



**HOTWELLS & CLIFTONWOOD  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

**Annual General Meeting  
Monday 21 November 2022  
Holy Trinity, Hotwell Road, Bristol**

**Meeting Chair - Anna Haydock Wilson - Co-Chair and Trustee**

50 people were registered attendees including 5 members of the Management Committee

**Apologies**

Rev Kat Campion-Spall  
Brenda McLennan - Treasurer and Company Secretary  
James Smith - Trustee  
Damian Rooney- Trustee  
Sandra Fryer - Co-Chair  
Paula O'Rourke - Councillor - Clifton  
Joanna Dempster  
Emily Price- BCC Growth & Regeneration  
Omair Nayah - HCCA Newsletter Editor

**Minutes from previous AGM**

Proposed by Chris and approved by meeting

**Matters arising**

Noticeboard at Town Green summerhouse- has it been used to recommend local tradespeople?

**Co-Chair's Report**

*By Anna Haydock Wilson and Sandra Fryer, presented by Anna.*

**Introduction**

Welcome to this AGM of Hotwells and Cliftonwood Community Association.

This evening we have a meeting of two parts, firstly the formal business side of the Association, including this report which covers the period from last AGM, and our financial report which covers the year from April 21 to March 22.

After the formal part, we will have workshop style discussions, with individual tables focusing on key issues, sharing ideas and developing some next steps.

This has really been a year of transition as we move on from Dennis's brilliant leadership and seek to re-check what the HCCA means to us, what our key vision is and what we really should and can do, and above all have the capacity to do.

## **Emerging Business Plan**

*Please see attached draft*

We have been doing some work on a new Business Plan for the HCCA, a base which we can use for making bids for funding, a base on which we are now thinking about some regular sub groups, and a base on which we hope to grow our membership. The key themes which have emerged are around

- To provide leadership and a voice for Hotwells & Cliftonwood
- To adopt the principles and actions for a 20 Minute Neighbourhood
- To promote activities that support a stronger local community
- To set out the opportunity to invest in Hotwells and Cliftonwood that reflect the HCCA vision and the required community infrastructure to support existing and new communities
- To adopt an effective communications and engagement plan
- To work in partnership with key stakeholders and partners for the benefit of the neighbourhood.

We hope to conclude our business planning work soon. It will essentially be a three-year plan which we will update every year. We also think this will enable us to develop our work with key partners including our local councillors, the City Council, adjoining community organisations, arts and other funding bodies who might work with us in achieving our ambitions.

Bearing in mind our new business plan we also see a small number of subgroups emerging and that we expect to grow under the work of the HCCA. We have set up this evening to reflect these themes, to enable everyone to share this vision, to share ideas and to co-create an action plan going forward.

We continue to mull over ideas for a community base/ a building/ a container or a room where we can meet, network and support the community. We registered The Bear as a Community Asset ready for if and when the brewing company decide to sell. There are opportunities in the new developments such as the caravan park (which of course many would prefer does not get developed). We would love to hear any ideas you have too. We propose to raise this with the City Council when we meet representatives.

## **Activities we have carried out this year.**

We have had a range of events and activities this year, much reflecting our capacity, and opportunities to work with others including:

- Ongoing maintenance and gradual development of improvements to the Piazza, many people don't realise how important the piazza, designed by Dame Sylvia Crowe in the 1960s, is to the overall character and design of the Cumberland Basin. We continue to fulfil the legacy left to the CA by Ray Smith. Thanks to our artists, including Amy Hutchings, Luke Palmer, Chris Tunstall from Move More Fitness who generally keeps an eye on the piazza for us. Also a big thanks to all those people who helped with our celebrating Sanctuary event as part of Bristol refugee festival in June this year.
- Noticeboards are a key line of communication for our area, we thank you again to those who look after our noticeboards, which we feel are a vital form of communication for us- Caroline Grazebrook, Lesley & Giles Woodward, Gayle Richards, Rosalind Bennet, Emma Peddie & Anna.
- Newsletter- A big thanks to Omair Nayaar who edits and sends out our monthly e-bulletin.
- Graffiti Cleaning- again thanks to Caroline and all the team.
- The Steps & Paths group- thanks to Rachel McNally for taking over from Hazel

We welcome volunteers for all these activities- please use our sign up sheets if you want to volunteer.

