



# 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 28 June 2014

### at Windmill Hill City Farm

#### *Attendees*

**AA – Alan Aburrow** – Friends of Badock Wood; **AC – Andre Coutanche** – Malago Valley Conservation Group; **PA – Pauline Allen** – Friends of Brandon Hill; **RB – Roland Bruce** – Mina Road; **DM – David Martyn** – Kings Weston Action Group; **ES – Eileen Stonebridge** – Friends of Sneyd Park; **DR – Di Robinson** – BCC; **WP – Wendy Pollard** – Avon Gardens Trust; **HH – Hugh Holden** – Mina Road; **NC – Nancy Carlton** – Kingfisher; **BF – Bob Franks** – NSI; **JM – John Mayne** – FSAP; **DM – David Mayer** – SSLP; **ST – Sam Thomson** – Friends of Horfield Common; **MB – Mary Bannerman** – CPUG; **JJ – Julia Jones** – Muller Open Space; **SP – Sian Parry** – FOBW; **CH – Cheryl Hawkins** – FOSC; **DH – Derek Hawkins** – FOSL; **JA – Jon Allen** – Callington Rd LNR; **HW – Heather Williams** – Hartcliffe Millenium Green; **AB – Alison Bromilow** – RCAS; **GB – Gill Brown** – Civic Society; **AD – Alison Devonshire** – FOO; **PH – Pat Harrison** – FOE; **BK – Bev Knott** – WT; **JC – Joe Cunningham**; **CW – Chris Williams** – SMAG; **ML – Mark Logan** – SMAG

#### *Apologies*

Rob Acton-Campbell; Susan Acton-Campbell

<i>Agenda Item</i>	<i>Discussion Points/ Outcomes &amp; Actions</i>	<i>Actions</i>
1.	<b><u>Welcome and Introduction</u></b> Nancy Carlton, Chair BPF	

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### **Neighbourhood Working and Bristol's parks & green spaces**

**TM** – advised report going to cabinet on 1/7/14 re future parks operations/contracts. Proposed cut to Parks of £500,000 in next financial year, with external contracts ending in Jan 15. One proposal is to bring service in-house allowing closer working with Neighbourhood Partnerships (NP), so BCC needs input of park groups into the process and consultation to go through in order to find the right sourcing model

In answer to question from floor **TM** advised there are still some gaps in the staff structure, and names will be given when people are in post.

As external contracts end in Jan 15, there will be consultation through NPs and park groups between September 2014 and Jan 2015.

**DR** – introduced herself and advised she is working closely with **TM** to ensure NPs have their say in the process. Advised there is no dedicated NP money for parks, NP funds are for community as a whole, but important to have discussion within NPs to ensure money that is available is spent where needed, including parks.

**TM** advised that feedback is crucial and that no options or models are off the agenda at this stage, and all views will be considered.

The meeting then split into 3 groups to think around 'How parks can work in the future with less money but more input from the Community', thinking of the following questions:-

- 1) What is priority for parks, are some spaces more important than others?
- 2) What needs to be shared with wider community
- 3) What process will ensure participation in this consultation

After group sessions **RF** chaired a discussion on key points

- 1) As there are 14 NP areas and 49 park groups needs to be serious thought given to which forum is best?
- 2) Nothing should go forward without input from those involved in park groups.
- 3) Need to ensure minimum standards for all green spaces, concern about whether NPs can influence/change park management plans
- 4) NPs must involve park groups – issue raised of how engagement made over housing-owned green spaces.
- 5) People want basic standard, clean, tidy and safe – important

	<p>not to drown people in information.</p> <p>6) Issue of whether environmental sub-groups are working to the fullest extent to achieve things.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p><b><u>Green Capital Update</u></b></p> <p><b>ST</b> – gave update from her work on this project. Looking at different models for advertising green spaces, eg corporate sponsorship, working with Destination Bristol website for coherent links regarding parks. Work with other partners, eg ex-offenders, community groups, grass-roots organisations. All types of groups linking up to promote Green Capital. Opportunities for parks groups to be involved from Oct 14 onwards. Project for interns to look at walking trails on a city-wide level and produce digitised maps. Showcase projects that can be completed with Green capital year are the main focus, depend on match-funding, use of students, voluntary groups, support of UWE etc.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p><b><u>Reports from Park Groups and AOB</u></b></p> <p><b>Tree Forum</b> – Now easier to log issues, and initiate service checks for street trees. Josie Sadler will handle enquiries from hereon (not Richard Ennion).</p> <p><b>Parks and Play Fund</b> - £500k available – no decision yet on where this will be spent, but money can be rolled over into next financial year.</p> <p><b>Castle Park</b></p> <p>Concern from floor that CP should not be used for private commercial event as it denied access to public for a commercial event. There were also concerns that event organisers should be made to pay higher bonds to offset potential damage and/or have more robust conditions laid out in contract with regards to ground protection. Also frustration that re-instatement works have been delayed and not undertaken immediately.</p> <p><b>RF</b> responded that issues were complex and that Parks would look to learn lessons from damage caused by Love Saves the Day. Will need to look at scale of event that CP can handle, and whether in future more hands on management of event by BCC is possible, though this would be resource heavy. Advised that measures were</p>	

	<p>put in place to mitigate worst effect of damage immediately, such as removing mud from footpaths. The issue of reinstatement was not straightforward considering the fact rain continued in immediate period after festival, so needed dry spell, plus negotiations with event organisers that were required. Furthermore was the prospect of two more events in July booked for CP; Pride and Harbourside festival, though the latter has just recently been moved to College Green. There is also the issue of a major investment planned for CP as a whole to the tune of £500k so careful consideration needed to be given as to which sections were to be given priority in terms of reinstatement. RF further advised that lessons have been learned for future, in particular on the level of bond required and greater emphasis on ground protection measures by event organisers. RF further stated that sections of CP were now being reinstated by the council's own landscape team.</p> <p>A question was asked regarding why insurance was not taken out, to which <b>TM</b> responded that this had been looked into, but that you cannot insure the park against potential damage from soft ground, hence the placing of bonds by event organisers.</p>	
5	<p><b><u>Networking Session</u></b> Meeting split into session for attendees to share ideas, best practice and experiences.</p>	
6	<p><b>If you can't make any meeting but would like your points to be considered please email <a href="mailto:info@bristolparksforum.org.uk">info@bristolparksforum.org.uk</a></b></p> <p><b>Bristol parks Forum – <a href="http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk">www.bristolparksforum.org.uk</a></b></p> <p><b>Date for next meeting Sat 11 October -9.30-12.30, Windmill Hill City Farm</b></p>	