



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 July 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, **AS** - Angela Stuckley - Callington Road Nature Reserve, **BB** - Ben Barker - Dame Emily Park Project, **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, **DP** - Diane Porter - Bedminster Down and Uplands Society, **DS** - Denis Stuckley - Callington Road Nature Reserve **DSullivan** - David Sullivan - Friends of Elderberry Walk, **ES** - Eillen Stonebridge - Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve, **GB** - Gill Brown - Civic Society, **GD** - George Denford - Witherwood Park Group, **GH** - Cllr Gary Hopkins - Friends of Redcatch Park, **HH** - Hugh Holden (Chair) - Civic Society, **JB** - Julie Boston - Bristol Ramblers, **JM** - John Mayne - Friends of St Andrews Park, **JT** - Julian Thomas - Friends of Eastwood Farm, **LW** - Len Wyatt - Northern Slopes Initiative, **MB** - Mary Bannerman - Castle Park User Group, **MC** - Marie Jo Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group, **MM** - Mike Meecham - Friends of Hebron Burial Ground, **NV** - Nicolette Vincent - Friends of Brandon Hill, **PC** - Pete Clark - Area Park Manager - South & Central (BCC), **PH** - Pat Harrison - Friends of Elderberry, **PS** - Paula Spiers - Wild City Project Officer, **RAC** - Rob Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **RFarmer** - Friends of Okebourne, **RF** - Richard Fletcher - AGSP Manager (BCC), **RS** - Cllr Ron Stone, **SAC** - Susan Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **SF** - Sue Flint - Friends of South Purdown, **SP** - Steve Parry - Friends of St Andrews Park, **TM** - Tracey Morgan - Service Director - Environment & Leisure (BCC), **VS** - Viv Showering - Friends of Redcatch Park, **WP** - Wendy Pollard - Avon Gardens Trust

Apologies

HB - Heather Williams - Friends of Hartcliffe Millennium Green, **FB** - Fraser Bridgeford - Castle Park / Friends of Brandon Hill, **JC** - Jo Corke - Friends of St Andrews Park, **JW** - John Waldron - Redland Green Community Group, **GT** - Gordon Tucker - Civic Society, **LA** - Lesley Alexander - Activate Fishponds, **LG** - Lois Goddard, **PA** - Pauline Allen, **RB** - Roland Bruce - Mina Road Park Group, **SD** - Susan Davies - Friends of Redcatch Park

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions	Actions
<p>1.</p> <p>1.1</p>	<p><u>P&GSS Cross Party Working - update on process</u></p> <p>Currently all parties are meeting on a weekly basis to review the PGSS process. The group are planning to produce a public statement on their progress in September.</p> <p>Cllr RS suggested that the BPF should be involved in agreeing the general principles of the strategy but shouldn't comment on the decision making process for individual sites.</p> <p>HH stated that he agreed with this and was happy with the way in which the group were working together.</p> <p>Cllr RS confirmed that as part of the process the group will be reviewing petitions.</p> <p>The forum also requested that sites that were withdrawn from disposal list are not reviewed again and are protected for the next 20 years.</p> <p>The Avon Wildlife Trust will be invited to a future meeting to discuss SNCI sites.</p>	
<p>2.</p> <p>2.1</p>	<p><u>Proposed Additions to P&GSS Land</u></p> <p>Cllr GH provided an update on the following sites:</p> <p><u>Stoke Park</u></p> <p>BCC are currently liaising with Brandon Trust to finalise the acquisition but at present the timescale for completion is not known.</p>	
<p>2.2</p>	<p><u>Grove Wood</u></p> <p>The Council will consider a Compulsory Purchase Order following a decision on the application for Town Village Green status.</p>	
<p>2.3</p>	<p><u>Stoke Lodge</u></p> <p>There are plans to transfer the management of land from Education to Parks.</p> <p>There is currently an application for town village green status. Cllr GH advised that applying for Town Village Green Status is not necessarily the best course of action as it restricts the future use of the land.</p> <p>There is also a request to issue TPO's on all trees at Stoke Lodge. This will protect them against future developments. However, it is Council policy the TPO's are not put on Council owned trees. The Tree Forum are currently working to resolve this issue.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Castle Park</u></p> <p>The BPF requested that Cllr Simon Cook retracts the statement he made at the Cabot and Clifton East NP meeting that "The improvement of Castle Park is dependent on, and won't happen</p>	

