



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 8 March 2014

at Windmill Hill City Farm

Attendees

SAC - Susan Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill; **RAC - Rob Acton-Campbell** - Friends of Troopers Hill, **DS - Denis Stuckey** - Callington Rd Nature Reserve; **JA -Jon Allen**- Callington Rd Nature Reserve; **AS - Angela Stuckey**-Callington Rd Nature Reserve; **LW - Len Wyatt** –NSI; **AB - Alison Bromilow** – RCAS; **ES –Eileen Stonebridge**- Friends of Old Sneed Park; **GW -Gwenda Wedge**-FOSPNK; **MB - Malcolm Baker** - Arlington Garden Assoc; **DM - David Mayer**-Save Stoke Lodge Parkland; **ABr -Alison Bracey**-Bidclifton Village; **WP - Wendy Pollard**-Avon Gardens Trust; **FG -Fiona Gleed**-Vassalls/Oldbury Court; **CW - Chris Williams** –SMAG; **NC - Nancy Carlton**-Windmill Hill Comm Orchard; **CH/DH-Cheryl & Derek Hawkins**-FOSL,KWAG,SMAG; **HH - Hugh Holden**-Mina Rd Pk Group; **SP-Steve Penny**-Friend of St Andrews Park; **SB- S J Baker**-Clifton Brook; **SH -Shaun Hennessy**-VPAG; **SE -Steve England**-Stoke Pk; **CH - Christine Higgott**-Victoria Park Action Group; **AA -Alan Aburrow**-FOBW; **JR -Jane Rooth**-FOSPNR; **CS -Colin Stone** –Tree Forum; **LG - Lois Goddard**-Redland Green Community Group; **JC -Jane Cunningham**-W &H; **RF - Richard Fletcher**-BCC; **TM -Tracey Morgan**-BCC; **JH - John Hirst** – Destination Bristol; **GH - Gus Hoyt** – BCC Councillor; **ML – Mark Logan** – Snuff Mills Action Group

Apologies

Fraser Bridgeford-Friends of Brandon Hill:- Jo Corke-Friends of St Andrews Pk:-Dr Pauline Allen- Mary Bannerman:Castle Park Users Group:- Andre Coutanche-Malgo Valley Conservation Group:-Marie Jo Coutanche-Manor Woods Valley Group:- Cllr Lesley Alexander:-Sam Thomas –Friends of Horfield Common-Tessa Fitzjohn-Windmill Hill Planning Group:-Gill Brown-Bristol Civic Society:-Sue Flint-Friends of South Purdown:-

Agenda Item

Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions

Actions

	<p>Co-ordinator. The scheme will start from the 1st March 2014 for one year and a number of Council officers and the police are visiting the park to implement it. There will be a 'no fishing' close season from 15th March to 15th June. Information can be found on the Neighbourhood Partnership website. Leaflets can be downloaded. The previous park keeper has left, there was concern voiced that a park keeper is required to keep a check on the permits for it to work.</p>	
3	<p>Update on Castle Park – Details of plans for this site have been published on the website as part of the Bristol Central Area Plan. Most of park protected on latest proposals.</p>	
4	<p>Stoke Park - SE – Has been working with some young people in a positive way to reduce ASB, will have fuller report for the next agenda.</p>	
5	<p>Fishponds group - FG Hoping to start a new group in Fishponds, to cover Oldbury Court, this would be for any who love parks and would like to get involved.</p> <p>Northern Slopes Initiative update- There are a number of new booklets of guided walks across the Slopes. These can be downloaded from the NSI website, www.northern-slopes-intiative.co.uk then visit their Nature Diary and Walking Leaflets page.</p>	
6	<p>BCC Parks Update- TM advised that the expected £500,000 cut in parks budgets set out in the Council's original budget proposals has now been delayed until 2015. Budget for trees has been cut by £200,000. Due to the many changes within the council – with people leaving employment with the Council or moving post – there will be a need to concentrate on delivering core services this year and some of the work we do, applying for Green Flag for example this year, may be put on hold for a year and picked back up the following year. As a Council we need to save £27 million from salaries across the Council which will result in 800 jobs being cut. Overall, the staffing structure is being reduced by 15%. We have done the review of the first tier second tier and third tier managers and are currently reviewing all posts in the mid-salary range – including most managers. This will result in fewer posts in Environment and Leisure. TM gave a slide demonstration explaining what the draft structure would look like. The structure for the operations has not yet started. The structure is still being consulted on and will change. In the new structure there will be three service managers reporting to Tracey Morgan - one responsible for Trading Services (business units within</p>	