- Developing a Neighbourhood Agreement with BCC Community Development team and Holy Trinity Hotwells- this has involved door knocking our local social housing and listening to caretakers and residents. Thanks to Kerry Rowe and Liz Leaman.
- Western Harbour, we made representations to the consultation in the summer, and we have been in touch with the City Council and the Civic Society but little information was gained. We understand the City has scoped a major regeneration study to take forward Western Harbour but that they do not yet have the funds for this work. The Cumberland Basin Stakeholder Group has not met recently, and we have had no communication at all with the Western Harbour Advisory Group. We are planning a special meeting on this and our 20 Minute Neighbourhood visioning in the spring and hope city representatives will make time available. Our next step will be a scoping meeting with our local councillors. To be effective we also need to develop a stronger relationship with partners south of the river, such as Action Greater Bedminster.
- Local emission zone and enhanced bus lanes on the Portway. We have made representations to the Council about the combined impact of these actions, we had hoped to have some BCC staff here tonight but that has not proved possible, hence we plan 20 minute neighbourhood event in the spring.

And then there are other events that amazing locals organise that HCCA support or have supported in the past- a big thanks to all those teams

- West bristol Arts trail
- Cliftonwood Open Air Cinema
- Hotwells Festivals

### **HCCA Committee**

Turning to the HCCA Committee this year, we had a bit of a refresh with Sandra Fryer, Rachel McNally, Paul Ville, Sibusiso Tshabalala and Steve Evans joining us. Regretfully due to moving out of the area and work pressures, Paul and Steve have subsequently stepped down.

We are also sorry to report that one of our longest serving committee members will be standing down at the end of this year. We would like to sincerely thank Chris Smart for all her work and efforts on behalf of HCCA, especially organising visits and events, like the Somali Cultural Exchange evening here back in May 2018.

Greta news we have new people keen to join the committee, including Julian Brown who is taking over from Brenda as Treasurer- Brenda has kept us solvent for 20 years, despite losing statutory income from BCC back in 2010. Brenda will remain as Trustee and Company Secretary- massive thanks to her.

We welcome anyone who want to join the MC- elections will follow or talk to us after.

### **Conclusion**

I hope you have found this interesting, there is quite a bit going on but we can always do more. We are a flexible and creative organisation, if there are things you would like us to pick up please let us know either this evening or go to the HCCA website or Committee members directly.

Soon we will be celebrating 50 years since the Community Association came into existence. It was in 1974 that the CA was set up and of course its key aim then was to open Hope Centre at the heart of the

community, wouldn't it be amazing if we could celebrate 50 years by re-opening a contemporary community hub. If you have ideas or know anyone who can help, please get in touch.

Myself and all the Committee look forward to working with you over the next year, ensuring we work for our community, that our voice is heard and we ensure long term investment in our great local community.

## **Treasurer's Report**

*Prepared by Brenda McLennan and read by Julian Brown.*

[Please see attached Accounts](#)

### **Year End 31 March 2022**

Incoming resources the year to 31st March, 2021 totalled £3,287 with expenditure of £8,514. So our net expenditure for the year was £5,227.

At the end of March, we had £16k in unrestricted cash, £3k in designated funds, and £8k in restricted funds for a total of £27k.

Unrestricted income included:

- £1,111 net from the 500 Club, after monthly prizes were paid, and
- £155 from notice board advertising
- £18 from royalties on Sue Stops' book

Our overheads for the year were £1,583. This included insurance of £387, and small project purchases including PPE of £218,

Restricted and designated funds activity included:

Piazza project - we spent £6,095 on activities during the year. This left a balance of £3,372 for ongoing projects and maintenance.

At 31 March 2022 we were holding £708 for the Argyle Place playground fund.

We were holding £37 for the Cliftonwood Town Green Gardening Group.

We were also still holding £593 from the now defunct CHASE sub-group,

£2,000 for the phone box project,

£2,635 from the Neighbourhood Partnership

£650 donation to Avon Crescent from filming there.

