

5 August 2009

Castle Park Town Green Application

As expected the Council's Rights of Way and Greens Committee rejected the Castle Park application on a technical legal point on Monday. However, many members of the committee clearly supported the idea of a Town Green designation and they passed a resolution asking the Cabinet to bring forward a voluntary Town Green application. They also suggested that other parks should be given Town Green status as part of the P&GSS.

This is potentially very positive news, but we need to see how it develops.

You can see the Evening Post report here: <http://tinyurl.com/le6hf4> and the webcast of the meeting is on the BCC website here: <http://www.bristol.public-i.tv/site/>

Troopers Hill Went to Trafalgar Square

One of Bristol's six new Green Flags was flying over Trafalgar Square for an hour on Tuesday morning - see www.troopers-hill.org.uk/events/plinth.htm

If you would like to see the Green Flag flying at Troopers Hill then come along to our Bugs & Beasties event on Saturday from 3pm. Troopers Hill is also an excellent spot from which to watch the balloons and the Red Arrows (which will be flying at 5pm on Saturday, just as our event ends).

Our New CDO

Unfortunately we spelt Raquib's name wrong on both the Agenda and in my notes from the last meeting.

Our new CDO is Raquib Khandker raquib.khandker@bristol.gov.uk

Apologies to Raquib, and to you if you tried to email him with the wrong spelling. Catherine continues to do the administrative work on behalf of the forum : catherine.newman@bristol.gov.uk.

Arnos Vale Walks

A reminder that there is another night time Bat Walk is being held at Arnos Vale tomorrow (Friday 7th August). For details of the time and meeting place and to ensure your place on this fabulous walk is confirmed please call Mary Wood on 0117 9721079 (evenings or weekends) or email marywood@talktalk.net.

There is also heritage tour this Saturday 8th August which will be looking at the history of the cemetery. If you want to book a place then contact Dave Napier on 01275 542491 or 07891 675373, or email him on dave.napier@blueyonder.co.uk

Eastville Park Cycle Route

The Eastville Park Action Group have passed on this message:

I am writing to you to ask for your consideration the resurfacing proposals Cycling City has for the Frome Valley route through Eastville Park. Please see plan at <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/EastvilleParkCycle.pdf> . In Summary we are hoping, this financial year to resurface and widen the existing path to 3metres from the Boating Lake to Fat Mans Reach bridge (the very narrow bridge). Section 1 and 2 on the plan. The surface will be tarmac so in keeping with the rest of the park.

Next financial year we are proposing to replace Fat Mans Reach Bridge with a wider structure and create a 1:20 access ramp onto Broom Hill. These are still in early stages and are yet to be finalised. We will consult on this separately when further details are available

I would appreciate if could forward these plans to anyone who has an interest in Eastville Park and I look forward to receiving your comments, by Monday 10th August, regarding the re-surfacing proposals.

Yours sincerely

Nick Pates, Cycling and Walking, Bristol City Council. nick.pates@bristol.gov.uk 0117 3525736

[3m is ten feet in old money, wide enough for a bus?!!!!!!]

Solution to allotments scarcity???

Given that Peter Wilkinson is now responsible for cemeteries and allotments, I'm sure the front page of today's Evening Post will have given him some ideas <http://tinyurl.com/m4dx5y>

Rob Acton-Campbell

BPF

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

BPF Meeting Dates: 31st October 2009, 16th January 2010

16 August 2009

Hi,

Minutes of the July BPF Meeting

The minutes should be out this week, I'll post them on the website when they are available.

Castle Park

I have now added links to the minutes and other documents relating to the 3 August meeting of the Council's Rights of Way and Greens Committee that considered the Town Green Application to our website.

The committee resolved that:

- i) that the application be rejected for the reasons set out in the Inspector's Report dated 30th March 2009; and
- ii) that the Committee requests that the Council Executive consider bringing forward proposals for Castle Park to be voluntarily made a Town Green as per the 2006 Act, as part of any future development proposals.
- iii) that any development proposal for the St Mary Le Port site aimed to reduce the footprint, so protecting open space in Castle Park.
- iv) that the Council Executive bring forward plans to protect Bristol's valued parks and open spaces by including a programme of voluntary Town Green applications as part of its Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

There is a FAQ about Town Green Registrations on the Defra website at: <http://tinyurl.com/p2lll9> it says:

VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION

Can a landowner now voluntarily register land as a green?

Yes. A significant new power in section 15 for the first time enables the owner of land to apply to register it voluntarily as a green. This can only be done if the landowner has first obtained the consent of any lease or charge holder of the land, such as a tenant, or a mortgagee. The owner will need to apply to the registration authority using the new application form to complete the

registration.

