



# Bristol Parks Forum

representing resident led  
park groups and citywide organisations  
involved in protecting and improving  
Bristol's green spaces

## **Stoke Park – Proposed Acquisition by Bristol City Council**

### **Statement to the Cabinet Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

This statement has been agreed by the Bristol Parks Forum Committee following consultation with our members by email.

***Bristol Parks Forum supports the acquisition of Stoke Park by Bristol City Council.***

Management of this important green space must ensure adequate public access while preserving the historic landscape and protecting the site's wildlife. Bristol Parks Forum agrees that Bristol Parks are best placed to manage Stoke Park to meet these aims. We particularly welcome the ideas for sustainable land management and the 10 year vision for the park set out in the report by the Parks Service Manager.

While the forum has complete confidence in Bristol Parks, our experience with nearby South Purdown and other spaces in Bristol has shown that Councillors and officers in other Council Departments do not always appear to see the true value of Bristol's green spaces. We therefore support the Avon Wildlife Trust's view that appropriate covenants must be placed on the land to ensure that the integrity of the Estate is not compromised in the future.

The forum also notes the comments by the Parks Service Manager regarding the need for additional ongoing funding for the effective maintenance of the Stoke Park. This additional funding must be over and above the increases in grounds maintenance funding already envisaged by the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy. Cabinet should state its commitment to provide this additional funding if the acquisition is to proceed.

The forum would welcome an opportunity to be part of discussions with Bristol Parks and others to agree a long term funding strategy for Stoke Park to ensure that the best value is obtained from the endowment and to minimise any impact on funding streams available for other parks.

Bristol Parks Forum Committee on behalf of the forum  
24 February 2009

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## **Bristol Parks Forum**

Bristol Parks Forum was established by Bristol Parks as an umbrella organisation for community park groups and organisations in the city with an interest in their local parks and green spaces.

The forum is supported by Bristol City Council but acts independently and is the only 'community voice' that is dedicated to all of Bristol's green spaces. The forum's three main roles are to:

- offer an opportunity to share ideas and experience
- act as a consultation body for the Bristol Parks service and other agencies
- influence decision-making, including the allocation of resources

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[www.bristolparksforum.org.uk](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk)