



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 16th April 2011 at Windmill Hill City Farm

Attendees

AA - Alan Aburrow - Friends of Badock's Woods, **AB** - Alison Bromilow - RCAS, **AC** - Andre Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group, **AD** - Alison Devonshire - Friends of Elderberry, **BA** - Barry Adams - Lockleaze Voice, **BF** - Bob Franks - Northern Slopes Initiative, **CD** - Cllr Chris Davies - Friends of Redcatch, **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, **DP** - Diane Porter - Bedminster Down and Uplands Society, **DR** - Di Robinson - Service Director - Neighbourhoods and Communities, **ES** - Eillen Stonebridge - Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve, **GB** - Gill Brown - Civic Society, **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, **HW** - Heather Williams - Friends of Hartcliffe Millennium Green, **JC** - Jane Cunningham - Walking for Health Bristol, **JM** - John Mayne - Friends of St Andrews Park, **JT** - Julian Thomas - Friends of Eastwood Farm, **KR** - Kay Ridgewell - Friends of Crow Lane O/S, **LG** - Lois Goddard - Redland Green Community Group, **LA** - Cllr Lesley Alexander - Activate Fishponds, **LB** - Laurie Bingle - Avon Gardens Trust, **MB** - Cllr Mark Bradshaw (Labour), **MCastle** - Margaret Castle - Friends of Netham, **MC** - Marie Jo Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group, **ML** - M Logan - SMAG, **NC** - Nancy Carlton - Kingfisher Group, **NV** - Nicolette Vincent - Friends of Brandon Hill, **PA** - Pauline Allen - Friends of Brandon Hill, **PC** - Pete Clark - Area Park Manager - South & Central (BCC), **RDRB** - Richard Bevan - Manager Parks Estates, Play, Cemeteries and Crematoria (BCC), **RB** - Roland Bruce - Mina Road Park Group, **RAC** - Rob Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **RF** - Richard Fletcher - AGSP Manager (BCC), **SAC** - Susan Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **SD** - Sue Davies - Friends of Redcatch Park, **SM** - Simon Mead - Friends of Muller Road, **SS** - Shelia Stevens - Bristol in Bloom, **VS** - Viv Showering - Friends of Redcatch Park,

Apologies

AStansbie - Angela Stansbie, **DS** - Denis Stuckley - Callington Road Nature Reserve, **FB** - Fraser Bridgeford - Castle Park / Friends of Brandon Hill, **JC** - Jo Corke - Friends of St Andrews Park, **MM** - Mike Meecham - Friends of Hebron Burial Ground, **SF** - Sue Flint - Friends of South Purdown, **SP** - Sian Parry - AWT, **TM** - Tracey Morgan - Service Director - Environment & Leisure (BCC)

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions	Actions
<p>1.</p> <p>1.1</p>	<p><u>Parks and Green Spaces Strategy - Political View</u></p> <p><u>Cllr Lesley Alexander - Representing the Conservative Party</u></p> <p>The Conservative Party supported initial plans based on the belief that low value land i.e. back street/ scrub land was to be sold off, not parkland.</p> <p>The Conservative Party continue to support the PGSS but will not sell off well loved land to fund future improvements.</p> <p>The Conservative Party have concerns that the consultation is flawed and officer recommendations were made without taking into account views of the public.</p> <p>The Conservative Party's estimated budget for the next 20 years is a total of £58 million. This is made up from S106 funding, the new homes bonus, external funding and BCC's budget for Parks.</p> <p>The Conservative Party anticipate that 50% of income from new homes would be reinvested back into Parks.</p> <p>The Conservative Party do not agree with Lib Dem proposals that 3/4 of income would fund maintenance and 1/4 of income would fund improvements. The Conservative Party would allocate 2/3 to the NP's to allow the local community to have more input with decisions.</p> <p>This may encourage local people to volunteer with the maintenance of parks, saving money for improvements.</p> <p>Members of the forum raised concerns as this income will not fund standard maintenance i.e grass cutting but ongoing maintenance costs for new developments i.e. play areas.</p> <p>An objective of the PGSS is to develop housing surrounding parks to increase passive surveillance and reduce ASB behaviour. The forum questioned whether the Conservative Party will adopt this idea. Cllr LA confirmed that the Conservative Party will allow the local people to make such decisions through their NP.</p>	
<p>1.2</p>	<p><u>Cllr Mark Bradshaw - Representing the Labour Party</u></p> <p>The Labour Party set out a strategy in 2008 to protect and improve green spaces that were important to local people. Whilst the Party still agree in principle with the PGSS they would recommend that proposals are put on hold.</p> <p>This would allow the Labour Party the opportunity to review the consultation following public feedback and ensure that advice from advisory bodies such as the AWT and BPF are taken into account. The value of land would also be reassessed before selling.</p> <p>MB also explained the view, shared across the opposition parties, that the consultation process had been flawed and that it had taken a new petition signed by over 7,000 people to get a debate at Full</p>	

