



Bristol Parks Forum

Campaigning to protect and enhance all public green space in the City of Bristol.

See our Vision for Parks & Green Spaces at

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/vision

Statement to Cabinet, 3rd September 2019

Bristol Heat Networks

(Heat network expansion and utilisation of the floating harbour to provide low carbon heat).

from Bristol Parks Forum Committee

Bristol's parks and green spaces have an increasingly vital role to play as we face the climate emergency. Trees in parks absorb carbon, green space reduces the heat island effect in the city and can help reduce flooding from storms. Having good quality green space on people's door step encourages sustainable travel and gives opportunities to experience nature without the need to travel at all.

There are also other potential benefits, Owen's park in Easton has ground source heat pumps that help supply energy to Easton Community Centre and a project in London is looking at how similar schemes can be implemented in parks there.

The Parks Forum therefore welcomes in principle the idea of utilising the existing Castle Park Depot to house a Water Source Heat Pump.

We are aware that the depot site was designated for development in the current Local Plan (site KS07).

Back in October 2013, the Parks Forum said in response to a Local Plan consultation:

"If the depot is no longer required for park operations then The BPF would strongly support the use of this site for small scale development which is ancillary to the park and of benefit to park users; for example as a café or information centre."

It is clear to us from reading the report and from our knowledge of parks operations that the point where the depot 'is no longer required' has not been reached and that an alternative site will need to be found.

Given the lack of head-room in the parks budget we would like an assurance from the Mayor that the project will fully fund any costs incurred by Bristol Parks in relocating. Indeed, as the depot is currently Parks land it also follows that Parks should not only have their costs covered if they agree to vacate the site but should share the financial benefits that any development brings to the Council.

This report suggests that the Energy Centre could be on the ground floor with "office/residential development" above.

The Bristol Parks Forum Vision calls for parks & green spaces to have 'appropriate facilities', Castle Park is one of the busiest in the City and is currently very poorly served. Given the views over the Floating Harbour and over the park, we believe that it would be a huge missed opportunity if additional facilities to benefit the park were not included.

The depot site as tremendous potential it would seem to us madness not to incorporate a café, visitor information centre or similar into any project. Siting this above the proposed Water Source Heat Pump and publicising the fact could add to its tourist potential. The adjacent ancient remains of Bristol Castle add another dimension to the potential offer.

A development that provides low carbon energy, which adds to facilities in the park and brings income to Bristol Parks, would surely be the ideal solution and we call on the Mayor to work to make this happen.

Bristol Parks Forum Committee
Mark Logan (Chair)
Sam Thomson (Vice Chair)
Rob Acton-Campbell (Secretary)
Derek Hawkins (Treasurer)
Frances Robertson
Len Wyatt
Sarah West

2nd September 2019
For Bristol Parks Forum
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Bristol Parks Forum is as an umbrella organisation for community park groups and organisations in the city with an interest in their local parks and green spaces.