



Bristol Parks Forum

representing resident led
park groups and citywide organisations
involved in protecting and improving
Bristol's green spaces

Stoke Lodge / South Purdown / School Playing Fields

To Cllr Barbara Janke,
cc All Cabinet Members, Tracey Morgan, Richard Fletcher

The issues surrounding public access to Stoke Lodge and South Purdown were discussed at the Bristol Parks Forum meeting on 17th July at Netham Park.

The meeting was in full agreement that unfettered public access to these important areas of green open space should be maintained indefinitely. The public has had unrestricted access to both these areas for many years and this should continue.

You will know that the education department's proposals for South Purdown have been of concern to the BPF for many years and we have supported the Friends of South Purdown in their efforts to protect this space. It is still not too late for this space to be saved from the proposed development and we urge the Cabinet to reconsider these proposals.

Stoke Lodge is in an area that is outside the distance standards for access to green space in accordance with the Parks & Green Spaces strategy; the confirmation of a public right of access to this space would address this. We accept Cllr Gary Hopkins statement that the plan that recently came to light does not represent the views of the current administration, however, it clearly does illustrate the thinking of officers in the education department who commissioned it and this causes us great concern.

As well as restricting public access, these plans would have a detrimental impact on the area's wildlife and destroy its historic landscape and appearance. Bristol Parks Forum is against any fencing of Stoke Lodge.

We request that the Cabinet publicly states that this space will be protected and that it is formally transferred to Parks & Estates to be held as public open space for the benefit of the community.

On a related subject we note the comments in the April report to Cabinet which referred to Stoke Lodge concerning public access to school playing fields. The Area Green Space Plan for Bishopston, Cotham & Redland suggests that Bishop Road Playing Fields could be used to partly address the shortage of space in that area. The BPF committee would be willing to contribute to discussions as to how this could be achieved.

We are also keen that schools should be encouraged to make better use of Bristol's parks and particularly the nature reserves as an educational resource. The Council's policy should be to remove barriers between schools and the community, not to erect new fences.

Yours,

Rob Acton-Campbell

on behalf of the Bristol Parks Forum

26 July 2010

rob@bristolparksforum.org.uk
www.bristolparksforum.org.uk



Stoke Lodge 22 July 2010 (photo Derek Hawkins)

Bristol Parks Forum

Bristol Parks Forum was established by Bristol Parks as an umbrella organisation for community park groups and organisations in the city with an interest in their local parks and green spaces.

The forum is supported by Bristol City Council but acts independently and is the only 'community voice' that is dedicated to all of Bristol's green spaces. The forum's three main roles are to:

- offer an opportunity to share ideas and experience
- act as a consultation body for the Bristol Parks service and other agencies
- influence decision-making, including the allocation of resources

Bristol Parks Forum <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk>