

## Community Consultation Working Group Meeting - 8<sup>h</sup> November 2007

The Project manager, Rosemary Mansbridge (RM), has been set a very challenging time frame by the Project Board to collate enough information from community consultation to consider at their next meeting on the 12th December. This allows only three weeks to obtain feedback! The meeting focused on how such feedback can be achieved in such a short time. The results of the feedback received will be used to help filter the series of potential projects being assembled by the Landscape Agency (LA), who are the consultants on the HWG, which meets again on 3rd December.

There is also a potential for a conflicting and separate bid for HLF funding being prepared by the Art Gallery and Museum. This will be under a different program to the "Parks for People" but it all has to come from the same pot. Ways to make the bids complementary and minimise the impact are being sought.

The advice so far from the LA is to approach the two halves of the Park as separate identities; the Eastern half, with its more established heritage content, will require less effort than the more problematic and challenging Western half, which is seen much more as a social concern. Bear in mind that Heritage content is only one of the 5 guiding principles you are all aware of. The west Park has been in CBC ownership only since the 1920's but has a much longer history, which LA are hoping to capitalise on. The LA sees much more potential, from the HLF perspective, due to the social implications and its proximity to the area of St Pauls, which borders the southern edge.

To this end, the attention of the immediate consultation is being very much focussed on the "young" users, for whom the potential to develop the facilities is much greater. To this end, an abbreviated questionnaire on the reverse of an eye-catching, and appealing to younger audiences, postcard is being printed for distribution in large numbers to schools and social support groups throughout the area in order to find out where they feel are the deficiencies and what improvements are needed. (See samples at the end of this report) To date, CBC have received only 35 completed hard copies of the full survey and no information is yet available from the online version at

[http://www.communityfirstpartnership.co.uk/cheltenhambc/user\\_survey/user\\_survey.htm](http://www.communityfirstpartnership.co.uk/cheltenhambc/user_survey/user_survey.htm)

CBC will publicise this most recent initiative on many of the community support pages on its corporate web site and I have asked for copy to use on FoP website also.

Much of the remainder of the meeting was taken up with details of who would take on specific responsibilities and which areas to distribute surveys, including community newsletters, publicity displays for shopping centres and business reception areas and public opinion surveys to be undertaken in the Park and on the streets in Cheltenham. The Community Rangers were particularly pro-active in this. A sport oriented event would be planned for Nov 24 or 25 in the area near Agg Gardner Pavilion, which is due for completion at the end of November but will not be handed over for use for another week to allow the floor to dry out.

RM advised that John Crowther particularly wants to be personally involved with Dunnally and Pittville Schools. I advised RM FoP has specific liaisons for those schools. She assumed that FoP would want to be represented at any such meetings.

Time is critical and the pressure is mounting on the CBC staff. The information obtained from consultation over the next 3 weeks plus the proposals from LA are what the Project board will have as ammunition to present to the Cabinet as the basis for their commitment to finding up to £2,000,000 to match a potential grant of £5,000,000 from HLF. At least £300,000 has to come from CBC cash resources. Partnership funding would seem to be a good way to go.

Hon Secretary  
Friends of Pittville