

Bristol Parks Forum – 13th April 2013 – Workshop Notes

Priorities (1-5: 1=High, 5=Low)

Band 1

Empty dog bins on regular basis
Management Plan
Maintaining infrastructure
Health and Safety issues
Maintaining play areas
Basic routine maintenance

Band 2

Grass cutting
Bins and Litter
Plant Maintenance
Toilets
Low maintenance ornamental shrubs

Band 3

Empty litter bins
Maintain habitats/shrub control
Continue tree monitoring
Park keeper – daily presence
Improved signs
Maintain toilets/paths/walls
Reduce number of times grass is cut
Management plans written by groups for raising new funding
No Hanging baskets
Increase income into parks
Facilities for teenagers to prevent ASB

Band 4

Encourage use by community/school children
Involvement of Friends/Parks groups
Maintain lake/riverbank
Emptying dog bins
Scrap Green Flags

Band 5

Improve Biodiversity
Local groups/volunteers to organise litter picking
Clearing up litter
Write management plans
Tree planting
Making park entrances welcome

STOP DOING/DO DIFFERENTLY

If no Parks group then projects in agreement with councillors. If they don't agree don't do it
Minimal intervention for wildlife
Stop expensive tree planting – council can then stop neglecting existing trees
Stop stigmatising dog walkers – Start getting dog walkers' groups
Stop pushing their agenda without taking account of users/owners (us)
Joined up thinking please
Do it better – sufficient parking at destination. Parks to ensure local residents do not live in a nightmare.
Dynamic acceptance of ecological processes
Stop doing stuff against Parks group wishes
Do Health and Safety
Individual Parks' Management Plans
Reduce herbicide
Get May Gurney to empty bins
Share resources Parks and Estates
Reduce use of large machines
Provide more contract spec information to groups
Better monitoring of work done by contractors
Less cutting of road verges
Leave more areas as hay meadow/wildflower meadow
More use of volunteers (eg BTC/Community Payback)
Improve recognition of wildlife in setting up contracts
Make contracts tighter
Improve woodland management

Bristol has reputation as a green city and wants to promote this. Parks are important.
Concentrate on strategic issues – areas of work we can stop/reduce/amend (eg sports users to pay more for facilities)
Amend maintenance contract to make a saving
What is budget split between, contracts and other?
Need to continue to raise profile of parks with decision-makers – having a lobby from parents of children is important.
Is it better value to have contracts or in-house?
Promote benefits – social and health – of green spaces (statutory status)
We should look at bringing income into parks – employ someone to do this
Parks play important role in communities

Protect essentials
Reduce the risk
Increase the income (community input)
“Frisly bits delivered by groups”

Nature Reserves and Wild Spaces

- 1) Management Plan – implement with Park keeper and senior management
- 2) Support Parks Group
- 3) Maintain infrastructure
- 4) Clear litter – general, dog mess, flytipping
- 5) Support services – specialist
- 6) Info Boards