



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 15th October 2011 at Windmill Hill City Farm

Attendees

AB - Alison Bromilow - RCAS, **AD** - Alison Devonshire - Friends of Elderberry, **AStansbie** - Angela Stansbie - Friends of Brandon Hill, **AS** - Angela Stuckley - Callington Road Nature Reserve, **BF** - Bob Franks - Northern Slopes Initiative, **CH** - Cheryl Hawkins - Friends of Stoke Lodge, **CN** - Catherine Newman - Admin Officer (BCC), **CW** - Chris Williams - SMAG, **DH** - Derek Hawkins - Friends of Stoke Lodge, **DM** - Dave Mayer - Save Stoke Lodge Parkland, **DS** - Denis Stuckley - Callington Road Nature Reserve, **EW** - E Watt - Caraboo Community, **FB** - Fraser Bridgeford - Castle Park / Friends of Brandon Hill, **GD** - George Denford - Withywood Park Group, **GH** - Cllr Gary Hopkins - Friends of Redcatch Park, **GT** - Gordon Tucker - Civic Society, **HH** - Hugh Holden (Chair) - Civic Society, **JC** - Jane Cunningham - Walking for Health, **JM** - John Mayne - Friends of St Andrews Park, **JT** - Julian Thomas - Friends of Eastwood Farm, **LG** - Lois Goddard - Redland Green Community Group, **MB** - Mary Bannerman - Castle Park User Group, **MM** - Mike Meecham - Friends of Hebron Burial Ground, **NC** - Nancy Carlton - Kingfisher Group, **PC** - Pete Clark - Assistant Parks Operations Manager (BCC), **PJ** - Pam Jones - Service Manager - Environment & Leisure (BCC), **RAC** - Rob Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **RBevan** - Richard Bevan - Manager, Park Estates, Play, Cemeteries & Crematoria, **RB** - Roland Bruce - Mina Road Park Group, **RS** - Richard Stransom - Parks Operations Manager (BCC), **SAC** - Susan Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **SE** - Steve England - Stoke Park, **SF** - Sue Flint - Friends of South Purdown, **SP** - Sian Parry - Avon Wildlife Trust, **SM** - Sally Masey - Avon Wildlife Trust, **SS** - Sheila Stevens - Bristol in Bloom, **VS** - Viv Showering - Friends of Redcatch Park, **WP** - Wendy Pollard - Avon Gardens Trust

Apologies

AA - Alan Aburrow - Friends of Badock's Woods, **AC** - Andre Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group, **ES** - Eillen Stonebridge - Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve, **GB** - Gill Brown - Civic Society, **JC** - Jo Corke - Friends of St Andrews Park, **JP** - John Purkiss - Friends of Avon New Cut, **LA** - Lesley Alexander - Activate Fishponds, **MC** - Marie Jo Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group, **NV** - Nicolette Vincent - Friends of Brandon Hill, **RF** - Richard Fletcher - AGSP Manager (BCC), **CD** - Cllr Chris Davies - Friends of Redcatch Park, **SD** - Susan Davies - Friends of Redcatch Park,

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions	Actions
1.	<p><u>P&GSS Cross Party Working - update on process</u></p> <p>Cllr Hopkins stated that 17 meetings have been held to date. The Cabinet's report is due to go to Council in November.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Guest Speaker - Cllr Guy Poultney, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods</u></p> <p>Deferred</p>	
3. 3.1 3.1.1	<p><u>Bristol Parks Operations</u></p> <p><u>Introductions to new members of the management team</u></p> <p>Pam Jones introduced herself as the Service Manager for Environment and Leisure. PJ reports to Tracey Morgan and has direct responsibility for Parks Operations (managed by Richard Stransom), Horticultural Services (managed by Richard Ennion), Estates, Play and Cemeteries and Crematoriums (managed by Richard Bevan).</p> <p>PJ has previous experience in managing Waste Services and the Customer Service Centre.</p> <p>Contact details for PJ: telephone number 0117 92 23240, email pamela.jones@bristol.gov.uk</p>	
3.1.2	<p>Richard Stransom introduced himself as the new Parks Operations Manager. RS has recently joined BCC with previous experience in the private sector.</p> <p>RS will be supported by Pete Clark in managing the ground maintenance in the in-house and contract areas.</p> <p>RS explained that his key priority is to ensure that a good quality service is delivered within budget.</p> <p>HH raised concerns that the Education contract is under performing. RS confirmed that the Education team have recently secured a few new contracts but agreed the service needs to be reviewed.</p> <p>Contact details for RS: telephone 0117 35 21492, email richard.stransom@bristol.gov.uk</p>	
3.2	<p><u>Benches</u></p> <p>There was a discussion regarding the maintenance of benches. Street benches are maintained by the Street Cleansing contractor. Park benches are maintained by the Grounds Maintenance in-house team or contractor. The in-house fix-it team will now be responsible for repairs.</p>	
3.3	<p><u>Kiosks in Parks</u></p> <p>Discussed closure of the kiosks in Parks. Cllr GH explained that this is because the Catering contractor, Diamond Catering have gone</p>	