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	<p>Council. When consulting on the 2008 proposals, the then Labour Administration has amended significant elements of the original proposals as set out in the document adopted by Cabinet.</p> <p>The forum raised concerns about the cost and time implications of reviewing the process. Cllr MB confirmed that they would only review the sites that are still contentious and would not review sites that have now been withdrawn from the disposal list. Agreed sites for disposal would go ahead providing the Labour Party are confident that the consultation was robust. These sites would then be subject to the planning process.</p> <p>The forum questioned how Labour would fund ongoing maintenance and future improvements for Parks without the PGSS.</p> <p>Cllr MB explained that there is still scope to obtain income from disposals over the next 20 years providing the disposals had been agreed by the local people/ NP's.</p> <p>There is around £20m in S.106 held by BCC, much of this is allocated to specific projects or direct mitigation of development impacts, but Labour would want to ensure that unallocated funds or those which could be linked to green space, would be made available for parks and green space improvements. However, as an opposition party, Labour does not have access to the s.106 accounts and would want to review the details.</p> <p>Labour remains committed to allocating 70% of income from disposals to NPs, as per their original 2008 proposals, and for local people to comment on the priorities for their area. Proceeds from any sales would normally be spent in the same area, but a firm commitment on this would not be possible given the need to ensure all parts of the City gained from the 20 year Strategy - thus an area with no land for disposal would not be starved of investment for its green spaces.</p> <p>A member of the forum questioned whether residents in Knowle West which is currently subject to the Knowle Regeneration Scheme could still influence decisions at NP level. Cllr MB confirmed that they would like to see NP's working consistently across the city including Knowle.</p>	
1.3	<p><u>Cllr Gary Hopkins - Representing the Lib Dem Party</u></p> <p>The Lib Dem Party believe that the PGSS will fund developments and improve the quality of parks by selling off low value land.</p> <p>In recent times the PGSS has made it possible to acquire sites such as Stoke Park and Grove Wood.</p> <p>GH also stated that the Lib Dems are looking transfer Stoke Lodge from Education to Parks.</p> <p>The Lib Dem Party will share the income from disposals across the city. This will ensure that improvements are made in all areas including those where there are no disposals due to lack of green/</p>	

