



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 Development Management Team.

19/02675/F Land North of Junction of Gas Lane with Freestone Road, Bristol – response from Bristol Parks Forum.

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

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 application 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 wish to raise two points of objection to the application:

Access to Green Space:

In the details provided with the application, it is clear that residents will be expected to use either the public realm provided in the development or Dings Park.

We believe that there is not sufficient provision of natural green space within the development so that the health and well-being benefits that green space can provide to people and wildlife will be realised.

We believe the development should include natural green space within its boundary.

If it cannot not, not only should the development provide finance for the nearby Dings Park to be enhanced, but we ask that the developers should also provide money for a new large park in the St Phillips Marsh area.

The reason for this approach is that the Dings is a relatively small park in an area where similar green spaces are not readily available to existing and future residents. This has been pointed out in the recent Temple Quarter Framework Consultation. Our view is that it would be unreasonable to expect the Dings to support resident's health and well-being in area which is going to experience very significant increases in its population due to development.

Overshadowing:

We note that overshadowing is reported in the Design and Access statement for March and June. We ask that similar information be provided for an autumn and winter month as well.

There is a risk that overshadowing could affect the enjoyment and health and well-being of the Dings Park, by making the park seem darker, less inviting and more constrained visually especially in the winter months.

Yours sincerely,

Len Wyatt
Chair

For Bristol Parks Forum
15 March 2023