



# 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)

## **Cabinet Meeting Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

### **Budget report & Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24**

Members of the Bristol Parks Forum were relieved to see that the proposed cuts of £1.5m to the Parks Service, as listed in the budget consultation, have been withdrawn and are not included in the proposals to be discussed by Cabinet today.

We trust that the Mayor and Cabinet support this change.

We note from the consultation report that the proposed cuts to the Parks Service received the lowest level of support in the consultation with significantly more disagreeing than agreeing – thank you for listening to the people of Bristol.

In our response we suggested a ‘Big Parks Conversation’ before any further decisions are taken.

We are pleased that we had a positive response to this idea from Cllr King and look forward to further discussions about how this will be structured in the coming weeks.

Our Parks and Green Spaces are a huge asset for the City of Bristol.

Time spent in green space has significant benefits for mental and physical health, whether the time is spent in volunteering, play, sport, walking or just sitting with friends. Green spaces are also vital for the City to address the ecological and climate emergencies. Planned changes in the way they are managed will further benefit nature. Parks and green spaces can also help the City meet its aspirations for food growing.

We need to ensure that all these functions are accommodated in parks in all parts of the City and are available to all.

The planned consultations on the Parks & Green Spaces Strategy; Managing for Nature; the Tree Strategy and the Allotments Strategy need to address potential conflicts between different uses and should form part of the Big Conversation.

The Big Parks Conversation needs to include a wide range of stakeholders. The aim is for open and frank discussions on future options for managing and funding green space to make it clear what level of support will be needed from the Council for the foreseeable future. We do not want to have to repeat our campaign in future years as budget pressures increase.

We look forward to working with Bristol City Council and the people of Bristol to secure a long-term sustainable future for all our parks and green spaces.

**Rob Acton-Campbell**

**For Bristol Parks Forum**

**22 January 2023**