



# 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 12 April 2014

### at Windmill Hill City Farm

#### *Attendees*

**SAC - Susan Acton-Campbell** - Friends of Troopers Hill; **RAC - Rob Acton-Campbell** - Friends of Troopers Hill; **JA -Jon Allen-** Callington Rd Nature Reserve; **AB - Alison Bromilow** – RCAS; **CW - Chris Williams** –SMAG; **NC - Nancy Carlton-**Windmill Hill Comm Orchard; **CH/DH-Cheryl & Derek Hawkins-**FOSL,KWAG,SMAG; **SE -Steve England-**Stoke Pk; **LG - Lois Goddard-**Redland Green Community Group; **RF -Richard Fletcher-**BCC; **GH - Gus Hoyt** – BCC Councillor; **ML – Mark Logan** – Snuff Mills Action Group; **ST – Sam Thomson** – FOHC; **MB – Mary Bannerman** – Redcliffe Parade; **BF – Bob Franks** – NSI; **RB – Roland Bruce** – Mina Road; **SP – Sian Parry** – FOBW; **AC – Andre Coutanche** – Malago Valley Conservation Group; **MC – Marie Jo Coutanche** – Malago Valley Conservation Group; **MG – Marian Green** – Malago Valley Conservation Group; **SH – Sue Hart** – FOSP; **LGa – Lucy Gaze** – BNHC; **GB – Gill Brown** – Civic Society; **NG – Neil Green** – Avon Invasive Weeds Forum; **TB – Toni Brown** – Mall Gardens, Clifton; **FB – Fraser Bridgeford** – FOBH; **IH – Ilse Hambrook** – Friends of Easter Garden; **MM – Mellie May** – BCC Tree Pips; **IT – Isobel Tarr** – HighWaterLine; **GD – Gillian Douglas** – BCC.

#### *Apologies*

Pauline Allen; Tessa Fitzjohn - Windmill Hill Planning Group; Jane Cunningham - Walking for Health; Alan Aburrow – Friends of Badock's Wood; Denis and Angela Stuckey – Fo Callington Rd Nature Reserve; Jo Corke – F o St Andrews Park; Tracey Morgan – Bristol Parks

<i>Agenda Item</i>	<i>Discussion Points/ Outcomes &amp; Actions</i>	<i>Actions</i>
1.	<u>Welcome and Introduction</u> Nancy Carlton, Chair BPF	

2	<p><b>Neil Green - Avon Invasive Weeds Project</b></p> <p>Contact Neil or Adrian Pannett at BCC for spraying requirements. Japanese knotweed steering group meets every month with different stakeholders. Neil advised it is against law to take away knotweed without a license. He advised against harvesting for eating due to its prolific ability to flourish, eg in rubbish, compost systems etc.</p> <p>Other problem weed is Himalayan Balsam (HB) one plant can produce 800 seeds. Best to start at top of catchment area and work downstream.</p> <p>Trained 200 operatives across Avon area on do's and dont's of how to deal and treat knotweed &amp; HB. Focusing on invasive species kit for conservation groups working on local watercourses. Only deals with non-native species. Can talk to different groups or literature can be gained direct from Neil. <a href="mailto:neil.green@bristol.gov.uk">neil.green@bristol.gov.uk</a></p> <p>RF confirmed that spraying for Japanese knotweed will continue on all identified sites in council ownership. BCC do not treat on private land but page on BCC website giving advice. See <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/japaneseknotweed">www.bristol.gov.uk/japaneseknotweed</a></p>	
3	<p><b>Lucy Gaze – Festival of Nature Outreach Project</b></p> <p>Work for BNHC. Take festival into local communities to extend demographic scope, for 99 sites of conservation interest throughout city. Introduce local residents to parks and wildlife on their doorstep. Looking to engage BPF groups in this work. Co-ordinated 42 events in 40 days last year, generating 3000 new records of wildlife. Have successfully applied for Lottery funding to continue project for 3 years from 2015. This year will be running for 3 months and includes Bath festival and one at Chew Valley Lake. Further info on individual events on website. <a href="http://www.bnhc.org.uk/festival-of-nature">www.bnhc.org.uk/festival-of-nature</a></p>	
4	<p><b>Mellie May – Bristol Tree PiPS</b></p> <p>Started in November 2013 and involve every primary age children, teaching kids about benefits of trees, and plant trees in planting season. Aim to plant tree for every primary age child, around 37,000, but may not reach that target. Need help of community groups to identify appropriate spaces for tree planting.</p> <p><a href="http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/treepips-update">www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/treepips-update</a></p>	
5	<p><b>Isobel Tarr – High Water Line</b></p> <p>This is a project that creates art to represent scientific data that is enjoyable and visible. Project uses chalk markings on pavements to illustrate flood risks to that area. Want input from local community</p>	

