
Bristol & Bath Parks Foundation

sowing the seeds

Briefing Note 2
February 2019



Bath & North East
Somerset Council

The Natural
History
Consortium

nesta



heritage
lottery fund



LOTTERY FUNDED





What will 2019 bring for the Foundation?

A new year provides a fresh perspective on our parks and green spaces. During 2019 the Bristol & Bath Parks Foundation will complete its set up phase to become an independent charity supporting enhancements to our public parks.

The Foundation will open up a new route to charitable giving including individual and corporate donations, gifts and legacies and will launch its first projects at the **Festival of Nature** in early June.

Funded by **Nesta**, the partners who have enabled the creation of the charity are Bristol City Council, Bath and North East Somerset Council, The Bristol Parks Forum and Natural History Consortium with links to Quartet Community Foundation and Bristol Green Capital Partnership. The Foundation will not take over the ownership or management of parks, but focus on local projects and partnerships to attract new sources of funding and support.

Volunteering at the heart

Alongside its fundraising activities, the Bristol & Bath Parks Foundation will highlight the benefits of volunteering and importance of strong community connections. Bristol City Council has offered support through a newly created Volunteer Co-ordinator role to promote volunteering and improve the quality of training and support. This role will draw upon standards currently being developed by Bath and North East Somerset Council to enhance the volunteering experience in our parks.

Through the **Bristol Parks Forum** and network of Friends groups in both cities, the Foundation will develop ideas for supporting and celebrating our volunteers. This may be as simple as raising funds for tools and equipment or longer term opportunities for mentoring or support for community projects.





Year of Green Action 2019

2019 is also **'The Year of Green Action'** inspiring people to connect with the natural world and reduce their impact on the planet. One of its key themes is to encourage individuals and organisations to enhance and actively improve their local environment - an aspiration that underpins the Foundation.

Jeremy Dymond, Bath and North East Somerset Council commented: "We know how passionate volunteers are about their local green space and that there are other people who would like to get involved as well. Foundation support should help us connect with these people across both cities and find ways for them to be involved."

Dedicated trustees to steer its course

With support from Voscur (a Bristol organisation supporting voluntary, community and social enterprises), the Foundation's CIO - Charitable Incorporated Organisation structure and governance are now in place.

During the course of 2019, the Foundation will grow a broad Trustee base through an advertised recruitment process. This will be an opportunity for key individuals to guide the charity into the future and work alongside a project steering group.

Learning from others

Foundation partners visited Leeds to learn about their Foundation model **'Leeds Park Fund'**; and the ongoing partnership with **Bournemouth Parks Foundation** continues to help shape the Bristol & Bath Parks Foundation business model.

As an independent charity, the Foundation will work closely with a wide range of organisations. This will include the local authorities and parks services, conservation and wildlife bodies, community networks and social enterprises. Stakeholder communication workshops that took place at the end of January will inform the charity's approach, as will learning from its partner networks and their community links.





What are the next steps?

The next few months are about creating the essential building blocks for the organisation to move towards its launch. This includes developing a pilot programme to test out the potential for charitable giving in support of local parks projects. Work is also underway to create the charity's fundraising platform, website and social media channels.

Festival of Nature 2019

The Bristol & Bath Parks Foundation will launch at the Festival of Nature 1st to 9th June. The Festival spans both cities and will be the ideal opportunity to introduce the charity's aims in supporting parks and its initial projects to the public.

These projects will help address some of the challenges facing parks from ensuring diverse habitats for our wildlife, to preserving heritage features and connecting with the health and well being agenda.



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