



Bristol Parks Forum

representing resident led parks groups and city wide organisations
involved in protecting and improving Bristol's green spaces

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2013

at Windmill Hill City Farm

Attendees

AA - Alan Aburrow - Friends of Badock's Woods, **AB** - Alison Bromilow - RCAS **AC** - Andre Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group, **AS** - Angela Stansbie - Friends of Brandon Hill, **AS** - Angela Stuckley - Callington Road Nature Reserve **BF** - Bob Franks - Northern Slopes Initiative, **CG** - Chris Giles - Avon Wildlife Trust **CH** - Cheryl Hawkins - Friends of Stoke Lodge, **DH** - Derek Hawkins - Friends of Stoke Lodge, **DM** - David Martyn - Kings Weston Action Group **DP** - Diane Porter - Bedminster Down & Uplands Society, **DS** - Denis Stuckley - Callington Road Nature Reserve, **DW** - David Wilcox - Narrowways, **ES** - Eileen Stonebridge - Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve, **GB** - Gill Brown - Civic Society, **GD** - George Denford - Withywood Park, **GH** - Gus Hoyt - Cabinet Member for Environment and Neighbourhoods, **HH** - Hugh Holden - Mina Road Park Group, **JB** - Janet Brinnand - Friends of Sneyd Park **JC** - Jane Cunningham - Walking for Health, **JM** - John Mayne - Friends of St Andrews Park, **JR** - Jon Rogers - Friends of St Andrews Park, **JS** - Justin Smith - Wildlife Officer, Bristol City Council, **JT** - Julian Thomas - BCC, **KT** - Kay Thomson - Friends of Horfield Common, **LA** - Lesley Alexander - Activate **LG** - Lucy Gaze - Bristol Natural History Consortium, **LG** - Lois Goddard - Redland Green Community Group, **MB** - Mary Bannerman - Castle Park User Group, **MC** - Marie Jo Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group, **ML** - Mark Logan - Snuff Mills Action Group, **MP** - Matt Postles - Bristol Natural History Consortium, **NC** - Nancy Carlton - Kingfisher Group, **NV** - Nicolette Vincent - Friends of Brandon Hill, **PC** - Pete Clark - Assistant Parks Operations Manager (BCC), **PJ** - Pam Jones - Bristol City Council, **RAC** - Rob Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **RB** - Roland Bruce - Mina Road Park Group, **RF** - Richard Fletcher - Bristol City Council, **SAC** - Susan Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **SD** - Sue Davies - Friends of Redcatch Park, **SE** - Steve England - Stoke Park **SF** - Sue Flint - Friends of South Purdown, **SK** - Sam Kirwan - VPAG, **SP** - Sian Parry - Friends of Badock's Woods, **SS** - Sally Shenton - Friends of St George Park, **TM** - Tracy Morgan - Bristol City Council, **WP** - Wendy Pollard - Avon Gardens Trust

Apologies

CW - Chris Williams - Snuff Mills Action Group, **GH** - Cllr Gary Hopkins - Friends of Redcatch Park, **JC** - Jo Corke - Friends of St Andrews Park **SB** - Sharon Baker

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions	Actions
	<u>Welcome and Introduction</u>	
1. 1.1	<u>Reports from Park Groups & AOB</u> DM from Kings Weston Action Group. Gave talk on formation and history of Kings Weston. Group formed in 2011. Managed by Blaise Castle estate. KWAG look at 300 acres of registered landscape, only 1 dog poo bin and 1 litter bin. KWAG is a volunteer organisation. Early conservation management plan, but looking to get Bristol City Council backing for advanced management plan. Also some co-working with S Glos council. Good measure of support from public. Undertake regular history walks, cost £4 towards KWAG projects. Main project ahead is to replace a lost avenue.	KWAG
1.2	MP from BNHC. Running BioBlitz (extensive 24 hour survey) and Festival of Nature, 14-16 June 2013. 99 designated sites of conservation interest in Bristol. Do something to highlight wildlife and green space at each site. For more details of Bristol 99 please see the website at www.bristol99.org.uk	
2.	<u>Parks Budget 2013/14</u> TM gave update on budget situation. 100k cut on grounds maintenance in 13/14. Budget in 14/15 will be more harshly reduced than in previous years. Consultation to take place with customers, unsure of process at moment. £3.5m Capital Stimulus Programme still going ahead, but will have to last for 3 years not 2, but being consulted upon. Question about parking charges (eg Oldbury Court), not good in these tough economic times for families as there is already little free stuff to do. TM advised that increase income required otherwise will have to cut back more on budget. BCC residents can buy cheaper annual pass. LA raised issue of small car parks, at Oldbury Court, people parking in front of gates. May need yellow lines before parking charges brought in. JR mentioned that all sources of revenue being looked into as part of Health and Wellbeing.	TM