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	<p>open spaces.</p> <p>The Lib Dem Party feel that a review of the PGSS will delay the Core Strategy, Bristol Development Framework and Site Allocations process. This could have a detrimental affect on planning applications/ proposals in the city.</p> <p>Cllr GH confirmed that the Lib Dem Party to not have any immediate plans to sell off land due to the current economy.</p>	
<p>2.</p> <p>2.1</p>	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p><u>Friends of Elderberry Walk</u></p> <p>The Friends of Elderberry Walk requested that BPF support them in getting the site taken off the PGSS list of disposals.</p> <p>This was agreed although some members felt unable to vote due to lack of knowledge.</p>	
<p>2.2</p>	<p><u>Town Green Applications</u></p> <p>BPF have objected to the changes in procedures to Town Green applications. Further details are on the BPF website.</p>	
<p>2.3</p>	<p><u>DDA compliance</u></p> <p>TM has drafted a process that will ensure that the relevant officers and Park Groups are consulted prior to developments in Parks.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Bristol Parks, Park Groups & Neighbourhood Partnerships - Working together?</u></p> <p>DR introduced herself as the Service Director for Neighbourhoods and Communities.</p> <p>DR expressed a commitment to work closely with BPF as part of the NP process.</p> <p>The Brislington Partnership was provided as an example of where NP's are working well. This NP is currently working with local park groups to review improvements that form the AGSP for Brislington.</p> <p>RF will work with Area Coordinators to ensure that key stakeholders are involved in this process in NP's across the city.</p> <p>RF confirmed that the preferred, original deadline for a decision by NPs of June/July for AGSP improvement plans is not practical. At the last round of NP meetings this was made clear. It would be good however to target the following wave of NP meetings in the autumn.</p> <p>DR acknowledged that there is currently a lack of involvement from the wider community. DR explained that there is an aspiration to improve representation by engaging with local people outside of NP forums/ meetings.</p> <p>DR agreed to follow up a number of individual's concerns including</p>	

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	issues with NP boundaries and concerns that NP's could affect park groups influence on decisions regarding parks and green spaces.	
4. 4.1	<p><u>Bristol Parks Reorganisation Update</u></p> <p><u>Manager of Estates, Play and Cems and Crems</u></p> <p>RDRB introduced himself as the manager of Estates, Play and Cems and Crems.</p> <p>RDRB offered to attend future BPF meetings to address any concerns in these areas.</p>	
4.2	<p><u>Park Keepers Questionnaire</u></p> <p>A questionnaire has been produced to obtain park users views on the hours that Park Keepers and other Grounds Maintenance staff should cover. There are no plans to change the overall hours worked but it might be possible to change the time or days that Park Keepers are in parks and it might also be possible to change the timing of visits from other staff, for example litter clearing teams.</p> <p>The questionnaires are available via the links below and should be returned to Tracey Morgan at: tracey.morgan@bristol.gov.uk or Parks & Estates at Colston 33, Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4UA</p> <p>www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/ParkKeepers.doc</p> <p>http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/ParkKeepers.pdf</p>	
5. 5.1	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p><u>National Federation of Parks & Green Spaces</u></p> <p>RB currently attends the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces on a quarterly basis. This is an opportunity to exchange information with other Park Forums and assist other areas in forming Park Forums.</p> <p>RB requested support in engaging with this process.</p> <p><u>Love Parks Week 23-31 July 2011</u></p> <p>Love Parks week is an opportunity to hold events in local parks which can help to encourage usage.</p> <p>For more information visit http://www.loveparksweek.org.uk/</p>	
5.2	<p><u>Parks Events - Permits and Charges</u></p> <p>Workshop sessions have been held with Pete Watts to develop and simplify the rules for events held in Parks.</p> <p>See attached 'Current Rules for Events on Bristol Parks' for further information.</p> <p>There has been an increase in the cost of a permit but RAC</p>	

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	<p>acknowledged that this still offers good value for money as it includes insurance.</p> <p>Currently Parks & Estates do not have control over the decisions made regarding events in Parks. TM is looking into this as it can cause problems.</p>	
5.3	<p><u>Bristol Festival of Nature, BPF stand</u></p> <p>The Bristol Festival of Nature event is taking place on the 18th and 19th June. RAC asked forum members to volunteer to man the BPF stand.</p>	
5.4	<p><u>Tree Forum</u></p> <p>The Tree Forum are currently working towards changing planning laws/ applications.</p> <p>There is an ambition to have Tree Champions in all NP's that can help attain grants for tree planting.</p>	
5.5	<p><u>St Andrews Park</u></p> <p>JM thanked the Parks team and English Landscape for controlling litter problems at St Andrews Park following a busy weekend.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>16th July 2011, 9.30-12.30</p> <p>Venue - TBC</p>	