



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 October 2013

at Windmill Hill City Farm

Attendees

AB - Alison Bromilow – RCAS; **AC – André Coutanche** – MUCG; **BF - Bob Franks** - Northern Slopes Initiative; **CH - Cheryl Hawkins** - Friends of Stoke Lodge, **CW – Chris Williams** – Snuff Mills Action Group, **DH - Derek Hawkins** - Friends of Stoke Lodge; , **GB - Gill Brown** - Civic Society; **JC - Jo Corke** – Friends of St Andrews Park; **GH - Cllr Gary Hopkins** - Friends of Redcatch Park, **HH – Hugh Holden** – Mina Road Park Group; **JC - Jane Cunningham** - Walking for Health, **LG - Lois Goddard** - Redland Green Community Group, **ML - Mark Logan** - Snuff Mills Action Group, **NC - Nancy Carlton** - Kingfisher Group; **NV – Nicolette Vincent** – Friends of Brandon Hill; **RAC - Rob Acton-Campbell** - Friends of Troopers Hill, **RB - Roland Bruce** - Mina Road Park Group, **SAC - Susan Acton-Campbell** - Friends of Troopers Hill; **WP - Wendy Pollard** - Avon Gardens Trust; **ES - Eileen Stonebridge** – Friends of Old Sneed Park; **DS - Denis Stuckey** – Callington Road Local Nature Reserve; **AS - Angela Stuckey** – Callington Road Local Nature Reserve; **TW – Tony West** – Fo Badocks Wood; **CH - Christine Higgott** – VPAG; **TB - Toni Brown** – West Mall & Caledonia Place, Clifton; **JM - John Mayne** - FOSAP; **MB - Mary Bannerman** - RPEA & Castle Park Users Group; **MC - Marie Jo Coutanche** - Malago Valley Conservation Group, **ST - Sam Thomson** - Friends of Horfield Common; **SP - Sian Parry** - FOBW

GusH - Cllr Gus Hoyt, **PJ – Pam Jones** – Bristol City Council

Apologies

Steve England – SPDG; Diana Porter - Bedminster Down & Uplands Society; Cllr Lesley Alexander – Activate Fishponds

| Agenda Item | Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions | Actions |
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| | <u>Welcome and Introduction</u> | |
| 1. 1.1 | <p><u>Reports from Mayor meeting 5 October</u></p> <p>Nancy Carlton</p> <p>Claire Lowman shared what activities within Public Health she is involved in and encouraged the forum to apply for monies from her 'pot'. Green capital (Alex Minshull) – need to invest in and coordinate volunteers – GH confirmed that a post to do this will be filled within the council. Alex confirmed the Green capital was fundamentally about Bristol being a low carbon city. There would be an opening and closing ceremony, but there is no money available. Will be working with business' as a way to generate additional funds. NC asked all to think about how they can get involved and make suggestions, and in the same way with the Tree PiPs scheme. RE to confirm what the best way is to get involved and make suggestions. NC mentioned that John Grimshaw had proposed greenways as ways to link green spaces.</p> <p>The Mayor said that the council had to look at a whole new way of doing things. He referred to the Neighbourhood Partnerships and that these would be restructuring.</p> | All RE |
| 1.2 | <p>BPF Manifesto</p> <p>RAC introduced the document, which had already been shared with the forum. Explained it showed what the forum believed in and asked that people say if they supported it – all supported or abstained. Includes campaigns to support – green flag/love parks week/no mow/RHS its your neighbourhood. Confirmed to forum that Parks is all accessible green space. Green flag – raised as a question about how we can consider more fairly how resources can be shared across parks. ML commented that community green flag helped to achieve this.</p> <p>PJ mentioned that the manifesto was useful to share as part of soft market testing for the future service.</p> <p>AC asked how the manifesto will make a difference on the ground – NC said they would look at putting an action plan together to follow on from the manifesto</p> | |
| 1.3 | <p>Update from Parks Groups</p> <p>Greenways – NC already covered</p> <p>Stoke Park – ML confirmed management plan ready to review comments and expected to adopt by the end of the month. Said progress is being made despite some controversial issues and positive now. The group now used to give approval for activities on site.</p> <p>TVGs – ML two applications to be considered this month by PROWG committee. Crow Lane recommended for refusal – main reason is as by right use not as of right. Laundry Field – awaiting</p> | |

