

02 December 2008

BDF & Area Green Space Plans Briefing 11 December

Richard Fletcher has organised a special briefing for BPF members at the Council House, College Green at 7-00pm on Thursday 11th December. A note from Richard about the briefing can be seen here: <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/briefing111208.pdf>

This is a great chance to find out how these processes fit together and how you can have your say to help protect Bristol's Green Space from development. Please attend the session if you possibly can or ask someone else from your group to go along. Let Richard (Richard.Fletcher@bristol.gov.uk) know if you are going to attend so that he can ensure that there is enough room.

The Bristol Parks website has now been updated with more information about Area Green Space Plans and the latest timetable see <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/parkstrategy>

Castle Park Inquiry

This is now in progress at the Old Council House, Corn St. The times are 10.00am to 5.00pm each day, plus Monday & Wednesday 6.00pm to 8.00pm

There is a BBC Bristol report here: <http://tinyurl.com/57cas9>
and This is Bristol here: <http://tinyurl.com/5q694l>

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BPF Meeting Dates for 2009: 24th January, 16th May, 25th July, 31st October

13 December 2008

Chocolate Factory Public Consultation

The public consultation into the potential use of Parks & Green Spaces Strategy land by Square Peg for their development next to the Railway Path has now been launched. This consultation is taking place because the developers want to use this land but the Area Green Space Plan for the area has not yet been produced so Bristol Parks have not yet consulted to establish whether the land is of 'low value'.

The consultation is into the disposal of two areas of land. One is proposed for sale and would be built on. The other is the strip of land between the path and the proposed 'cycle' houses. It is proposed to lease this land to the developer so that they can use it to install a stepped access to the

first floor of each house which is supposed to be used as a cycle access.

The consultation documents, which include a response questionnaire, are on the Council's website at:

<http://www.bristol.gov.uk/bristolrailwaypathpublicconsultation>

This consultation is separate to the planning process on which you can comment separately. The consultation is to help Bristol City Council to decide whether to sell/lease the land. Details of the proposed development (Planning application ref 08/03862/F) can be seen here:

<http://tinyurl.com/6jaunt>

If you want to see the Ecological Survey Report you will need to contact the case officer since it contains sensitive information about legally protected species and therefore the report is not available for downloading off the internet.

More details of the development are also available on the developers website at:

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

Bristol Parks are also holding a drop in session for local residents on Sat 17 January and a stakeholder workshop on 13 January. They are asking for one representative from each organisation but are happy for 2 or 3 members from the Parks Forum to attend. The invitation letter is here:

<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/WorkshopInvite.pdf> If you would like to attend as a representative of the BPF then please let us know. If you would like to attend as a representative of another organisation then please complete the form attached to the letter and send it to Bristol Parks.

Public Inquiries

As you may have seen reported in the press the Castle Park Inquiry has been adjourned until Wed 7th January, this was because the Council's barrister turned up late on the Friday and then took longer than the two hours he said he would need. The BPF issued a press release about the inquiry on the Friday morning; this and links to press reports are on our website at

<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/#latest>

The public inquiry into the diversion of footpaths at South Purdown took place on Tue 9 December. Sue reports that it went 'As well as could be expected'. The results of this should be known before the end of the year. Again a link to the Evening Post news story is on our website.

Call for Sites/SHLAA

Don't forget the official deadline for this is Friday 19th December; details at

<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/bdf.htm>

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Castle Park Town Green Inquiry

The continuation of the Inquiry is on Wednesday January 7th at 10am. Please note there is a change of venue. It is NOT in the Old Council House; It will be held in the Council House, College Green, in Committee Room 15.

Call for Sites - it's not too late!

The formal deadline for responses to the Call for Sites was 19 December, and despite requests, has not been extended. However the BDF team have said that they will include any sites in their assessment that are put forward using the Call for Sites form, before January 9th 2009. After that they say that as they move into the site assessment period, it will become increasingly difficult to consider additional responses. Response forms are still available on the BCC website, the links are on <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/bdf.htm>

The next BDF meeting is on Thursday 22nd January at Broadmead Baptist Church, Union Street, Bristol from 5.30 to 8.30pm. The focus this time will be on the Site Allocations Development Plan Document and in particular the method for assessing sites for inclusion in the document. If you would like to attend please email bdf@bristol.gov.uk to reserve a place.

Following this assessment, the Sites Allocations DPD will go out for consultation probably in June/ July 2009 when a report will be published on how all sites which have come forward in the Call for Sites process have been responded to, whether by inclusion in the DPD or by consideration by another process or department or if neither, why.

Details of the last BDF meeting, including notes on the discussions about where the additional new homes that the Government might require should be built are here: <http://tinyurl.com/9j8pel>

Northern Slopes

As I have mentioned before, alongside the Call for Sites consultation there is a chance to respond to the SHLAA Technical Assessment which has maps and a schedule listing possible sites for housing. One of these sites is ST111 and it includes a large part of the Northern Slopes. This area is proposed as a Local Nature Reserve, is an SSSI and is currently protected under several Council policies. The Northern Slopes Initiative (NSI) are members of the BPF. More information about the site and the NSI can be found at <http://www.northern-slopes-initiative.co.uk/>

This area is also covered by the Knowle West Regeneration Framework and there is a Kingsweir / Torpoint Masterplan that is due for completion within 6 months. All these seem to be in danger of over-riding the Area Green Space Plan process and there is concern that the principles stated in the P&GSS that any disposals of green space will be of 'low value' land will be ignored. The NSI have responded to the Call for Sites and the SHLAA raising these concerns the BPF will be discussing this with Bristol Parks.

Park Group's Websites

Our listing of parks and green spaces at <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/parks.htm> includes links to group's websites. One of the aims of the BPF is 'to offer an opportunity to share ideas and experience' and an excellent way to get ideas is to look at what other groups have been doing so please do look at these websites. If you know of any group's websites that are not shown please let me know. For groups that don't have a website I am happy to post information sheets or newsletters on the BPF website.

This will be my last email this year so I'll take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rob Acton-Campbell

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