



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

5th October 2013 at Windmill Hill City Farm

Attendees

Committee Members: **NC - Nancy Carlton** – Forum Chair, **RAC – Rob Acton-Campbell**, **HH – Hugh Holden**, **ML – Mark Logan**, **RB – Roland Bruce**, **LN – Lesley Nel**, **DH – Derek Hawkins**.

WP – Wendy Pollard - Avon Gardens Trust, **JC - Jane Cunningham** - Horfield & Lockleaze Environmental Group; **JC - Jo Corke** -Friends of St Andrews, **LA – Cllr Lesley Alexander** - Activate, **GB – Gill Brown** – Civic Society, **LG – Lucy Gaze** – Friends of Eastwood Farm, **ST - Sam Thomson** - Friends of Horfield Common, **GH – Cllr Gary Hopkins** – Fo Redcatch Park, **MM - Mick Mack** – SPDG, **TF - Tessa Fitzjohn** - Kingfisher Group, **SE – Steve England** – SPDG, **DM - David McKeown** Friends of Brandon Hill, **BF - Bob Franks** – NSI, **SF – Sue Flint** – Friends of Purdown, **LT - Linda Tuff** – Castle Park Users Group, **GC – Geoff Collard** - Castle Park Users Group, **RM – Roger Mortimer**, **LG – Lois Goddard** – Redland Green, **CH – Cheryl Hawkins** – Fo Stoke Lodge,

RE - Richard Ennion – Bristol City Council, **RF –Richard Fletcher** - Bristol City Council, **TM – Tracey Morgan** - Bristol City Council, **AM - Alex Minshull** - Bristol City Council (Green Capital), **CL - Claire Lowman**- Bristol City Council (Public Health), **GF - George Ferguson** – Mayor,

<i>Agenda Item</i>	<i>Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions</i>	<i>Actions</i>
	<p><u>Welcome and Introduction - Nancy Carlton</u> Setting out agenda</p>	
<p>1. 1.1</p>	<p><u>Greenways Project – Claire Lowman</u> Public health recently moved from NHS to Council. Strategy to promote walking, cycling and outdoor activity working with priority groups such as over fifty five year olds and teenagers and localities such as Knowle West, Hartcliffe and Avonmouth. NICE Guidance PH8, promotion and creation of physical environments, NICE guidance PH41 to promote walking and cycling. Open space research. Interview users, how did it affect activity levels? Where to best use resources?</p>	

1.2	<p><u>West of England Nature Partnership</u></p> <p>Aim to promote health, mental health, air quality, decrease urban noise and boost employment. CL to work closely with mayor on such projects</p> <p>Green mapping of city to improve greenways, paths and open spaces. Where are there gaps and are there opportunities for tree planting? Aim to work closely with existing projects Fruit Trees For The Future (Knowle West), Front Garden Awards (Bedminster), Tree Pips Project, sustainable travel and major schemes. Use research to map key routes, promote and create avenues and circular walking routes. Three routes currently mapped. GH: overall budget for public health could have large impact if used wisely.</p> <p>Claire's slides can be seen at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/GreenSpacesActiveLives.pdf</p>	
2.1	<p><u>Bristol Green Capital 2015 – Alex Minshull</u></p> <p>Brief outline of history of Bristol Green Capital Partnership, established to become a network of organisations aiming to promote low carbon use, improve quality of life including air and water quality and improve the economy and environment.</p> <p>EU created Green Capital competition leading to Bristol winning in June this year for 2015. Detailed technical assessment focused on aspects such as land use and biodiversity. Presentation delivered on theme of “laboratory for change”, e.g. cycling demonstration city and food waste collections. Bristol considered role model for level of community activity. Beneficial aspects of contact between other cities and ability to share experiences.</p> <p>Showcasing award. No money is awarded. Bristol is required to host an opening event and a handover ceremony to the next winning city. Open calendar for the rest of 2015 gives opportunity to “put Bristol on the map”, receive investment, attract business and get communities involved. JC asks if feedback from other cities has been useful which AM confirms.</p> <p>The full Bristol bid and the evaluation of it is at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/winning-cities/2015-bristol/index.html</p> <p>Summary sheets, we called report cards, can be found at: http://bristolgreencapital.org/european-green-capital-award/</p> <p>The Parks Forum and park groups were urged to sign the Green Capital Pledge ‘to help make Bristol a low carbon city with a high quality of life’. http://bristolgreencapital.org/contact/pledge/</p>	
2.2	<p><u>Tree Pips Project - Richard Ennion</u></p>	

