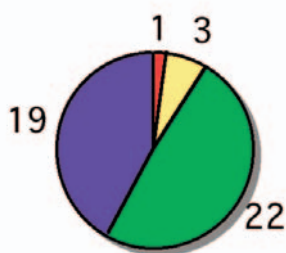
Youth groups
n=50



Integration
n=2



Play groups
n=45

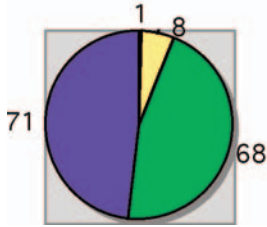


Mentoring opportunities
n=6



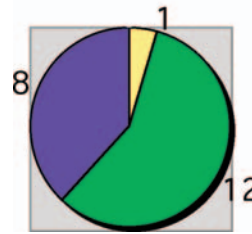
Planning

Overall
n=148



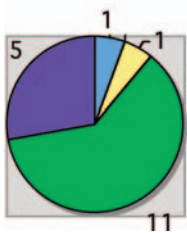
- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

Housing
n=21



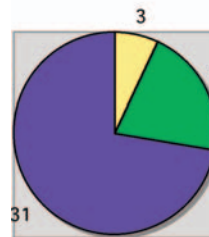
- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

Historic environment
n=18



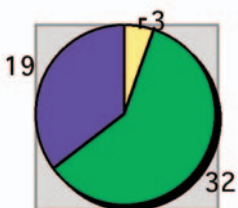
- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

Parking
n=43



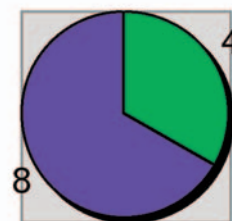
- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

Local shopping
n=54



- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

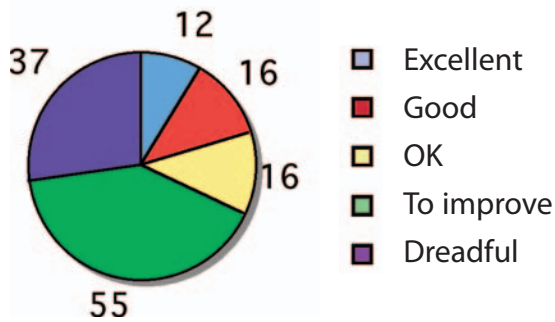
Local involvement
n=12



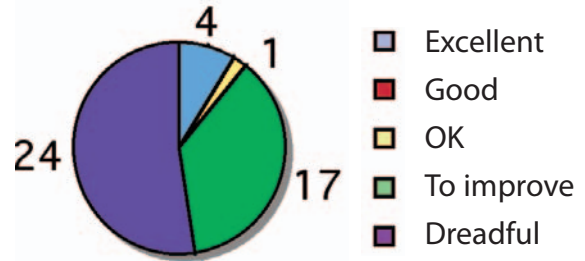
- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

