

Monday 28 February 2011



Telephone: 0117 922 3932

Mr Hugh Holden  
Chair, Bristol Parks Forum

[info@bristolparksforum.org.uk](mailto:info@bristolparksforum.org.uk)

Dear

*Mr Holden,*

Thank you for your open letter of 11 February 2011 on "protecting Bristol's Green Spaces".

We believe we have demonstrated our commitment to Bristol Parks, through our active promotion and Council's adoption of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy. We recognise the long-term decline that took place and we are starting to address the issues that have arisen as a result.

I would respond to the points in your letter as follows:-

1. Where a site has been rejected by either Cabinet or Officers, we have taken the view that the site in question will not be sold or disposed of for the period of the strategy. A small number of sites remain where a decision is yet to be made. Examples are where sites need to be considered in relation to a master plan. The same principles and safeguards will be applied when these are considered.

There are a small number of sites referred to in the plan where pre existing arrangements might take precedence and of course over a period of time there might be opportunities for land swaps or other possibilities that should be considered.

These would only go forward if there is general agreement that any proposal is beneficial to the overall parks estate and the area concerned. This decision would include the citywide parks representatives.

In this instance a high burden of proof would be required. The Forum will recall that proposals for the land swaps in the city centre were dropped.

2. The Forum may recall that when the previous Labour administration first brought the strategy to Cabinet in January 2008 they tried to withdraw the 70% promise. A Liberal Democrat Councillor forced the report to be withdrawn and in the subsequent month, Liberal Democrats supported the Forum campaign to have the promise reinstated. It was when the report came back to Cabinet in February 2008. We absolutely stick by the figure of 70%.
3. We fully endorse the vision and are prepared to put in the resources and effort to make it a reality. One of the phrases that we have put in our political leaflets is "actions speak louder than words". I believe that through difficult times, we have protected our parks and we will continue to do so.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Barbara Janke  
Leader of Liberal Democrat Group  
Leader of Council