

BPF Meeting 16 April 2011

BPF Position on the P&GSS, Statement prepared by the BPF Committee

BPF supports the process set out in the Parks & Green Spaces Strategy for identifying the most important parks and green spaces in Bristol so that they will be protected from development.

The consultation process gave people the chance to have their say about the importance of green spaces in their area and has resulted in many green spaces being withdrawn from the disposal list.

As a result of this process, inevitably some green spaces have been identified as less important or of 'low amenity value'. BPF agreed to support the principle of selling these on the basis that at least 70% of the sale proceeds are to be reinvested to improve parks and green spaces in Bristol.

BPF has made a point of not commenting on individual site plans; local people are best placed to comment on the 'low amenity value' designation.

BPF committee is pressing for further work to be undertaken to confirm that

- any development will take proper account of the wildlife value of the site and protect important trees.
- any development will be in accordance with the Bristol Development Framework Site Allocations process that considers land use throughout the city.
- spaces identified for disposal will continue to be maintained for people and wildlife prior to disposal.
- disposals will be timed over the next 20 years to achieve the best value.
- local park groups will have a say in where the money raised is to be invested.
- the principles set out in the P&GSS are also applied in Knowle West which has so far been excluded from the AGSP process.

BPF welcomes the local interest resulting from the AGSP consultation process and looks forward to working with new park groups.

P&GSS Financial Statement

The P&GSS as adopted in February 2008 had the following financial model:

Estimated capital required to bring parks to a 'good' quality standard: £87m
Capital required to create a fund for 'lifecycle maintenance' (major repairs and replacement of worn out features): £32m

Capital requirement of £119m over the 20 years (£87m + £32m) made up from:
Section 106: £25m (based on SPD 4 and anticipated numbers of new housing)
Lottery & other grants: £21m
Land disposal: £63m (70% reinvested in parks therefore £90m worth of land = 90 acres)
Core BCC budget: £10m

The disposals currently agreed by Cabinet amount to 62.7 acres (25.4 Hectares).