



Bristol Parks Forum

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

Bristol Parks Forum: 30th June 2018

Attendance: 21 people representing 16 parks and other groups (4 apologies)

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

BCC: Sharon Radnedge (Apologies: Gemma Dando, Richard Fletcher, Cllr Asher Craig, Cllr Anthony Negus)

Meeting Chaired by Sam Thomson, Notes taken by Siân

1. Introduction

Sam introduced Alison who gave a tribute to Peter Wilkinson former Parks Manager, who very sadly had passed away recently.

A resignation from Hugh has been received by the Committee. Sam said what a loss to BPF this would be as he had been a core member for many years. She thanked him very much for his role on the Committee and as past Chair and she welcomed anyone who might want to stand as a new Committee member.

2. Matters Arising/Outstanding Actions

Actions from previous meeting

Donations- It was agreed that groups could contribute if they wished. Please could groups let the Committee know they've contributed at the meeting by putting a note in the collection tin.

Inappropriate use of Weedkiller on P&GS- Mark to write to BCC

3. Parks Foundation - Rob Acton-Campbell

Rob reported on the progress following the NESTA bid. Stage 1 had 50 applications and these were reduced to 17 for the 2nd Stage. The Bristol/Bath City bid is for £193k and is essentially to build a charity to raise money for Parks in the two cities. There will be 7 awards and an announcement will be made following 13th July- the Bristol/Bath City bid is a successful bid ! Other successful bids are for another Foundation and 5 other projects.

Bristol/Bath City's partner is Bournemouth and the Foundation will be set up by end 2018, with a formal launch at the Festival of Nature 2019. There will be a project lead/trustees structure initially, then a permanent Director appointed summer 2019. A volunteer co-ordinator will be funded F/T by BCC, and one P/T by B&NES Council.

Rob asked BPF members to keep the decision confidential until the announcement is made, hopefully after 13th July.

The discussion included:

The budget split between Bristol and Bath- this is for Trustees to clarify, there will be 2 funding pots.

No money will be targeted at individual groups.

Office space will be given gratis at Ashton Court for first 2 years.

BCC will hold the grant monies and once the Foundation is set up, it will be responsible for the funding. Quartet is giving advice.

What will the relationship be between parks groups, BCC and the Foundation ? Trustees will be volunteers and will be recruited by the steering group. The Foundation will have to stick to Charity Commission rules. It will be a Community Interest Organisation and will be monitored by NESTA.

4. BCC Queries - Sharon Radnedge (reports to Gemma as Change Manager)

Sharon is focusing on income generation across the Parks Service (including Cemeteries and Crematoria), cafes, nursery and a commercialisation programme for Parks (working closely with Richard Fletcher).

Concessions issues have been highlighted by parks groups and there have been inconsistencies across Parks and Harbourside. BCC has not lost any income and has spoken to vendors involved. A formal tendering process will be ready by beginning of October.

Queries included:

St Georges Park- ice cream vendor- complaints about pollution from van

Downs- Burger van issue needs resolving.

Cemeteries- Avon View Cemetery- it is rundown and its state needs to be raised with the appropriate officer. Sharon agreed that promotion of cemeteries regarding voluntary input and a development of a plan for cemetery conservation/green space management was needed across the city.

Savings- to be reviewed in October- BCC to report back on any developments

Action: Sharon to feedback on queries raised.

5. Ardagh Community Action Trust - Sam Thomson

Sam described the background to the issues following the Cabinet decision on 5th June, regarding the retention of some of the tennis courts at the Ardagh for development by the LTA rather than as a holistic development of the area at Horfield Common by the CAT. The CAT had raised £500k towards the project. The Trustees are currently reflecting on the decision which had been called in by local councillors and referred to the Scrutiny Committee. However, the Cabinet Member had said at that meeting that he would make the same

decision again. The LTA's involvement had completely undermined the project ethos for the space.

Action: BPF raised a query regarding the LTA's involvement in St Georges and Eastville Parks- will they still remain involved if BCC don't go forward with the Ardagh project ? Sharon to pursue.

6. **NSI and CAF Project- Len Wyatt**

Len updated the Forum regarding the CAF project being carried out on the NSI Reserve. In March, problems were encountered with human waste and drugs equipment on site; in April, machinery was moved from the site and a meeting was to be arranged; on 10th May, workers with chainsaws were on site to clear more vegetation in the area with no prior warning to the NSI group. NSI then wrote to express concerns with communications to all relevant groups including the Mayor.

The Mayor has written back positively about how communications will be improved.

The scheme is now delayed but will be completed in the Autumn with presumably extra costs incurred. The new area will be reseeded with wildflower hay post works.

7. **Lamplighter's Marsh- Rob Acton-Campbell**

This LNR is close to a flood defence scheme being proposed by BCC and the local group has been in discussion with contractors and agreed works on the edge of the Reserve. However, the latest plans in the traffic evidence show a contractors' compound on the Reserve itself. There has been no consultation on this.

Action: Sharon to check how this has happened and what is currently happening.

8. **Future Vision**

Len went through the amendments he'd made to the Vision with copies available for Forum members. There was a detailed discussion with further amendments suggested.

Action: Len to update the document and then consultation with other organisations to be carried out by the Committee. Suggestions for consultees welcome. A final version to be agreed at the AGM in October.

9. **AOB**

Susan Acton-Campbell, FOTH: Susan updated the Forum on the good news from Troopers Hill that they had won a £44k HLF award for repairing fences and lots more. More information can be found at www.troopers-hill.org.uk/waystonature

FRANC- they were hosting a walk on 1st July along the Malago and its tributaries

Is a review of Parks happening ? Sharon responded that there was no review at the moment, and the BCC Parks Staff structure remains as circulated by BPF. The co-ordinator vacancy is

being recruited to. New Executive Directors may restructure their departments and BCC will let the Forum know if any changes are to take place.

No response from officers regarding Badocks Wood issues and more generally across BPF.

Who is best to contact in the first instance ? Some groups have had rude/brusque emails from certain officers, whilst others have a personal relationship with officers and are treated differently. Groups need a response generally regarding whether actions have been implemented as there is no feedback at the moment to the generic email or to emails where officers aren't present or on holiday (the BPF newsletter always has the generic email information displayed).

Action: Sharon to take up.

Turnout for BPF meetings- the Committee will circulate a questionnaire to members to gauge their views on the meetings & reasons for non-attendance

Cabinet member/Officer Non-attendance- Concerns were raised about the non-attendance of Cllr Craig and senior officers. **BPF would like reasons for non-attendance and also wish to invite the new Executive Director to the next meeting (20th October at Redcatch Community Centre)**

Action: Committee to take up with BCC