



Bristol Parks Forum

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

Bristol Parks Forum: 20th October 2018

Attendance: 35 people representing 19 parks and other groups

BPF Committee: Rob Acton-Campbell, Derek Hawkins, Siân Parry, Sam Thomson, Len Wyatt, Mark Logan

BCC: Cllr Asher Craig, Gemma Dando, Richard Fletcher

Meeting Chaired by Mark Logan, Notes taken by Siân

1. Matters Arising/Outstanding Actions

- **Mark to chase up issue regarding inappropriate use of weedkiller on P&GS**
- **RF to respond to licensing issues**
- **Questionnaire to members to gauge their views on the meetings & reasons for non-attendance- to be circulated by Committee in due course**

2. BPF Vision

Len outlined the consultation results and put various questions to the meeting to be considered. He pointed out the under-representation of responses from parks groups and suggested that the Forum should do more work to understand whether groups wanted a vision or not and if so, whether they supported the draft produced.

Actions

- **The Vision not to be decided today**
- **Parks groups should be asked whether they want a vision and be given a deadline. If so, whether they supported the draft so far**
- **The vision will be web-based but will be printed off as necessary**
- **A meeting will be arranged to include the Committee plus anyone else interested, to produce the final draft.**

3. Parks Foundation

Rob updated the meeting on the Foundation's progress. The official announcement was in July and 3 of the successful bids were for foundations, Bristol/Bath, Leeds and Redcar/Cleveland. Newcastle are setting up a Trust with ownership of some parks.

The Bristol/Bath project has 2 priorities, fundraising and volunteer engagement. A co-ordinator for the latter is being advertised by BCC and a project manager, Sue Sanctuary has been appointed and will be employed by BNHC.

The Foundation will be set up as a charity by January, Trustees will be appointed and workshops held for image production. It will be launched at the FoN in June.

Questions:

What is the role of the Foundation v the Forum ? The Forum agreed that Rob should represent the Forum on the Board of Trustees and needs to have a lot of influence

What type of charity will it be ? A possibility is a limited company or a charity, a CIO model is supported.

Will it be a membership organisation ? to be considered

Will it have councillors as Trustees ? No, this is an issue that Bournemouth have grappled with

How is the Foundation to be contacted ? The steering group is the prime public facing contact at this point. The Director and marketing role will be appointed in 2019 as self-sustaining roles for a year.

The targets are in the bid and will be met over the lifetime of the project.

The vol co-ordinator will be employed by BCC, so will start work straightaway.

Actions

- **Rob to be BPF rep on Board of Trustees**
- **Steering group to be prime contact for any queries on the Foundation**

4. Budget and Strategy Updates

Gemma and Asher gave an update on the budget situation, which is on track with £707,000 income generation to deliver this year and £818,000 next. This includes implementing frisbee and golf projects, events at Blaise, Downs and Ashton Court, cafes and nursery retail. Asher stated that at the Cabinet meeting, no more budget cuts have been agreed, the aim is rather to increase income. This is based on research that shows other core cities have fewer parks and double the budget compared with Bristol, so no further reductions will be made.

Bristol Waste are emptying bins and making efficiencies but the budget is still £250k short, which Bristol Waste will pay.

BCC is updating the P&GSS strategy with an investment plan alongside it. There will be a tool for finding grants, which will help to raise money and the Forum & Foundation can use it. Its important that the strategy aligns with the BPF vision.

Questions:

BCC needs to consult BPF on the strategy.

The licensing consultation has taken a blanket approach and the Licensing Committee will be making decisions in November. Concessions will then go out in Dec, to be in place by April.

The consultation process was described as not transparent by Groups, with only notices in parks showing the process was taking place and mistakes in email addresses, etc. The process needs to be improved.

Are the Downs included in the licensing process ? the Downs Committee has agreed a cost-neutral approach. Its sorting out its own concessions, but can join the Council's if it wants to.

Are environmental criteria being used to assess concessions, e.g ice cream vans etc. 20% of criteria are environmental, details to be circulated with newsletter; 60% is based on quality, 40% price (to be confirmed by Gemma). The law allows itinerant ice cream traders for 20 mins which are difficult to police.