Is it necessary for a landowner to sign a statutory declaration if he is voluntarily registering his land?

Yes. This ensures that the person seeking to register his land as a green has provided a sworn or affirmed legal statement to the effect that he is the landowner and, if relevant, that any lessees or chargees have consented to the registration of the land.

What rights will the public have to use greens that have been voluntarily registered?

In Defra's view, a green that has been registered voluntarily will be subject to the same statutory protections as all other registered greens and local people will have the legal right to indulge in sports and pastimes over the green.

The necessary application form is here: <http://tinyurl.com/nv5ahd>

Another issue that was mentioned in the meeting, and is referred to in the statement from Daniel Bennett, is that if Castle Park is a formal park held under the Open Spaces Act 1906 then some of the events that have been held on Castle Park (such as the recent 'Ladyboys of Bangkok') may have been unlawful. This of course raises issues for events in other parks which involve fencing off parts of the park. No doubt this is something Parks' Events Officer will be able to clarify when we talk about events at our meeting in October.

Bendy Bus Routes in South Bristol

The West of England Partnership has now issued a map showing options for the Bendy Bus Routes in South Bristol; they still call it Rapid Transit.

The map can be seen here:

http://www.westofengland.org/media/158026/south_overview_map-dashonly.pdf

More information about the options are here:

<http://www.westofengland.org/transport/north-fringe-to-hengrove-package/options-and-proposals>

The Evening Post Report is here: <http://tinyurl.com/mxxhk8>

One of the options follows the Malago and the Town Green Application for part of this route adjacent Cotswold Rd has now been submitted as reported here: <http://tinyurl.com/nlkwx3>

Another of the route options involves going through the Glyn Vale and Kingswear parts of the Northern Slopes Proposed Local Nature Reserve. The Northern Slopes are also in the area covered by the Knowle West Development Framework. The Council now has a new part of its website giving details about this redevelopment plan which can be found at: <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/kwrf>
The site includes links to a report with a summary of the baseline information which is informing the whole process. There is a section on green spaces/ecology which is well worth looking at.

More about the Northern Slopes here: <http://www.northern-slopes-initiative.co.uk/>

Ashton Vale

The Evening Post has finally acknowledged that not everyone thinks the application for a new

football stadium is the greatest thing ever to happen in Bristol.

There was an article this week about Ashton Vale Fields, it can be seen here:

<http://tinyurl.com/r6edw7>

It is not too late to comment on the application, as with all planning applications any comment received prior to the decision being made is considered and despite the impression that might be given by some people, no decision has yet been made. Details of the application which is application number 09/02242/P can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/ku4e5w> and there is a petition here: <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/BCFCAshtonGate/>

There is more at <http://www.ashtonvaleheritage.co.uk/>

There has also been lots of publicity this week about other areas where Greenbelt is threatened see <http://www.saveourgreenspaces.org/> You might also like to sign the petition about the Regional Spatial Strategy and the Greenbelt at <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/protect-it/>

Invasive Weeds

Vicky Freke works on the Avon Invasive Weeds Forum. She would like to know if there are any groups doing work on invasive weeds independently of AIWF and who may want to give her a paragraph or two on what they have been up to regarding invasive weeds? This would then be included in the AIWF annual report. This may be a good opportunity to get your work noticed and perhaps gain some new volunteers or funding.

You can find out more at www.aiwf.org.uk and you can email Vicky at info@aiwf.org.uk

Park Welcome Sign

Following comments at the last BPF meeting that contact numbers for the Police should be better publicised we have added a new sign to our notice board at Troopers Hill Field. The sign also publicises the Parks Forum. You can see a copy of the sign here:

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

I would like to see a similar sign at the entrance to each park in Bristol.

If you would like to use the BPF logo on your own signs or a website it can be downloaded from the following link: <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/bpflogoA.gif>

While on my favourite subject of Troopers Hill, we had a great day last weekend with a Bugs & Beasties hunt; you can see photos and a video of the event here: www.troopers-hill.org.uk/events/09bugs.htm

Windmill Hill City Farm

On Saturday August 22, Windmill Hill City Farm will begin its Save Our Farm Appeal to deal with

its current funding crisis, starting with The Big Fundraiser.