We are also holding the balance of funds for the Jacob Well Community Hub for their ongoing projects – this stood at £1,288 at 31 March.

There have been no events after the year end to date that have an impact on the results to 31st March 2022.

Accounts were approved by the meeting

## **Questions arising from Co-Chairs' and Treasurer's Reports**

### **Neighbourhood Forum Funds query**

Some has been withdrawn for Clifton Neighbourhood Forum activities, there is still money available and we hope to get more from BCC/ N.B. the accounts only run to end of March 2022

This money was part of the handover from Dennis and needs some clarity. Are we able to use those funds to support HCCA meets etc? We need a conversation with Katy and Paula (local councillors) to clarify this. It is a restricted fund so it is protected, approx £1800 at present

Gerry Swarbrick was Co-Chair with Dennis of Neighbourhood Forum. We need to make a case for the money that we have and to allocate it to spending, in this way we can secure more and not just be restricted to what we can do as volunteers. We need to make a clearer case for community engagement and have a financial trail.

Neighbourhood Forum (Harbourside - Clifton Down). We can put something about this in the next e-bulletin and about the call out for a new co-chair.

### **Phonebox Project - what is it?**

Louise Holder, a really active community member, put in a funding app to get funds for a mini library in a phonebox on the Portway. She got the funding (held by HCCA) but then the phonebox price shot up and she is now really busy. The project has been redesigned but we need an update so that we can fund a community engagement project on Portway/Hotwell Road.

### **Mardyke Steps**

Question re joining up all the local groups/residents with an interest in what is happening with Mardyke Steps.

CW Resident Terrace Association - Katy talking to them.

We can put a paragraph in the next HCCA e-bulletin to get it together and put a call out to connect everyone

## **Election of Management Committee Members**

Current committee continues, excluding Chris who is resigning: Carol Walton, Rachel McNally, Heather, Anna Haydock-Wilson, Sandra Fryer, Sisbusiso Tshabalala, Damian Rooney, Julian Brown, James Smith & Brenda McLennan.

Agreed by Meeting

Also - thank you to Anna for all her work on behalf of HCCA and the community.

This concludes the formal business of the AGM.

Thank you to Holy Trinity for hosting us.

There was then a short break before we divided up into tables to discuss specific issues. Notes from each table follow.

## **Arts & Event Table**

### **People**

Sue Otty - Hotwells Panto and Band,  
Rachel McNally - HCCA MC, professionally, Creative Arts Producer - Freelance  
Carola and Sophie from Hotwells Festival  
Trish Hill - Trinity  
Maria - local resident with interest in arts  
Francis Harvey - local resident

### **Mapping What Happening Already in HCW**

#### **Hotwells Festival**

Mostly words and music based festival with focus on local, emerging and grass roots artists. Started at The Bear and happens in local pubs, with hub on Piazza. This only works well in good weather. There is a facebook group

Comment that there is a lack of available space

**Next Festival is 29 September - 1 October 2023**

Interested in finding other spaces and working with more venues locally, also in cross promotion with other arts and cultural events that are local

#### **Hotwells Panto**

Local institution!

Sue talked about how the process starts with a read through of the script - anyone can come And read and then say what role or backstage role they would like. There is a committee that then works out who does what. There is no hierarchy  
There is a band for the panto too. It's great!

**Next Read Through 3 January 2023**

**Next Panto 13-18 March 2023**

**Rehearsals are every Tuesday**

#### **Cliftonwood Open Air Cinema**

Every year in September up near the Lion

**Other activities incl. Piazza events, Celebrating Sanctuary, pub music nights etc.**

We talked about the lack of a dedicated community space in the area, which would greatly help and support these activities and events. Sue explained about the history of Hope Centre and how much it was valued by local people, the scope and ambition of the arts programme.

Can we have something like that again?

### **Opportunities**

Trisha mentioned The Old Vestry - could this provide the community with a space?

It has a separate entry to the Church and they are open to discussion.

In the meantime the Trinity Hall - where we held the AGM - can be used for concerts and readings and they are really keen to engage more.

