



Bristol Parks Forum

Minutes of meeting 28th January 2017

Ashton Court

<p>1.</p>	<p>Present: BPF Committee: Mark Logan (ML); Rob Acton-Campbell (RAC); Fraser Bridgeford (FB); Derek Hawkins (DH) Bristol Parks: Gemma Dando (GD); Richard Ennion (RE); Steve Clampin (SC); Andrew Gordon (AG) 40 other representatives of approximately 30 groups around Bristol.</p>	
	<p>Matters arising/ Outstanding actions: Most actions were for Gemma Dando. Response on strategic thinking on Cycling in Parks – raised at June 2016 meeting- still awaited from Di Robinson.</p>	
<p>2.</p>	<p>Proposed budget for parks, Gemma Dando GD confirmed proposed cuts in Budget Papers as follows: £425K reduction 2017/18 £632K reduction 2018/19 £2.8 million reduction 2019/20. Parks dept have been 'challenged' by exec to take parks budget to zero. 4-5 months to find how possible it is to raise income to subsidise parks budget. There will be cabinet decision on 17/18 budget in 21st Feb meeting, and on 18/19 & 19/20 at June meeting cabinet will confirm medium term financial strategy, 5 year plan. BCC will be using national studies eg Liverpool, Sheffield, NESTA, and will come up with a figure by the end of May, for what it is possible to raise. GD assured the BPF that, at the moment, there was no plan to close parks, restructure parks dept or reduce maintenance, however, if a financial strategy was approved which was not achievable under the current structure and maintenance standards, this would have to be revisited. Corporate Strategy was reviewed annually and can be changed. BCC parks would work with BPF in partnership to agree the report back to cabinet. Parks is not a statutory service and there are no specific requirements that local authorities have to meet for provision or maintenance. Parks are therefore a 'soft target' for achieving BCC savings. Review must take account of volunteer hours from parks groups. Volunteers will not be expected to take over the maintenance of parks. The review is being carried out during the busy spring growing season and without a head of parks in post so faces challenges. Parks income – could be from events (parks receives 85% of event income after events team takes 15% for admin)- HLF funding. Downs concerts produce income, Balloon Festival does not currently pay event charge. However, commercial opportunities are finite, some spaces are over exploited. Blaise Nursery generates income – could be increased. Only some parks can self-support- must be a way of spreading funds. All income generated by parks must be ringfenced for parks investment not used to support other services. Parks groups must have input in decisions to privatise eg kiosks. Communication and open information is essential. The value of parks to eg Health and wellbeing must be recognised. Public spaces must remain in council ownership. Essential to have an input at strategic stage or this will limit ability to shape decisions later on. HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE consultation on Public Parks, Report expected shortly. BPF committee will be meeting GD initially, other members of BPF can get involved if they would like</p>	<p>ALL</p>