<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Gus Hoyt, Cabinet Member for Environment & Neighbourhoods</u> GH introduced himself and his role. Explained briefly Mayor’s vision. Revamping Neighbourhood Partnership to play greater role in Parks. Question raised that money found for one-off projects but then no strategy for how the site will be maintained, leading eventually to decay. TM advised that these issues were now factored in when making decisions on projects. However maintenance funding is always restricted and will continue to be. We prioritise facilities and infrastructure at highest risk.</p> <p>SF raised that travel to parks by public transport should be more encouraged.</p> <p>DM expressed concern that money raised from car parking was going into general BCC coffers and not to Parks.</p> <p>RB advised that ongoing consultation about role of Neighbourhood Partnerships could be undertaken online.</p> <p>DM raised that Kingsweston falls across 3 NP areas, as well as various groups to consult, too many people to communicate with. Worried about tribalism of strong NPs.</p> <p>An attendee raised that consultation should use social media.</p> <p>Question to GH on how budget to meet 10 year plan for Green City.</p> <p>Question about large events using Eastville Park for events and wear and tear on grass. Should be charging.</p> <p>TM advised that a fee is raised and lessons have been learned from previous events.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Parks Management Changes</u></p> <p>PJ (service manager) – Richard Fletcher managing Parks, while previous manager Richard Stransom is looking after Landscapes. Added that many comments from attendees that work not joined up, but that Play, Parks and Estates all under her remit. Looking to achieve joined up working over next year. Clare Blake now looking after Neighbourhood Engagement (NE). Closer working between NE and Parks.</p> <p>ML advised that play equipment at eastville park removed without consultation, and lack of coherent management can be frustrating.</p> <p>PJ advised she would welcome examples to improve service.</p> <p>Comment from attendee that while Estates promote access and events, little in this area with regard to Parks. No marketing. PJ stated plan going forward was to share management practice.</p> <p>Comment made that AEO attends meetings with users group but has no authority or budget to do anything. PJ advised need to be more creative about sources of revenue.</p>	<p>PJ</p>

8.	<p><u>Managing Wildlife Sites</u></p> <p>JS explained he started as wildlife officer in 2009 to bring more ordered approach to wildlife management. Good relationship with blue skies who retrain ex-offenders, using money from Future Jobs fund, cut in Mar 2011. Now use community payback; probation provide placements. Given training by team, habitat management, scrub works and so forth. Coming to an end in Mar 13. Pooling resources for way ahead. Some funds from Sect 106, some external. 170 people have been used by community payback, only 4 sent back. Overall very reliable. The work his team does is restorative. Avoids bird nesting season. There is a lot friends' groups can do to help, JS can provide training. Need to consider Health and Safety, risk assessments etc. RAC asked about H & S training? RF needs to check insurance before any more training is rolled out, to enable volunteers to undertake work. Question about how often trees are inspected? RF responded that trees are checked about every 4 years by tree officers. Recorded on system when inspected.</p> <p>Further info can be accessed at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/TreefellingJS.pdf and at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/CoppicingJS.pdf</p>	
9.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Allotments officers can collect leaves</p> <p>ML advised he would like ideas from other groups on these meetings.</p>	
10	<p><u>Date of Next Meetings–</u> Sat 13th April 9.30am Sat 29th June 9.30am Sat 12th October 9.30am</p> <p>All the above held at Windmill Hill City Farm</p>	