



Bristol Parks Forum

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

Bristol Parks Forum: Minutes 30th January 2016

Attendance: Susan and Rob Acton-Campbell FOTH; Diane Jones FOSGP; Alison Bromilow RCAS; Mark Logan SMAG; Andre Coutanche MVAG; John Mayne FOSAP; Wendy Pollard AGT; Gill Brown CS; Hugh Holden MRPG; Tom Brown MGRA; Stephen Wicklow AM; Sian Parry FOBW; Cheryl Hawkins SMAG/FOSL; Bob Franks NSI; Maxine Williams, FOGSP; Mike Blundell FOCP; Lois Goodard RGCG; Eileen Stonebridge FOSP; Chris Bloor FOAT; Fraser Bridgeford FOBH; Gary Hopkins FORP; Roger Garrett FOADG; Geoff Reeson FODP; Julian Thomas FOBB; Emma Jones KWAG; Jane Cunningham W4H; Alan Aburrow FOBW; Angela Stansbie FOBH; Steve England FOSP.

BCC: Daniella Radice Cllr/ Assistant Mayor; Richard Fletcher Area Manager Central and East; Gillian Douglas Interim Director Clean and Green

Emma Thompson Cities of Service emma.thompson@bristol2015.co.uk 075723 81323

Apologies: Sara Worth, Derek Hughes FrANC; Chris Williams (SMAG); Jo Corke FoSAP; Len Wyatt NSI; Sam Thompson (FoHC)

Matters Arising

- 1. Venue**
No suitable alternative has been found and parking is available in local area so we will continue to meet at WHCF for this year.
- 2. Park Hive app- Sam/ David**
this is on the BGC website. Sam has amended text.
- 3. Fundraising: David**
BPF Committee will discuss this and report back.
- 4. LNRs**
Rob had spoken to Richard Ennion and there was nothing to report as yet.

Agenda

- 1. Gillian Douglas, Interim Service Director, Clean and Green**

Gillian introduced herself and said that she would be in post for 9 months. Gemma Dando was the Service Manager. Gillian was looking at areas which had slowed down with vacancies e.g. play areas; she would also be considering restructuring to make savings beyond 16/17. Some areas weren't a good fit in the existing structure e.g. Richard Ennion's post reporting.

Other priorities included 1 tree per child legacy, restoration of Stoke Park and the consultation, glyphosate debate (a proposed pilot of a glyphosate free area (Cotham) was to take place - this would be monitored to see how effective it was. Other priorities included maximising participation in Parks/Parkworks/enabling vols in Parks on h&S and tools.

Q&A Session:

- Mayors fund- £500k to be spend by end Mar
- PROW fingerposts, need liaison between parks and PROW team anomaly, but should be legible. GD to take this up with Mary Knight, highways team
- Stoke Park consultation- BCC required to consult by Historic England on draft management plan before its finalised. SP steering gp involved, then a decision will be made on whether to apply for money for management plan/business plan. , estimated £2-5m to bid for, alongside £1.2m existing monies.
- Play team structure within public health- to be looked at.
- Charging for running trainers in parks ? no
- S106 monies- information being pulled together
- Glyphosate trial- why Cotham ? Due to demand, satisfaction with N'hood, cllrs interested, highways. Kia has tried steam clearing, but this uses diesel. BCC to let local groups know. Is there an aspiration to reduce glyphosate in parks and highways? It is a target now, more space unsprayed anyway, e.g. children's play areas etc. Strimmers could be used instead.
- Budgets- process is starting, needs to be impact assessed. £69 m savings over next 3 years required.
- Relationship with n'hoods-Gemma to stay on until Nov. Benefits to include ongoing liaison with NP support. BPF commented that each NP has an officer, parks only have 2 co-ordinators across the city, need more of them. There is a doubling up as no knowledge of parks by NP officers. GD took this on board.
- Rethinking parks programme- other projects to be considered. Officer time needed to do this and look at innovative practice.
- Cumberland Basin- metrobus issues. GD to take back.

Actions:

- Possible restructuring to contribute to savings- to circulate info when available
- Cotham trial not using glyphosate- to let local groups know.
- Mayors fund- to circulate list of expenditure
- Need for liaison between Parks and PROW team-agreed
- Play team to be looked at within restructuring
- Relationship with N'hoods/NP support- to take on board comments
- Innovative practice elsewhere- to follow up
- Cumberland Basin and metrobus works- to follow up issue

2. Richard Fletcher- Byelaws

He outlined the consultation process as an opportunity to look at them again and gather further evidence. Designated areas for example, fishing, model aircraft, barbecues, horse riding. Consultation ends 20th March. Timescales- regulatory assessment to be done in May, to be considered by DCLG, then FC July or Sept depending on response.

