

## Events Organised by Park Groups

“The Bristol Parks Forum Committee are opposed to the the current practice whereby Bristol City Council charge Park Groups for a licence for holding small scale events on their 'own' parks. These events are primarily aimed at promoting the parks and the groups. We feel that it is wrong to charge for these events which would help to achieve the aims set out in the Parks & Green Spaces Strategy to encourage use of parks.”

*Fraser, Hugh, Alison, Rob & Roland*

BPF have put a proposal to Bristol Parks to change this system. The following comments were received following an email sent to members and show that a change to the system would enable more events to take place at very little cost to BCC.

### Comments on Events from Bristol Parks Forum members in response to email 18 February

*Question 1 - How many events is your group likely to organise on your park this year if the current system requiring completion of this form: <http://tinyurl.com/ckf66h> and payment of a minimum fee of £42 is enforced?*

There needs to be a much clearer definition of an 'event'.

As we have established an annual fête on Gores Marsh, I think we would continue to do this despite the pain of the current system. However I think the effort involved with this system means we would not organise less formal and smaller events which would be great to do as the Park is gradually developed and improved.

our space is owned by trustees and is in the process of being handed over to BCC Parks. As a group we complete our own risk assessments and cover our own public liability for the events. We run one major fun day attracting around 500 local residents and several smaller youth events or community days. My fear has been that when we fully come under the banner of BCC Parks the paperwork and costs will exclude us from running these events. As a group of volunteers who also work and or volunteer elsewhere we have limited time to put in extra work in planning community days. We want to use the space to show local residents that the green is a free space, with lots of attractions for them. My thoughts are that the current situation will stop these open events completely. I know that our counterparts in Withywood have cancelled their events due to the time consuming paperwork and the costs.

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Easy to predict how many events we would hold with this system in place. None!

The typical catch all form is enough to prevent anyone from committing to the responsibility of an outdoor event on a site such as ours. The fee is just another nail in the coffin of local groups.

We are currently organising ONE formal event this year although we are aware of a number of other events organised by others, not all of them formal and requiring a licence.

have one event in the park on the agenda this year and we would certainly give consideration to more if there was no fee and the paperwork was simplified. The event we have in mind is not primarily to raise funds but to bring the community together to see the park - it is surprising to sometimes learn that there are people in the area who have never walked through the park.

In response to your Events survey:

1) None or One and 2) Yes

The Council are encouraging residents to organise things in their parks and they are quick enough to include them in the parks brochures and we find the proposed charge of £42 unacceptable. We also feel that the paperwork and requirements are excessive for small events such as carol services and picnics and there should be some thing simpler for such events.

We are likely to just have one this year.

would be unlikely to organise any events in our playing fields if we had to consider the £42 licence fee. This charge is a high price to pay for community groups with little or no money. If the event is for the community or to engage the community we feel it should be free or at a very low cost. Such events should be encouraged to help raise community spirit.

*Question 2 - Would you consider organising more events if you did not have to pay a fee and if the paperwork was simplified in line with the BPF proposal?*

This would be encouraging to groups at the margin. Currently, some groups avoid the paperwork by not telling parks anything.

I think the proposal is great. We could organise small events at short notice (something like a bar-be-que and football tournament dependant on the weather) or other larger events as and when ideas are put forward and decided on.

It would also mean that plans could be discussed and format agreed with Bristol Parks, perhaps even for the year ahead, without the added £42 cost for each occasion. Dates could then be decided on as the organisation of the event takes shape as it is often difficult to have all the detail in place when you have to apply for the licence.

My personal view is that the paperwork is not overcomplicated and the licence fee is not excessive so the proposals will not directly affect the number of events we are planning.

We would be more likely to organise things if 1. there was not a charge and 2. the paperwork was not so onerous. Currently we have only plans for one event and this is by no means certain as weather may play a part and to pay £42 if then there may be the need to move it into a local church hall because of the weather does not make such community events viable.

It is possible there would be more if paperwork was simpler although to be honest people to organise is more of an issue for us at present. having to do seemingly meaningless paperwork when one is just trying to make something good happen is always galling-so the simpler the better. The forms can be very daunting for people with no experience of such things.

I think it would encourage more groups to arrange events in their local parks and green spaces if the paperwork was quick and simple to organise. Events are not the easiest to arrange, so the simpler the better!!