



Bristol Parks Forum

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

Bristol Parks Forum: Minutes 10th October 2015

Attendance: Susan and Rob Acton-Campbell FOTH; Diane Jones FOSGP; Maxine Williams FOGSP; Alison Bromilow RCAS; Mark Logan SMAG; Andre and Marie-Jo Coutanche MVAG; Jo Corke & John Mayne FOSAP; John Waldron RGCG; Julie Hart RCAS; Tricia Roweth RCAS; Emma Jones KWAG; Wendy Pollard AGT; Gill Brown CS; Hugh Holden MRPG; Roland Bruce MRPG; Bob Franks NSI; Tom Brown MGRA; Robert Westlake FODAG; Sam Worth and Derek Hughes FRANCS; Jon Allen FOCSR; Simon Cawley FOBB; Sam Thomson FOHC; David Smith VPAG; Stephen Wicklow Sylvia Crowe Park; Sian Parry FOBW (minutes)

[If you were present but did not complete the attendance sheet and are not listed above, please let us know]

BCC: Daniella Radice Cllr/ Assistant Mayor; Richard Fletcher Area Manager Central and East; Clive Smith Area Manager South/Tom Penn Area Client and Operational Co-ordinator South.

Apologies: Victoria Holden

1. Venue

Mark commented that as the WHCF car park is going, the Committee will look at other locations for the Forum. Someone suggested the Create Centre.

Action: Committee to look at alternative venue.

2. Park Hive app- Sam/ David

For details, see www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/parkhive

Sam made the following points:

- Parkhive has been cited by the EU as a 'good example' and lots of other areas are enquiring about it.
- 16th November- there will be a presentation at the Bower Ashton campus in celebration of the project.
- Students are available to do wildlife related work placement projects, but will need support and input. **Contact Sam if interested.**
- Campaign for statutory funding for parks, asking for evidence review

David talked about funding for individual projects.

- An app was developed for Friends of Avon Gorge and Downs, it cost £400 plus ongoing IT support, about £200 pa max. Positive feedback from Gp.
- He's also running training in October (15th and 20th) on making apps, and marketing and promoting parks. Get in touch if anyone's interested. Victoria Park Action Group sold postcards at Windmill Hill Art Trail, calendars can also be made, approx £2.50 per calendar (team-calendars.co.uk). if any produced by Parks Gps, the TIO would be interested in selling them.

Action: Sam/David Parkhive process to be written up and disseminated

Action Sam to email people attending first course.

3. Park Works

Fraser/Joe updated the Forum on progress, see presentation:

<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/ParkWorkBPFmtg101015.pdf>

Their key points following questions were as follows:

- One of the most successful projects nationally- good feedback from NESTA (funders)
- £50k funding remains until April 2016, £27k work done, £9k income from agencies. Need more time to explore other income. Work undertaken equivalent to 2 FTEs, looking for BCC to fund shortfall for April 16/17.
- Park Works have fundraising support Parks Gps can tap into to help with income generation.
- What is their role compared with TCV ? TCV focus on more specialist complex projects e.g. stepbuilding which might take several days/weeks to complete but Joe is liaising closely with them. Joe can discuss costs etc if any Gp needs a quote but approx £250 per day negotiable !
- Treepit planting plans/stumps- Park Works can look at this suggestion.
- Park Works starting conversation with property management companies to keep funding stream going.
- Groups not successful nationally had organisational , subsidy and revenue problems.
- Contact details for Joe joe.mckenna@bristol.gov.uk or via BPF website- please support as it's a Forum project !

Action: Fraser/Joe to send out a list of possible works/costs for clarification to Gps.

4. Events- Victoria Holden

She is ill but will come to a future meeting. Her plan is to put together a procedure/costs for events in parks to 'bust myths' and also to improve web presence on website. Queries were raised and responded to by Richard Fletcher /Tom Penn as follows:

- Costs dependent on event/income stream/whether its commercially viable.
- Contact details needed for events team especially if staff member off sick etc. The team is 1.5 FTE and their role is to focus on larger events. They need to see any paperwork by applicant at least 6 weeks before event.
- Redland May Fair and Balloon Fiesta being watched from e.g. Troopers Hill were raised as issues of concern.

