



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 25th July 2009 AT WINDMILL CITY FARM, BRISTOL

Attendees

AA - Alan Aburrow - Friends of Baddock's Wood, **AB** - Alison Bromilow - RCAS, **AC** - Andre Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group, **CN** - Catherine Newman - Bristol City Council – Admin Officer, **CT** - C Thompson - Friends of Horfield Common, **DEE** - Elizabeth Ellis - Community of Perretts Park, **ES** - Eileen Stonebridges - Friends of Old Sneed Nature Reserve, **FB** - Fraser Bridgeford (Chair) - Castle Park / Friends of Brandon Hill, **GD** - George Denton - Withywood Community Forum, **GH** - Cllr Gary Hopkins - Friends of Redcatch Park, **GT** - Gordon Tucker - Civic Society, **HW** - Heather Williams - Hartcliffe Millennium Green, **JC** - Janet Carr-Hyde - Gores Marshalls, **JR** - John Richfield - Friends of Fox Park, **JT** - Julian Thomas - Bristol City Council - CPK, **LA** - Cllr Lesley Alexander - Activate Fishponds **LG** - Lois Goddard - Redland Green, **MC** - Marie Jo Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group, **MG** - Marion Green - Malago Valley Conservation Group, **MM** - Mike Meechem - Friends of Hebron Burial Ground, **NV** - Nicolette Vincent - Friends of Brandon Hill, **PC** - Peter Crispin - Ashton Vale Heritage Group, **PW** - Peter Wilkinson - Bristol City Council - Park Service Manager, **RB** - Richard Bland - Friends of The Downs, **RAC** - Rob Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **RK** - Raquib Khandker - Bristol City Council - Community Development Officer, **RT** - Ray Thompson - Friends of Horfield Common, **SAC** - Susan Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **SP** - Steve Perry - Friends of St Andrews Park, **VS** - Vi Showering - Friends of Redcatch Park, **WP** - Wendy Pollard - Avon Gardens Trust

Apologies

AS - Angela Stuckley - Callington Road Nature Reserve, **CD** - Christopher Davies - Lord Mayor, **HH** - Hugh Holden - Civic Society, **DS** - Denis Stuckley - Callington Road Nature Reserve, **JP** - John Purkiss - Avon New Cut, **NS** - Nigel Stoneman - Willmott Park Group, **PJ** - Peggie Jennings - Friends of Redcatch Park, **RB** - Ronald Bruce, **RH** - Richard Hall - Friends of Stockwood Open Space, **RH** - Richard Howell - Friends of St Andrews Park, **SM** - Steve Micklewright - Snuff Mills Action Group.

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions	Actions
1.	<p><u>Parks Organisation and Finance Update</u></p>	
1.1	<p>Parks Restructure</p> <p>Richard Mond is leaving BCC to lead Leeds City Council's Parks and Sports Services.</p> <p>PW has now been appointed Service Manager for Parks and Estates. Cemeteries and Crematoriums are now managed within the service. This will offer additional nature conversation opportunities amongst other synergies between the services.</p>	
1.2	<p>Community Park Officers (CPO's)</p> <p>The two vacant CPO's posts have been filled. Jerry Cole will cover the North area and will report to Chris Hammond. Miles Harris joins the team on 3rd August to work in Central Bristol, he will report to Claire Adams and Caroline Hollies when she returns from maternity leave.</p>	
1.3	<p>Community Park Keepers (CPK's)</p> <p>Cllr Hopkins stated that the Lib Dems plan to introduce 9 additional CPK's. There will also be a review of working hours with a view to introducing flexible work patterns that will ensure there is cover during the evening and at weekends.</p> <p>It was noted that if CPK's are expected to work longer hours there will be need to be a review of the depot/mess facilities provided and how these can be accommodated within the parks.</p> <p>There were also comments that CPK's require support and back up from PCSO's to tackle ASB. Cllr Hopkins stated that he plans to improve these relationships and communication channels - contact details and photos of CPK's and PCSO's will be displayed in parks.</p>	
1.4	<p>Woodland and Wildlife Officer (WVO)</p> <p>Justin Smith has been appointed and starts on the 7th September.</p>	
1.5	<p>Apprenticeship Scheme</p> <p>Bristol Parks are in the process of appointing 5 apprentices and are working in partnership with Filton College to design the scheme. One will be funded by Adult and Community Care to make better links between Elderly People's Homes and managing their garden space</p>	
1.6	<p>Budget</p> <p>PW acknowledged that there have been pressures with the budget</p>	

