



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 29th January 2011 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, **AC** - Andrew Chester - Maypark Wood, **AStansbie** - Angela Stansbie, **BA** - Barry Adams - Lockleaze Voice, **AS** - Angela Stuckley - Callington Road Nature Reserve, **CHammond** - Chris Hammond - APM (BCC) **CH** - Cheryl Hawkins - Friends of Stoke Lodge, **CN** - Catherine Newman - Admin Officer (BCC), **DH** - Derek Hawkins - Friends of Stoke Lodge, **DP** - Diane Porter - Bedminster Down and Uplands Society, **DS** - Denis Stuckley - Callington Road Nature Reserve, **FB** - Fraser Bridgeford - Castle Park / Friends of Brandon Hill, **GB** - Gill Brown - Civic Society, **GD** - George Denford - Witherwood Park Group, **GH** - Cllr Gary Hopkins - Friends of Redcatch Park, **HH** - Hugh Holden (Chair) - Civic Society, **JC** - Jane Cunningham - Walking for Health Bristol, **JM** - John Mayne - Friends of St Andrews Park, **JP** - Jack Penrose - Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge, **JT** - Julian Thomas - Friends of Eastwood Farm, **LG** - Lois Goddard - Redland Green Community Group, **LW** - Len Wyatt - Northern Slopes, **MCastle** - Margaret Castle - Friends of Netham, **MC** - Marie Jo Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group, **MS** - Marianna Szemes - Lockleaze Voice, **NA** - Nicola Adams - Lockleaze Voice, **NC** - Nancy Carlton - Kingfisher Group, **RB** - Roland Bruce - Mina Road Park Group, **RAC** - Rob Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **RF** - Richard Fletcher - AGSP Manager (BCC), **RK** - Raquib Khandker - Community Development Officer (BCC), **SAC** - Susan Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **SC** - Savita Custead - Bristol Natural History Consortium, **SE** - Steve England - Stoke Park Steering Group, **SF** - Sue Flint - Friends of South Purdown, **SP** - Steve Perry - Friends of St Andrews Park, **SP** - Sian Parry - AWT, **SS** - Shelia Stevens - Bristol in Bloom, **TM** - Tracey Morgan - Service Director (BCC), **VS** - Viv Showering - Friends of Redcatch Park, **WP** - Wendy Pollard - Avon Gardens Trust, **WH** - William Hazel - Friends of Muller Road Recreation Ground,

Apologies

CW - Chris Williams - Snuff Mills Action Group, **GT** - Gordon Tucker - Civic Society, **JCH** - Janet Carr-Hyde, **JC** - Jo Corke - Friends of St Andrews Park, **JP** - John Purkiss - Friends of Avon New Cut, **LA** - Cllr Lesley Alexander - Activate Fishponds, **NV** - Nicolette Vincent - Friends of Brandon Hill, **RB** - Richard Bland - Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge, **SM** - Shiona MacPherson - Montpelier Park Group

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions	Actions
1.	<p><u>Localism Bill</u></p> <p>FB has reviewed the localism bill and identified the following areas that may affect parks and open spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group run local services • Buying local assets • Removal of regional spacial strategy • Changes to Community Infrastructure Levy • Impact on planning decisions 	
2. 2.1	<p><u>BDF Core Strategy changes and Timetable for BDF</u></p> <p><u>Site Allocations Document</u></p> <p>There will be an opportunity in the summer to review the feedback from the Site Allocations consultation which included alternative uses for green spaces and sites allocated for disposal through the AGSP's. There will also be workshops held to consider the Development Management policies.</p>	
2.2	<p><u>Central Area Action Plan</u></p> <p>An event sponsored by the Civic Society is being held on 08/02/11 at the Colston Hall to discuss potential plans and developments for the central area.</p>	
2.3	<p><u>Knowle West</u></p> <p>Knowle West area was not considered as part of the Site Allocations consultation.</p> <p>Consultation will need to be undertaken in this area before the Core Strategy can be taken forward.</p>	
3. 3.1	<p><u>Area Green Space Plans - next steps</u></p> <p><u>Timetable for land sales, management of sites prior to disposal</u></p> <p>The timetable for land sales has not yet been decided. RF to advise at the next forum.</p> <p>TM confirmed that sites listed for disposal would be maintained to the same standards until they are sold but wouldn't receive any investment for improvements.</p>	RF
3.2	<p><u>Timetable for decisions on deferred sites</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plummers Hill and Gill Avenue/ Delabere Avenue <p>The NP's have been asked to make recommendations to Cabinet in June.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brierylease, Crow Lane, Hengrove Park and Muller Road Recreation 	

