



Bristol Parks Forum

*Campaigning to protect and enhance all public green space
in the City of Bristol.*

See our Vision for Parks & Green Spaces at

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/vision

Statement to Cabinet 4th April 2023

Agenda Item 9 – Investing in Parks to support the City’s growth areas

The Bristol Parks Forum is the only community voice dedicated to all publicly owned parks and green spaces in Bristol. We work with Bristol City Council to ensure our spaces are well looked after and to help local groups to enhance their green space. Further information about the Forum can be found at <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/>

Investment in Parks Welcomed

Bristol Parks Forum welcomes this report and the much needed investment in Bristol’s parks and green spaces that it promises.

[Our Vision](#) for Bristol’s parks calls for everyone can have access to good quality parks and green spaces. This is also supported by the One City Plan which has a long-term aim that ‘Everyone has access to excellent quality green space within a 10-minute walk from their home’.

To meet these aims there needs to be investment in parks in all parts of our City and existing barriers to their use by some members of our community need to be addressed.

Access for Disabled Visitors

We are particularly pleased that the report emphasises the need to ‘build-in improvements that improve access to parks, particularly for disabled visitors’ and that it mentions the work of park groups.

On this subject, we wish to highlight the work that the charity Your Park Bristol & Bath has been doing working with disabled people and carers to produce the [‘Not just a check box report’](#) and following on from this working with park groups to produce [Accessibility Guides](#)

We look forward to the Parks Service, Your Park and Park Groups working together to ensure these projects address this issue.

Further Investment

This funding was agreed as part of last year's budget process and it has taken 12 months to get to this stage. While we are aware of the huge pressures on Council Officers we urge the Council to now move these projects forward as quickly as possible so that the benefits can be realised, this is particularly important at a time of high inflation where delays may see significant cost increases.

We also welcome the additional £2m of funding allocated in this year's budget (£500k per year over 4 years) and hope that proposals for this spending can be brought forward speedily.

While this investment is good news, there will remain a backlog of much needed repairs, replacement and improvements to infrastructure in our parks and green spaces. More funding will be needed if the ambitions of the One City Plan are to be met.

Funding for Day to Day Maintenance & Management

While capital investment in our parks is needed, this will not address the pressure on funding for day-to-day maintenance and management of our parks. The Parks Forum looks forward to ongoing discussions with Cllr Ellie King and others on this subject in the coming months.

A New Park for Central Bristol

The report correctly notes that planned development means more homes and more people visiting and benefitting from their local parks. We believe that there is a particular issue in the central area of the City where the limited numbers of parks and green spaces are already very busy and there is a desperate need for a large new park to be established.

As we noted in our response to the recent consultation, the redevelopment of St Phillips will give an opportunity for this to happen and we call on the Council to incorporate a new park into the plans for the area currently being considered and to earmark further Strategic CIL to make this happen.

Bristol Parks Forum Committee
02 April 2023