

01 December 2012 - No 113

In this update: Community Festival Fund - Invasive Weeds Forum - Tree Bristol Update - Green Volunteers Awards

Community Festival Fund

The Bristol Community Festival Fund is now open and applications are being received.

The fund supports community celebration that engages communities and enhances local image and identity.

For more information about the fund, as well as the application forms and helpful guidelines please go to:

www.bristol.gov.uk/page/leisure-and-culture/community-festival-and-event-fund

Make a note in your diaries, the deadline for applications is the 16:00 on the 8th February 2013.

Regards

Arts, Festival and Events Team

Invasive Weeds Forum

THE AVON INVASIVE WEEDS FORUM NEEDS YOU!

Are you interested in practical conservation?

Do you have a keen eye for plants?

Do you walk in and around Bristol's open spaces?

We are looking for volunteers and conservation groups throughout Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Bath and North East Somerset to help survey for invasive species, get involved with practical 'BIG PULL' events in the Summer of 2013....spread the word, not the weed!

Join the Facebook page for all the latest info.

www.facebook.com/avoninvasiveweedsforum

If you would like to get involved please contact;

Neil Green on 07825315647

Or email on;

ngreen@bristolzoo.org.uk

Further information on the Forum from;

www.aiwf.org.uk

Tree Bristol Update

We have received an update from the TreeBristol team, this includes plans for trees in both parks & streets. See www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/TreeBristolBPFbrief.pdf

Green Volunteers Awards

The short-list for the Green Volunteers Awards can be seen here:
www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/GreenVolunteersShortlisted.pdf

The Awards Evening is on the 5th December 19:00-21:30. All volunteers, projects, groups, businesses, sponsors, associates, friends and curious folk are welcome for an evening of entertainment, awards, networking and complimentary refreshments.

If you would like to attend please email Eleanor@bnhc.org.uk .

Rob Acton-Campbell

BPF

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

2013 meetings: Sat 19 January - Sat 13 April - Sat 29 June - Sat 12 October
(all 9.30 to 12.30, venues tbc)

20 December 2012 - No 114

In this update: BPF Meeting 19 January - Green Volunteers Awards - Changes in Parks - Management Plans - Growth & Infrastructure Bill - Awards For All changes - HLF Parks for People - A British Park?

BPF Meeting 19 January

The next BPF meeting will be on Sat 19th January 2013 9.30am at Windmill Hill City Farm. Before she left Catherine also booked the same venue for all our 2013 meetings.

We are pleased to say that Cllr Gus Hoyt will be attending the meeting and there will be a chance to ask him questions. As you are probably aware Gus is one of three Councillors in George Ferguson's Cabinet (that meets for the first time tomorrow). His portfolio includes Environment and Neighbourhoods.

Alongside many other Councillors Gus has a twitter account that can be found at <https://twitter.com/MrGreenGus>

One his recent tweets said:

'Just had my first official 'briefing' as a Cabinet member and have prioritised devolution, parks and food in the city. Hugely optimistic! '

George Ferguson's answers to the questions we posed to candidates before the election can be found at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/MayorResponses/GeorgeFerguson.pdf and his twitter account is at <https://twitter.com/GeorgeFergusonx>

We are currently finalising the agenda for the meeting so that it can be sent out early in January, if there is anything you want included please let us know in the next couple of days.

Green Volunteers Awards

Congratulations to Steve England - Bristol's Green Volunteer of the Year. The full list of winners can be seen at www.greenvolunteersbristol.co.uk/node/187 together with photos (including Steve in a suit!) from what was a very inspiring evening.

Changes in Parks

Not a reorganisation this time but some changes of personnel. Richard Stransom who was Parks Operations Manager has moved to the Landscapes team to work with them in delivering the increased work load from the Capital Stimulus (£3.5m) projects.

His place leading the operations team will be taken from the beginning of January for a minimum of six months by Richard Fletcher. So Jamie Roberts covering the in-house teams and Chris Hammond covering the contracted areas will now report to Richard Fletcher.

Clare Blake will take over the Neighbourhood Engagement Team (the Area Environment Officers) for the same period in addition to her current management role of the Strategic team.

Richard Fletcher reports to Pam Jones who in turn reports to Tracey Morgan who is Service Director. Both Pam and Tracey will be at our January meeting to give more details about these changes. By that stage we might also know more about the impact of any budget cuts on Parks for 2013/14.

Management Plans

The discussions at our last meeting about Park Groups getting involved with writing management plans have not been forgotten. I will be putting together a new page on the website with the template and links to existing plans as examples. There will also be some guidelines to follow to ensure that the plans produced will be able to be adopted as the 'official' plan for your site.

This will be discussed more in January and we will then also talk more about BPF involvement in monitoring of contractor's performance.

Growth & Infrastructure Bill

The Bill has now completed committee stage in the Commons and returned to the full house for report and third reading on Monday 17 December. The Bill has now moved to the Lords. You can read the transcripts of the committee stage here <http://tinyurl.com/bmq5hg2> There is also a link to the BPF submission, which was briefly mentioned at 9.15am on Tues 4th December.

There is more about the Bill on the Open Spaces Society website at www.oss.org.uk/people-vote-for-village-greens-with-their-feet

Awards For All changes

The Big Lottery Fund have made a change to the Awards For All scheme that might benefit park groups.

Projects throughout England now have the opportunity to apply for repeat and on-going activities under Awards for All in a pilot scheme running until the end of March 2013.

Currently Awards for All does not fund on-going, regular or repeat activities, as the programme has focused on 'new' project ideas. However, in these challenging times BIG are increasingly aware of the pressures smaller groups face with rising costs and cuts to funding, and want to respond to this by looking at alternative ways of funding projects that support those most in need.

Following a successful six month pilot in the West Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber, BIG are now rolling out the pilot across England. This pilot will open out the criteria to all projects where the applicant has an income of less than (or equal to) £30,000 according to their latest accounts.

BIG envisage this pilot running until 31 March 2013. Any applications received for repeat and ongoing activities over this time period, and meeting the criteria above, will be assessed in the normal way. Please be aware that application materials (Guide for applicants and Application form) will not be changed. Please see <http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/pilot-apply.html> for more information.

HLF Parks for People

The next deadline for stage 1 applications for the Parks for People scheme is at the end of February, this is for projects from £100,000 to £5million.

Bristol Parks are keen for Bristol to get our share of this funding but it is unlikely that more than one large project in the City would get funding so there are meetings being held to discuss the best options. If you are developing a project that might qualify then please email Pam Jones at pamela.jones@bristol.gov.uk

HLF Parks for People Programme details and application guidance: <http://tinyurl.com/HLFp4p>

A British Park?

'People still want green and pleasant land' - an interesting article on the BBC website at www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-20710917

This will be my last update for 2012, so Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Rob Acton-Campbell

<http://twitter.com/RobCrewsHole>

Bristol Parks Forum

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

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