



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 24th January 2009 AT WINDMILL CITY FARM, BRISTOL

Attendees	
<p>AB - Alan Burrow - Friends of Baddock's Wood, AF - Alex Forster - BTCV, AB - Alison Bromilow - RCAS, AC - Andre Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group, AS - Angela Stuckey - Callington Road Nature Reserve, AD - Ann Devereaux - Mina Road Park, BB - Ben Barker - Greater Bedminster Community Partnership, CN - Catherine Newman - Bristol City Council – Admin Officer, CH - Cheryl Hawkins - Friends of Stoke Lodge, DP - David Parke - Friends of Baddock's Woods, DW - David Williams - Snuff Mills Action Group, DS - Denis Stuckey - Callington Road Nature Reserve, DH - Derek Hawkins - Friends of Stoke Lodge, DP - Diana Porter - Bedminster Down & Uplands Society, FJ - Felicia Jenkins - Park Keeper, Redcatch Park, FB - Fraser Bridgeford (Chair) Castle Park / Friends of Brandon Hill, GD - George Denford - Withywood Group, GB - Gill Brown - Civic Society, HA - Helen Adshead - South Bristol Riverside Project, HH - Hugh Holden (Vice Chair) - Mina Road Park Group, IS - Isle Hambrook - Friends of, JCH - Janet Carr-Hyde - The Gores Marshalls, JM - John Mayne - Friends of St Andrews Park, JT - Julia Tutton - Northern Slopes, LG - Lois Goddard - Redland Green, MC - Marie Jo Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group, MB - Mary Bannerman - Castle Park + Quakers Burial Ground, ML - Mil Lusk - Buried Treasure/ Northern Slopes, NC - Nancy Carlton - Kingfisher Group, PW - Peter Wilkinson - Bristol City Council - Park Manager, RB - Richard Bland - Friends of The Downs + Clifton & Hotwells Improvement Society, RF - Richard Fletcher - Bristol City Council – AGSP Manager, RAC - Rob Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, RC - Ruth Corner - Friends of Stoke Lodge, SS - Sally Shenton - Friends of St George Park Group, SB - Sharon Bennett - Ashton Vale Heritage Group, SF - Sue Flint - Friends of Purdown, SAC - Susan Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, VP - Vassili Papastavrou - Bristol Street Trees, VS - Vi Showering - Friends of Redcatch Park, YL - Yvonne Lines - Ashton Vale Heritage Group</p>	
Apologies	CC
<p>Cllr Chris Davies - Lord Mayor, Denise James - Bristol Clean and Green, June Sherbourne - Friends of South Purdown, Jo Corke - Friends of St Andrews Park, Cllr Lesley Alexander</p>	

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/Outcomes & Actions	Actions
1.	<p>Area Green Space Plans - Update</p> <p>Public consultation process has been delayed from Jun 09 until Sep-Dec 09. However, the stakeholder participation programme is still due to end in April.</p> <p>RF distributed the participation programme and contact names for responsible officers for each area.</p> <p>Please note the difference between the two dates on the programme:</p> <p>Stakeholder Participation Period – Involves a range of people that have been identified to represent the community and provide information and advice to help draft the plan.</p> <p>Public Consultation Period – The drafted plan is made available to the wider public.</p> <p>Richard gave an overview of the process so far, using the AGSP for Brislington as an example. For further information visit http://www.brislington.org/</p> <p>Richard also presented computer generated images of parks and green spaces to demonstrate the changes that could be made.</p> <p>The following concerns and comments were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are too many publicly accessible green spaces that have not been considered in AGSP's. RF explained that all areas should be considered by the AGSP if a public need for the area was identified through stakeholder participation sessions. If groups feel that there are additional areas that need to be considered, this should be raised at stakeholder meetings. • Neighbourhood Partnership boundaries are too rigid Although it is recognised that people may use green spaces outside their own neighbourhood partnership area, comments need to be raised at the relevant Neighbourhood Partnership meeting. • The AGSP for Knowle West will be effected by the regeneration plans and developments for the area RF gave reassurance that developers are communicating and working together, that AGSP policies will apply and stakeholders feedback considered. PW advised the forum to raise these concerns with the Chief Executive • RF will notify the forum of up and coming stakeholder meetings 	
2.	<p>South Bristol Contract</p> <p>Quadron Services Limited has been awarded the maintenance contract for the 4 Neighbourhood Partnerships Areas that make up South Bristol, excluding Brislington.</p> <p>Clive Ivil, MD gave an introduction to the company, covering who they have worked with previously, current portfolio, achievements and aspirations for the future, with strong emphasis on the company's commitment to staff training and customer service.</p>	