Health

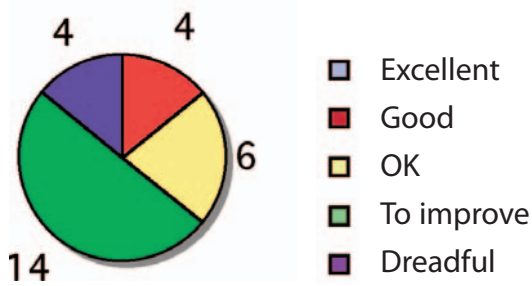
Overall
n=136



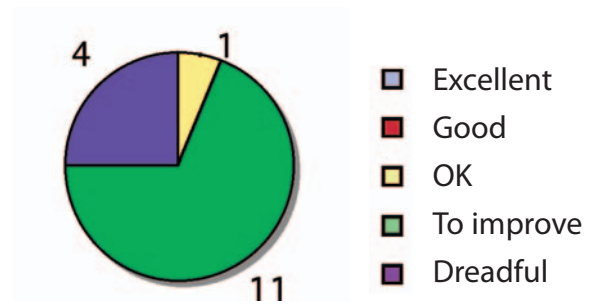
Access to dentists
n=46



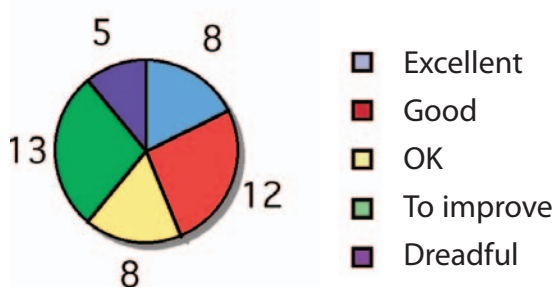
Hospitals
n=28



Access to community services
n=46

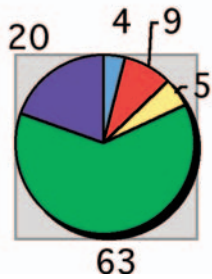


Access to services
n=46



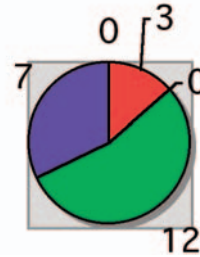
Education

Overall
n=102



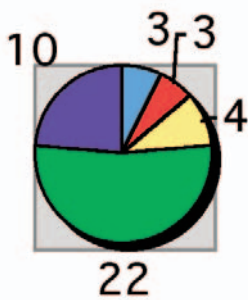
- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

Pre school and secondary
n=23



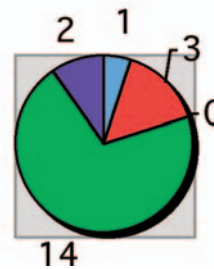
- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

Better use of premises
n=42



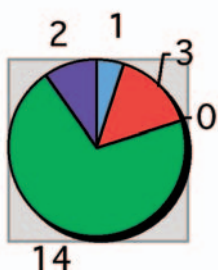
- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

Lifelong learning provision
n=17



- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

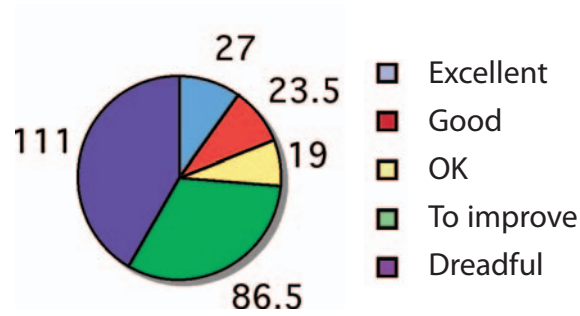
Integration with community
n=20



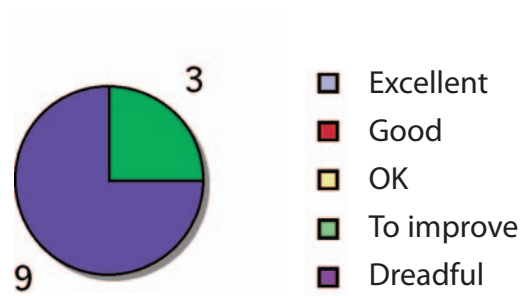
- Excellent
- Good
- OK
- To improve
- Dreadful