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	<p>without, the development at St Mary le Port" as this is against the principles of the P&GSS.</p> <p>The BPF oppose any developments to Castle Park particularly because the area is deficit of green space (although the NP boundary doesn't truly reflect this).</p> <p>It was also noted that the depot should also considered as part of the park.</p> <p>A few members at the meeting were disappointed that the matter couldn't be discussed in more detail. However, it was decided that a separate meeting would be arranged following plans from the developers.</p>	
<p>4.</p> <p>4.1</p>	<p><u>Wild City Project</u></p> <p>PS gave a presentation on the Wild City Project.</p> <p>It is a 3 year project funded by the Big Lottery and managed by Natural England. The aim of the project is to link communities, particularly people that are less likely/ unable to enjoy natural environment to their local parks and nature reserves.</p> <p>Details of the Wild River Festival were provided along with Wild City maps that show walking trails between the sites.</p> <p>Members of the forum requested more notice about such events.</p>	
<p>5.</p> <p>5.1</p>	<p><u>Bristol Parks Update</u></p> <p><u>Haycuts</u></p> <p>PC apologised that wild flower meadows were cut too early in Badocks Woods and Old Sneed Park and that park groups weren't informed prior to work starting.</p> <p>PC explained that unfortunately the contractor was provided with incorrect dates. The dates will now be reviewed and re-issued to the contractor. It has also been agreed that going forward the contractor will obtain authorisation from the team leader prior to accessing the site.</p> <p>It forum questioned whether this work could be carried out in-house but PC explained that neither the in-house teams or contractors have the necessary tools/ equipment to carry out this work.</p> <p>Northern Slopes commented that they were pleased with the way in which Quadron consulted them with regards to the hay cut.</p>	
<p>5.2</p>	<p><u>Restructure</u></p> <p>The following of appointments have been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Engagement Manager - Richard Fletcher • Parks Grounds Maintenance Manager - Richard Stransom (starting on 25/07/11) 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Parks Grounds Maintenance Manager- Pete Clark • Contract Manager (South & Central) - Chris Hammond • Assistant Contract Manager (South & Central) - Miles Harris • In house Manager (North & East) - Jamie Roberts • Assistant In-house Manager (North & East) - Jerry Cole <p>Within the Neighbourhood Engagement team there will be 9 officers each covering a geographical area. There are plans to have all officers in post by September. The NP Engagement Officers will be the main point of contact for park groups and the link between NP's and Parks.</p> <p>The BPF members were advised to continue to contact existing contacts whilst the new structure is embedded.</p>	
6.	<p><u>AOB</u></p>	
6.1	<p><u>Feedback on Bristol Festival of Nature</u></p> <p>There was a lot of interest in individual park groups and it was suggested that it would be useful to have handouts available. Members were also encouraged to volunteer on the day.</p>	
6.2	<p><u>Town Green Updates</u></p> <p>There was a brief discussion about current Town Green Applications. There is more information available on the BPF website.</p>	
6.3	<p><u>Events Update</u></p> <p>RAC is currently working with TM and the Events team to simplify the events licensing process.</p>	
6.4	<p><u>BDF Core Strategy</u></p> <p>AB provided an update on the Bristol Development Framework. For further information, visit www.bristol.gov.uk/bdf</p>	
6.6	<p><u>Tree Forum/ Tree Champions</u></p> <p>HH explained that more tree champion volunteers are required to protect trees especially street trees.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Date of next meeting - AGM</u></p> <p>Saturday 15th October 2011, 9.30-12.30</p> <p>Venue - TBC</p>	