



# 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 21<sup>st</sup> April 2012 at Windmill Hill City Farm

### *Attendees*

**AC** - Andre Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group, **AD** - Alison Devonshire - Friends of Elderberry, **AStansbie** - Angela Stansbie - Friends of Brandon Hill, **BB** - Ben Barker - Greater Bedminster Community Partnership, **CH** - Cheryl Hawkins - Friends of Stoke Lodge, **CN** - Catherine Newman - Admin Officer (BCC), **DB** - David Brew - The Landscape Group, Operations Director, **DH** - Derek Hawkins - Friends of Stoke Lodge, **DMartyn** - David Martyn - Kings Weston Action Group, **DP** - Diana Porter - Bedminster Down and Upland Society, **DS** - Denis Stuckley - Callington Road Nature Reserve, **DW** - David Wilcox - Narrowways, **FB** - Fraser Bridgeford - Castle Park / Friends of Brandon Hill, **GB** - Gill Brown - Civic Society, **GD** - George Denford - Withywood Park Group, **GH** - Cllr Gary Hopkins - Friends of Redcatch Park, **HH** - Hugh Holden - Civic Society, **JC** - Jane Cunningham - Walking for Health, **JP** - John Purkiss - Friends of Avon New Cut, **JW** - John Waldron - Redland Green Community Group, **LG** - Lois Goddard - Redland Green Community Group, **MB** - Mary Bannerman - Castle Park User Group, **MC** - Marie Jo Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group, **MM** - Mike Meecham - Friends of Hebron Burial Ground, **MP** - Matt Postles - Bristol Natural History Consortium, **NC** - Nancy Carlton - Kingfisher Group (chair), **NV** - Nicolette Vincent - Friends of Brandon Hill, **PA** - Pauline Allen - Friends of Brandon Hill, **PC** - Pete Clark - Assistant Parks Operations Manager (BCC), **PH** - Pat Harrison - Friends of Elderberry, **PJ** - Pam Jones - Service Manager - Environment & Leisure (BCC), **RAC** - Rob Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **RB** - Roland Bruce - Mina Road Park Group, **RF** - Richard Fletcher - Neighbourhood Engagement Manager (BCC) **RS** - Richard Stransom - Parks Operations Manager (BCC), **SAC** - Susan Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **SB** - Sharon Baker - Bristol in Bloom, **SD** - Susan Davies - Friends of Redcatch Park, **SE** - Steve England - Stoke Park, **SF** - Susan Flint - Friends of Stoke Park, **SParry** - Sian Parry - Avon Wildlife Trust/ FoBW, **ST** - Sam Thomson - Friends of Horfield Common, **SS** - Sally Shenton - Friends of St George Park, **SV** - Suzanne Van Moyland - Ashley St Park, **TM** - Tracey Morgan - Service Director, **VS** - Viv Showering - Friends of Redcatch Park, **WP** - Wendy Pollard - Avon Gardens Trust

### *Apologies*

**AA** - Alan Aburrow - Friends of Badock's Woods, **AB** - Alison Bromilow - RCAS, **ES** - Eileen Stonebridge - Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve, **LA** - Lesley Alexander - Activate Fishponds, **JC** - Jo Corke - Friends of St Andrews Park, **HW** - Heather Williams - Friends of Hartcliffe Millennium Green

