

# Blackhorse Road former Wesleyan Methodist Cemetery

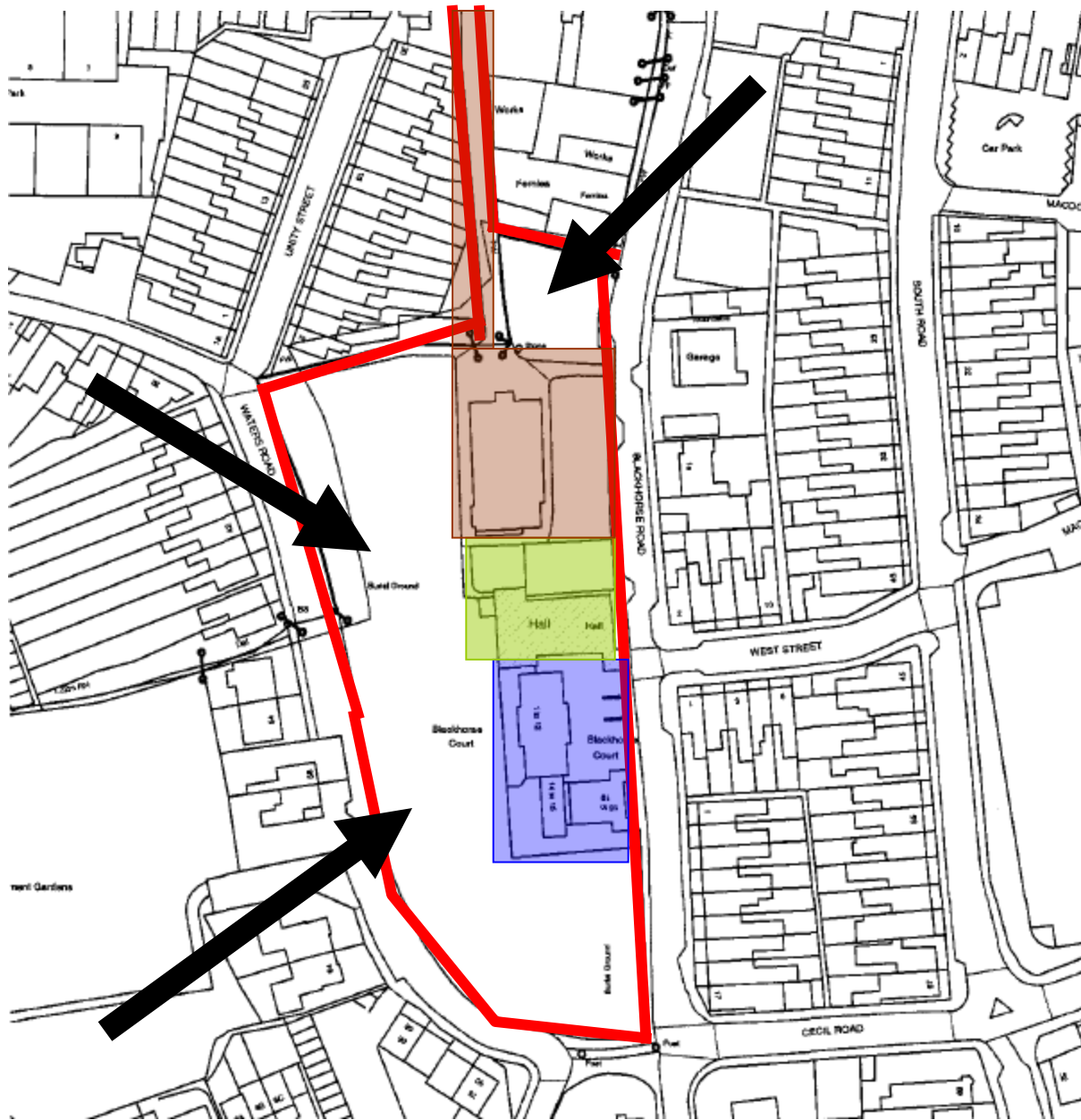
Park Centre, Kingswood

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012

# Introductions

# Outline of the evening

- Overview of whole site
- Quick run-through as to what has happened since ca. 2005 ?
- Brief questions / comments
- Where are we now ?
- Proposals for moving forward (incl. advice)
- Questions / discussions



# Brief history since ca. 2005

- Cemetery is privately owned. Owner could not be traced.
- Autumn 2006, South Gloucestershire Council hired a private detective.
- Early 2008, owner traced to an address in Pucklechurch and shortly afterwards legal notices were served – to clear the overgrown vegetation, remove fly-tipped materials and repair the boundary walls.
- Legal notices had no effect. January 2009, owner successfully prosecuted and ordered to pay a £350 fine, £455 costs and a victim surcharge of £15.

# Brief history since ca. 2005

- Still no effect. October 2009 owner re-prosecuted and ordered to pay a £405 fine, costs of £405 and another victim surcharge of £15 – a total of just £5 more than the first prosecution.
- 2010 to 2011: Slow progress. Many avenues were explored (disused burial ground legislation, possibility of compulsory purchase, Commonwealth War Graves Commission had any powers). None really practical or offered any real prospect of success.
- End 2011, fresh look. Council has spent many £1000's - largely repairs to the walls. Money is recoverable but probably only when site sold. No further prosecutions as they result in nothing other than small fines. Now owner has disappeared again.
- That's brief recent history. Can't change any of that. Any brief questions or comments ?

# 2011

- Options:
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prosecution?: Can't find Mr Thomas – no-one to serve a summons on.....
- Obviously didn't work previously.....
- Direct Action?: Planning Enforcement Budget will not cover all of the required works. Cannot be used for regular maintenance.



# 2012

- Thinking Outside the Box: Making the Most of Available Resources
- Best Option:
- Spend entire Planning Enforcement Budget (£10000) on most effective clearance/repair.
- Community Project initiated to maintain the land thereafter.
- Second Option:
- Spend budget on wall repair. Not expedient to clear scrub where it will just grow back.



