

Parks Volunteering Strategy

Becky Belfin

becky.belfin@bristol.gov.uk

Progress so far

- What are the benefits to the council of working with and enabling volunteers
- Why people volunteer
- Current picture of volunteering in parks
- What is happening at a corporate level within the council in relation to volunteering
- What does volunteering best practise look like
- Volunteering Models
- Key issues to address for parks groups

What are the benefits to the council of working with volunteers

- Helps to ensure long-term sustainability of parks
- Helps us to establish community links and better reflect the varied communities we represent
- Gives us a better understanding of park users
- Increases vibrancy of the parks
- Enables us to benefit from added value and enhanced service provision

Why people volunteer in parks

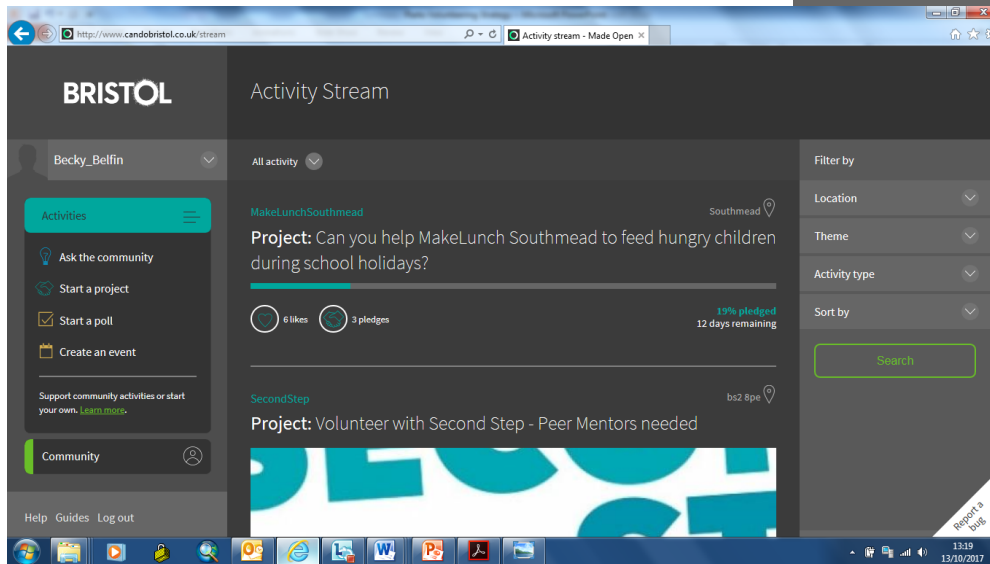
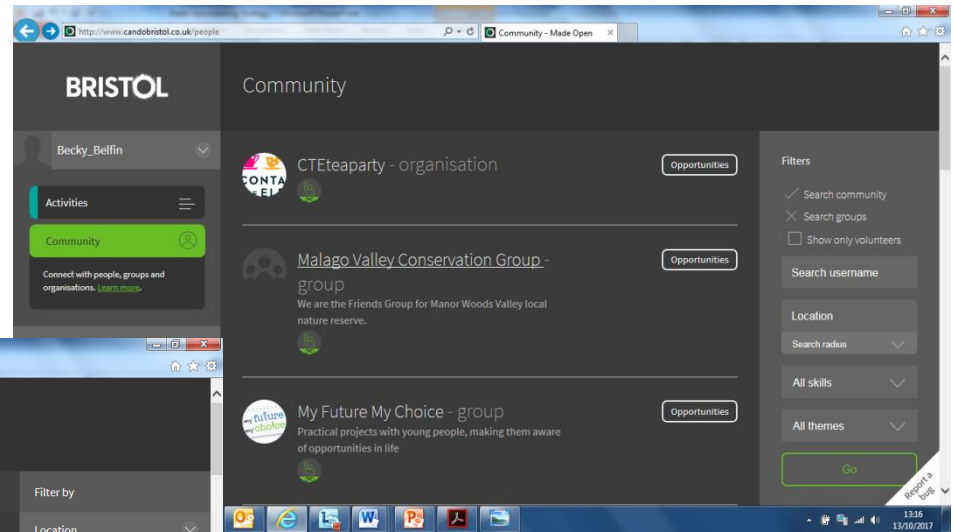
- To help protect and enhance a green space – to build a feeling of ownership
- To make a difference
- To meet like-minded people and generate a sense of community
- To get outdoors, be active and improve their health and wellbeing
- To use professional skills
- To develop skills for work or life
- To find fun activities to do with family and friends

Responses to Volunteering Questionnaire

- 7400 hours annually, with a value of £55,500.
- All groups expressed an interest in training
- Types of volunteering activity:
 - Practical tasks – 83%
 - Championing a site – 46%
 - Fundraising – 43%
 - Events – 40%
 - Administration – 37%
- Barriers:
 - Inadequate support and/or difficulties in communication with the council
 - Too few active members

What is happening at a corporate level

- CanDoBristol
www.candobristol.co.uk



Volunteering Best Practice

Investing in Volunteers standard

- There is an expressed commitment to the involvement of volunteers, and recognition throughout the organisation that volunteering is a two-way process which benefits volunteers and the organisation.
- The organisation commits appropriate resources to working with all volunteers, such as money, management, staff time and materials.
- The organisation is open to involving volunteers who reflect the diversity of the local community and actively seeks to do this in accordance with its stated aims.
- The organisation develops appropriate roles for volunteers in line with its aims and objectives, which are of value to the volunteers.
- The organisation is committed to ensuring that, as far as possible, volunteers are protected from physical, financial and emotional harm arising from volunteering.
- The organisation is committed to using fair, efficient and consistent recruitment procedures for all potential volunteers.
- Clear procedures are put into action for introducing new volunteers to their role, the organisation, its work, policies, practices and relevant personnel.
- The organisation takes account of the varying support and supervision needs of volunteers.
- The whole organisation is aware of the need to give volunteers recognition.

Volunteering Models

- What will volunteering in Bristol's Parks look like in 5 years time
- Pros and Cons
- Cost Benefit analysis

Issues that we'll seek to address through the Strategy and Action Plan

- Training
- Access to tools
- Access to volunteering opportunities
- Provision of guidance and toolkits
- Permission for activities
- Permission for events
- Fundraising and process for agreeing and implementing parks investment/enhancement projects
- Opportunities to work alongside staff to achieve more, or where ad hoc assistance is required
- Agreement and communication of who is responsible for what.
- Communication of new proposals or intentions to carry out work

Do you want to help?

- Thoughts on what has been said
- Thoughts on the role of the Parks Forum in the future of Parks Volunteering

Becky Belfin

becky.belfin@bristol.gov.uk