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	<p>in Q1 (April - June). This has principally been a result of the 'one off' costs of the P&GSS team including the impact of postponing the AGSP consultation, and also with BCS joining Parks and new provisional budgets had been uploaded before the end of the financial year and the closure of the BCS accounts. Pressures created, for example, by loss of £135,000 from contracts held by the BCS education team.</p> <p>PW will be discussing the implications of delaying the AGSP consultation with the Infrastructure and Development Board and options for recovering the costs of the P&GSS team.</p> <p>The proposed savings will not effect the Parks Operations budget for grounds maintenance. Savings will be made from a number of budgets including reducing tree management costs - crown lifting work on parkland trees will stop between now and April 2010. This work is currently carried out by our contractors in addition to agreed contract work so will not impact on jobs. PW confirmed that this will not affect tree planting or health and safety related tree maintenance works.</p> <p>PW confirmed that park groups are permitted to remove epicormic/basal growth from trees through voluntary work, providing the Health and Safety training has been completed and risk assessments are in place and importantly the groups have been properly instructed.</p>	
1.7	<p>Green Flag</p> <p>Bristol Parks retained the Green Flag award at The Downs, Troopers Hill, Blaise and Queens Square and gained the award at Ashton Court and St Paul's Park. Ashton Court Estate also achieved a Green Heritage Award, an English Heritage award that recognises excellence for the restoration of historic landscapes.</p> <p>To meet the Local Agreement targets the service will aim to achieve Green Flag awards at The Netham and Hartcliffe Millennium Green next year. Hartcliffe Millennium Green requires lots of work due to nearby construction work in the Bridge Campus and ASB problems.</p> <p>SAC informed the forum that a member of Troppers Hill has the opportunity to publicise Green Flag awards at Trafalgar Square on 4th August between 5am-6am</p>	
1.8	<p>Allotments Strategy</p> <p>The Allotment Strategy is going to cabinet on 30th July. The strategy includes a community food programme to encourage people to grow their own food. As part of the AGSP, open spaces will be identified for allotment use, and this will be part of the wider public consultation</p>	

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	<p>in January. Forum members recognised that this could lead to a loss of open space if the area used for food growing had to be fenced off. PW said the new areas didn't necessarily need to be designated as 'allotments' in the formal sense.</p> <p>PW to find out whether waste land in between Broadwalk, Wellgarth Walk, Wellgarth Road and Kingshill Walk can be used for allotments.</p>	PW
2.	<p><u>Events Organisation - One straightforward process</u></p> <p>It was suggested that a workshop is arranged for the next meeting to discuss the events procedures and processes with Event Officers, Jennifer Crook and Esther Mars. This could also be an opportunity to plan the 2010 Events Programme.</p> <p>The events team are currently working on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplifying the application process for small events • Drawing up an easy to follow flow chart <p>This will detail the procedures that need to be carried out, depending on the nature and size of event. A draft should be ready for discussion at the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing event fees <p>There are plans to change the policy so that park groups don't have to pay fees for events that are organised by park groups to raise money for park improvements. This needs to be agreed by Cabinet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing insurance policy <p>Our Insurance team have advised that most public events held by park groups require £5 million liability cover, which not all park groups can afford. PW suggested that a cost effective option would be for BPF to become a constituted body so that they can take out insurance, possibly with funding support from BCC.</p> <p>PW to discuss this option with BCC's insurance team and feed back at next meeting.</p> <p>Bristol Parks will also review the Health & Safety pack so it can be used for general activities not just conservation work.</p> <p>At the next meeting PW will present a draft proposal for the consultation process for future events in parks.</p> <p>See appendix 1 for further information</p>	<p>BCC</p> <p>PW</p> <p>RH</p> <p>PW</p>
3.	<u>AGSP Consultation Stakeholder Events - Jan-Mar 2010</u>	

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	<p>The AGSP consultation will now start in January 2010 to coincide with the consultation for the Local Development Framework. This date is definite and will go ahead despite any further delays with the LDF.</p> <p>PW has suggested that a conference is held in January to provide an opportunity to discuss all AGSP's with BPF members. January 16th was agreed, venue to be confirmed but Gloucester Cricket Club was suggested. Please forward any other suggestions to Catherine Newman.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Chocolate Factory consultation latest</u></p> <p>Cllr Hopkins explained that the railway path will not be retained for the route of the BRT and explained that 'barriers' have been put in place to prevent future administrations and West of England using it for future transport use.</p> <p>The CF development will be going ahead, which Cllr Hopkins believes to be the right form development. A consultation will be held regarding the options to access the proposed 'cycle houses'. It is not anticipated that the outcome of the consultation will result in a requirement for further planning permission. Further details will be available in around month.</p>	
4.2	<p>Bus Rapid Transit</p> <p>Cllr Hopkins agreed that current BRT proposals are confusing, therefore it has been agreed that BRT will review and provide two potential routes in September - a consultation will follow. Cllr Hopkins couldn't confirm whether the route would affect the Malago and this was not his portfolio.</p>	
4.3	<p>Castle Park Town Green Application</p> <p>The Public Rights of Way and Town Greens committee meet on Monday 3rd August at 2pm. Tuesday 28th July is the deadline for any questions to go to committee and statements by next - Friday 31st July. BPF are requesting that Castle Park is declared a Town Green and any developments take place within the existing footprint.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Introducing our new Community Development Officer (CDO)</u></p> <p>Raquib Khandker introduced himself as the new CDO. RK provided information on the support that Parks can offer BPF - see appendix 2. This support can be reviewed on an ongoing basis and RK would welcome feedback by the next meeting.</p> <p>PW stated there is a need to create a work programme for RK and CN to manage, so as to meet BPF's expectations within the available time resource.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>RK/CN</p>

