

From: Helen Holland <helen.holland@bristol.gov.uk>  
Date: Tue, Mar 1, 2011 at 12:58 PM  
Subject: Re: Letter 'Protecting Bristol's Green Spaces'  
To: hughholden@gmail.com

Dear Hugh

Thank you for your letter, and apologies for the slight delay on getting this back to you. I am away at the moment, and lost blackberry contact yesterday evening as we were travelling.

On behalf of the Labour Group, I am pleased to give you the following answers.

1) On sites; The Labour Group would not be campaigning hard now to get signatures for the e-petition so that Council could call for a re-assessment of sites if we did not believe in the value of green spaces for communities. It is also right that communities should have the security of knowing that they will not have to fight for the same sites in a few years, so the twenty year time scale is a good one. Sadly, the site identification process has been brought into disrepute by the LibDems, with arbitrary decisions made, with no justification for why some sites were taken out of the 'sell-off' list, and others kept in. Our plan is for Neighbourhood Partnerships to be involved at a much earlier stage, identifying sites and choosing priorities for spend, thereby getting greater buy-in from communities and residents.

2) On the 70% of value back to Parks; given that our Cabinet agreed this figure with you at the time of the policy being agreed by the City Council, we have no problem in confirming our commitment to it.

3) On the eight objectives of the original strategy, again, as this was initiated by us in 2008 (check date please) we have no problem with this. It is a pity that the LibDems in their recent decisions did not take account of the caveat in the original strategy that the assumptions about the figures for investment would need to be revised if land values dropped - which clearly they have done in the intervening years.

I trust that this gives you the information you want, and please do not hesitate to come back to me if you have any other questions.

kind regards,  
Helen