This exciting event includes:

Fun Day at the Farm 11am to 4pm

Fun Night at the Fiddlers 8pm til late (£6 / £5 conc)

More at www.windmillhillcityfarm.org.uk

Rob Acton-Campbell

BPF

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

BPF Meeting Dates: 31st October 2009, 16th January 2010

23 August 2009

Hi,

New Chocolate Factory Consultation

The second consultation on the access to the proposed 'cycle' houses from the Railway Path which was promised by Gary Hopkins at our meeting in May is now live. The online version is at:

www.bristol.gov.uk/chocfactoryconsultation

You can also download a pdf version from <http://tinyurl.com/lxdf5t>

There are two options:

Option 1 - Individual access to the railway path - individual access from each cycle home

Option 2 - Shared access to the railway path - one access point shared by two cycle homes

The statement that the BPF agreed in response to the first consultation can be seen here:

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFRailwayPathResponse.pdf

The new consultation closes on 25 September. If you think the BPF should make a separate response to this new consultation please let us know.

Health and Safety Training

A Health and Safety training course for volunteers and community groups is being held at the Create Centre from 13:00-17:00 on Tuesday 22nd September.

The training covers the health and safety procedures that volunteers and community groups need to follow when carrying out practical activities on land owned by Bristol City Council. Once you have qualified through this course you will be able to run these events without anyone from Bristol Parks being present and still be covered by Bristol City Council's insurance.

If you or a member of your group would like to attend, please email Catherine at catherine.newman@bristol.gov.uk

If you can't make this session but would like to know about future courses please let Catherine know what time or days would be most convenient. It is possible to split the 4 hour session in to two evening sessions and this could be arranged if there is enough demand.

The qualification needs to be renewed after 3 years and some of the first to qualify are soon due a renewal. If your renewal is due before the end of the year please contact Catherine so that she can arrange a renewal session for you.

Some other events that might be of interest in September:

100 years of Dame Emily Park Sunday 6th September from 12-5pm

The event is funded by Dame Emily Park Project (DEPP) and is supported by Friends of Bristol South Swimming Pool (FOBS) as well as other local organisations including the South Bank Club, Salvation Army etc. The event is to celebrate the 100year anniversary of the park opening to the public and will feature music, dance demos, sporting activities, a market of local organisations arts and crafts, bbq, as well as activities held in the pool and an open day.

Troopers Hill History Walk Sunday 6th September 10.30am

Join the Friends of Troopers Hill for a look at the history of Troopers Hill and the surrounding area. Learn how the shape of the hill and its ecology has been influenced by the activities of Bristolians over the years.

We would also be pleased to hear your stories and memories of Troopers Hill and the surrounding area.

Email events2009@troopers-hill.org.uk or phone Judith on 0117 955 9819 for more information and to book your place.

Beeses Beer Festival Friday 11 - Sunday 13 September

If you are asking what this has to do with parks, then the good news is that, as in previous years, half of the proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the Friends of Eastwood Farm and Friends of Troopers Hill. So I have a vested interest in persuading you to drink their beer!

As well as a range of beer and cider, they've got some great music. Tickets are on sale now at £5 a day and £12 for the whole weekend. Each ticket includes a free pint, which means purchasers of weekend tickets get a free pint on each day!

Beeses is next to Eastwood Farm LNR in Brislington and you can also reach it by ferry from Conham, If you visit I might well see you there!

More details at www.beeses.co.uk

Generations in the Park on Saturday 12th September

From Jim O'Shaughnessy on behalf of Climate Action Bedminster and St John's Community Association:

St John's Churchyard (now a park) is believed to be older than Bristol.

You are invited to Generations in the Park on 12th September (12-4pm). It's a fun day for all ages.

This historic park could be older than Bristol with settlements dating back to Saxon times. The park is just a stones throw from East Street in Bedminster so take a break from shopping to enjoy; face painting, cooking demos and free food tasters, Tai Chi exercise class, story telling with Michael Loader, music from RhymeTime, refreshments and much more. The easiest way from East Street is to walk up Church Road or Church Lane.

On the day we will be making a string timeline and we are asking you, your friends and family to bring along any old photos, stories or memorabilia of the park and the Church – photo copies are fine. We know the last church on the site was destroyed during the Second World War and the ruins were cleared in the 60's. We want to hear your stories and memories - old and new. It's all happening from midday to 4pm, - join artist Rose Popay and draw your memories of the park and the planet.

St John's Community Association is improving St John's Churchyard for the future. We have been successful in raising over £18,000, for park improvements and have refurbished a 14th Century cross. Generations in the Park - a fun day of taster activities, storytelling and celebration funded by Linkage and St John's Community Association.

If you want to get involved, have some old photos or want further details contact Jim 9664318, or email jim.os@blueyonder.co.uk

Malago Trek Sunday 20th September

10am meet in ASDA carpark near store entrance.

