



# 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 10<sup>th</sup> April 2010

AT

The Netham Pavilion, Avonvale Road, Redfield.

### *Attendees*

**AA** - Alan Aburrow - FoBW, **AC** - Andre Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group, **AS** - Angela Stuckley - Callington Road Nature Reserve, **BB** - Ben Barker - Dame Emily Park Project, **BS** - Betty Sanders - Friends of the Netham, **CH** - Cheryl Hawkins - Friends of Stoke Lodge, **CN** - Catherine Newman - BCC - Admin Officer, **DH** - Derek Hawkins - Friends of Stoke Lodge, **DM** - Danny Mitchell - English Landscapes - Contract Manager, **DM** - David McKeown - Friends of Brandon Hill, **DS** - Denis Stuckley - Callington Road Nature Reserve, **FB** - Fraser Bridgeford (Chair) - Castle Park / Friends of Brandon Hill, **GB** - Gill Brown - Civic Society, **GH** - Cllr Gary Hopkins - Friends of Redcatch Park, **GR** - Geroge Ramelkamp - Friends of St George Park, **GT** - Gordon Tucker - Civic Society, **HH** - Hugh Holden - Civic Society, **HW** - Heather Williams - Friends of Hartcliffe Millennium Green, **IK** - Ian Kerr - Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve, **JC** - Jo Curtis - Friends fo St George, **JM** - John Mayne - Friends of St Andrews Park, **KW** - Keith Way - Wilmott Park Group, **LA** - Cllr Lesley Alexander - Activate Fishponds, **LG** - Lois Goddard - Redland Green, **MB** - Mary Bannerman - Redcliffe Parade Environmental Association, **MC** - Margaret Cottle - Wellspring Health Living Centre, **MC** - Marie Jo Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group, **MG** - Marion Green - Malago Valleu Conservation Group, **MS** - Margaret Stansbie - Friends of Brandon Hill, **NC** - Nancy Carlton - Kingfisher Group, **PC** - Pete Clark - Area Park Manager - South & Central, **PJ** - Peggy Jennings - Friends of Redcatch Park, **RB** - Roland Bruce - Mina Road Park Group, **RAC** - Rob Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **RK** - Raquib Khandker - BCC - Community Development Officer, **RK** - Russ Kirk - Quadron Services - Area Contract Manager, **RT** - Robert Thurston - BCC - Operations Manager, **SAC** - Susan Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **SB** - Sharon Bennett - Ashton Vale Heritage Group, **SF** - Sue Flint - Friends of South Purdown, **SL** - Sue Luthkenhouse - BCC - Projects Manager, **SP** - Steve Perry - Friends of St Andrews Park, **TM** - Tracey Morgan - BCC - Service Manager, **TY** - Trish Young - Ashton Vale Heritage Group, **VS** - Vi Showering - Friends of Redcatch Park, **WP** - Wendy Pollard - Avon Gardens Trust

### *Apologies*

**IH** - Ilse Hambrook - Friends of Easter Gardens, **JCH** - Janet Carr-Hyde - Gores Marshalls, **JC** - Jo Corke - Friends of St Andrews Park, **JP** - John Purkiss - Friends of the Avon New Cut, **PS** - Peggy Stembridge - Avon Gardens Trust, **RB** - Richard Bland - Friends of The Downs

