



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 13th April 2013 at Windmill Hill City Farm

Attendees

AA - Alan Aburrow - Friends of Badock's Woods, **AB** - Alison Bromilow – RCAS; **BB** – Bob Benton – Redland Green Community Group; **BF** - Bob Franks - Northern Slopes Initiative, **BF** – B Fraser – FOBH, **CH** – Caroline Hollies – Tree team, BCC; **CH** - Cheryl Hawkins - Friends of Stoke Lodge, **CS** – Clive Stevens – BCR NP, **CW** – Chris Williams – Snuff Mills Action Group, **DH** - Derek Hawkins - Friends of Stoke Lodge, **DM** – David Mayer – Save Stoke Lodge Parkland; **DP** - Diana Porter - Bedminster Down & Uplands Society, **EJ** – Emma Jones – Kings Weston Action Group, **ES** - Eileen Stonebridge - Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve, **GB** - Gill Brown - Civic Society, **GH** - Cllr Gary Hopkins - Friends of Redcatch Park, **HH** – Hugh Holden – Mina Road Park Group, **JB** – Janet Brinnand – Friends of Sneyd Park **JC** - Jane Cunningham - Walking for Health, **JM** - John Mayne - Friends of St Andrews Park, **JT** – Julian Thomas – BCC/Friends of Eastwood Farm, **LA** -Lesley Alexander – Activate, **LG** – Lucy Gaze – Bristol Natural History Consortium, **LG** - Lois Goddard - Redland Green Community Group, **MB** - Mary Bannerman - Castle Park User Group, **ML** - Mark Logan - Snuff Mills Action Group, **MM** – Mick Mack – SPAG; **NC** - Nancy Carlton - Kingfisher Group, **PJ** - Pam Jones – Bristol City Council; **RAC** - Rob Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **RB** - Roland Bruce - Mina Road Park Group, **RF** – Richard Fletcher – Bristol City Council, **RM** – Rowan Matthiessen – Discovering Brislington Brook, **SAC** - Susan Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **SB** – Sharon Baker – Bristol in Bloom; **SE** - Steve England - Stoke Park, **SM** – Stephen McCarthy – Canford Park; **SP** – Sian Parry – Friends of Badock's Woods, **TP** – Tom Paine – Love Saves the Day Festival; **WP** - Wendy Pollard - Avon Gardens Trust

Apologies

Andre Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group; Angela Stansbie - Friends of Brandon Hill; Angela Stuckley - Callington Road Nature Reserve; Chris Giles – Avon Wildlife Trust; David Martyn - Kings Weston Action Group; Denis Stuckley - Callington Road Nature Reserve; David Wilcox – Narrowways; George Denford - Witherwood Park; Gus Hoyt – Cabinet Member for Environment and Neighbourhoods; Jon Rogers - Friends of St Andrews Park; Justin Smith – Wildlife Officer, Bristol City Council; Kay Thomson – Friends of Horfield Common; Marie Jo Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group; Matt Postles - Bristol Natural History Consortium; Nicolette Vincent – Friends of Brandon Hill; Pete Clark - Assistant Parks Operations Manager (BCC); Sue Davies – Friends of Redcatch Park; Sue Flint - Friends of South Purdown; Sam Kirwan – VPAG; Sally

Attendees

Shenton – Friends of St George Park; Tracy Morgan – Bristol City Council;

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions	Actions
	<u>Welcome and Introduction</u>	
1.	<u>Reports from Park Groups & AOB</u>	
1.1	<p>Brandon Hill – B Fraser (Friends of Brandon Hill) BF reported that FOBH has been going for 4 years. Undertake regular gardening on Tuesday mornings, with other groups involved, and are able to offer 10 activities for volunteers to get involved in. The group have planted a community orchard and repaired a water feature.</p> <p>In the future there are plans to restore a drinking fountain, undertake work on the historic water fort, provide better signage, and restore the bowling green. Money for projects comes from a variety of sources; commercial, public and private donations.</p>	
1.2	<p>Discovering Brislington Brook – Rowan Matthiessen RM informed the meeting that Brislington Brook is a good example of urban river, mainly open rather than enclosed. Involved in 3 year heritage lottery project to improve the area, as area has been used as dumping ground, been neglected, and few people know about or have visited the site. To turn this around are things like the Young explorers project; involving primary school children in story-telling and activities like bat walks. Other developments include re-discovering the history of the Pilgrims Way, with a walk in fancy dress planned for July, and collecting peoples' memories of the brook.</p> <p>A Friends Group is due to be set up soon with around 10 people involved, and a mini bioblitz will take place on 29 May. The project is also applying for Natural England grant to develop a walkway route.</p>	
1.3	<p>Bristol 99/Festival of Nature 2013 Update – Lucy Gaze, BNHC LG explained that Bristol 99 is an outreach project to run in line with 10th anniversary of festival of nature; the 99 referring to 99 sites of conservation interest. The project is to take the festival to people in all parts of the city, with 31 confirmed wildlife events around city, involving the general public, schools, and local groups.</p>	
1.4	<p>Castle Park, Love Saves the Day – Tom Paine TP explained that festival ran last year for the first time on 3 June. 9000 people turned up to the events which provided 6 stages of music, theatre arts/crafts. Despite bad weather site stood up well to the usage. Left site in good condition but paid for re-seeding some grass.</p> <p>Festival taking place this year over 2 days on 25/26 May and tickets</p>	