Walking upstream through Bedminster and beyond, as far as the Dundry Slopes where the stream rises - finish at the Malago Spring artwork. A great chance to explore and learn more about the Malago and to see what would be lost if some of the proposed bendy-bus routes were built!

- * Bring a picnic for the end, and drink for along the way.
- * Walk should finish at about 1pm.
- * Plenty of buses back to the start.
- * Join for all or part
- * Wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather - waterproofs or sunhat and shades!

For further details contact Helen Adshead:

email: helen.adshead@bristol.gov.uk

Tel: 0117 922 4331

Bristol Living Rivers / South Bristol Riverscapes Project www.bristol.gov.uk/rivers

Avon Art Exhibition, Bath until 4th October

Kathy Derrick of Bristol Living Rivers has been in touch to recommend an art exhibition that is now showing in Bath. It celebrates the Avon from Bath to Avonmouth and includes images of Eastwood Farm, the Floating Harbour and the Avon Gorge; there is also a video. Kathy says 'I went on Sunday, amazing'.

The Avon Project Part 2, art exhibition by Kurt Jackson, currently at the Victoria Art Gallery, by Pulteney Bridge, Bath BA2 4AT until 4th Oct 09. Open Tues-Sat 10-5pm, Sun 1:30-5pm. Free. More details at www.victoriagal.org.uk

Rob Acton-Campbell

BPF

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31 August

Hi,

Community Networking Fair Saturday 26 September 2009

Bristol Civic Society has organised a networking fair for all Neighbourhood Planning Network and other community groups to meet each other and exchange information on issues that affect a number of them. All park groups are invited. The fair is intended to get local groups working together on issues, such as the Ashton Gate stadium, the south Bristol Tesco, the Regional Spatial Strategy housing development proposals, or the Bus Rapid Transit, that affect many parts of Bristol. Many groups working together as a united front are far more effective than are individuals tackling the issues piecemeal.

Date: Saturday, 26 September 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: The main hall, Southville Centre, Beaufrey Road, Southville, Bristol BS3 1QG

Schedule: Alison Bromilow, Administrator for the Bristol Neighbourhood Planning Network, and Alan Morris, Chair of the Bristol Civic Society, will make opening remarks at 10:00 a.m.

A more detailed timetable will be available nearer the date.

Description: Tables will be set up in the hall for local groups to display information about their organisations and the work they do. Groups are welcome to bring as little or as much as they like (leaflets, posters, display boards, etc.) though the centre imposes an additional charge if electricity is required. Lunch will not be provided, but the centre has a café on site, just outside the main hall.

Purpose: The networking fair will be a chance for members of local organisations to meet and mingle with other community-based groups in an informal, social atmosphere.

For further details please contact Janine Derry janine.derry@googlemail.com 0117 907 8798

Community Green Spaces Seminar Sat 5 September Eden Project

Sorry about the late notice for this...

A series of inspirational talks, discussions, and practical activities which will explore the benefits of community owned and managed green spaces.

This informal seminar will provide an opportunity for members of local communities and community practitioners to share experiences and develop and implement ideas for local green spaces.

The day will include talks from local projects and organisations which are using green spaces to bring the community together around growing, sharing and socialising.

Entry is free for community groups.

More details at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/CommunityGreenSpaces.pdf

Play Pathfinder Project

There is a new website featuring the play areas in Bristol's parks that are receiving investment from the Pathfinder scheme. See www.goplacestoplay.org.uk

If these schemes are being implemented in your park we would like to hear your views on the consultation process and the results.

Parks Welcome Notice

In an earlier email I suggested a format for a welcome sign giving contact details for Bristol Parks, the Police and Park Groups. If you are thinking about producing a similar sign please check with your CPO before you include their name or names of other people in Parks. It is my view that the names of those responsible for managing and maintaining parks should appear on such signs but it seems that some people in Parks disagree.

Bristol Tree Forum

The next Tree Forum is on Sat 12th Sept , 9.30a.m. at Windmill Hill City Farm. Membership criteria is the same as BPF i.e fairly loose ,but with only 1 rep per group. If you would like to go along email info@bristolparksforum.org.uk and your email will reach Hugh who is chair of the Tree Forum as well as being Vice Chair of the BPF. Minutes of the last meeting can be found via links at

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/trees.htm

Rob Acton-Campbell

BPF

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

Next BPF Meeting: 31st October 2009, Windmill Hill City Farm

Conference: 16th January 2010, Vassall Centre, Fishponds BS16 2QQ