	<p>E&L such park cafes/kiosks and Nurseries, one for Environment Management which covers all the Parks, Estates, Caretaking and site management. The other service area is Strategy, Commissioning and Contracts.</p> <p>The Capital stimulus park improvement projects are still going ahead and still working to plan, though the project team has been reduced. There is no Downs ranger post but the functions of the post will be picked up by another officer.</p> <p>Among questions raised TM advised HH that there would be the right skills set for each post when interviewing/redeploying staff to posts in new structure.</p> <p>TM also advised there will be no cuts to Blaise nursery.</p> <p>ML advised that in his area they are in danger of losing £43,000 of Capital Stimulus money as needs to be spent by the end of the financial year. Can this be ring-fenced or carried over. RF advised conditions were in original report. TM advised will look in more detail but some conditions cannot be changed.</p>	
7	<p>RF- Health and Safety- Some training completed for those wishing to work independently in parks. Will be asking for those not trained for a while to go on refresher training, will advise of possible dates in around 2 months. Have asked for weekend and evening options for those working full-time. Need to go on BCC training to be covered by public liability insurance. AB stated that Park Groups should thank Bristol Parks for arranging insurance cover through this scheme which was not run by other parts of the Council.</p>	
8	<p>RAC- BPF stall at Festival of Nature (wildlife) 14th & 15th June 2014 – Looking for volunteers to staff the stands.</p> <p>20th April walking festival – details on website.</p>	
9	<p>JH- CEO Destination Bristol</p> <p>Organisation runs Visit Bristol website, link to Visit England. Promote Bristol and nearby areas (Bath), and Local Enterprise Zone. Main aim to encourage more people to visit Bristol from neighbouring areas, across the UK, as well as international visitors. Visitor income to Bristol economy worth £1.2 billion per annum. Potential to increase visitors and income. Work closely with BCC, crucial to their operation, they are a private/public partnership not for profit organisation. Team looking to promote Bristol's parks more, need input from BPF members. John can be contacted via email at</p>	

	<p>john.hirst@destinationbristol.co.uk</p> <p>Among initial feedback was a request that the amount of parks and green spaces in Bristol is highlighted, compared to other large cities, and to provide walking guides that take visitors through parks and open spaces.</p> <p>There is a Destination Bristol app. Unfortunately running out of tourist leaflets that have proved big success, especially with hoteliers, but can be downloaded online in PDF format.</p>	
10	AOB	
10.1	RAC – Green Capital Partnership Group – opportunity to get funding/sponsorship into Parks from companies, especially for projects with ideas already formed. Please forward any ideas to Rob.	
10.2	RAC – Rethinking Parks Nesta grants to help manage parks – applications for apps that would work in Parks being put forward, eg park game app. TM added that BCC put in bid as well to improve Parks.	
10.3	ML - Town Green committee meeting – 3 applications recently approved; Laundry Field, Wellington Hill Playing Field, and Bramble Drive, Sneyd Park. Ashton Vale still waiting on public consultation, Stoke Lodge awaiting inspection. Town Greens now plotted on Parks Forum website. Details on BCC website at http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/planning-and-building-regulations/town-and-village-greens	
10.4	RF - Full Council will be considering and potentially adopting the new parks byelaws at its 18 th March meeting. The information will be on the Council's 'council meetings' web pages. The main headline is that only 207 of the 430 sites recognised by the Parks and Green Space Strategy will be subject to the byelaws. This is because evidence of nuisance behaviour is needed to justify the use of byelaws and this is not available to the Council or the police for many green spaces. If adopted there will be a further stage when green spaces where some activities are permitted (for example horse-riding) need to be identified. Neighbourhood Partnerships will be involved in this.	

11	<p>If you can't make any meeting but would like your points to be considered please email info@bristolparksforum.org.uk</p> <p>Bristol parks Forum – www.bristolparksforum.org.uk</p> <p>Date for next meeting Sat 12th April -9.30-12.30, Windmill Hill City Farm</p>	