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| | <p>Voluntary Registration by the HCA ST (FOHC) expressed frustration at further evidence being continually being submitted by BCC</p> <p>Surely this is a waste of BCC funds – Gus Hoyt agreed to look into ML also expressed concerns over the time taken over decision on Footpaths some of which date back to 1998 and 3 that are waiting investigation since 2006. Gus Hoyt agreed to look into</p> | <p>GusH</p> <p>GusH</p> |
| 1.4 | <p>Update from Parks Operations – Pam Jones</p> <p>Budgets – explained that timescales for budget information being available is mid November for the public consultation to start, through to January, and then February for full council to agree final budget. No information at this stage whether any changes will be made to parks budget. Confirmed that parks are discretionary, not statutory.</p> <p>Contracts – confirmed soft market testing being done. At this stage all options being considered for the service, including one contract, several contracts and in house. Hoping to get lots of suggestions from testing about how we can achieve a quality service and cost effectiveness.</p> <p>User Survey – confirmed surveys were being made available to parks users via: on line (BCC web site), twitter, cafes and kiosks, neighbourhood partnerships, neighbourhood engagement officers. Results will be available every 4 weeks and will be shared with BPF. Any other suggestions of ways to get parks users to complete surveys much appreciated.</p> <p>H&S Training – 4 dates are pencilled in for the training, awaiting panel approval for the spend before these can be confirmed. RF to confirm dates when known. RF to confirm whether volunteers whose training was beyond three years ago, would still be insured.</p> | <p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>RF RF</p> |
| 2. | <p>Bye-Laws – Update – Pam Jones</p> <p>Confirmed that the consultation had concluded and all bar four of the reasons for byelaws were going to be put forward (exclusions were ice skating, cricket and model boats which scored the lowest)</p> <p>Next steps were that the Bye Laws request would go to the DCLG. They have to agree our approach prior to us taking it to cabinet. At present cabinet is pencilled in for December but this will depend upon how long it takes the DCLG to communicate their decision back to us.</p> | |
| 3. | <p>Central area Plan and Castle Park – Rob & Hugh http://www.bristol.gov.uk/centralarea</p> <p>RAC presented a slide show with maps demonstrating the various sites proposed for development around Castle Park and the changes in the proposed designation of Important Open Space since the previous version of the document in Feb 2012.</p> <p>It was noted that the consultation closed on 18 October and agreed that BPF should respond.</p> | |

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| | <p>The discussions with the Mayor the previous week were raised and it was noted that although he had appeared to support the retention of the park between the Lloyds building and St Peters church he had said that he didn't want to be boxed in. He had been clear that he thought the Wine St/High St trees should be felled to allow the development to reinstate the old street lines.</p> <p>RAC highlighted that the document also proposed building housing on the park depot site which had been shown as part of the park in the P&GSS maps. He felt this could set a precedent for other park depots.</p> <p>RAC also highlighted the potential for expanding the park at the Ambulance Station, as suggested in the Draft Old Market Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>http://www.oldmarketquarterfuture.org/?page_id=391</p> <p>The area at the NE corner of the park was also highlighted and although it was acknowledged that this was shown as a development site in Feb 12 it was agreed that BPF should call for it to form a gateway to the park.</p> <p>A suggestion was made that the BPF should ask that the existing buildings at the west of the park should be demolished and the park extended to cover the whole area, it was agreed that this would not be viable and the idea was rejected.</p> <p>After extensive discussion it was agreed that the committee should respond on behalf of the BPF with the following agreed in principle (by vote).</p> <p>That the area of Important Green Space should remain as shown in the Feb 2012 document and the St Mary Le Port site should not extend into this area.</p> <p>That the High St / Wine St trees should remain, but if felled should be replaced according to the Bristol trees standards with street trees.</p> <p>That the depot area should not be developed for housing.</p> <p>That the NE site should be used to form an entrance to the park and a green area.</p> <p>That the proposals in the Old Market plan for the ambulance station should be supported.</p> <p>[The BPF response prepared by the committee following the meeting can be seen at: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFResponseCAP.pdf]</p> | |
| 4. | <p>BPF AGM</p> <p>Nancy Carlton having been chair for 2 years confirmed that she would stand again. Fraser Bridgeford having been vice-chair for 3 years was required to stand down but sent his appologies and confirmation that he would like to remain on the committee. All other committee members present confirmed they were will to stand again.</p> <p>The following were duly elected:</p> <p>Chair- Nancy Carlton</p> <p>Vice Chair – Mark Logan</p> <p>Committee – Chris Williams, Fraser Bridgeford, Hugh Holden, Rob Acton-Campbell, Derek Hawkins, Roland Bruce</p> | |

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| | <p>Future Meetings: confirmed as 25 January, 12 April, 28 June and 11 October</p> | |
| 5. | <p><u>AOB</u> WP - Avon Gardens Trust - money available from Park Detectives – park groups with projects should email WP w.a.pollard@gmail.com SAC - Green Volunteers - www.bristolgreenvolsawards.org.uk everyone was urged to vote. HH suggested RAC should get an award, SAC suggested ML AC - Green Capital pledge – AC raised that the BPF had been asked to support this, but he did not feel it should at the moment because it did not appear to relate to green spaces sufficiently. It was agreed to discuss this in more detail at a future meeting. BF – Northern Slopes – Planning Application - 13/04196F - Kingswear/Torpoint/Haldon Close development – proposed development on green space, all urged to object. Agreed that BPF would respond. Wildfest was being held on the Slopes that afternoon, all welcome. CH – Victoria Park Action Group are putting in a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to renovate the lodge in the park and carry out other improvement works in the park.</p> | |
| 6. | <p><u>Date of Next Meeting–</u> Sat 25 January 2014 9.30am To be held at Windmill Hill City Farm</p> | |