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	The timetable will be determined by the NP.	
3.3.1	<p><u>AGSP for Lockleaze</u></p> <p>These areas need to be considered in relation to other local consultations.</p> <p><u>Stoke Park</u></p> <p>Cllr GH provided a brief update on Stoke Park, explaining that because BCC are acquiring Stoke Park this will affect decisions made about other open spaces in the area.</p> <p>It is hoped that South Glos will make a decision about the S106 contributions on the 17th March. Cllr GH would then like to work with the BPF to organise an opening event on 19th March.</p>	
3.3.2	<p><u>Grove Wood</u></p> <p>BCC are currently having discussions with the current land owner and have made an offer to purchase.</p>	
3.4	<p><u>Restrictions imposed by BCC on land sales (TPOs, protection of SNCIs, etc)</u></p>	
3.4.1	<p>RF confirmed that the AGSP team has liaised closely with Nature Conservation Officers regarding the disposal of the 7 SNCI sites and Wildlife Network Sites. These sites will be subject to standard planning process if the sites are developed.</p>	
3.4.2	<p>RF stated that trees on land for disposal will be considered and protected by planning at the time of disposal.</p> <p>HH stated that the Tree Forum would like a policy put in place that allows the Arb team to issue blanket TPO's on sites identified for disposals. This will prevent trees being felled between developers acquiring land and obtaining planning permission. RF agreed with this process.</p> <p>HH suggested forming a working group to look at these issues in more detail. Anyone interested should contact RAC.</p>	
3.5	<p><u>Park Group and Neighbourhood Partnership input into investments</u></p> <p>The NP meetings held in March will be an opportunity to discuss how local people can influence the priorities for investments in their area.</p> <p>Following this a list of priorities will be drawn up based on the Ideals and Options paper which will be reviewed during the June meetings. RF confirmed that the Ideals and Options paper has been amended to include feedback from the AGSP's consultation.</p> <p>The NP coordinators will work towards ensuring that they engage with a wide representation of the community i.e young people, people with disabilities, etc. Stakeholders and people that engaged</p>	

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	<p>with the AGSP consultation will also be invited to these meetings. This is a long-term plan so this process will take place again in the future.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Area Green Space Plans Financial Review</u></p> <p>Cllr GH stated that all accessible green spaces have now been considered for disposal under the AGSPs. Sites outside the scope of AGSPs i.e. brown fields, school grounds, etc maybe disposed but this money would not be ring fenced for Parks.</p> <p>Cllr GH explained that funds from disposals would be allocated between NP based on the standards set out in the Core Strategy i.e. NP's that lack facilities will receive more funding. The amount of funding allocated to NP's will reviewed on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Cllr GH said that until money is received from disposals, funding from S106 and grants can be loaned between NP's.</p> <p>Cllr GH confirmed that capital would not be assigned to Knowle until after the Knowle Regeneration Framework.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Guest Speaker - Savita Custead</u></p> <p><u>Bristol Natural History Consortium</u></p> <p>The Bristol Natural History Consortium was established in 2003 and gained charitable status in 2008.</p> <p><u>Members</u></p> <p>BNHC currently works with 11 members - Avon Wildlife Trust, BBC, Bristol City Council, Bristol Zoo, Defra, Environment Agency, Natural England, University of Bristol, University of West of England, Wetlands Wildlife Trust, Wildscreen.</p> <p><u>Projects</u></p> <p>BNHC currently run the following events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festival of Nature <p>The BPF currently support this event. FB suggested that Park Groups attend and produce leaflets to advertise their parks.</p> • Communicate • BioBlitz <p>These events have been held on the Downs and Brandon Hill. SC stated that BNHC could help support Park Groups that wish to run similar events.</p> 	
6.	<p><u>Play watch Project</u></p> <p>Deferred</p>	
7.	<p><u>Parks Restructuring</u></p>	