Richard gave a presentation (to be circulated) on the Strategy update. They are looking at other LAs and reviewing national policy; minimum green space and quality standards maybe reviewed. Outputs to be included will be a policy framework, commercialisation agenda and buildings by summer 2019.

Area committees have £872,900 allocated to them by Parks which is a challenge to deliver (detail to be circulated). £2m arises from NP schemes, of which a large amount has been spent.

Assets/infrastructure-includes repairs and maintenance information: £600k currently forecast, of which £200k on footpaths. Bridges, walls, etc are also included, alongside some capital works.

Parks are carrying out a minor restructuring- they need to make some changes to deliver repairs and investment; volunteer support will include horticultural roles, apprentices are being introduced. Vacancies such as the Parks Co-ordinator role will be covered by acting up within the system.

Questions:

How do Groups get jobs onto the list ? they need to be high priority, e.g. H&S issues. Report them on BCC web forms. If information is needed about repairs, also ask via this method (Groups don't know if some jobs are on the list or not if there's no feedback on inspections carried out).

TROs- Blaise and Oldbury Court, ended July. Petitions at full council in September. The consequences of charging in car parks e.g. parking restrictions. Charging could commence July 2019.

Actions

- **BCC to consult BPF on P&GSS update**
- **BCC to address consultation on licensing issues, not transparent process**
- **RF's presentations to be circulated**
- **Any repairs Parks gps need to report or request information on should go via webforms**
- **RF to follow up process for informing parks gps on individual sites already on priority list**

5. Bristol Zero Tolerance

Charlotte Gage introduced this organisation, which is a City-wide initiative on gender-based violence. Street harassment evidence shows that women don't feel safe in P&GS. Ways of dealing with this include lighting, maintenance, notices, info to understand what people can do including bystanders and events to disseminate info/talk to people about the issues. They responded accordingly to the draft Vision document and would like to be a resource supporting it as it goes forward.

Questions:

NSI has had rape and murder incidents, a big issue for LNRs, communal support is important. Is BZT part of BCC ? no, its an independent organisation, stemming originally from the Women's Commission.

Stoke Lodge has an open aspect which makes it safer; fencing will be restrictive and make it more dangerous, the impact should be assessed.

Mobile phones can have alarms/light which BZT are pressing for. They work with businesses on attack alarms, also apps e.g. Hollyguard tracks people and links you to police.

Visible information is really important, they work with police to report harassment, now classified as a hate crime.

Eastfield Park has sports facilities, but lack of toilets or safe places to breastfeed. These would encourage useage.

Richard asked what Parks can do regarding grounds maintenance; some area committees are involved with CCTV and lighting initiatives. These organisations need to work more closely together and this can be highlighted in the developing P&GSS. Training for staff is possible regarding reporting.

Actions

- **Further dialogue to be pursued between BZT, BPF, area committees and BCC regarding what can be done to make parks safer.**

6. RHS

Sarah Ricketts reported that the parent/child gardening club at Horfield Common has been very successful. They've also worked with Redcatch Community Garden and can still be involved and help with young families and activities for them

Action

- **Parks Groups to contact Sarah if they'd like support: sarahricketts@rhs.org.uk**

7. AGM

Rob proposed:

Mark to remain as Chair

Sam as Vice-Chair

Rob as Secretary and rep for Parks Foundation

Derek as Treasurer

Len, Sian as Committee Members (Sian to step down from doing meeting notes)

Frances Robertson FOBW agreed to do the meeting notes and be on the Committee; Sarah West FOEP also volunteered to be on the Committee.

The proposal was seconded and agreed.

8. AOB

- **Tree Forum meeting, November, Tree of the Year competition taking place**
- **Stoke Park footpath proposals, Groups to comment if possible**
- **HLF future proof parks, involving young people in parks groups. £300k for England, 4 parks groups in each year. Rob to send out another email about it.**
- **Hedge laying at Redland Green- 16/17th November; Jan/Feb 2019 funded by RCAS**

- **BPF national link has gone with Roland/Hugh/Frasier standing down. Committee needs to discuss this and how to be represented on national campaigns etc**
- **Flailed hedge has been destroyed at St Andrews Park, supposed to be a 'wildlife' cut**
- **H&S training for vols, BCC needs to progress quickly. Park Work and new Vol Co-ordinator should work closely together in future and cross over with B&NES will be beneficial.**