



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 17th July 2010 at the Netham Pavilion

Attendees

AA - Alan Aburrow - FoBW, **ABlackwell** - Alastair Blackwell - Friends of Blaise, **AB** - Alison Bromilow - RCAS, **AC** - Andre Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group, **BB** - Ben Barker - Dame Emily Park Project, **BS** - Betty Saunders - Friends of the Netham, **CH** - Cheryl Hawkins - Friends of Stoke Lodge, **CN** - Catherine Newman - BCC – Admin Officer, **CP** - Chris P - Ashton Vale Heritage Group, **CW** - Chris Williams - Snuff Mills Action Group, **DH** - Derek Hawkins - Friends of Stoke Lodge, **DF** - David Farnsworth - Neighbourhood Planning Network, **FB** - Fraser Bridgeford (Chair) - Castle Park / Friends of Brandon Hill, **GH** - Cllr Gary Hopkins - Friends of Redcatch Park, **GT** - Gordon Tucker - Civic Society, **HH** - Hugh Holden - Civic Society, **JC** - Jane Cunningham - Walking for Health Bristol, **JC** - John Collins, **JC** - Jo Curtis - Friends of St George and Friends of the Netham, **JP** - John Purkiss - Friends of the Avon New Cut, **JT** - Julian Thomas - Friends of Eastwood Farm, **LA** - Cllr Lesley Alexander - Activate Fishponds, **LW** - L Wyatt - Northern Slopes, **MB** - Mary Bannerman - Redcliffe Parade Environmental Association, **MC** - Marie Jo Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group, **ML** - Mark Logan - Snuff Mills Action Group, **NV** - Nicolette Vincent - Friends of Brandon Hill, **PM** - Philip Morris - Barton Hill Urban Park, **PS** - Peggy Stonebridge - Avon Gardens Trust, **RB** - Roland Bruce - Mina Road Park Group, **RAC** - Rob Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **RF** - Richard Fletcher - BCC - AGSP Manager, **RK** - Raquib Khandker - BCC - Community Development Officer, **RP** - Rob Porteous - Victoria Park Action Group, **SAC** - Susan Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **SB** - Susan Bennett - Ashton Vale Heritage Group, **SE** - Steve England - Stoke Park Steering Group, **SF** - Sue Flint - Friends of South Purdown, **SP** - Sian Parry - FoBW, **SP** - Steve Perry - Friends of St Andrews Park, **SN** - Susan Nicash - Friends of Fox Park, **WP** - Wendy Pollard - Avon Gardens Trust

Apologies

AM - Alexander Milne - Friends of the Netham, **AStansbie** - Angela Stansbie, **AS** - Angela Stuckley - Callington Road Nature Reserve, **DS** - Denis Stuckley - Callington Road Nature Reserve, **ES** - Eileen Stonebridge - Friends of Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve, **GB** - Gill Brown - Bristol Civic Society, **HW** - Heather Williams - Hartcliffe Millennium Green, **JCH** - Janet Carr-Hyde - Gores Marshalls, **JC** - Jo Corke - Friends of St Andrews Park, **LG** - Lois Goddard - Redland Green, **NC** - Nancy Carlton - Kingfisher Group, **MM** - Mike Meecham - Friends of Hebron Burial Ground, **PJ** - Peggy Jennings - Friends of Redcatch Park

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions	Actions
1. 1.1	<p><u>Parks Organisation Structure</u></p> <p>For the Parks department's organisation structure see Appendix 1</p> <p>External contractors, English Landscapes and Quadron have their own structures in place. The management of the contracted areas is overseen by Pete Clark, Contracts Manager.</p>	
1.2	<p>Questions and concerns raised:</p> <p><u>Barton Hill Urban Park</u></p> <p>PM stated that the Barton Hill Urban Park had been neglected for a number of weeks and the area looks untidy.</p> <p>PC explained that the Park Keeper has been concentrating on the Bristol in Bloom sites but would discuss this issue with English Landscapes.</p> <p><i>Following the meeting, EL confirmed that additional resource would be put in place to cover the Park Keeper.</i></p>	PC
1.3	<p><u>Cherry Tree in South Purdown</u></p> <p>SF reported that the felling of a healthy cherry tree had upset residents and park users.</p> <p>PC agreed discuss with the Natural Environment Team.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Natural Environment Team put up notices informing local residents of planned work.</p> <p>HH informed the forum that the Natural Environment Team do not have a budget for this.</p>	PC
1.4	<p><u>Malago Valley</u></p> <p>AC complained that the system for reporting issues and problems was unclear and that the Community Parks Officer (CPO) for the South doesn't have capacity to deal with the volume of enquiries.</p> <p>TM agreed to review the measures that were put in place to resolve the issues at this site.</p> <p>TM also acknowledged comments that the CPO's do not have capacity to follow through all enquiries.</p> <p>PC advised park groups to contact the contractors direct for urgent enquires due to the high volume of public enquiries received by the Community Parks Officers.</p> <p>EL - contact number - 0117 9698293</p> <p>Quadron - contact number - 0117 9782862</p>	
1.5	<p><u>Park Keepers for Redland Green</u></p> <p>AB asked if there would be a Park Keeper to cover Redland Green</p>	

