

2 April 2010 – No 12

Hi

Bristol Parks Forum Meeting Sat 10th April

The agenda for the meeting can be seen here:

<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFagenda100410.pdf>

The BCC website about Netham Park and Pavilion can be seen via

<http://tinyurl.com/yzedtm6> Some of the information on the website is out of date, there is now a Friends of Netham Park group and the play area has been completed. There is a chance to walk around Netham with Jamie Roberts the Area Parks Manager for the East after lunch.

As we requested, Tracey Morgan has sent us some information on some of the topics to be discussed at the meeting and these can be downloaded from the links below. We hope that by having this information in advance we will be able to reduce the presentation time and increase the time for questions.

1. Note on Organisational Change:

<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/TMnoteMarch10.pdf>

2. List of Park Keepers:

<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/ParkKeepersMarch2010.pdf>

3. Events Briefing Note:

<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/EventsBriefingNotev3.pdf>

This includes a proposal for a flat rate charge of £20 for events to include licensing and insurance, we are keen to get your views on this and to decide whether it is something that the BPF should support.

4. Proposal for Park Group Agreements:

<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFplanParkGroups.pdf>

5. List of Section 106 money available for Parks:

<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/ParksS106Feb2010.pdf>

Clever councillors will invest in great green space

As elections loom, a new report on urban parks and green spaces from CABE reveals that if people are satisfied with their local park they tend to be satisfied with their council.

The full story with links to the full report can be seen here:

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/news/urban-green-nation>

Ashton Vale Fields Village Green

The Village Green Inquiry for Ashton Vale is taking place 17, 18 May and week commencing 24 May. If anyone is able to attend and support the Ashton Vale Heritage Group they would be very grateful. See

<http://www.ashtonvaleheritage.co.uk/>

Beeses Riverside Bar & Tea Gardens

I don't normally do advertising in these updates but Beeses, which reopened this weekend, is a special case because at the end of last year they donated over £1,000 to be shared between Friends of Troopers Hill and Friends of Eastwood Farm. Susan and I will be heading there after the Parks Forum.

<http://www.beeses.co.uk>

Rob Acton-Campbell

BPF

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

BPF Meetings: Saturday 10th April

at Netham Pavilion, Avonvale Road, Redfield, Bristol BS5 9RN

Saturday 17 July; Saturday 9 October - venues to be confirmed

Visit us at the Bristol Festival of Nature 12th and 13th June 2010

www.festivalofnature.org

16 April 2010 – No 13

Hi,

Bristol Parks Forum Meeting 10th April

Catherine will send out the minutes of the meeting shortly and I will then upload them to the website at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/#meetings. Links to the various papers that I sent before the meeting are also on the website.

I felt it was a useful meeting and it was certainly good to have it in a park. There were various issues raised where I was asked to send links and some of these are below:

Contract areas – there is a map of the areas here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/ParksAreas.pdf

South Area Contractor, Quadron http://www.quadronenvironment.com/clients/bristol_city_council/

Central Area Contractor, English Landscapes <http://www.thelandscapegroup.co.uk/>

Bristol Neighbourhood Planning Network www.bristolnbn.net

Planning Finder – find planning applications close to your park www.planningfinder.co.uk

Pathfinder play areas www.goplacestoplay.org.uk

Bristol Development Framework – Site Allocations www.bristol.gov.uk/bdf

Neighbourhood Partnerships www.bristol.gov.uk/neighbourhoodpartnerships or <http://bristolpartnership.org/neighbourhood-partnerships>

City Centre Consultation <http://tinyurl.com/y2befhj>

Count Bat Project

As I mentioned at the meeting we received the the following email from Dan Merrett at the Bat Conservation Trust.

I'm writing to let you and your members know about bat-related work in Bristol's parks and greenspaces that we have received funding for this year. I work for a charity called the Bat Conservation Trust on a project called Count Bat which aims to get new audiences involved in bat conservation. The Bristol funding is for work designed to get more people actively using Bristol's greenspaces and will follow a model we recently trialled in London called Green City Bats.

With Green City Bats we offer a free information pack, training and loan of resources to 'friends of' groups that are interested in having bat events in their park or greenspace. The ultimate aim is to attract more people to visit their local greenspace by having bat walks or bat fun days and as part of the funding we will also be looking to run a couple of these this year also. We've found that such events have proved very popular across the country and because of the novelty can attract people who are less regular park users. They are also simple events to run and as part of the funding we are able to loan bat detectors to 'friends of' groups to host their own bat walks, along with training sessions on how to use the bat detectors and run a bat walk.