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	<p>Comments and questions</p> <p>How do Quadron plan to communicate with the community? Quadron hope to provide a high level of customer service and build close relationships with the community. Teams will be based in geographical areas to offer consistency and Team Leaders in each team will take on a customer service role, acting as point of contact for the community. The Contract Manager will also be happy to attend future Park Forum meetings and Stakeholder Participation sessions.</p> <p>What parks will have park keepers? Victoria Park, Redcatch Park, Greville Symth (3 in total), Whitchurch, Hartcliffe and Withywood (2 in total)</p> <p>What are Quadrons environmental policies? Quadron will work in line with BCC's policies. Quadron are also working towards gaining Government accreditation for working in line with national environmental standards.</p>	
3.	<p>Maintenance Contracts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quadron's contract for the maintenance of South Bristol starts on 1st February 2009. ● Bristol Contract Services (BCS) will become part of Parks from 1st April 2009 and will cover the North and East Area. ● Continental Landscapes will continue to maintain the Central, North East/ West areas until end of January 2010. <p>A meeting with Cllr Rosalie Walker and Cllr John Bees on the 12th February will determine whether the Central and North East/ West area is to be brought in house or as recommended put out to tender when the contract ends in 2010.</p> <p>BCC will now have the opportunity to compare how a tradition in-house service compares to a well funded commercial contract.</p> <p>Performance across the services will be monitored by standard performance indicators and the data will be published. Stakeholders will also be encouraged to provide feedback online via Greenstat http://www.greenstat.org.uk/.</p> <p>How do Bristol Parks staff training compare to Quadron's? Bristol Parks and Quadron will work together to align training programmes and career structures. Bristol Parks aim to work in partnership with Filton College and take on 4 trainees per year.</p>	
4.	<p>Parks Review - Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Richard Mond has not been appointed following the review of the 2nd tier. Steve Moore is now responsible for the division of Environmental Services within Neighbourhoods. ● Review of the 3rd tier will take place in the next few weeks with 	

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	<p>appointments possibly in place by the end of March.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ring-fencing arrangements are in place, offering existing staff the opportunity to apply for similar roles within the new structure. ● Staff appeals took place last week and continue next week ● Recruitment is due to commence next week, starting with the appointments of one of the APM's and the Estate Managers ● Following ring-fenced applications, posts will be advertised internally and externally - locally and nationally ● The forum will be notified once the majority of posts have been appointed <p>Questions and answers</p> <p>How do the current CPM's fit into the new structure? CPM's have been ring-fenced for the following posts: Community Park Officer (CPO), Quality Monitoring Officer and Technical Supervisor. They also have the opportunity to apply for Area Park Manager (APM) and any other vacant posts.</p> <p>What processes have been put in place to ensure an effective handover of partially completed works/ projects? Area profiles are being drawn up, detailing park group contacts, Councillors, policies that have been adopted, etc.</p> <p>Will the APM's be responsible for everything? The APM grade is two higher than the current CPM role and will be responsible for everything in parks, including trees and play. The change from 8 areas to 4 should achieve a more consistent level of service across the city.</p> <p>Who is responsible for play? Jill Batten and play inspectors will continue to work within the operations team. John Knowlson will also remain within Parks but is moving to the strategy team.</p> <p>How will public enquires be dealt with? During the new financial year all park enquires will be transferred to the Customer Service Centre. Calls will be logged and transferred electronically via PDA's to the relevant team. The CPO will be the key point of contact for park groups. Further guidance will be given as to where to direct specific enquiries.</p> <p>How many gardeners will there be in the new structure? Bristol City Council - 60 (approx.), Quadron - 37, Central - 20 (approx.).</p>	
5.	<p>Chocolate Factory</p> <p>The forum agreed to support the Save the Railway Path Group with</p>	

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	<p>their decision to oppose Square Peg's development plans for plot 2. It was agreed that the proposals will damage the environment and change the character of the railway.</p>	
6.	<p>Saving Ashton Vale Heritage</p> <p>The Ashton Vale Heritage Group formed in September 08 to protect the local environment and wildlife from the following proposed developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing development (100 houses) • Rapid transport link • A new 30,000 seat football stadium • Five storey hotel • Link road from A38-A370 <p>Progress so far</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultation for the rapid transport link has been disputed • TPO for street trees has been granted <p>The following advice was offered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain Village Green status • Attend AGSP meeting for the area and ensure that the area is identified as a publicly, accessible open space • VP offered to help get national press coverage regarding the plans for developing on flood planes <p>The Bristol Parks Forum agreed to support the Ashton Vale Heritage Group's campaign.</p>	VP
7.	<p>Grove Woods</p> <p>DW informed the forum of the issues that Grove Woods is currently facing.</p> <p>A peaceful walk is taking place through the wood on Sunday 25th January from 2pm.</p>	
8.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Green Applications A meeting is being held on Thursday 5th February to discuss Town Green applications. If you wish to attend email info@bristolparksforum.org.uk Fraser to confirm time and venue. • Tree Forum Hugh Holden encouraged the Park Forum to support the Tree Forum. The next meeting is planned for Monday 6/04/09, 6pm-9pm @ The Council House. For further details visit: http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/content/Environment-Planning/Parks-and-open-spaces/bristol-street-tree-forum.en • Friends of Downs and Avon Gorge Information leaflets have been produced about this new group • Questions for Political Parties BPF intends to put questions regarding parks and green spaces to the political parties prior to the elections. Any suggestions should be e-mailed to info@bristolparksforum.org.uk • Agenda items Email info@bristolparksforum.org.uk 	FB
9.	Date of next meeting	

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	Saturday 16 th May 2009, 9.30-12.30 at Windmill Hill City Farm	