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion Points/ Outcomes &amp; Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>
1.	<b><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></b>	
2.	<b><u>Green Spaces in Bristol</u></b>	
2.1	<u>Update on Neighbourhood Committee decisions on disposals</u> Neighbourhood Committees have now made decisions on green space disposals. Minutes from the meetings can be viewed on the BPF website <a href="http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/pgss.htm">http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/pgss.htm</a>	
2.2	<u>Town Village Green applications</u>	
2.2.1	The inspector's report recommended that Grove Wood should be a Town Green. This was agreed by the PROWG committee on 15th March 2012.	
2.2.2	BCC's legal team have advised that improvements to sites with town and village green status will only go ahead following consultation with users and community support.	
2.3	<u>National Planning Framework</u> This wasn't covered during the meeting but details of changes to the planning policy relevant to green spaces can be seen here <a href="http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/NPPFApril2012.pdf">http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/NPPFApril2012.pdf</a>	
2.4	<u>Site Allocations Consultation</u> This wasn't covered during the meeting but an update can be viewed here <a href="http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BDFApril2012.pdf">http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BDFApril2012.pdf</a>	
2.5	<u>Central Area Action Plan</u> BPF's response to the Central Area Action Plan consultation can be viewed here <a href="http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPF_CAAP.pdf">http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPF_CAAP.pdf</a>	
2.6	<u>Update on Knowle West</u> LW provided an update on the Knowle West regeneration plans. The presentation can be viewed here <a href="http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/NSI21April2012.ppt">http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/NSI21April2012.ppt</a>	
3.	<b><u>Open Public Services - an overview of the White Paper - Len Croney</u></b>	
3.1	Len Croney provided an overview of the Open Public Services White Paper. For further information on the white paper visit <a href="http://www.openpublicservices.cabinetoffice.gov.uk">www.openpublicservices.cabinetoffice.gov.uk</a>  The main principle of the white paper is to decentralise services to a range of providers as this is seen to be the way in which improvements can be made.  A number of concerns were raised relating to how the quality of services are determined and monitored.	

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	<p>To date there has only been 50 responses to a national public consultation. Len encouraged people to respond to the consultation if they have any concerns.</p>	
<p>4. 4.1</p>	<p><b><u>Other Issues</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Bristol Cleaner &amp; Brighter Parks Weekend</u></b></p> <p>RAC encouraged park groups to participate in the Bristol Cleaner and Brighter Parks weekend taking place on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p>It was noted that at least 1 member of the group will have to have undertaken the health &amp; safety training for volunteers otherwise a Council Officer will need to be present.</p> <p>Groups participating should contact Denise James who is coordinating the weekend. Denise will then arrange for Clean and Green to collect rubbish from agreed locations on Monday morning.</p>	
<p>4.2</p>	<p><b><u>Dog Fouling Campaigns</u></b></p> <p>AC shared anti-dog fouling posters with the Forum that have had a positive effect in Malago Valley. For copies, please contact AC.</p> <p>It was noted that Keep Britain Tidy also provide posters free of charge.</p>	
<p>4.3</p>	<p><b><u>Stoke Park</u></b></p> <p>SE noted that there has been a significant decrease in anti-social behaviour incidents in Stoke Park since BCC ownership.</p>	
<p>4.4</p>	<p><b><u>Festival of Nature - 16-17 June</u></b></p> <p>RAC asked for volunteers to cover the BPF stand at the Festival of Nature.</p> <p>Park Groups that would like to take part should contact RAC so he can draw up a rota.</p> <p>Last year the organisers, the Bristol Natural History Consortium obtained £5000 of funding for a garden on the amphitheatre. Although there is no funding this year, there are still plans to have a garden. Any ideas can be fed back to the Bristol Natural History Consortium.</p>	
<p>5. 5.1.1</p>	<p><b><u>Improving and maintaining Bristol's Parks - Richard Stransom</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Funding, installing and maintaining new benches, bins and other items</u></b></p> <p>A new process has been introduced to manage applications for the installation and maintenance of new features. See flow chart here - <a href="http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/FlowChartApril2012.pdf">www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/FlowChartApril2012.pdf</a></p> <p>Applications should be sent to the relevant Area Environment Officer for consideration based on the criteria detailed on the flow</p>	

