



Bristol Parks Forum

representing resident led
park groups and citywide organisations
involved in protecting and improving
Bristol's green spaces

Ashton Vale Arena

To Cllr Barbara Janke,
cc Cllr Gary Hopkins, Cllr Anthony Negus, Cllr Neil Harrison, Cllr Lesley Alexander, Cllr Mark Bradshaw, Cllr Jon Rogers

At the July 17 meeting of the Bristol Parks Forum we discussed BCC's Green Space Strategy. Representatives of parks organisations are in general supportive of this strategy, as they have been for several years.

We think that the Parks Department and the council in general are genuinely sincere in wishing to improve the quality of green spaces across the city and, in particular, to promote the interests of those areas with little or poor quality space and to encourage sections of the community that currently feel excluded, such as older people, Bristolians from ethnic minorities and those with disabilities, to use our valuable green spaces. Gary Hopkins, who was at our meeting stressed that this was an all-party policy. People were pleased to hear this.

However, we also noted that the council is very actively destroying a space at Ashton Vale which is largely within the Green Belt and is significant as both a recreation and wildlife area. The Parks Forum is already on record as opposing enabling development on the SNCI to support development of Bristol City Football Club's new stadium. We now learn that your administration is promoting an Arena development within the same site. We wish to make clear our objection to this too.

No wonder that BCC has a reputation for inconsistency and double-dealing. How can people be expected to trust the council to improve its green spaces over the next 20 years, if one of its first acts is to obliterate a perfectly good open space?

We urge you to think again.

Fraser Bridgeford ,Chair & Hugh Holden ,Vice-Chair ,Bristol Parks Forum

20 July 2010

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

Bristol Parks Forum

Bristol Parks Forum was established by Bristol Parks as an umbrella organisation for community park groups and organisations in the city with an interest in their local parks and green spaces.

The forum is supported by Bristol City Council but acts independently and is the only 'community voice' that is dedicated to all of Bristol's green spaces. The forum's three main roles are to:

- offer an opportunity to share ideas and experience
- act as a consultation body for the Bristol Parks service and other agencies
- influence decision-making, including the allocation of resources

Bristol Parks Forum <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk>