

## 14 August 2014 - No 157

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### Green Capital Funds

As I have mentioned before there is the potential for significant funds to be available for Park Groups as a result of Bristol being European Green Capital next year.

At the moment there is £10,000 available to each Neighbourhood Partnership for small projects and details are going to be announced soon of another £250k fund.

Details are at [www.bristol2015.co.uk/bristol-2015-grant-funding](http://www.bristol2015.co.uk/bristol-2015-grant-funding)

The Green Capital Company has also announced details of some sponsorship deals and the hope is that more funds will be available through the year.

The Neighbourhood Partnership Grants are for projects that will meet one of the following criteria:

- Increasing people's access to affordable, healthy, sustainable food
- Enabling more people to access affordable energy
- Inspiring and educating people about nature and how to care for it
- Providing activities and initiatives that help people re-use, repair, and share materials
- Helping people discover more sustainable transport (e.g. walking, cycling or public transport)

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### Green Capital Nature Theme Group

Fraser, Richard Ennion attended the Nature Theme group meeting earlier this month along with Bevis Watts, Arabella Tresilian and Hannah Robbins. Fraser reports the following as the major points from the meeting:

- Arabella Tresilian [arabella@bristol2015.co.uk](mailto:arabella@bristol2015.co.uk) the Commercial Partnership Manager is looking for sponsorship organisations that are pro-nature that may be willing to support some of our projects and other work. If you know of any likely companies then please let Arabella know directly.
- We are looking into how to measure success / progress in our Bristol 2015 Outcomes. If you have ideas how this might be achieved please let us know. PThe latest version of the Nature Theme Group Framework can be seen here: [www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/framework\\_v3.pdf](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/framework_v3.pdf)
- The organisation chart / organogramme has been requested and is under construction.
- A pro forma for our projects and other works has been requested and this will be produced so that we can easily determine which projects match our outcomes.
- The small grants programme will be announced within the next couple of weeks and will be managed by Quartet.
- The Strategic Grants will be managed through Bristol City Council and additional details

- will not be forthcoming until mid September at the earliest.
- Drafts of the Official Programme for next year that includes the major events, conferences etc is under construction (and we're told is looking very exciting)
  - Applications for the usage of the European Green Capital branding will not be open until mid to late September
  - The Green Capital Partnership is now set up as a Community Interest Company. This will allow it to continue to bid for money to make our longer term ambitions happen when the 2015 company ceases in early 2016.

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#### Parks South West: Call to Action

Green Connect has organised a major conference in Exeter this autumn with some free places for community groups (for the first 15 groups thanks to the support of Glendale Managed Services). Others pay just £25 for the day.

To be held on Wednesday 8th October, the conference will help park managers, volunteers and others working in green spaces to respond to the 'Call to Action' in the Heritage Lottery Fund's "State of the UK Parks" report, especially the declining budgets for maintenance and development.

Taking place in Exeter there will be speakers from leading organisations who are champions for the sector including the Heritage Lottery Fund, The Parks Alliance and RHS.

The conference will be chaired by Peter Wilkinson and Fraser, will be talking about the Rethinking Parks, ParksWork project.

Other speakers will cover new innovations in park management, green space quality awards including Green Flag, research providing vital evidence of the value parks bring to the health, and how to use social media to develop networks, market your parks and encourage interaction across the region

More details including how to book can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/lsb2opr>

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#### Parks Groups on Twitter

A number of park groups are now on twitter and their tweets are featured on the Parks Forum website at [www.bristolparksforum.org.uk](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk). The window on the right-hand side of the page automatically shows the latest tweet from any of the groups or from Bristol Parks. This is a good way to keep up with the latest news of events at Kings Weston, Horfield Common, Troopers Hill and a few other sites. It will also display tweets from Bristol Parks own twitter account.

You can also see the feed at [www.twitter.com/RobCrewsHole/lists/green-spaces](http://www.twitter.com/RobCrewsHole/lists/green-spaces) - you don't need a twitter account.

If your group is not on my list then please let me know and I will add you.

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## Park Group Constitutions

We sometimes get emails asking for example constitutions that new groups can use, I usually point them at the Friends of Troopers Hill one but it would be good to have some others to share. If you are happy for your group's constitution to be publicised then please send me a copy and I will add a selection to the website.

NSI are reviewing their constitution at the moment – and one of the issues that has come up is whether members who cannot make meetings are able to vote either by post or by digital communications.....

Has any one got an existing constitution which enables this to happen...