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	<p>chart.</p> <p>If new features are not on the approved features list approval must be sought and a contribution for the maintenance maybe required.</p>	
5.1.2	<p>If current features aren't being maintained as suggested by some members, this should be reported to the Parks department. Works will then be prioritised by the 'fix it' team.</p>	
5.2	<p><u>Maintenance Contractors Performance</u></p> <p>RS acknowledged that there were a few issues with grass cutting at the start of the season but these were quickly resolved. However, in general it's been a good start to the season.</p>	
5.3	<p><u>'Fix it' team - availability, programme of Work</u></p> <p>The 'Fix it' team work across the city, including the contract areas, priortising health and safety works.</p>	
5.4	<p><u>Allocation of £3.5m for Bristol's Parks</u></p> <p>£3.5m capital investment is available for parks and open spaces this year. Local Councillors need to submit bids by 24<sup>th</sup> April based on consultation with Park Groups and through NP's.</p> <p>The Parks department will then review and prioritise bids in relation to the AGSP's and strategic priorities before submitting proposals to Cabinet in June.</p> <p>Concerns were raised that some Councillors may not put through park groups recommendations. It was therefore agreed that the deadline could be extended to 30<sup>th</sup> April so that Park Groups could discuss with their local Councillors.</p> <p>TM will consider how the agreed proposals are published.</p>	<b>TM</b>
5.5	<p><u>Update on Cafes</u></p> <p>PJ advised that the cafe at Blaise Castle will be the first to reopen within the next couple of weeks, followed by Ashton Court Estate, Oldbury Court Estate, St George Park, Canford Park, Ashton Court Golf Course and then Castle Park.</p> <p>PJ welcomed feedback about the cafes and any ideas on how to improve or tailor cafes for each area.</p> <p>PJ can be contacted at <a href="mailto:pam.jones@bristol.gov.uk">pam.jones@bristol.gov.uk</a></p>	
5.6	<p><u>Green Flag Applications 2012</u></p> <p>This year Redcatch Park, Greville Smyth and Canford Park are being assessed for Green Flag.</p> <p>If Green Flag status is achieved this will bring the total number of Green Flag Sites to 11. A decision has been made not to make any</p>	

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	addition applications next year but to concentrate on sustaining the existing sites.	
6.	<p><b><u>Supporting Park Groups</u></b></p> <p>RF provided an update on the Neighbourhood Engagement Team. The team is currently going through formal review process, 5 Area Environment Officers (AEO's) have been appointed with two posts still vacant.</p> <p>AEO's are the first point of contact for parks groups and members of the public that have enquiries relating to Environment and Leisure services.</p> <p>An important part of the AEO's role is to work closely with community groups to obtain funding for improvement projects.</p> <p>The attached papers were distributed at the meeting and provide more details about the team.</p>	
7.	<p><b><u>Park Groups current and planned projects</u></b></p> <p>There wasn't chance to cover this during the meeting but an update on Troopers Hill Stepping Forward Project can be viewed here <a href="http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/steppingforward">http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/steppingforward</a>.</p> <p>Information about the work being carried out by the Kings Weston Action Group can be viewed on their facebook page - <a href="http://tinyurl.com/6vjxubj">http://tinyurl.com/6vjxubj</a>.</p>	
8.	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p>	
8.1	<p><b><u>Fly-tip</u></b></p> <p>There were a number of reports of fly-tip. TM advised members to email details to CN and we would look into whether there is any funding available to deal with these issues.</p>	
8.2	<p><b><u>Tree Canopy Cover</u></b></p> <p>Cllr Hopkins confirmed that the aspiration for 30% canopy cover in Bristol has been fed into planning documents and progress is being monitored on an annual basis. which will feed into plans for Castle Park</p>	
8.3	<p><b><u>City centre parks</u></b></p> <p>HH requested that city centre parks such as Castle Park, College Green and Brandon Hill are re-classified to ensure that they receive the necessary funding.</p>	
9.	<p><b><u>Date of next meeting</u></b> - Saturday 14/07/12</p> <p>Venue - TBC</p>	