Leisure and recreation

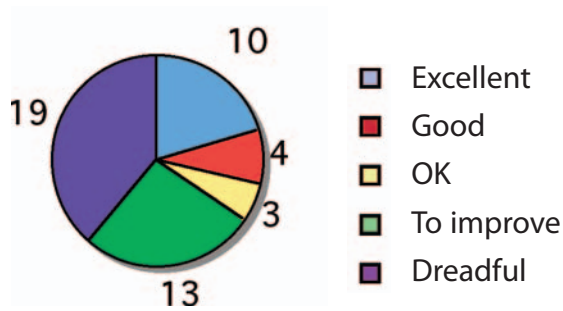
Overall n=267



Pubs and cafes n=12



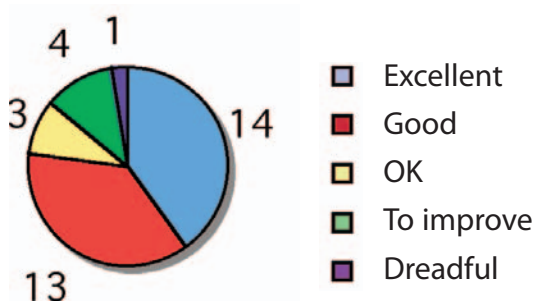
Swimming pool n=49



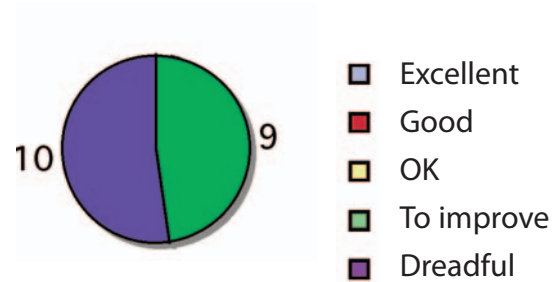
Heritage n=6



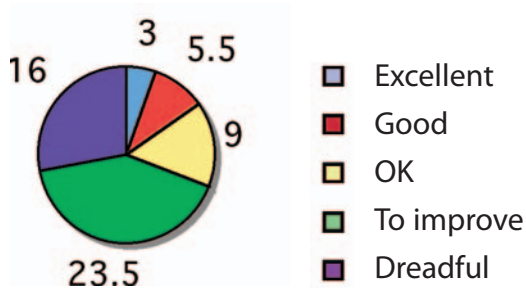
Libraries n=35



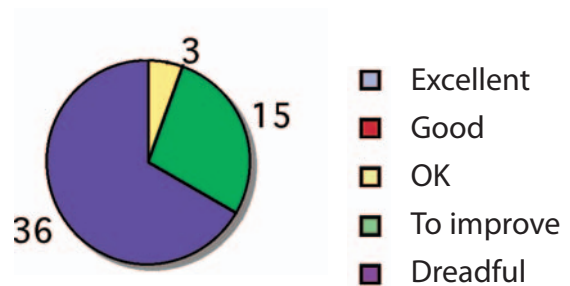
Arts n=19



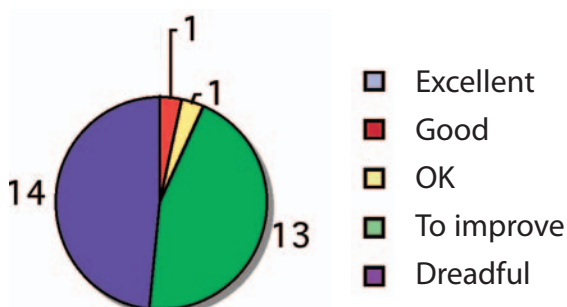
Parks n=57



Sports centres n=54



Clubs n=29

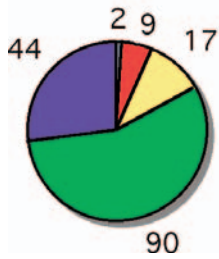


Community centres n=6



Crime and community safety

Overall
n=162



CCTV
n=19



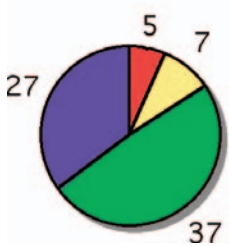
Street lighting
n=17



Action against discrimination
n=19



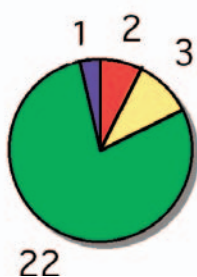
Policing
n=76



Enforcement
n=3



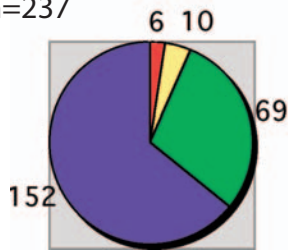
Community involvement
n=28



Transportation

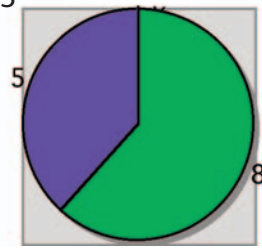
Overall

n=237



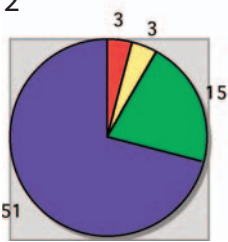
Traffic segregation

n=13



Main routes

n=72



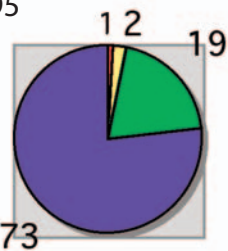
Access to transport

n=10



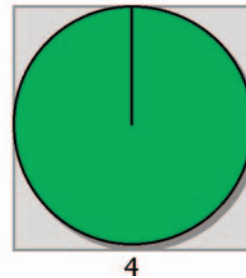
Public transport

n=95



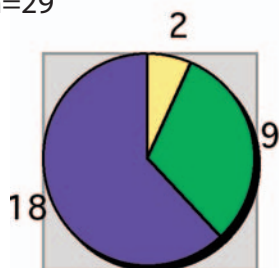
Street features

n=4



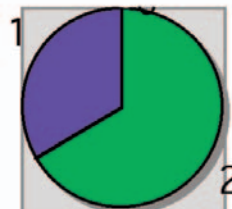
Parking

n=29



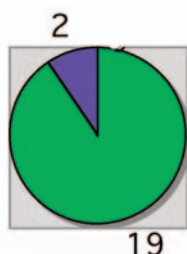
Planning

n=3



Cycling/walking/footpaths

n=21





This Community Action Plan has been produced by Brislington Community Partnership, with the support of Bristol City Council.

The report will be updated yearly and posted to both www.brislington.org and to the Brislington Neighbourhood Forum at <http://forums.e-democracy.org/groups/bristol-bris>, where you can post your views. Alternatively, leave a message on 0117 xxx xxxx

21.05.2008

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