Hotwells Primary School - could this be a venue for Hotwells Festival - Sue will check with the school as they rehearse there. There is also an economic value in local groups using these local resources as then hire fees etc stay in the area and support the different organisations etc.

Could HCCA create an Regular Calendar of Events in the Area which is put on noticeboards, or if more suitable produced as a separate newsletters. This could start to provide a focus and highlight everything that is happening here. All the different festivals and groups etc can also cross promote to help spread the word about the different activities.

N.B. Holy Trinity do also hold regular community events too that are definitely community not Church focussed

### **Environment, Heritage, Green Spaces & Play Spaces- table notes**

Who was at the table:

- Maggie from the steps and paths group
- Geoff from Brunels other Bridge
- Richard Hancock from Transitions Hotwells, Cliftonwood & Clifton
- Anna from HCCA/Piazza lead
- 3 local residents

What we noticed that could have been better:

- It was raining really hard this morning!
- Traffic Flow could be better- so many sets of traffic lights along Hotwell Road as a driver
- Blue recycling bags not collected
- The lock gates were closed for pedestrian access
- Scooters on the pavements

What would help:

- Safe Spaces and public toilets (discussing homelessness and anti-social behaviour)
- Reduce traffic noise (increase electric vehicles and reduce motor traffic)
- Electric vehicle charging points needed (EV cables from houses are trip hazards)
- Cleaner air needed
- Safe play spaces

Further details & ideas

- A boundary fence around the Lion Park (Argyle Place Play Park) to stop balls going over
- Liveable Neighbourhoods
- Car free Area
- Community Space- Avonquay House referred to
- Negativity expressed about the council's approach
- What about the caravan site?
- Make a sub-group- H&CCA could link with other local stakeholders and experts using LOCAL KNOWLEDGE
- It was suggested we talk to Simon Birch of Bristol Civic Society
- Buses on Hotwell Road need RTI on the bus stops- Katy Grant keeps chasing this

### **20 minute Neighbourhoods and Cumberland Basin changes- table notes**

**What we noticed on our journey this morning**

- Walking- Mardyke Steps are still closed- when will they re-open?
  - - traffic problems
- Car - Clear Air Zone signs are up- how will that work?
- Cycling - no proper cycle lanes on Hotwell Road
- Clean Air Zone might make it harder for Brunel's other Bridge Group as they have to drive to bring tools- they may lose membership
- There's hardly any shops or other resources in the area these days- there used to be so much more.
- Difficulty of getting an electric car (replacement) if live in CAZ and want to make it happen
- Difficulties with payment
- Royal Mail Post Boxes collected unreasonably early
- Unnecessary sirens from emergency vehicles
- Cycling is no fun - car doors opening unexpectedly on you

## Potential Improvements

- Lack of Priority for pedestrians on crossings
- More secure bike parking is needed
- Are there enforcement cameras on boxes on Portway for offending cars (CAZ enforcement or speed enforcement or both?)
- More public transport including ferries
- More green spaces including trees

A lively discussion, interrupted midway by the woman from the Hotwells Corner group, although there was lots of overlap in terms of reducing traffic, calming traffic, better cycling and giving pedestrians priority at the lights

General discontent and scepticism about the CAZ, a good idea but poorly implemented with all sorts of knock-on effects. Why does it start at the Ashton Gate roundabout and extend up the Portway? That's simply bonkers.

Our prospective Green candidate for Hotwells is keen, as were others, on more trees.

A clear need for amendments to traffic and cycle/scooter lanes on the stretch from the Pump House to the island/lights opposite the Church Mardyke Steps...

