



# 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](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/vision)

**15<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

## **Bristol City Council Budget Consultation**

Dear Cllr King,

We are aware of the pressures on the Council's budget for 2022/23 and we know that you, the Mayor and other Cabinet members have many priorities to balance. However, we strongly believe that there is a special case for parks to be given a high priority this year and hope that you will be able to argue the case for the Parks budget for both revenue and capital spending to be increased.

The importance of Parks and Green Spaces to the people of Bristol has become even clearer during the pandemic and COP 26 has raised the level of awareness of the Climate and Ecological Emergencies for everyone.

As you are aware our parks can play a vital role in the Council's aims to address the Ecological Emergency and good quality parks can help build community cohesion as we emerge from the pandemic and enhance people's health and wellbeing.

The One City Plan target of having *'30% of land in the city is managed for nature'* by 2030 and needs a significant change in the way parks are managed. The target for 2031 that *'People living in the 10% most deprived areas of Bristol are as satisfied with where they live and the quality of parks and green spaces, as people living in the most affluent areas of the city'* is very challenging and will need significant investment in those areas.

In considering next year's budget we urge you to increase the revenue budget for the Parks Service to give them a realistic chance of achieving these and other targets in the Plan; and the Climate and Ecological Emergencies Strategies and Plan.

We believe that additional funding should also be added specifically to address the Ecological Emergency.

In respect of capital funding we welcome the £3,000,000 that is currently being spent, but this only goes part way to addressing the current outstanding maintenance and repairs that are needed.

While some of the locally devolved CIL money gets allocated to parks we believe that the importance of parks across the City warrants a more strategic and long-term approach.

The work that is ongoing on the Parks & Green Spaces Strategy and the Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy need to be brought to a conclusion and Strategic CIL funds need to be allocated on an ongoing basis to improve the quality of parks, particularly in the more deprived areas.

We are also aware of the many large housing developments that are proposed, particularly in the central and South Bristol, but also in other areas. These will bring more residents and increase pressure of use on parks.

In view of this we believe that some of those areas will need not just improvements to existing parks but the development of new or expanded parks. We urge you to work with those developing the strategies for these areas, and with local communities, to identify possible sites for new parks; and to ensure that the necessary funds, both capital and revenue are found to ensure these can be established at a high quality and maintained as such.

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

### **For Bristol Parks Forum**

**[www.bristolparksforum.org.uk](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk) - [info@bristolparksforum.org.uk](mailto:info@bristolparksforum.org.uk)**

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.