



Bristol Parks Forum

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

Bristol Parks Forum: 14th October 2017

Attendance: Over 40 people representing 28 parks and other groups

BPF Committee: Rob Acton-Campbell, Hugh Holden, Mark Logan, Siân Parry

BCC: Richard Fletcher, Becky Belfin, Apologies: Cllr Asher Craig, Gemma Dando

Notes: taken by Siân

1. Matters Arising/Outstanding Actions

- Committee met with AC/GD
- Gary Hopkins- query re capital spending freeze for parks hadn't been responded to:
Action RF

2. BPF

Petition- submitted for 14/11/17 FC meeting as met figure for submission.

Actions:

- Friends' groups to inform their local councillors, submit statements and questions and attend meeting.
- Committee to circulate draft statement by early November.

3. Volunteer Strategy

Becky introduced the volunteer strategy she'd been working on (presentation available on website). 66 groups responded to the questionnaire with a 21% response rate. A 'Can Do Bristol' web platform is to be set up for recruitment purposes.

The insurance issue which had cropped up recently was linked to Bristol Waste's work with volunteers signing a waiver, as it's a separate insurance to Parks. Issues raised by BPF included age categories affected, supervision, other groups with their own insurance doing work in Parks, different types of insurance for different people. Becky emphasised there was no change but groups still needed to have H&S training.

Regarding power tools training, few people had responded but Becky was setting up dates in November for battery operated tools training so groups to let Becky know if they needed training. Hugh offered to lead on training for Parks.

Actions

- Becky to work on changes to insurance paperwork and procedure as necessary and feedback to BPF.
- Becky to send out existing documentation.
- Becky developing action plan for strategy.
- Friends' groups to inform Becky if they want power tools training- possibly early Nov.
- Becky to follow up HH offer of leading training with RE.

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/Volunteering141017.pdf

4. ParkWork

Joe McKenna gave an update (presentation available). There are no monies available from agencies so they work as a contractor with a daily fee rate. Joe is now a permanent employee and is funded by BCC. Now in its 3rd year, 1000 vols have been through the project and a large number have gone onto FE or training. 2 are employed by BCC. Some sessions are funded by NPs and other organisations round the city and the project also works with the Princes Trust and other orgs. Park Work is on Facebook.

Action

- Friends' groups to contact Joe if they want to discuss future input. Joe is available on joe.mckenna@bristol.gov.uk

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/ParkWork141017.pdf

5. Good Gym

Paul Becker gave a presentation (available on website) about the project where simple tasks can be done by people who run to a site, do 30 mins work and then run back ! Its self-funded and members pay to be involved. They also do befriending runs to visit elderly people for an hour. Generally it includes 20-30 year olds and they're available to help parks groups.

Action

- Friends' groups to contact Paul if interested at paulbecker@goodgym.org

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/GoodGym141017.pdf

6. BCC Savings/income update

Rob gave an update from the Committee's point of view including the current gap in funding of £1.59m and showed a presentation prepared by Gemma Dando

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/SavingsIncome141017.pdf .

Consultation will begin early Nov, and drop-in sessions are proposed for parks groups. Specific issues include the horticultural nursery, cafes/concessions, cems/crems increasing income for parks, and Ashton Court (the mansion is being considered by an event organised by the Civic Society).

Events funding is being investigated by a consultancy (Peter Wilkinson and Jen Mackley).

Richard Fletcher responded to questions which included the following issues:

Current spending not including pay/inflation;

LNRS have no commercial opportunities so need to be funded from other budget areas;

Volunteers should be a cost, not a saving;

Queries about income generation figures being realistic although Richard said that car parking should overachieve the £400k;

The consultation was challenged as 'not real' but Richard highlighted that groups could also respond to the wider budget consultation if they had comments about BCC budgets as a whole;

Parks staff are over stretched as it is without further budget cuts;

Breakdown of figures needed but Richard said that they are estimates and not at individual park level;

Cems/crems not part of consultation;

The consultation needs a section where groups can respond to open questions rather than closed ones like the Libraries consultation;

There is a separate consultation on street trees and highways;

There is a task and finish scrutiny group currently looking at parks which the Committee are attending;

Commercialisation and activity in parks is needed eg Blaise/Kings Weston, Ashton Court. Richard responded that this approach needs time to be embedded within BCC. Potential opportunities are coming forward and being considered;

What trust opportunities are there for Stoke Park? HLF bid has been made with Dowry match funding;

Savings could be made by Parks emptying bins rather than Bristol Waste. RF- bins have improved this year, and BW might take over 40 green spaces in the centre next year.

Action

- BCC to organise consultation drop-in session for Friends' groups.
- Friends' groups to respond to consultation when it is released.

7. AGM

Revised Terms of Reference agreed.

Accounts agreed (£3700 of which Castle Park = £3100, and Park Work £600).

Elections: Mark to continue as Chair, Sam as Vice-Chair, Committee: Frasier, Rob, Derek, Sian, Hugh.

Action

- All points agreed apart from challenge to a committee member. Committee to discuss and resolve this outside of meeting and feed back to BPF.
- Len Wyatt agreed to join Committee

8. AOB

- Friends' groups advised to take up First aid course run by SGC by Mark.
- Heritage Conference 27th Oct advertised. Free to public pm.
- John Bartlett historian at Snuff Mills- request for any info.
- Roland reported from National Federation. 19/9/17 minister statement following Parliamentary Select Committee report; Parks Action Group proposed including HLF, Groundwork, LGG, Parks Alliance, NE, an opportunity to campaign nationally and will be advising government.
- Stephen Wickham reported on Metrobus land grab in Cumberland Basin.

- Gary Hopkins reported on Redcatch community garden, could be a model for parks in future with 100 vols signed up. To report at next meeting.
- Friends of Salcombe Road being created
- Friends of Canford Park looking for new members- contact Graham