Action: Richard/Tom to pass concerns to Victoria.

5. Byelaws: Richard Fletcher

Richard presented the information which was going to Scrutiny 16th Oct and onto Cabinet on 15th Dec. 24 byelaws in total. If FC adopt them, there will be consultation on designated areas proposed between Jan-Mar 2016. The basic remit is to allow people to do most things. Secretary of State will hopefully confirm by summer for final implementation. Enforcement will be done by BCC in conjunction with the police. BCC have agreed PCSOs/Parks officers will be frontline. BCC legal team will pursue issues as necessary. Queries were raised as follows:

- Are drones covered ? yes, under model aircraft
- Who to deal with regarding people camping/living on Horfield Common ? Report to police/BCC.
- Flytipping ? is this covered ? Byelaws aren't used if other legislation exists.
- Consultation on designation of areas ? BCC can change depending on requirements. Byelaws to be used proportionately.
- What is the rationale for the byelaws to only apply to 50% of green spaces ? Those chosen are based on evidence eg nuisance behaviours etc. what is the definition of this ? Dogs, drinking , drugtaking. Report to police in first instance and calls will be recorded.
- Do they apply to TVGs ? yes, does not exclude site from being included
- Why are fires listed in 2 columns ? Because fires in the form of BBQs can have designated areas and fires in general are permitted only with consent.

6. VPAG- Fundraising: David

David talked through fundraising ideas they'd used e.g. Bristol Bad Film Club; monthly donations (£3 by DD) with subs on joining. Wider discussion ensued re subs and Mark said the Committee would look at a BPF policy on this given the wider context.

Action: Committee to discuss and bring to next meeting.

Other Gps suggested ways they'd used to raise money: wildlife walks, ceilidhs, music festival, art in the park, local businesses to fund trees online, junior wildlife club, café, gardening every week, dog shows, art club donations etc. Some points made included that it was difficult to cover cost of event with donations.

7. Clive Smith Area Manager Parks and Caretaking/Tom Penn: Parks Maintenance Update

Clive introduced this item and said that they were now using more seasonal and less permanent staff. There have been some glitches with equipment, particularly in the South but complaints have not gone up dramatically, although there have been some comments about changes in the grass cutting regime. They've tried to adjust this.

Tom talked about the consultation over the summer which asked people what their priorities were. There were 21 responses in South: he's still attending NPs to discuss changes.

Queries were asked as follows:

- What's happening about event management/liaison ? There is always close liaison before and after events. BCC have extra bins to be used as necessary. Gp should deal with waste as best they can.
- What about other management apart from grass cutting ? BCC are trying to address this, with mixed success. Let Clive know if any issues still need addressing.
- What about Nature Reserves ? No work is done regarding woodland, streams, ponds, footpath etc. There has been ongoing neglect in the South. Other Gps have also found that standards in the South have slipped. BCC are catching up and need to get the right resources in place.
- What are the roles of different agencies ?
- What is the requirement on BCC to deliver an agreed management plan in a nature reserve ? Richard's view was that BCC should follow their commitment to actions in a MP.

8. Special Announcement !

Fraser made a presentation to Hugh Holden for his 13 years sterling work on the BPF committee. However, he's now changed his mind given the news that BCC were going to look at allowing volunteers to use power tools.

Action: Committee to report on use of power tools at the next meeting

9. AGM

Mark introduced the AGM and asked for Gp achievements to be reported to him by end October so that he could produce a short formal report.

Elections: current postholders proposed and seconded- Agreed by all.

Committee to have 6 weekly meeting cycle.

10. AOB

Cumberland Basin- Stephen Wickham. He described the current situation and the sensitivities and proposed developments in the area. He proposed a Friends Gp and this was accepted providing links were made with existing gps in the area.

LNR status- what happened to expressions of interest from April ?

Action: Committee to chase Richard Ennion for update.

Tracey Morgan's role, what's happening with permanent post ? Tracey has moved to Waste and Simon's off sick. Di Robinson's interim SD. BPF were concerned that the post may be deleted under proposed cuts.

Action: Agreed that BPF should write to Daniella Radice raising concerns.

Bristol Parks Forum

**www.bristolparksforum.org.uk
info@bristolparksforum.org.uk**