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	<p>It was commented that there should be press releases for events and activities in parks. PW stated that this is now going to be managed by BCC's new central Marketing and Communications team. Jane Greenaway is currently the first point of contact for all marketing and communication enquires and requests and in future there will be a new system whereby Jane commissions support from the central team. PW said it was not yet clear how it would work, but it could mean parks has a greater resource in the future.</p> <p>PW advised that BPF should consider becoming a community association or similar constituted body and to consider formalising membership to ensure that only BPF members benefit from the support and funding offered by Bristol Parks. Members agreed it was time to consider this important step and FB asked for further information on how this might work.</p>	RK
6.	<p><u>Save our green spaces</u></p> <p>Following a discussion it was agreed that the BPF would formally support this campaign's aims to oppose building on existing green belt in Bristol, but not go further to support the aims of the whole campaign as it was not clear how it might impact in pushing more development into the city including on brown field land. The private members bill proposing legislation to change the designation of gardens from brown field to green field had not been progressed through Parliament. This raises concerns.</p> <p>PC commented on the valuable support BPF can offer local campaigns.</p>	FB
7.	<p><u>Ashton SNCI</u></p> <p>FB has put together a statement that BPF are lodging objection to the planning application to build houses on the SNCI. All members present agreed to support this statement.</p> <p>There was a discussion regarding the planning application for the new football stadium and planning proposals for the old stadium. It was decided that BPF itself would not oppose these planning proposals as it was not clear how the Tesco plans impacted on green space - they were separate applications. However, individuals can register their comments regarding planning applications online or at the planning office in St Georges Road. AB advised that comments should refer to the rules in the Bristol Local Plan and offered assistance.</p> <p>The Bristol Blogger and Ashton Vale Heritage Group provides further information.</p>	

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8.	<p><u>Bristol Development Framework Update</u></p> <p>AB provided an update on the BDF.</p> <p>The Strategic Planning Team are developing the Core Strategy which will replace the Bristol Local Plan.</p> <p>This details developments for Bristol for the next 20 years and includes plans to build 36500 new houses. This number increased from 29000 - 36500 but with no evidence that the Local Authority can accommodate this.</p> <p>The findings from the review of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) have not yet been published so the number of houses Bristol will accommodate is still unconfirmed.</p> <p>Due to the high volume of responses to the Call for Sites programme the consultation process has been delayed until January. Once agreed this will feed into Core Strategy document, identifying which sites will be developed.</p> <p>FB stated that the BDF document is important as it will help BPF object to planning proposals.</p> <p>AB agreed to produce a list of policies that affect parks and green spaces for BPF to review.</p> <p>PW confirmed that Bristol Parks are also providing feedback on the BDF document.</p>	AB
9.	<p><u>Summer and Autumn Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashton Court Summer Fair - 25 - 26th July • Black Cloud, Victoria Park - 25th July • New Cut Walk - 26th July • Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve Training Day - 26th July • Harbour Festival - 1-2nd August • Clearing Malago Valley - 4th August • Balloon Fiesta - 8-9th August • Dame Emily Park - 100th Anniversary Fair - 6th September • Snuff Mills - Owl Prowl and Bat Walk - September (dates available online) 	
10.	<p><u>AOB</u></p>	
10.1	<p>Pedestrians Association</p> <p>NV provided information on the Pedestrian Association. Further information available here: http://www.livingstreets.org.uk/</p>	
10.2	<p>Richard Smith</p> <p>PW informed the BPF members of the sad death of Richard Smith. It</p>	FB

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10.3	<p>was agreed that BPF would send condolences to his wife, Joyce in recognition of the good work he did for parks and green spaces. PW suggested inviting the Friends of Arnos Vale to join BPF.</p> <p>Feedback on Quadron There were comments that there is a general feeling that Quadron maybe over-stretched or re-adjusting. PW to follow up with Julian Cox and Pete Clark.</p> <p>PW welcomed any further feedback and stated that next year Parks would plan for BPF to feed into the quality monitoring process as previously agreed and supported by Quadron. The current paper system would be the new starting point.</p>	PW
11.	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>Saturday 31st October, 9.30-12.30 @ Windmill Hill City Farm</p> <p>NB: This is a workshop style meeting mainly dedicated to planning the 2010 community events programme</p>	