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7.1	<p><u>Update on 4th tier appointments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horticultural Manager - Richard Ennion • Estates, Cems & Crems & Play Manager - Richard Bevan • Grounds Maintenance - Vacant • NP Engagement - Vacant <p>TM explained that temporary arrangements will be put in place until vacant posts are filled.</p> <p>If these posts aren't appointed to internal applicants the jobs will be advertised externally. In this instance, TM confirmed she would be happy for BPF representatives to sit on the interview panel.</p> <p>TM advised the Forum that a meeting would be set up to discuss how the NP Engagement team will work with BPF following appointment of the 4th tier manager.</p>	
7.2	<p><u>Park Keepers</u></p> <p>CHammond provided an overview of where park keepers are based across the city.</p> <p>There is currently a review of working hours and discussions are taking place with grounds staff and Trade Unions regarding an annualised hours trial.</p> <p>This will be a 42 hour week for 32 weeks during the summer and a 29 hour week for 20 weeks over the winter. This will help ensure that work is carried out at the appropriate time of year and will reduce the number of seasonal workers required during the summer.</p> <p>Park Keepers hours are also being reviewed, considering a later start and finish time</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the lack of presence early in the morning. C Hammond explained that a mobile team would visit the parks prior to the Park Keeper arriving to empty bins, etc.</p>	
8.	<p><u>South West Forum</u></p> <p>The BPF committee attended the South West Forum to discuss ideas with other Park Forums.</p>	
9. 9.1	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p><u>Maypark Wood</u></p> <p>AC advised the forum that the local school plans to close off the woodland so it can be used for educational purposes. The local residents are requesting consultation before a decision is made. The BPF agreed to support the group in asking that school offer shared use whenever possible.</p> <p>Cllr GH agreed to speak to the relevant ward Councillors.</p>	

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9.2	<p><u>Town Green Applications update</u></p> <p>The Town Green application for an area in Windmill Hill was rejected on legal grounds in October. This decision will be reconsidered by Cabinet in March.</p> <p>There are concerns that the Town Green Application in Long Ashton are affecting the decisions made on other applications.</p>	
9.3	<p><u>Park improvements and DDA compliance</u></p> <p>AB stated that the Redland Green Park Group are disappointed with the repairs made to the steps. The steps have been rebuilt to accessibility standards adopted by Bristol City Council under the Disability Discrimination Act. However, these may be tailored to each situation and the design adopted at Redland Green was felt to be over engineered. The community felt that there should be a recognised process for agreeing what level of compliance is appropriate.</p> <p>It was proposed that a working group is formed to develop a process.</p> <p>Members should email RAC if they wish to be part of the working group.</p>	
9.4	<p><u>Update from Steve England</u></p> <p>SE has recently researched the history of Stoke Park & Frome Valley and discovered prehistoric fossils. These are in the Glenside Hospital Museum and are available to view on Wednesday and Saturday morning.</p> <p>SE is also working on a project which involves engaging with teenagers to increase their knowledge and interest in the environment. This will be filmed for a BBC documentary.</p> <p>More information is available at steveengland.co.uk</p>	
10.	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>16th April 2011, 9.30-12.30</p> <p>Venue - TBC</p>	