



Bristol Parks Forum

Minutes of meeting 8th April 2017

Ashton Court

Attendance: Over 25 people representing over 20 parks and other groups

BPF Committee: Fraser Bridgeford, Hugh Holden, Mark Logan, Siân Parry

BCC: Richard Fletcher, Richard Ennion, Becky Belfin

Notes taken by Alison/Siân

Matters Arising/Outstanding Actions

- **Meeting with Gemma Dando:** Rob and Frasier met with RE/RF before Forum meeting
- **Volunteer Strategy:** when will it be implemented ? **Action: BB**
- **NFPGS:** Funding needed to implement a SW forum
- **Bye laws:** being implemented 28th April

1. Cost Neutral Parks- Richard Ennion

£400k for Stoke Park Lottery Bid phase 1; Stage 2 bid, £3m if successful. Cumulative savings: £425k, £632k, £2.9m over next 3 years

BCC looking at business opportunities, commercial potential and further maintenance efficiencies although close to the bone now.

Alternative parks delivery, possibly via trust model e.g. through Nat Trust, Sheffield, Newcastle examples.

18 months to assess feasibility but savings also needed this year (£425k).

Engagement plan led by Mayor, city-wide conversations May/June leading to formal consultation later in year. BPF welcome to jointly host meeting/workshop etc with Parks.

Action: BPF Committee to discuss involvement

Questions /Concerns

P&GSS review, land disposal in Knowle West, money taken, cannot trust council.

Commercial potential cover -sales? Not currently. Activities: commensurate with parks activities. Advertising: Parks without groups at risk.

When does parks money stop? April 2019

What is Council's vision for parks after that? Too soon to say.

Value of parks must be included, e.g. health and well-being, providing service to health service and pollution offsetting, need health to pay towards service. Public Health budget used in Newcastle, is this legitimate? BCC investigating all avenues. Sports development work under Public Health already- a separate consultation lead by the Mayor.

Scoping ideas, reviewing sites and services for commercial benefit.

Sports team (under Public Health) soon consulting on Playing Pitch strategy,

Allotment income, where is it going? Officer reduction to 1/2 officer, very small admin costs. Part of Parks budget.

Level of impact of any e.g. commercial opportunities.

Savings for this year? Have a plan, restructure and review Sept 2016 Gemma Dando. £425K includes additional s106 draw down from central pot, which was set aside for maintenance; car parking income, concessions and catering, play and access fund. Currently on target for this financial year.

Income from larger parks shared across all parks, subsidise smaller parks.

Plan needed on how to work together on e.g. benches Redland Green example.

Action- BCC to feed back to Alison/ BCC to produce mechanism to help parks groups implement local initiatives.

Becky Belfin. Barriers to achieving? In volunteer questionnaire.

Downs committee have the right to retain funding income from events on Downs.

Large estates, business plans being developed to generate income, e.g. Go Ape, concession in Aston Court.

Need professional garden centre manager if Blaise Nursery becomes commercial, investment needed.

Scrutiny paper 24th April meeting shows long list of ideas, see

<https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=149&MIId=375&Ver=4>

Action: Parks groups to feed back if any ideas/information.

Capital projects: CIL/S106 plugging gap. Proposals to change way CIL is allocated across city, Aug/Sept for details. CIL to be signed off by councillors. 85% central pot, none goes to parks, 15% to be locally allocated, so keep in touch with local councillors.

Action: Richard Fletcher to give update for website

2. MUGA Removal

RF updated the Forum about this issue in Horfield. Local comments were that BCC didn't listen to residents.

3. Cycle Routes: David (VPAG), Len (NSI)

VPAG, revised. Forward together liaising with Cycling Ambition Fund. Issues re lighting and eco impacts.

Northern Slopes, a Nature reserve rather than park. Still trying to negotiate, but in a group with cycling, equality, walking and parks representatives.

Width of route proposed, currently 4m in NS, 3m in VP

NSI had mentioned that Slopes should be "destination" not just through route; and Bristol Cycle Campaign had used the word "experience".

BPF has already raised concerns about cycling in parks in June 2016, no priorities given or strategic view.

Action: BCC to produce strategic view/priorities

Consultation in May, planning apps in June.

4. Walking Alliance: Carew Reynell

Alliance running for 18 months, streets and pavement focus; BCC walking strategy input.

Conscious of P&GSS and want to link with BPF and keep in the loop/ support representations which overlap with their agenda.

Action: BPF to keep Alliance in the loop where common agendas occur

5. Parks and Trees: Chris Wallace

Data projects drawing information on all trees in Bristol together. See Trees of Bristol www.bristoltrees.space website. Software for putting pins on maps by postcode. RE suggested other data which could be added, tree sponsorship, tree canopy and TPO. Girth can show veteran trees.

Action: RE to liaise with Chris on tree sponsorship, canopy and TPO data.

6. Parkwork: Fraser.

Brandon Hill and Eastville Park has regular work groups funded by local NPs. Team starting to fill up with people who are stuck on it, so need to make difficult decisions. Funding for Joe's post until 2018. Group available to do individual projects. Meeting with Edinburgh charity to talk about taking on Parkwork.

Action: Parks Gps to contact Joe re individual projects. Frasier/Joe meeting Edinburgh charity to discuss future opportunities

7. Festival of Nature: BPF.

Volunteers needed 10th and 11th June, rota volunteer, can we collect donations on stall? BPF need funds to pay for stall, meeting rooms etc. Suggested campaigning stance at the event, e.g. petition for BPF.

Action: Vols needed to staff stall- Groups to volunteer; BPF to decide on whether to run campaign. BPF to discuss fund-raising for meeting costs, etc

8. Any Other Business

Tennis court consultation update. Proposal LTA and sports devt team, under health, 6 to 3, business plan this month, to BCC for bid to LTA. Appoint tennis court operator, members and day charges. No public consultation. Cricket pitches appeared without consultation. Sports devt work in our parks but don't consult. Hidden consultation, users only surveyed in Canford. Officer denies survey?

Tents in parks. Byelaws cover sleeping overnight. Process for rough sleepers already in place. Parks team do first approach through St Mungos. Try to move them on. If not, prioritise cases with ASB, reported to St Mungos for accelerated process, Richard Hawkridge. Public space protection orders usable.

Highways tree maintenance budget. Cut by 80%, H&S only being done. What happens if tree pollarding is not done? Impacts being reported via political process.

Bin emptying in parks. Restructure Autumn 2016, litter and waste in parks. Lost some members of the team, and no seasonals. 20 members down. 5/7 days working. Shift of 8 hours. RF trying to resource via other teams with litter a priority.

Non –attendance of Cabinet lead Cllr Craig.

Action: BPF agreed letter to be sent to her to express disappointment about her non-attendance. The letter would also express support for Parks officers and invite Cllr Craig to the next meeting. Agreed to distribute a draft and ask for support from Groups. Groups to send copy to their local councillors.

(Note, minutes updated with minor corrections 3rd May 2017)