INTRODUCTION

Three years ago the concept of two pamphlets, one to welcome students and one to support residents living near students was conceived as it was clear that in the high student density area residents mostly knew how to manage and to whom to report student issues but in many areas there was a lack of knowledge of where and how to deal with students coming to live in the community.

The flyers were written by members if the street scene volunteer team with inputs from the local neighbourhood police, BCC waste services and the Universities.

The aim was to place the emphasis on welcoming students and getting to know them rather than the first interaction being when there were issues to address.
The secondary aim was to reassuring residents that they were not alone if students caused problems.

Although the Universities mount a door knocking programme after Fresher Week in October, students take over their leases on July 1st. The majority leave the city for the summer but a significant number stay in Bristol because they have jobs here.

So a third aim is to welcome those who have changed accommodation in July but stayed in Bristol as the University will not be door knocking until sometime between October and Christmas and sometimes even after Christmas.

It is these students in particular that we try and see early as the landlord and agents often don’t leave information about waste collection and recycling. So along with the Welcome pamphlet we give out photocopies of the BWC Collection Calendar for that particular road.

We received £200 from the Community Fund.

THE PROJECT

The previous version was reviewed and rewritten. Leaflets were made available either for use by individuals or by groups at the Neighbourhood Partnership Community Fair, Chandos Neighbourhood Association, The High Kingsdown Community Association, The Bishopston Cotham and Redland (BCR) Neighbourhood Watch groups and BCR October Forum.

1,000 welcome leaflets and 500 resident support flyers were printed and the majority of the student leaflets were distributed and about 250 Resident Support flyers.

Local residents knocked on doors or talked with students at events such as the High Kingsdown welcome party or the Chandos Traders street party.

The feedback was very positive.
OUTCOME

The new design was very much liked. The High Kingsdown residents particularly liked the flyers as the concept was new to them as they have only just come into our neighbourhood partnership.

LOOKING FORWARD

The understanding that we take forward is that it is clear that there is no substitute for knocking on the door and talking to students face to face.

THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to:-

Alison Bromilow for the redesign
The BCR Street Scene group for checking for accuracy
Liz Kew for leading the project
All the residents who went and welcomed their student neighbours