

Report from Bristol and Bath Parks Foundation to the Bristol Parks Forum – October 2020

After a good start to the year with our Trustees signing off the strategy and goals presented to the Bristol Parks Forum at the February meeting, things quickly ground to halt due to the pandemic. Summer was slow with our staff furloughed from April-August and funders diverting their resources to covid response. However, since August things have picked up we have made some good progress...

College Green

- Lawn at College Green damaged by Bristol Youth Strike 4 Climate March led by Greta Thunberg
- Local resident set up crowdfund to repair the lawn and improve nature on the site, raising £15k + £5k from Good Energy
- BBPF chosen to receive and manage the fund
- The repairs were completed in April – aerating soil and increased seeding
- Planned engagement and community involvement was prevented by covid-19
- Working on plans with BCC & Bristol Cathedral to introduce new wildflower meadows starting in spring.

Norfolk Crescent, Bath

- Secured £3k from the Kingsmead Cllr's Empowerment Fund to installing new benches and steps connecting the riverside path with Norfolk Crescent Green
- Worked with local residents and University of Bath students to install them in August-September
- Project completed



Green Park, Bath

- Received £3.5k from Quartet Community Foundation to further develop Norfolk Crescent Green pilot
- Engage service users of Bath Carers Network and St Johns' Foundation through planting to improve biodiversity to improve their health and wellbeing
- Starting at end of October

Netham Park, Bristol

- Secured £7.5k from Lottery Community Fund to run pilot providing opportunities for Silva Care service users and the Barton Hill community to connect with the park for health and wellbeing benefits
- Working with Friends of Netham Park to identify tasks e.g. clearing and replanting the mounds for wildflowers
- Will use community development approach to develop activities for Barton Hill community
- Starting in November 2020

#LoveYourPark Community Fund & fundraising campaign

As part of goal 2 of our strategy – supporting community groups to do more, we have been working with VOSCUR to establish a small grant scheme that will make grants of up to £1,500 to groups to run projects that support health and wellbeing, biodiversity and nature



and community cohesion in parks. The funds will be available to unregistered groups as well as more established ones.

We have launched the #LoveYourPark campaign to raise the funds to launch the inaugural round of the grant scheme. Thank you if you have donated, if you haven't and would like to, you can do so here: <https://www.yourpark.org.uk/projects/love-your-park/>

Fundraising in the current climate is more challenging and we will launch the grant programme as soon as we can.

Green Recovery Challenge Fund

We have submitted a bid in partnership with BCC & BANES to the HLF and DEFRA Green Recovery Challenge Fund. If successful the bid will provide the Park Activator and community development capacity to enable our ongoing projects at Norfolk Crescent Green, Green Park, Netham Park, College Green and Royal Victoria Park until March 2022 with a focus on connecting communities with nature and biodiversity. We are optimistic but the fund is heavily oversubscribed.

2 minute litter pick

- Working with 2 Minute Foundation to introduce litter picking stations to 10 sites across both cities
- Identified 10 sites and working with Friends of Groups to develop project
- Have secured funding for station at Keynsham Memorial Park and seeking funding for remaining 9 sites
- If successful will look to make available more widely



Future Parks workshops

We have been involved in a series of workshops between BCC and ourselves, facilitated by the National Trust. The Future Parks programme has provided the opportunity to work through and detail how we work together on several key topics which are priorities for both parties e.g. volunteering, corporate engagement and decision making. There are now a number of working groups working through the details, developing policies, procedures and recommendations.