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion Points/ Outcomes &amp; Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>
1.	<p><b><u>Improving the structure and engagement plans for working with Park Groups</u></b></p> <p>PC, Area Park Manager for the South and Central areas provided an update on the changes that have been put in place to improve the structure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 additional Park Keepers have been recruited, the two in-house Park Keepers will work in the East and North. There is now 22 across the city. See attached document for which Park Keeper's cover which parks/ areas.</li> <li>• There is currently a review of Park Keeper's hours with a view to increase cover during times of high usage.</li> <li>• Notice boards in all parks will be updated to include relevant contact details. It was agreed during the meeting that this would include contact details for the Park Keeper, PCSO, Park Group and an emergency - out of hours contact. PC also agreed that Park Groups could have a key to access the notice board.</li> <li>• A Park Keeper's forum will be introduced so that best practice can be shared across the service.</li> <li>• There will be more investment in training and development.</li> </ul> <p>PC stated that Parks and Estates intend to improve engagement with Park Groups to ensure that their needs and expectations are met.</p> <p>It was recognised that previous agreements and plans i.e. those drawn up for Baddocks Woods were not met. It was agreed that future plans should be simplified and realistic - taking into account the available budget and resources. It was also noted that Parks and Estates will need to work closely with the Quadron and English Landscapes to deliver management plans.</p> <p>There was mixed views on the current level of engagement with Park Groups.</p> <p>Malago Valley Park Group in South Bristol expressed dissatisfaction. TM agreed to discuss and resolve issues at this site in the first instance.</p> <p>GR commented on the poor consultation and quality of the children's play ground St George Park. RT agreed to visit the site and review the build quality.</p> <p>Ashton Vale Heritage Group requested advice on how they can best utilise their green spaces.</p>	<p><b>Parks</b></p> <p><b>RT</b></p> <p><b>JCox</b></p>
2.	<p><b><u>Working with Neighbourhood Partnerships</u></b></p>	

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion Points/ Outcomes &amp; Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>
	<p>Many groups have experienced positive engagement with NP's and have managed to obtain funding for their parks.</p> <p>There are concerns that unless you are part of the steering group you have less influence on decisions.</p> <p>Cllr GH explained that Cllr's are legally responsible for decisions relating to public spending, however they will want to back the communities priorities. Cllr Hopkins advised individuals to contact their ward Cllr's if there NP isn't working well.</p> <p>Parks and Estates are currently working out how they will engage effectively with NP meetings and continue to carry out day to day tasks.</p>	
<p>3.</p> <p>3.1</p>	<p><b><u>English Landscapes/ Quadron contracts - report and feedback from Park Groups</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Update from Quadron</u></b></p> <p>RK introduced himself as the Area Manager for Quadron provided an update on Quadron's progress since February 2009.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quadron have recently taken on new apprentices and are working successfully with a Government scheme, Groundwork</li> <li>• A new horticultural manager is in post who will work with Parks and Estates to improve some of the parks in south Bristol.</li> <li>• Quadron are working to secure funding from government schemes for community improvements. RK stated that Quadron will communicate with Park Groups to ensure best use of funds.</li> <li>• Quadron have apprenticeship schemes* in place.</li> </ul> <p>KW asked if Quadron could attend a Wilmott Park Group meeting to discuss habitat concerns for areas that have become neglected in Hartcliffe. RK to arrange</p>	<p><b>RK</b></p>
<p>3.2</p>	<p><b><u>Update from English Landscapes</u></b></p> <p>DM introduced himself as the Area Manager for EL, contractor for the Central area.</p> <p>EL have been maintaining the Central area since February 2010. DM confirmed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EL have recruited additional staff for the summer and started recruitment procedures for additional apprentice*</li> <li>• Made good progress with programmed work</li> <li>• Prioritised areas of work that need to be brought up to specification standards. It was agreed at the meeting that this priority list will be discussed with Park Groups.</li> </ul>	

