

Bristol Parks Forum: 16th April 2016

Attendance: Susan and Rob Acton-Campbell FOTH; George Denford Witherwood Park; Linda Moore-kibbey and Maureen O'Connor, Southmead Disability Group; Wendy Pollard AGT; Eileen Stonebridge FOSNP; Val Jenkins, Shirehampton Community Forum; Alison Bromilow RCAS; Mark Logan SMAG; Andre and Marie-Jo Coutanche MVAG; Roland Bruce MRPG; Fraser Bridgeford FOBH; Hugh Holden MRPG; Alan Aburrow FOBW; Sam Thomson FoHC; Jon Allen, FOCR; Chris Bloor FOAT; Sian Parry FOBW; Lesley Gallant COPP; Keith Way FoDundry Slopes; Toni Brown Mall Gardens; Steve Perry FoSAP; Emma Jones, KWAG; Sara Worth, FrANC; Derek Hughes FrANC; Angela Stansbie FOBH; Lois Goodard RGCG; Jane Cunningham W4H; Diana Porter BPUS; Brian Smith Fo FP.

BCC: John Williams Area Manager; Gillian Douglas Interim Director Clean and Green; Lindsay Hay BCC Neighbourhood Management

Guest: Charly Crump RSPB charly.crump@RSPB.org.uk 07595063051

Apologies Jo Corke FoSAP; Diane Jones FoSGP; Richard Scantlebury FoEastvilleP

Matters Arising/Outstanding Actions

- Power tools- Tom Penn- provisional date to roll out power tool training. Gillian said May 2016 was provisional date, Tom to let Parks Groups know.
- Professional dog walkers in parks/LNRs- Richard Fletcher agreed to look at options with legal team and report back.

1. Byelaws Update -Gillian Douglas

Consultation ended 20th March with over 800 responses. Full report is available from Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission 11th April www.tinyurl.com/z85fmxp. The report will go to Full Council, then onto DCLG and to FC on 19th July for final adoption.

Q& A Session

- Other government legislation being introduced ie a public space protection order, to deal with anti-social behaviour.

Action- procedure to be sent to BPF for circulation

- Blackberry picking is fine but damage to/picking of other plants has to be treated proportionately, essentially a Council judgement.
- There appears to be a conflict of interest between different BCC teams eg regarding maintenance of pathways. This would need to be a separate discussion.
- Commercial dog walkers- they are discussed in the byelaws but see matters arising regarding RF to feed back on potential for action.

2. Parks Investment- Gillian/Lindsay

The £250k for access was an amendment in the budget setting process and councillors were part of this process. It has been carried over. BPF suggested that the process requires:

- Proper timeline and engagement with BPF/local groups
- Timescales

- Criteria by which the proposals had been prioritised
- Transparency in process

Lindsay outlined the process since February which consisted of engagement with NP officers, training them in social media, on line survey skills and resident-led activity was taking place. Parks officers are very stretched. A Design guide is being developed and will go out to tender. The disability access officer Julie Preston is preparing minimum standards for parks infrastructure.

Discussion:

Parks groups don't need extra meetings to go to and NPs are changing because of boundary changes. NP officers in Ashley have no capacity/expertise to do Parks works. There is still the issue of Parks Groups being expected to contribute to 3 NPs eg Horfield, FRANCO. There are no resources available in Parks to take on this work.

Gillian acknowledged there has been no service manager in post but this will be rectified by June at the earliest. Parks Groups should go to Area Managers first. Parks groups have been told to liaise with their local co-ordinators and need clarity on this, as they want to be involved. Some NPs have no environment sub-groups eg Southmead, despite what the Council say so there has been no engagement locally. BPF expect changes to the flow chart as discussed at the earlier meeting with NP reps.

Lindsay said that all NPs should have a minimum standard for engagement with parks groups and environment sub-groups were being revisited. The process can be circumvented if an urgent matter comes up via specialist parks support. It was suggested that parks groups should liaise directly with Parks if the issue doesn't conflict with the Nhood Plan. NPs should pick up parks with no groups attached to them. If Parks Groups have access to external funding, then they can liaise directly with Parks.

Action: Parks Groups to email PBF with any views; BCC to circulate latest information available which recognises role of Parks groups via BPF. A clear digestible version of the flow chart is required.

3. Charly Crump, RSPB

Charly has been funded alongside 2 membership officers by Aldi for 3 years to launch a Connecting to Nature project in Bristol. They will be working in the city for 3 years and will be recruiting volunteers to help. The key focus is on schools and schools grounds, and also green space outreach within a wider ecosystem approach. They will be working with adults and children together and have materials they have produced for the project.

Action: Her email/phone number is given above if Parks Groups want to contact her for more info or on the RSPB website.

4. The Role of BPF

Sam introduced this discussion by an overview of what the Forum has achieved in the last few years, ie ParkHive, ParkWorks, etc and asked it was still fit for purpose and what its future role should be given the changing circumstances in the city. After much discussion, the comments and conclusions were noted by Sam and will be taken on board by the Committee in reviewing the terms of reference.

AOB

- Festival of Nature- Mark asked for volunteers. Its 11th/12th June this year.
- It was queried whether a review of AGSPs was taking place
- Fraser suggested a Trust for Parks could be considered cf Bournemouth model

Next Meeting: 18th June at WHCF