	<p>groups and residents. Idea is to raise and educate communities on flood risks and explore threat to parks and open spaces. Work on mainly implication of tidal flooding. More details on website <a href="http://www.highwaterline.org/">http://www.highwaterline.org/</a></p>	
6	<p><b>Bristol Parks Update (Brief update on structure)</b></p> <p>The latest Parks structure was provided by Tracey Morgan and introduced by ML. The posts are finalised but it is isn't clear when all posts will be filled. Hopefully by end of May. ML set out that it is currently Tracey's Morgan's preference that the parks service is delivered by in-house teams across the Council after current contracts terminate at the end of January 2015. However this is not finalised, there is still work to do and no decisions have been made.</p>	
7	<p><b>Steve England – Engaging Youth at Stoke Park</b></p> <p>Has been analysing ASB among youths, finding that much of it is down to boredom. Has received funding from Neighbourhood Partnership to proactively address problem, for example, working with youths to work on noticeboards, using their own art work. Got them apprentice interviews with Carillion. SE has built good partnerships with local police and schools to engage and educate young people. Has been active in approaching youths with the outcome of the damage they have been creating, and some have then volunteered to help put right the damage. Has sought and received corporate sponsorship to help (eg Tesco provided food for volunteers' day) with costs of activities.</p>	
8	<p><b>Gillian Douglas – Parks Byelaws Update</b></p> <p>Byelaws have been proposed to provide a tool to deal with persistent ASB in parks and open spaces. There was a 14 week public consultation period in which 78% of respondents felt bye-laws would be positive step. Issue would be how to enforce them? Enforcement via a fine would be used as a last resort, as main area around enforcement would be in educating those causing problems. Main mechanism of enforcement would be by police, especially PCSOs. Council officers would also have powers but not as strong as police as would have to work via BCC's own legal services. There will be a half-day scrutiny meeting to test bye-laws, and involvement of BPF will be sought. There has been some alteration to original number of sites proposed to be covered by prospective bye-laws as government advice was that bye-laws should only be for sites where problems are known.</p>	

<p>9</p>	<p><b>Bristol Green Capital</b></p> <p><b>NC</b> – Green Capital Partnership up and running, including statutory bodies, BCC and local businesses. Relying on people in community to be involved with 16 action groups set up. Looking for ideas from park groups, maybe around involvement in trails, that can join up with other areas. Students will be involved in developing apps and then sharing this knowledge.</p> <p><a href="http://www.bristolgreencapital.org">www.bristolgreencapital.org</a></p>	
<p>10</p> <p>10.1</p> <p>10.2</p>	<p><b>Reports from Park Groups &amp; AOB</b></p> <p>Festival of Nature – Volunteers have come forward to man the BPF stand, but more are needed, and if you want leaflets displayed please give to RAC in time for festival on 14/15 June. Walking Festival – brochures and posters are now available.</p> <p>Love Parks Week – will be held in last week of July, idea is to hold a celebration in each park and register on love parks week website. See <a href="http://loveparksweek.org.uk/">http://loveparksweek.org.uk/</a></p> <p><b>If you can't make any meeting but would like your points to be considered please email <a href="mailto:info@bristolparksforum.org.uk">info@bristolparksforum.org.uk</a></b></p> <p><b>Bristol parks Forum – <a href="http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk">www.bristolparksforum.org.uk</a></b></p> <p><b>Date for next meeting Sat 28<sup>th</sup> June -9.30-12.30, Windmill Hill City Farm</b></p>	

--	--	--