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion Points/ Outcomes &amp; Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EL will provide 30 trees per year</li> </ul> <p>Mina Road Park Group stated that machinery used in Mina Road Park has caused damage to the grass. DM to investigate and report back to group.</p> <p>Brandon Hill Park Group would like details for out of hours cover for CPK. DM to advise.</p>	<p><b>DM</b></p> <p><b>DM</b></p>
	<p>* Both Quadron's and EL's apprenticeship schemes mirror BCC's. The scheme lasts two years and includes college based and onsite training. All apprentices have the chance to work for contracted and in house areas.</p>	
3.3	<p>Both contractors environmental policies can be viewed online. English Landscapes - <a href="http://www.thelandscapegroup.co.uk/">http://www.thelandscapegroup.co.uk/</a> Quadron - <a href="http://www.quadronenvironment.com/home/">http://www.quadronenvironment.com/home/</a></p>	
4.	<p><b><u>Parks Budgets, Section 106 and other funding streams, projects</u></b></p>	
4.1	<p><b><u>Parks Budgets</u></b></p>	
4.2	<p><b><u>S106</u></b></p> <p>S106 contributions are subject to negotiation but are generally received when there are 10 or more residential units built in area to fund projects which will mitigate the impact on local resources.</p> <p>Cllr Hopkins advised BPF to pay attention to planning applications to ensure that the funds are secured and spent within the required timescale. The Bristol Planning Network and BCC can send weekly notifications if requested.</p> <p>Jim Cliffe manages S106 funds and will be able to advise how much has been allocated to Parks and how this has been spent.</p> <p>SL explained that funds are currently split between investment and maintenance, local parks and destination parks. However, there is currently a review of the allocation of S106 funds with a view that future projects will be determined through AGSP's.</p>	<p><b>TM</b></p>
5.	<p><b><u>Area Green Space Plans Consultation</u></b></p> <p>The consultation for the AGSP is taking place in June. It was discussed and agreed that a joint meeting with the Site Allocation team would be held prior to the consultation. TM to arrange.</p>	<p><b>TM</b></p>

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion Points/ Outcomes &amp; Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>
	Bristol Development Framework provides useful questions and answers. Visit: <a href="#">Bristol Development Framework</a>	
6.	<p><b><u>Events in the Parks update</u></b></p> <p>There was a discussion regarding the licence fee that park groups pay if they want to hold events in parks. Currently the fee for a community (not for profit) events is £20 which includes public liability insurance.</p> <p>The following concerns were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A fee would discourage people from organising events.</li> <li>• It could become costly if park groups hold a number of events throughout the year (could there be an annual fee to cover several events?)</li> <li>• Many people hold events without advising the Parks department, therefore not paying the fee (how will the fee be enforced?)</li> <li>• What determines if an event requires a licence</li> </ul> <p>These concerns could not be resolved in the absence of the Events team. It was decided that the BPF committee should meet Jenny Crook to discuss.</p>	<b>FB, RAC</b>
7.	<p><b><u>Festival of Nature - BPF stand</u></b></p> <p>The Festival of Nature is taking place on the 12<sup>th</sup> June. FB will be looking for volunteers to cover the BPF stand. FB to send out rota.</p>	<b>FB</b>
8.	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p>	
8.1	<p><b><u>RHS initiative - Community Gardening</u></b></p> <p>For further information, visit Yorkshire in Bloom website.</p>	
8.2	<p><b><u>Bats</u></b></p> <p>RAC to send an email update</p>	
8.3	<p><b><u>City Centre Consultation</u></b></p> <p>FB encouraged forum members to comment online. RAC to send out link.</p>	<b>RAC</b>
8.4	<p><b><u>Tree Forum</u></b></p> <p>HH encouraged BPF members to attend the tree forum meetings. The next meetings will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April, Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June - 18.00-21.00 at the Council House.</p>	
8.5	<p><b><u>Eco Fair</u></b></p>	

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion Points/ Outcomes &amp; Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>
	An Eco Fair is taking place in the centre on May 29th-30 <sup>th</sup> . BPF and Parks and Estates were encouraged to attend.	
8.6	<p><b><u>Play Pathfinders</u></b></p> <p>Path Pathfinders will be holding opening events - Go Play, throughout May.</p>	
9.	<p><b><u>Guided walk of the Netham</u></b></p> <p>After lunch SL led a walk around Netham Park to look at the new Play Area and discuss the management of the park.</p>	
10.	<p><b><u>Date of next meeting</u></b></p> <p>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July, 9.30-12.30. Venue TBC</p>	