



Bristol Parks Forum

*Campaigning to protect and enhance all public green space
in the City of Bristol.*

See our Vision for Parks & Green Spaces at

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/vision

Dear Bristol Temple Quarter Development Team.

CONSULTATION ON BRISTOL TEMPLE QUARTER DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – JANUARY 2023

The Bristol Parks Forum is writing to respond to the above consultation.

The Bristol Parks Forum is the only community voice dedicated to all publicly owned parks and green spaces in Bristol. We work with Bristol City Council to ensure our spaces are well looked after and to help local groups to enhance their green space. Further information about the Forum can be found at <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/>

Our Approach

Our response to the consultation has been driven by the following considerations.

- 1) Increased importance of parks and green spaces to people and wildlife
- 2) Increased recognition of the health and well-being benefits of parks and green spaces.
- 3) Declarations of climate and ecological emergencies by the City Council
- 4) Recognition that in some areas the lack of green space, or the increased use of existing parks and green spaces has, and will increasingly have, a negative effect on the health and well-being of our City and its inhabitants.
- 5) There is a need to ensure that developments contribute to sustainable communities, with a full range of services and facilities in support of new homes. Services in this context can include new parks and green spaces.

The importance of parks and green spaces, is now better understood than ever. Publicly accessible parks and green spaces are critically important in times such as during the Covid-19 pandemic when they were used by many people to improve their health and well-being. These areas are also important for their role in providing areas which can be used for activities such as play,

nature education, foraging for food, running, walking, walking the dog, socialising and learning new skills etc.

Our response:

We are responding on two sections - the 'Overview of the Development Framework and guiding principles' and 'St Philip's Marsh'.

We are calling, in addition to improving existing parks and to providing pocket parks/play spaces within developments; for an additional large green space to be established at the eastern end of St Phillips Marsh. We wish to see all of these spaces provide a range of opportunities for activities for future residents.

The provision of parks and green spaces accessible to only certain types of tenants/owners must be avoided.

We believe of all the areas covered by the Framework that the St Phillips Marsh area provides the best opportunity to provide a park/green space which provides a substantial positive contribution to people's health and well-being. We note that there is mention of a green space in the North West part of the area, but it is not clear what this is.

Overview of the Development Framework and guiding principles:

It is clear that there will be a huge increase in the number of residents living in this area, and in surrounding areas such as along the A4 Bath Road.

We note your statement that 'Only approximately 2% of the development framework area is currently designated for open space' and agree that 'There is an opportunity for investment in public realm and green infrastructure to enhance city life and support new neighbourhoods.'

Natural England have recently published new standards for green space, see <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Home.aspx> we believe these standards should be applied and written into the Development Framework. Note these standards set out minimum sizes for spaces.

Pocket parks and greening of streets should be included, but it is also necessary to have green spaces that are large enough for people to feel they are escaping from the pressures of urban life.

We welcome your commitment to 'Quality Spaces' as Item 4 of your Guiding Principles and your aim to 'and boost green spaces and nature'. It is also important that these spaces are connected and form a green infrastructure grid to support both the movement of people and wildlife between green spaces. Isolated green spaces will not fully achieve their potential for wildlife. The River Avon and the Feeder Canal form important wildlife corridors, these must be protected and linked to other green spaces in the area.

St Philip's Marsh:

We fully agree with the following:

'Sparke Evans Park, the River Avon and Feeder Canal corridors are significant green spaces and ecological assets which could all be improved. They are aspects of the character and identity of the area; however, there is little green space elsewhere. High-quality public spaces would make getting around by foot or by bike easy and safe, while public green spaces would support community health, wellbeing and access to nature.'

We believe that given the proposed number of residents in the area, and the number of existing and proposed residents along the A4 Bath Road with access to Sparke Evans Park, there will be a need for a second larger park in the area.

We therefore call for a large green space to be established at the eastern side of St Phillips Marsh and for space for this to be designated in the St Philip's Marsh Development Framework.

This should be included as a 'Key Open Space' under 'Parks and Landscapes' in addition to the Avon Greenway and Sparke Evans Park. This space could be adjacent to the River Avon at the western end of the footbridge to Temple Island between Albert Road and the river, this would then give a green space which is also accessible from Temple Island.

We are pleased to see your principals for open space and green infrastructure, and the prominence you give to nature and biodiversity in this section. We agree that 'Streets and open spaces present opportunities for native planting including wildflowers, grassland and trees'. There should be an additional statement here on the importance of these spaces being linked.

Sparke Evans Park

We are pleased to see this listed as a key green space. It is important that the whole of the park is retained. Options for providing access at its north-eastern corner should be explored, particularly if the current Karcher Center site is redeveloped.

This letter has been copied to:

Cllr Ellie King, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities and Bristol One City; and
Cllr Nicola Beech, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Resilience and Floods

Yours sincerely,

Len Wyatt
Chair
For Bristol Parks Forum
8 March 2023