	<p>Project outlined at June 2013 Parks Forum. Big ambition to get young people (primary school age) involved in tree planting. Update: Project Officer interviews due w/c 7th October. Project expected to go live next two months once posts are filled. Background work happening to secure additional funding. ST raises concerns about finishing projects already undertaken.</p>	
<p>3.1 (10.30am)</p>	<p><u>Q & A Session with Bristol Mayor, George Ferguson</u></p> <p>GF says BCC in difficult position with having to deliver £80m of cuts over three years on top of reductions already made. Volunteering needs to be supported and encouraged in parks, example from Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of New York, using volunteer coordinators and encouraging philanthropic organisations. Huge opportunity for volunteers and volunteering in Bristol, praise for SE. There is a need to restructure Neighbourhoods so that they are better able to control resources and spend money. Neighbourhood groups must be more democratic in terms of their members but not overly bureaucratic.</p> <p>LG mentions delay to get volunteers involved and is not sure who to contact and there needs somebody responsible. GF agrees that there is too big a gap between the Council and individual park groups, it would be better to have groups working with Neighbourhoods that have more responsibility to move things forward more quickly. Neighbourhoods could become the landlord of Parks.</p> <p>Concerns that there is no support from BCC to assist groups seeking outside funding. TM states that in reorganisation there will be expertise available. ST says sports neglected. GF sets out that he has set up a new sports commission has been set up with a role not just to consider organised sport but also community sport.</p>	
<p>3.2</p>	<p>RM highlighted an award of £500,000 in capital stimulus funding for Castle Park which has not been used despite a March 2014 deadline. TM assured that the money is still available and will now be spent over a longer timescale into 2014/15. RM also highlighted the ‘development’ footprint of the St Mary Le Port area set out in the Bristol Central Area Plan consultation – which includes a large area of the park. None of the park should be built on.</p> <p>The Central Area Action plan which is currently out to consultation, closing on the 18th October, see http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/planning-and-building-regulations/bristol-central-area-plan</p> <p>GF, plans are only at consultation stage. Differ with RM on this issue. After WWII and 1950s redevelopment of area a restoration of “sense of place” needed for Bristol’s medieval city. Any encroachment of proposed development will be minimal but will improve setting. Bristol City Council will retain ownership. Development would generate money to improve the park. Plans will</p>	

	<p>not affect vast majority of park but mayor does not want to be boxed in to a position on the issue. Any approved development will pay back more than take away. NC asks if 15% encroachment into park area is likely, GF denies anywhere near that scale would go ahead. GH: plans are a severe threat and must be rejected. GF: development not about money but is about improving the area remarking that sculpture by Peter Randall-Page is disgracefully kept.</p> <p>RM concerned with felling of trees in castle park proposal. GF promises ten times amount felled could be planted. Trees can be an impediment against change and are difficult to oppose. GF needs to give leadership and see projects through.</p>	
3.3	GF, Green Capital has allowed Bristol to join a brilliant club. Behind other cities in some aspects but Bristol's open spaces are fantastic.	
3.4	GF responds to question about closing wildlife corridors on boundary between Bristol and South Gloucestershire Council. Line appears arbitrary and artificial, authorities should be combined or at least work together closer. Officer from South Gloucestershire Council often unable to act as needs support from council and committees.	
3.5	Lesley from St George Group raises issue of loss of wildlife in St George Park. Nasty incidents this year, RSPCA & Swan Rescue called costing £900 with Eastville Park experiencing similar problems due to discarded fishing tackle. Ban on fishing desired. SE mentions similar problems in Stoke Park previously. Work undertaken to build closer relationships with rangers and fishermen has resulted in problems going down. GF would like to hear both sides of the argument but does feel that injuries to animals sound unacceptable.	
3.6	GH asks if parks are due to get investment to which Mayor says parks will not be far down the pecking order in the budget. Has passion for green spaces & trees, danger that focus is on the small issues rather than big picture.	
	<p><u>End of meeting.</u></p> <p>Next meeting scheduled for 12th October at Windmill Hill City Farm</p>	