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	into liquidation. The Council are currently looking for new contractors to take on the kiosks.	
3.4	<p><u>Maintenance costs for new equipment</u></p> <p>PJ confirmed that maintenance costs for new equipment needs to be considered and agreed before new equipment is purchased and installed. This will ensure that all assets are maintained to a high standard.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Neighbourhood Engagement Team</u></p> <p>Richard Fletcher will be managing the Neighbourhood Engagement Team and will report to Colleen Bevan.</p> <p>The attachments provide an introduction and overview of the team. The formal recruitment process for Area Environment Officer posts will take place by the end of the year.</p> <p>PJ explained that the Area Environment Officers will be a key point of contact for park user groups and the community. The Area Environment Officers will work closely with other officers within Environment and Leisure to resolve enquiries relating to parks and greens spaces, waste and street scene services.</p> <p>Area Environment Officers will also attend NP meetings to put forward reports that include park groups views.</p> <p>It was noted that people should contact Area Environment Officers for all new enquires but can continue to contact existing officers for specialist enquiries. The Area Park Managers will still have overall management of the parks in their area.</p> <p>SAC stated that the role is working well in the St George NP area.</p>	
5. 5.1	<p><u>Trees and Horticulture</u></p> <p><u>Introduction to the department</u></p> <p>Richard Ennion introduced himself as the Horticultural Services Manager. This team consists of the</p> <p>Nursery at Blaise;</p> <p>Greener Places (TreeBristol, Allotments, Horticultural Improvements and Wild Bristol including the Woodland and Wildlife team, nature conservation , and.</p> <p>Tree Management (including tree and nature conservation advice service to Development Management (Planning)).</p> <p>The team are currently working on a number of projects including the 2014 city bid to the European Green Capital award.</p> <p>The team work closely with the Avon Wildlife Trust with the management of 7 sites and with projects that form part of the Bristol biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	

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	<p>For further information visit Land, trees and wildlife</p> <p>Team contacts</p> <p>Horticultural Services Manager - richard.ennion@bristol.gov.uk</p> <p>Tree Management - Russell Horsey - russell.horsey@bristol.gov.uk</p> <p>Woodland and Wildlife management - Justin Smith - justin.smith@bristol.gov.uk</p> <p>Horticultural Improvements - Teija Ahjokoski - teija.ahjokoski@bristol.gov.uk</p>	
5.2	<p><u>TreeBristol, Big Tree Plant</u></p> <p>RH presented information on TreeBristol and the Big Tree Plant.</p> <p>The team currently run 10 tree planting events each year. Sites are determined by need. Once sites have been identified a replacement planting plan is produced. This ensures that the right trees and planted in the right locations.</p> <p>Due to the work involved, it is therefore, not always possible to replace lost trees in other locations.</p> <p>The team also manage the trees on school grounds and will continue to offer this is service to academy's.</p> <p>Russell Horsey can be contacted to arrange tree planting events at schools.</p> <p>Visit www.treebristol.com for information on the TreeBristol schemes.</p>	
5.3	<p><u>Community Orchards</u></p> <p>It was suggested that the Tree Forum considers possible sites for establishing community orchards.</p>	
6.	<p>Green Spaces and Development</p>	
6.1	<p><u>National Planning Policy Framework</u></p> <p>AB provided update on the National Planning Policy Framework.</p>	
6.2	<p><u>BDF Site Allocations</u></p> <p>The Core Strategy was adopted in June this year. The next stage was to map site allocations but there was a delay with this part of the process. This delayed the AGSP consultation which is now planned take place in January.</p>	
6.3	<p><u>Town Green Consultation and Update</u></p> <p>Whitchurch Green - officially designated as a Town Green.</p> <p>Grove Wood - currently awaiting inspectors report.</p>	
7.	<p><u>AOB</u></p>	

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7.1.1	<u>Stoke Park</u> The acquisition of Stoke Park has been delayed until January. SE raised concerns about the ongoing anti-social behaviour at this site.	
7.1.2	<u>Stoke Lodge</u> Cotham School are the lease holders of Stoke Lodge and manage the site. The trees are maintained by the Natural Environment and are protected by TPO's.	
7.1.3	<u>Castle Park</u> The plans brought forward have been rejected. Cllr Hopkins confirmed that development will not take place as it's not economically viable.	
7.2	<u>Events Update</u> RAC is still working to simplify the events licensing process. RAC is hoping to move forwards with this following the appointment of a new Events Manager. In the meantime, the cost for community events has been fixed at £30.	
7.3	<u>National Federation Conference</u> RB provided an update of the latest National Federation Conference.	
8.	Bristol Parks Forum AGM NC was elected chair. FB was re-elected vice chair. The following members will now form the BPF committee: NC, FB, RAC, AB, RB, HH, MB, AD. This group will continue to meet on a monthly basis.	
9.	<u>Date of next meeting</u> Saturday 14/01/12, 9.30-12.30 Venue - TBC	