

Twenty reasons for supporting Bristol's Parks & Green Spaces Strategy and the Area Green Space Plans Consultation

1. Bristol has some fantastic parks and green spaces but the quality of many of them is below that which a City such as Bristol should expect.
2. Spending money maintaining spaces that are perceived to be poorly used and of little or no benefit to the community or to wildlife is difficult to justify. It means less money is available for maintaining spaces which benefit the community more.
3. The strategy sets out a basis on which parks can be assessed to show their amenity value and hence justify spending.
4. Green space will be protected from sale in areas where there is the greatest shortage of green space.
5. It is better that the disposal of any land is decided using agreed criteria and with extensive public consultation than by developers negotiating with Council officers behind closed doors.
6. Building houses on low amenity value green space in the City means less loss of green space than building the same number of houses in the countryside as roads and other infrastructure already exist.
7. Some areas of green space are plagued by anti-social behaviour or used for fly-tipping and might be of greater benefit to the community if they are sold off and the money reinvested.
8. Some parks may benefit from increased use and 'passive supervision' if part of the site is sold for housing to be built facing/overlooking the park and integrated with it. Increased use of the park will justify higher spending.
9. Generally areas with the greatest area of land proposed for disposal also have the lower quality spaces that need most improvements; money from sales is therefore likely to be spent close to areas of disposals.
10. 70% of the value of any land sold will be reinvested in parks to improve their quality. This is not a Council money raising exercise.

11. The AGSP process has highlighted areas that are short of green space; this will lead to increased pressure to include additional green space in those areas in future developments.
12. The AGSPs have highlighted areas of Bristol that need more children's play areas, making it easier to ensure that funds are allocated to these areas.
13. Once the Area Green Space Plans have been adopted, the remaining spaces will have a high degree of protection from future development. Each park or green space not listed for disposal has been considered for sale and the idea has been dismissed; these reasons are recorded and can be referred to in the future.
14. Spending on maintenance and improvement for Bristol's parks needs to be increased. The Area Green Space Plan will provide a plan for this and help release S106 funds.
15. The public consultation will demonstrate which improvements the public most want, allowing funds to be focused in the right place.
16. There will be a stronger case in arguing for outside grants once any possible threat of development has been removed and plans for improvement are in place.
17. Management of wildlife sites will improve because the existence and importance of these has been highlighted and the plans have set out suggestions for their management.
18. There will be a stronger case for increased funding from the Council once it has been proved that all the parks provide a necessary service to the community and are not just 'undeveloped land'.
19. Producing a list of sites to be considered for disposal throughout the City at the same time has helped to raise public awareness and ensured that more people will have their say.
20. Having the consultation at the same time as the Site Allocations consultation means that people can consider the likely alternative uses if land is sold off.