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# Bristol & Bath Parks Foundation

## New shoots

**Briefing Note 3**  
May 2019



Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

The Natural  
History  
Consortium

## Rethinking Parks





## A new status and vision

A landmark moment for the Bristol & Bath Parks Foundation came in February with the achievement of charitable status as a CIO – Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Charity Commission Registration 1182217.

This marked the start of the organisation's journey towards its initial launch in June. Underpinning the charity is the vision to connect with communities to imagine, communicate and facilitate improvements to their local green spaces. The aim is that they become and remain inclusive, welcoming, thriving places for people to meet, learn, play, grow, breathe and enjoy nature, together.

The Foundation will open up a new route to charitable giving including grants, individual and corporate donations, gifts and legacies.

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.

## June Launch and Events

June will be an exciting month for the Foundation as it introduces itself for the first time to the public under the banner **'Your Park'** at the **Festival of Nature** in Green Park, Bath on Saturday 1st June and in Bristol on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June. This will be an opportunity to ask the question – 'What is special about **'Your Park'**?' and 'What does it mean to you?' Actors from the Natural Theatre Company and Bristol illustrator, Sam Church will encourage people to share their stories and ideas for the future. A visual identity for the charity and a new **'Your Park'** website will go live at the Festival.

During the Festival period there will also be an informal networking opportunity for organisations and businesses to find out more about the early stages of the Foundation at the Bristol Green Capital Partnership **'Green Mingle'** on Thursday 6th June (5.30-7.30). Follow up events will take place later in the year in Bath and North East Somerset, including an event for businesses planned for the autumn. If you would like to join us at the Green Mingle please email [sue@bnhc.org.uk](mailto:sue@bnhc.org.uk)





## New Trustees

The Foundation will shortly be appointing its first set of independent trustees to guide the charity's progression. There has been a positive response to the call for applicants with interest from across both the Bristol and Bath areas. The aim is to bring a mixed skill set and create a proactive team of Trustees who can build relationships locally and beyond. As the charity is newly created, this will necessitate a long term view with the seeding of the charity's programme over time.

## Nesta project sharing

The Foundation is learning from the other Nesta funded **'Rethinking Parks'** projects across the country that are trialling innovative ideas to benefit parks and green spaces. In March visitors from **Leeds Park Fund** and **Bournemouth Parks Foundation** visited Bristol and Bath to find out more about the Foundation's development and links to partner organisations and volunteering.

Leeds Parks Fund will shortly be publishing the findings of research into charitable giving to parks and green spaces undertaken on behalf of Leeds Parks Fund by the University of Leeds.



## Next steps

The charity will continue to find out more about the relationships between parks and local communities and stakeholders in both Bristol and Bath & North East Somerset. This first project phase will be fundamental to help identify future activities for the Foundation, alongside the many existing initiatives and groups working to ensure thriving parks and green spaces.

For further information please contact – Sue Sanctuary, Bristol & Bath Parks Foundation Project Manager [sue@bnhc.org.uk](mailto:sue@bnhc.org.uk)



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