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Rob Acton-Campbell  
[www.twitter.com/RobCrewsHole](http://www.twitter.com/RobCrewsHole)  
Bristol Parks Forum  
[www.bristolparksforum.org.uk](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk)  
Next meeting Sat 11 Oct 2014

Meeting dates for 2015: 31 Jan - 18 Apr - 27 June - 10 Oct (subject to confirmation)

## National Save Our Parks Campaign

A message from the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces  
[www.natfedparks.org.uk/parks-petition.html](http://www.natfedparks.org.uk/parks-petition.html)

### SAVE OUR PARKS!

Protect and invest in the UK's green spaces  
- Help prevent the slide into crisis  
- Let's make parks a general election issue in 2015

Parks and green spaces are an essential and unique resource and service, vital to every local community and serving a wide range of important needs for people of all ages and interests. However, the June 2014 'State of UK Public Parks' report documented the alarming slide into a long-term crisis being caused by the underfunding of the UK's parks. We are now at a tipping point. It is up to all those who know and care to raise their voices together.

The inspirational rise of the Friends Groups movement over the last 15 years (with now over 5,000 groups), and the hard work and expertise of green space staff, managers and professionals, has demonstrated the commitment of the public and all those who love parks. We believe that there must now be an equivalent recognition and commitment from the political parties and the next Government in 2015. Let's make this an election issue!

The petition has already begun to stimulate publicity and debate. There's been a feature in the Daily Mirror, and important national organisations like Groundwork (the green space volunteering

charity) and UNISON (the local Government workers Union) have agreed to back the call. An initial response from a representative of the Department for Communities and Local Government stated: 'It's good to see that friends groups across the country have support for the valuable work they do preserving good quality local parks', and offered to meet with the National Federation to discuss 'community rights'. But there was no response to the central issue of what the Government plans to do to ensure 'good quality local parks', so we now have to step up the pressure. Let's all get the word out to everyone we know and get thousands more to sign!

Please help get as many signatures as you can...

1. Sign the petition: <http://chn.ge/TXdqhj>
2. Spread the news via Twitter: @LoveParks\_Week #LoveParks
3. Spread the news via Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ukparkspetition](http://www.facebook.com/ukparkspetition) - and also: [www.facebook.com/LoveParksWeek](http://www.facebook.com/LoveParksWeek)
4. Refer to the Parks Petition webpage: [www.natfedparks.org.uk/parks-petition.html](http://www.natfedparks.org.uk/parks-petition.html)
5. Download and take round a Sign Up Sheet: [www.natfedparks.org.uk/mediapool/118/1181937/data/NFPGSpetitionHardCopySignUpSheet\\_1\\_.pdf](http://www.natfedparks.org.uk/mediapool/118/1181937/data/NFPGSpetitionHardCopySignUpSheet_1_.pdf)
6. Download and hand out leaflets: [www.natfedparks.org.uk/mediapool/118/1181937/data/NFPGSpetitionleaflet2014\\_1\\_.pdf](http://www.natfedparks.org.uk/mediapool/118/1181937/data/NFPGSpetitionleaflet2014_1_.pdf)

Please spread the word far and wide!

The HLF produced State of UK Public Parks report setting out the current state of parks nationally and an associated video can be seen here: [www.hlf.org.uk/news/Pages/StateUKParks.aspx](http://www.hlf.org.uk/news/Pages/StateUKParks.aspx)

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#### THE FULL PETITION TEXT

Click here to sign: <http://chn.ge/TXdqhj>

#### SAVE OUR PARKS!

Protect and invest in the UK's green spaces - Help prevent the slide into crisis

The next Government, in 2015, must:

- hold a national inquiry into the funding and management of the UK's green spaces
- bring in a statutory duty to monitor and manage these spaces to Green Flag Award standard
- ensure adequate public resources for all green spaces

We call for all political parties to include these policies in their election manifestos.

Our local green spaces are vital for everyone and every community, and for all age groups and interests! They are an essential and unique service promoting relaxation, recreation and play, wildlife and bio-diversity, green jobs and skills, heritage, flood control, health and social well-being, and community cohesion.

However, there is growing alarm from the public, from Friends of Parks groups, and from parks managers, about the serious long-term damage being caused by dramatic cuts to green space budgets for staff and maintenance, and the lack of funding and investment by local and national government. If not reversed, this neglect will cause them to go into decline and become problem

spaces abandoned by park users and plagued by vandalism.

This unfolding slide into crisis must be halted. It's time for action.

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Rob Acton-Campbell

[www.twitter.com/RobCrewsHole](http://www.twitter.com/RobCrewsHole)

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