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are selling well. TP explained that cycle path will be closed between 22 and 28 May for H & S reasons as will be large cranes etc coming to set up event, so would be too dangerous to keep open. The organisers are advertising that route will be diverted between these dates, though pedestrian access will be kept open as long as possible. TP explained that organisers have placed bond with council for any damage, and will pay £6000 for 2 days hire. In response to the fact that some areas are closed for 5 days but only paying for 2, TP proposed that a 'voluntary' donation from complimentary guests could be used to fund the Normandy veterans garden and the childrens' play area

GH suggested whether it would be better if these donations went to the Friends Group to use as they see fit

TP explained the Kids area would be kept open as long as possible and would be open during event

MB felt communication of event last year was not good. Also felt charge of £6,000 was too low and wanted to see more of a link-up between BPF and Events team.

TP explained that event would benefit the Park and local economy as 20,000 expected to visit the Festival and therefore the Park, and that 35% of tickets sold to those outside Bristol. Also explained that certain start-up discounts were incorporated in the charge, and that organisers would likely have to pay for 5 days were the Festival to run for a 3rd year next year.

2. Events in Parks

RF advised of need to balance need of events users and park users. Policy being developed for event organisers; best sites, fees/bonds, classifications, should be available online soon.

Advisory safety group (SAGE) – meets 10 times a year to consider events applications, consists of various council depts., police, fire, ambulance, Health and Safety Executive, to ensure full safety of events.

3. Workshop – Priorities for Parks – Richard Fletcher

RF introduced workshop with need to plan for having less money to spend on Parks, so consult with BPF to see what is most important to keep spending on, what can we stop doing or change the way we do it. Split into 4 groups.

- i) Traditional/formal parks
- ii) Open/Green Spaces
- iii) Nature Reserves
- iv) City centre spaces/parks

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4.	<p><u>Workshop Feedback</u></p> <p>NC reported that it had been a positive experience, and showed the importance of discussion among park users groups. Main concerns/priorities were H & S, grass cutting, litter, plant maintenance, and toilets.</p> <p>RAC – Priorities were a management plan and the importance of keeping to it. Other priorities were clearing dog mess, litter, and flytipping.</p> <p>RF – Priorities were H & S, play area maintenance, introduction of low maintenance shrubs, increasing income, encouraging community input.</p> <p>PJ – This is first stage of process. Parks not a statutory duty legally, but will endeavour to be proactive in protecting parks</p>	RF
5.	<p><u>Neighbourhood Partnership Review/Role of BPF</u></p> <p>CS talked about the role of NP in getting more decisions taken locally. Concerned that Bristol-wide issues being forgotten as work of NP does not replace work with city-wide bodies. City-wide issues to BPF before going to NP.</p> <p>Issue of play areas being more than 30m from a house. RF stated was a guideline not a policy as such. To be debated at future BPF.</p>	RF
6.	<p><u>Parks Operations Update – Richard Fletcher</u></p> <p>RF updated that Management Plans workshop will take place in June, date to be confirmed. RF asked for feedback on whether people wanted Management Plan or Improvement Plan.</p> <p>RF confirmed that H & S Insurance for volunteers covered by Council’s public liability insurance as long as volunteer and/or leader present during works have attended Council’s H & S course. Covered for 3 years before needing to take refresher course.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Bye-Law Review/Code of Conduct – Pam Jones</u></p> <p>PJ advised that Bye-Law review being run by Anti-Social Behaviour team in conjunction with Police and input from Parks. Currently slow progress as there is need to gather evidence that bye-law needed, so waiting for info from police to get bye-laws in place.</p>	

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	<p>RF confirmed that proposed Bye-Laws will replace old Victorian ones, and will be enforced by Police. Evidence is being gathered from council logging of complaints/issues as well as police data.</p> <p>Code of conduct – no drinking zone now operates in Fishponds park</p>	
8.	<p><u>Tree Planting Plans for Parks – Caroline Hollies</u></p> <p>CH is involved in Tree Bristol planting programme. The Mayor has a policy to plant more trees and wants to plant tree for every school child in Bristol.</p> <p>Tree team are drafting a proposal. There are 31,000 children of primary school age in Bristol, so would take 20 years at current rate of planting to get to this figure. Instead focus is on Education programme in primary schools, to be involved in planting. Would involve Education officer working with schools, a planting plan for school grounds and a specific team to help planting.</p> <p>DM asked what the cost would be?</p> <p>PJ advised that an estimated cost would be passed back to mayor's office asking for the funds as there no funds for this within the current budget</p> <p>HH raised the implication for parks maintenance if having to cut grass around lots of trees.</p> <p>CH advised that the best locations would be sought to lessen as much as possible future maintenance costs, and would work with Friends groups for best place in Parks to locate new trees.</p>	CH
9.	<p><u>National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces</u></p> <p>RB advised that the charity GreenSpace has folded. Despite the loss of support the NFPGS intends to continue. Contacts made through this group have proved useful to keep track of national developments.</p>	
10.	<p><u>AOB</u></p>	
11.	<p><u>Date of Next Meetings–</u> Sat 29th June 9.30am Sat 12th October 9.30am</p> <p>All the above held at Windmill Hill City Farm</p>	