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	<p>Park and Cotham Gardens.</p> <p>PC to discuss with English Landscapes.</p>	PC
1.6	<p><u>Contract Specification</u></p> <p>Park Groups requested a copy of the contract specification. See and Appendix 2A and Appendix 2B</p>	
2.	<p><u>Appointment of Project Officers</u></p> <p>Project Officers will shortly be writing to park groups to introduce themselves and provide information on current and planned projects in the local area.</p> <p>TM confirmed that Project Officers are paid from S106 funds and therefore funding for this should be applied for with grants.</p>	Project Officers
3.	<p><u>Section 106 update</u></p> <p>TM stated that S106 funding is now being monitored closely to ensure that funds are spent within the necessary timescale. TM explained that going forward, it is likely that decisions regarding S106 funding will be considered by Neighbourhood Partnership's.</p> <p>See Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 for information on funding available through Grounds Work for community spaces.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Stoke Park</u></p> <p>The process for transferring Stoke Park to Bristol City Council is underway.</p> <p>Work to repair the wall will start in September after the bird nesting season. It is hoped that the land will come under BCC management in November 2010.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the anti-social behaviour at Stoke Park. This has been reported to Consortium and the emergency services but currently no one is taking ownership of the problems.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Grove Woods Local Nature Reserve</u></p> <p>Cllr Hopkins informed the forum that BCC are currently undergoing a compulsory purchase order of Grove Woods Local Nature Reserve.</p> <p>It was requested that the Natural Environment team inspect the site to check that the right trees are being felled.</p>	NE team
6.	<p><u>Stoke Lodge and use of school open spaces</u></p> <p>DH advised the forum of plans to fence off Stoke Lodge Open Space.</p> <p>Cllr Hopkins confirmed that there will be detailed discussions with the school before any developments take place.</p>	

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	The BPF agreed to support the Friends of Stoke Lodge in their campaign to prevent fencing off Stoke Lodge playing fields.	
7.1	<p><u>Events</u></p> <p>Peter Watts has recently been appointed the Events Licensing Officer, taking over from Jenny Crook.</p> <p>RAC is meeting with TM and Peter Watts to follow up the process for small community events.</p> <p>RAC will include any updates in the next newsletter.</p>	RAC
7.2	<p><u>Barbecues</u></p> <p>RAC has collated members views on the use of BBQ's in parks. In general members would not like to see a ban enforced but feel that guidance would be beneficial in ensuring that BBQ's are used safely.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Community consultation process</u></p> <p>David Farnsworth from Bristol Neighbourhood Planning Network gave an overview of the additional consultation sessions that taking place.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Site Allocations</u></p> <p>See Appendix 5</p> <p>For further information visit http://www.bristol.gov.uk/site allocations</p>	
10.	<p><u>Area Green Space Plans Presentation</u></p> <p>Due to time restrictions this was not covered and the time was allocated to Q&A's.</p>	
11.	<p><u>Area Green Space Plans Political Perspective</u></p> <p>In November, the Cabinet will make decisions on sites for disposal and improvements based on community feedback and available funding.</p> <p>Cllr Hopkins advised that Councillors will be reviewing the consultation on an ongoing basis prior to November.</p>	
12. 12.1	<p><u>Area Green Space Plans Q&A and discussion</u></p> <p><u>How has the AGSP consultation been publicised?</u></p> <p>Council website, public forums such as the BPF, Our City (delivered to every household in Bristol), park notice boards, libraries, local media.</p> <p>Troopers Hill have produced leaflets which have been distributed to local residents and displayed in local parks. It was requested that more copies of the AGSP documents are available in the libraries.</p>	RF

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12.2	<p><u>How does the Council know which sites are low value? How is usage measured?</u></p> <p>The following factors are considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - criteria set out in the PGSS e.g. importance for wildlife, use to a school, historic importance, etc - level of use - through on site assessment, feedback from operations team and through public consultation <p>RF agreed to provide park groups with a copy of assessments if requested.</p>	
12.3	<p><u>Will BCC consider increasing public access to green spaces such as school grounds and housing sites in areas that are under provided for?</u></p> <p>This needs to be considered by the planning department when development takes place or through negotiation with existing landowners.</p>	
12.4	<p><u>How will the AGSP make judgements from public feedback?</u></p> <p>The PGSS project board will compare public comments against the AGSP criteria and initial analysis of the site.</p> <p>The PGSS project board will then put forward recommendations to Cabinet for consideration.</p>	
12.4	<p><u>Will sites in the inner city that lack green space be considered for disposal?</u></p> <p>RF confirmed that disposal would only be considered if there was the possibility to swap land that offered better recreational use.</p> <p>It was noted that this is not clear in the AGSP.</p>	
12.5	<p><u>Will the Council consider investing in acquisitions rather than enhancement of existing sites?</u></p> <p>RF and Cllr Hopkins confirmed that money from disposals could possibly be spent on acquiring land rather than enhancing existing space.</p> <p>However, RF stated that research has shown that improving the quality of green spaces increases usage rather than quantity.</p>	
12.6	<p><u>Ashton Vale Developments</u></p> <p>Ashton Vale Heritage Group raised concerns about the lack of consultation on developments in the area.</p> <p>HH agreed to draft a letter to Cabinet raising concerns about the development of a stadium and arena on green belt land in Ashton Vale.</p>	HH

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13. 13.1	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p><u>Walking the way to health</u></p> <p>JC invited BPF members to join the Horfield and Lockleaze Walking for Health Group.</p> <p>More information is available online - http://www.whi.org.uk/</p>	
13.2	<p><u>South West Park Forum</u></p> <p>The South West Park Forum will be held in Exeter. RAC will provide further details in the next newsletter.</p>	RAC
14.	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>Saturday 9th October, 9.30-12.30 at the Netham Pavilion</p>	