Q&A Session:

- How are they to be enforced and by whom?- PCSOs and parks officers. Street scene enforcement officers will prosecute if necessary. Enforcement signs will be limited e.g. for barbecues.
- Damage outside parks? To be looked at during consultation.Land has be to under 1875/1905 Acts.
- Castle Park to be included ? Yes
- Drones- covered under model aircraft. Allowed in certain areas, but will end insurance. Sutton Park, W Midlands has an area for flying model aircraft.

Action: Parks groups need to respond by 20th March

3. Events- Rob

Rob had met with Victoria Holden, Site Permissions Officer. She has noted concerns about events, but landowners are responsible for event. Parks looking at issues such as emptying bins. Review on large events such as Love Saves the Day going on until April.

BPF's main point is that groups should be consulted early on.

Small events- if less than 200 people on site at any one time, go to Events application website. Under venue, select park permit, rather than venue. This website is being revised and improved anyway. Parks gps shouldn't be charged, if anyone did pay, let Rob know. There is a charge of £50 if not a park gp. Income should be published regularly by Parks.

Q&A Session:

- Queens Square- ? contribution to Parks, as not under Parks. Additional officer being recruited.
- Film on Brandon Hill- 1-50 people don't have to have license, but let Parks know anyway. If less than 50 people, do get insurance from BCC if you apply for a park permit.
- Licensing process paper- based so nothing published online, this would be good to do.

Actions:

- BCC Review of large events by April- report to BPF as early as possible
- Any charges levied on parks gps for events to let Rob know as they shouldn't be charged
- Income to be published regularly by Parks

4. Knowle West Media Centre- Martha/Melissa

They presented a Bristol approach to citizen sensing, which uses sensor technologies/ open data to involve local groups e.g. sound/air quality/health of ecosystem, using bird song for example. They are working in Easton regarding poor quality housing and making tools with local people. They are holding a workshop in March to encourage local groups to get involved.

Action:

- Parks Groups to contact Melissa and Martha if they'd like to get involved in workshop on citizen sensing.

5. Park Work – Fraser

Fraser reported that compared with other projects across the country, Park Work has been a success. BCC are underwriting £25k of the project for 2016/17, £30k funding until this April. Numbers working depend on day and season and going forward the project will work with the general public as well as groups. Volunteer supervisors are being considered, but they're open to ideas regarding funding. For example, CCC NP has given £10k. They are liaising with corporates and DCLG.

Action:

- Parks Groups to contact Park Works for any works to be done- Fraser/Joe to circulate information about what tasks Park Works can carry out. (outstanding)

6. Volunteering- Rob/Emma Thompson, Cities of Service

Rob introduced the theme and Emma's role in the city. She explained where/how Cities of Service had arisen (New York City Mayor) and its running in 7 cities in the UK as a 2 year pilot. It has helped to set up vol programmes and groups can advertise for vols on their website. The Bristol pilot ran a young people's project in reading which was successful and an older people's project which failed. Emma described employer supported volunteering which is being introduced, involving 3 paid days per employee to do volunteering.

Emma has also carried out a survey of green orgs in the city with over 200 people responding; the findings will inform the way forward.

Rob raised other issues:

- Potential duplication of AWT/TCV roles. Rob explained he'd spoken to AWT and Julie Doherty was their lead on vols.
- Richard F explained the situation re power tools. BCC need to work out a package on H&S and tool training. He's aiming for April 2016 as provisional start date. Training will focus on strimmer/blower 1.5 days, with hedge cutter 2.5 days. Expressions of interest to RF required.

Actions:

- Park Groups to check Cities of Service website to advertise for volunteers
- Emma to circulate green volunteer survey findings
- Power tools- RF- April 2016 provisional date to roll out power tool training – strimmer, blower, hedgecutter- expressions of interest required from Parks Groups

AOB

- BGC Board elections- Committee will decide on nominations
- Mayoral hustings- Committee to decide on specific questions to be asked
- Professional dog walkers in parks/LNRs- RF agreed to look at options with legal team but needs BPF/Parks Groups to send him examples of nuisance behaviour to assess how much of a problem it is ie. how many there are; how many dogs; what is the nuisance behaviour.
- FOBW to contact John Williams Area Manager re repositioning of dog bins

Next Meeting: 16th April at WHCF

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