	to.	
3.	<p>Parks Development Team (PDT). Richard Ennion. PDT leader of 4 officers. Steve Clampin, Andrew Gordon, Becky Belfin, Theresa Crichton PDT create a resource for all parks projects to take ideas forward, Strategic plan, looking at what income bringing into parks, incl events- more / new, look at charging rates; nursery, make it available to the public; wood station, sell woodchip; anyone with commercial expertise welcome to have input. BPF resource important.</p> <p>Steve Clampin. P&GSS review. SC reviewing 2008 strategy, which is not a driver for land disposals but will confirm standards. Quality assessments being carried out in February for April report by area teams. The P&GS are in 5 typologies, formal, informal and natural greenspace, active sport, children's and young people's space. BPF members are invited to help with the assessments, preferably of a greenspace not their own; SC is offering an additional training session on a Saturday to anyone interested. The Mayor's Clean Streets campaign also covers parks and green spaces. 24th Feb is Spray Day for identifying dog poo! With paint marker and flags. www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/information/quality-assessments</p> <p>Andrew Gordon. Stoke Park consultation. www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkconsultation</p> <p>This is running 9 Jan until 20th Feb. BPF members are encouraged to respond to the consultation to support Big Lottery application, with support and comments. Stoke Park is 108 acres and the setting for a grade 2 listed Thomas Wright landscape, and Purdown Percy, ww2 anti-aircraft gun battery. Park is on Historic England at risk register. The consultation proposals include management of grass land by grazing animals, protection of gun emplacements by restoration and protection measures, introduction of visitor amenities to provide income. There are already some funds available from s106 provision from Barrett Homes, BCC working with NHS Priory unit on site, Mencap/Avon Wildlife Trust/ UWE/ on learning programmes and with F of Stoke Park group. HLF application will be made at the end of February following end of consultation, BCC needs feedback to proceed. Mark Logan encouraged all members to respond See the website for details of guided visit and events, accessed from front page of BCC, link to consultation.</p> <p>Becky Belfin. Leading on volunteers' programme, community engagement strategy. Pulling together information about existing volunteering in parks, and barriers to volunteering. BB will be contacting groups and working with Parkwork.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p>
4.	<p>Play On! (Games for Adults, Bristol). Clare Eddington and Jud Relf See Facebook Page for upcoming events and to contact. Play On! have held events in Mina Road and Eastville Park/ Snuff Mills. They want to continue work in other parks to promote community cohesion. Aimed specifically at adults though children's activities after school are also intended. Want to work with parks groups, to promote the use of parks for exercise and community interaction. Charge £5 for 1 ½ hours. First event in Mina Road, expected around 20 but 100 turned up! Do not need a licence. Asked for BPF support for their initiative. www.facebook.com/groups/325607164456260</p>	
5.	<p>National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces South West conference report. Rob Acton Campbell and Fraser Bridgeford. RAC and FB attended the conference in (see www.tinyurl.com/SWparksConf) There is a proposal to start a SW forum. Area v large so may be more appropriate to split into ¼ sections eg have conferences in Bournemouth, Bristol, and Plymouth. BPF members were asked whether they would support such an organisation. An advantage of such a</p>	

	<p>network would be that larger commercial organisations would be more likely to engage. BPF members felt that an organisation which included N Somerset, S Glos, Banes and Bristol would be useful, giving the opportunity for potential funding, and a joint structure; confirmation of which areas would group together to be agreed. An online resource eg discussion forum would be useful. A suggestion that an annual event which was held on the same day as a BPF quarterly meeting would avoid excessive volunteer commitment. RAC and FB were asked to continue discussions with NatFedparks to come up with a proposal.</p>	
6.	<p>Victoria Park cyclepath planning application. VPAG explained that the consultation programme for this application included a single visit to the group with some route options, BCC returned with a single option worked up and there was one pop up event in the park and a mail drop to parks neighbours. The proposal is for a 4.7 m wide segregated path through the park, which would prioritise cyclists but would be opposed by other parks users. The application has now been withdrawn and re-consulted on. BPF reminded that this had been raised as a city-wide issue in June 2016 and no action had been taken by BCC to bring forward any ideas for how strategic proposals for any cycle routes through parks, which needed to reflect different conditions in each park, could be agreed. This also needed to address accessibility issues Northern Slopes Initiative group pointed out that the same Filwood Quietway route would go through their area. ACTION: BPF committee to chase this up with BCC parks dept/ Neighbourhoods ?</p>	BPF/ BCC
7.	<p>Stoke Lodge. David Mayer reported that Stoke Lodge, a 30-acre park, also used as playing fields, which is the setting for the Grade 2 listed house now used for adult learning, had been registered as a Town and Village Green by the Public Rights of Way and Greens committee in December 2016. This decision was now open for objections for 3 months. Objectors were received from BCC, University of Bristol, Rockleaze Rangers Football Club and Cotham School. An application to enclose the space with a fence has been withdrawn pending the final decision. The group is now fundraising for £75K to cover costs of a barrister in case the case goes to court.</p>	
8.	<p>Any Other Business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Byelaws consultation. 28-day consultation period until 22nd February. All parks groups are asked to check the maps to ensure that the information is correct for their park. The byelaws will be taken to full council in March for adoption. Note that there is a clause about cycling in the byelaw which is taken from national template (as is the wording of all byelaws). www.tinyurl.com/BrisByelaws ii) Incredible Edible/ Green Associates. A proposal to include some food growing areas in parks is being brought forward. Parks groups will be involved in making any changes in their parks. iii) Parkwork. Joe Mckenna is now a full member of the BCC parks structure and works 4 days a week. www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/parkwork 	ALL
9.	<p>Next meeting. April 8th. Venue to be confirmed.</p>	BPF