I hope that this will be of interest to your members and I am keen to let them know about the opportunity. I know through my volunteer work with Avon Bat Group that some of your members already hold bat walks and hopefully this will allow more to do so as well as to learn through the information pack more about their local bats and how they can help them. The funding runs until November. You can find information on the London Green City Bats Project here - http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/green_city_bats.html - however please be aware that this is currently a London specific page and Bristol groups will not yet be able to sign up using it.

Kind regards

Dan

Dan Merrett
Count Bat Project Co-ordinator

Bat Conservation Trust
15 Cloisters House
8 Battersea Park Road
London SW8 4BG

Direct tel.: 07761 942393

Main switchboard & bat helpline: 0845 1300 228

Email: dmerrett@bats.org.uk

Website: <http://www.bats.org.uk>

Arnos Vale re-opens

One of Britain's finest Victorian garden cemeteries – the 170-year-old Arnos Vale, Bristol – re-opens at the end of April following a £5m project to restore its historic buildings, monuments and 45-acre grounds and give the site a new role as a heritage, wildlife and education centre. To showcase what has been achieved and the new opportunities now on offer, Arnos Vale will host free public open days throughout the Early May Bank Holiday Weekend (Friday 30 April to Monday 3 May), with many extra attractions on Saturday 1 May.

For further details see www.arnosvale.org.uk

Bristol Festival of Nature 12th and 13th June 2010

www.festivalofnature.org

If you would like to help man the BPF stand and get the chance to promote your own group, events or campaign then please email info@bristolparksforum.org.uk Fraser is putting together a rota to cover the two days in 2 hour slots, so please let us know your preferred day and time.

Rob Acton-Campbell

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29 April 2010 – No 14

Hi,

Events Workshop

We held a meeting with Jenny Crook last night which was also attended by Colleen Bevan representing Bristol Parks. Colleen is one of the two managers who report directly to Tracy and has responsibility for strategy and projects, rather than the operations side. The Parks Projects team; the P&GSS team and the Business team report to Colleen.

It was unfortunate that we hadn't been able to hold this meeting before the last Forum meeting because it clarified a lot of issues that were raised then. Everyone at yesterday's meeting agreed that the proposed new system and the £20 fee including insurance cover for small events should be supported.

The main part of the meeting concentrated on the new Event Application Form and Guidance Notes. The notes clarify what is and is not an event as far as completing the form is concerned. You will not need to complete the form for events with less than 50 people. Informal events which do not involve erecting any infrastructure and to which the public are not invited are also not covered.

Guided walks/talks and volunteer work also come outside the definition of events and will be covered by Park's H&S training as they are now. We also suggested that this should cover the erection of gazebos for the purpose of giving out information about the site or the Friends Group. This is to be agreed with Raquib who is currently revising the H&S pack.

The new Event Application Form is actually longer than the old one but it is much clearer which sections need to be filled in, eg you can skip the section on toilets if the event is less than 3 hours. The process of filling in the form will prompt you to think about things that you need to consider in planning the event. The form will also be a Word document and does not need to be signed so it does not need to be printed and can be sent back by email. This of course means that once you have completed it for one event and saved it you will only have to change the details for later events and not fill the whole form in again. The new form should be available by June.

The form also includes a box to tick if you wish the event to be covered by the insurance for community events which will be included in the £20 fee. Small community events will generally be those with less than 150-200 people on site at one time and no high risk activities. The upper numbers limit is not set in stone and will to some extent depend on the site and the type of event. So if you are planning an event that you think should be covered then you apply for the insurance cover and the events team may then contact you to discuss things in more detail. The numbers limit is not an insurance requirement so if more people attend than you were expecting it does not mean that the insurance cover will be invalid.

We also talked about the fact that the website and notices at park entrances should make it clear that permission is needed for public events on Bristol's parks.

I think this is all good news and should make it much easier for park groups to plan and hold events.

Community Festivals and Events Fund

There is now a list of events that got funding through this scheme on the BCC website which can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/296xua7> You will see that a lot of them are in parks.

If you missed out on funding for an event through this then it will be worth speaking to your Neighbourhood Partnership. Each NP has a well being budget and community events are one of the things that this budget is intended to fund.

See www.bristol.gov.uk/neighbourhoodpartnerships or <http://bristolpartnership.org/neighbourhood-partnerships>

Litter in Parks

Litter in parks has been mentioned in several letters and articles in the Evening Post recently. At St Andrews Park there has been a Facebook group set up about the issue. Links are on the Friends of St Andrews Park website here: <http://tinyurl.com/3489drw>

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