## Communications table

- There are currently eight HCCA notice boards, including two recently installed in new locations. Feedback was that it is not currently obvious that these new boards are under the auspices of HCCA, so displaying information about the organisation on these is a point of action.
- The electronic newsletter is sent currently to some 400+ households; there is also an HCCA website and Facebook page (not currently functioning). These reach existing contacts but might not be seen by those not already in touch with HCCA. Idea: recruit a comms volunteer to work alongside the production of the monthly newsletter to turn the content into a series of social media posts across the month (Instagram, Twitter, Facebook posts) and highlight useful responses / new contacts from replies to these posts to relevant others within HCCA. *NOTE FROM RACHEL WE ALREADY HAVE TWITTER IT'S SMALL BUT QUITE LIVELY @HCCABRISTOL*
- The recent door-knocking initiatives have highlighted a lack of HCCA visibility in parts of our community. Idea: identify a 'champion' in key streets / particular spheres of local activity who can be approached for and can offer proactively information about HCCA. Idea: advertise for 'ambassadors' for HCCA – Do you care about your neighbours? Do you care about your local area? Do people ask you what's going on? – and organise a social event to bring these key people together (Liz was very open to this being Holy Trinity).
- **Idea:** initiate a regular event (monthly, say) as a 'place for connection', a venue to share ideas, energy and enthusiasm, (this is not envisaged as a space to collect issues/complaints), and develop community assets. HCCA might commit to feeding such ideas into the monthly newsletter as a mechanism for reaching a wider base of possible collaborators. The venue might move around local pubs / café spaces / Holy Trinity. It would require someone to commit to being there and loosely facilitating, but this would not need to be the same person each month
- **Idea:** Initiate a recurring event to support connections between members of the community through what we might offer each other on a practical level, such as through a 'library of things' (which would



require some permanent physical space), a repair workshop or skills swap sessions (e.g. two or three local artists demonstrating their skills, or two or three people to provide short workshops in practical skills). One possible model, linked to developing a 'community hub' through Holy Trinity, would be a mixture of day and evening events held on the church premises with café refreshments on offer. The image was to invite donations (some minimum sum, to be decided).

### **Hotwells Corner table**

Since the 1970's local people have objected to the noise, pollution and danger from the traffic pouring into the Hotwell Road, and several improvement schemes have been put forward over the years. Building on the introduction of a Clean Air Zone in Bristol, the Hotwells Corner Group aims to revive plans to manage traffic and to introduce trees and planting into this area. The main aims are to calm traffic, improve safety, reduce noise, improve air quality, provide safer access to Hotwells Primary School, stream traffic for buses, bikes and scooters, improve surface water management and provide a better view and amenities for residents. A more pleasant environment might also revive this end of the Hotwell Road as a usable high street, turning the immediate area into a 15-minute Neighbourhood - one of the Council's goals for communities across the city. The Group is keen to build support and talk about people's priorities. We are looking for the long-term picture, but also for small incremental ways to make improvements.

Please let us know if you would like to be help with this plan. To tell us your views and priorities, please add your name to the list of those seeking positive change in this area at

<<https://forms.gle/aiHAfuE1xGhopP58A>

### **Table discussion notes**

- Trees
- Cleaner Air/Pollution
- Noise
- Community Engagement
- Improve amenities for Carrick House

### **Wildcard table**

Challenge Council's views on flooding!

The Avon gorge

- British Mountaineering Council has an interest in the Gorge
- The views of the actual gorge are overlooked due to the Clifton Suspension Bridge and the canopy over the Portway.
- No public money to support access to the gorge.
- **Portway Sunday Park** (2015-2017) was one really good attempt at making the area accessible to a wider population.
- The gorge has been described as the **Jewel in the Crown**.
- There is the marooned community who live immediately above the Portway.
- There needs to be a safe crossing at the bottom of the Zig Zag Path.
- We need a network of well signposted paths to enable people to walk safely between the Portway and the Downs .

Return of the Harbour Railway along Cumberland Road.

- Chocolate Path – reopening April 2023.
- Residents need a better understanding about what is going on with the council's decisions about the area

Other ideas for improvements

- Protect our pavements – waste / vans / developers / scooter all clutter the area.

- The bus stop adjacent to the Hillsborough Flats needs real-time bus information.
- Ashton Court Mansion - develop as a venue for all Inquests. Thus offering a better experience than Flax Bourton. Include a Woodland Burial Site and develop other modern alternatives to burial and cremation. The Ashton Court Estate has space for this and much more.

**THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR COMING AND TO HOLY TRINITY FOR HOSTING US!**

We collected donations on behalf of the Holy Trinity and St Stephen's Hardship fund which supports people in urgent and acute financial need. You can find out more and make a donation here

<https://www.saint-stephens.com/hardship-fund>