

06 February 2013 - No 117

In this update: BPF Meeting 9 February - BPF Updates - Car Parking Charges - Tree Planting Plans - Neighbourhood Partnership Review - Management Plans - Playing Out - Kings Weston Walk

BPF Meeting 9 February

A reminder that the agenda for our re-arranged meeting is on the website at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFAgenda190113.pdf

BPF Updates

I thought you would be interested to know how many people receive these updates. Obviously some people have several hats so the figures for each grouping are approximate. Some park groups have only one person on the list, some have several and I know that some forward the emails to others in their groups, so the reach is higher than the figures below.

Park Groups & Local groups 185
City Wide Groups 24
Bristol Parks 14
BCC Other 14
Councillors 10
Other Organisations 8
Individuals / unknown 12

Total email addresses 267

Car Parking Charges

I had less feedback than I expected on car parking charges. Cllr Lesley Alexander says she has received several approaches by residents about the parking charges in Oldbury Court and in particular about the effect on the surrounding roads.

Other comments:

I've read the EqIA quickly and feel that the very reasonable parking charge should be introduced as there are other far more serious cuts planned which will directly impact on social care and children's services, homeless people etc. Hopefully the parking charges may offset some of these.

I would be against charges at any parks, especially Snuff mills as surely people would park in neighbouring streets instead of using the car park. I would personally use the park less if I had to pay to leave my vehicle. I am also against blue badge holders not having to pay as I think that for equality charges should apply to able and disabled people as they do have to pay in many council car parks.

Tree Planting Plans

At our meeting Richard Fletcher will be talking about the proposed process for Neighbourhood Partnerships to select parks for tree planting plans for the 2013/14 planting season (Caroline Hollies is unable to make the re-arranged date).

Once a park is selected then there should be consultation with the park group (if there is one) about the detail of the plan.

If your park was selected for a tree planting plan for this planting season (or if large tree planting events have happened previously in your park) we would like to hear your views on how the process went. In particular was the group consulted about the location for trees and were you involved in the tree planting event? Did you or the Neighbourhood Partnership contribute any funds to increase the number of trees planted or were there any memorial trees?

Neighbourhood Partnership Review

Details of the current review of NPs can be found at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/NPreview.pdf
This includes details of public consultation sessions, with the first one at City Hall on Wed 13th February 6.30 - 8.30pm

There is also a survey at www.bristol.gov.uk/npask

Management Plans

This will be discussed at our meeting. I have set up a web page with links to useful information, example plans and the template that should be used for new plans. The page can be seen here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/ManagementPlans

If your site has a management plan but it is not shown, then please send me a link. Please also let me know of any other information that you think should be added.

Playing Out

This is not directly related to parks but may be of interest and the workshops might be useful if you are planning events in your park. If you have not come across 'Playing Out' then check out their website.

Hello,

I have just started working with Alice as the coordinator in Bristol and wanted to introduce myself to all of you who have been in touch. I live in Southville, have a toddler and have been organising Playing Out on my road for over a year, so hopefully have the knowledge to support current organisers and stewards and also to help spread Playing Out across Bristol. Please do feel free to email me, give me a call or even pop in to the shop on North Street.

My current priority is to run workshops across the city. These aim to explain the playing out model, the process to apply for permission, consider obstacles, answer questions and motivate people to start process in their street in an informal, coffee morning-style session that lasts up to two hours. Babies and toddlers are welcome and we try to ensure there are refreshments. In the past, workshops have been held in schools and I am in the process of organising more in local primary schools for the end of January/beginning of February. We are looking for more venues so please let me know if you have a local school, community centre or other venue that you think would be willing to host a workshop. It is also valuable to have a member of the community/PTA etc who can help with promotion and act as an informal host on our behalf on the day.

As was mentioned in the newsletter, Playing Out in the winter can be a challenge! However, it is a good time of year to start thinking about setting up Playing Out in new street so you can be up and running in the spring. Do let me know if you are interested, and I will do all I can to help. I can come to meetings, help with flyers/printing etc or just be around to provide general support.

Best wishes

Ellie Freeman
Playing Out CIC
hello@playingout.net
<http://www.playingout.net>

Kings Weston Walk

There was exciting news on the KWAG facebook page about a discovery in the cellar at the House that no doubt David Martyn will tell us more about on Saturday.

KWAG are organising a walk to explore the hidden past of Kings Weston estate on Saturday 23rd February 2013. The tour costs £4 per person with all money going towards KWAG's future projects to help promote, conserve, enhance the historic parkland. Booking is essential as spaces are limited and these tours have proved very popular in the past. For more information or to book email kwactiongroup@gmail.com or speak to David on Saturday.

Rob Acton-Campbell
<http://twitter.com/RobCrewsHole>

Bristol Parks Forum

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

2013 meetings: Sat 9th February (re-arranged date) - Sat 13 April - Sat 29 June - Sat 12 October
(all 9.30 to 12.30 at Windmill Hill City Farm)

14 February 2013 - No 118

In this update: BPF Meeting - NP Review - Enjoy this Weekend - Knowle West/Kingswear - Bristol 99 - Training Available - Highridge Common - View from the Top

BPF Meeting

I'll add links to the papers that were distributed at the meeting to the website at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/#meetings when I get them. I know the Council have had some IT issues this week due to an upgrade to Windows 7. Already there are Justin's sheets on tree felling and copicing and as well as links to information on Management Plans and the new Monitoring system. There is also a link to the Bristol 99 website (more on that below).

You may have seen that in the latest proposals on the budget from the Mayor he has withdrawn the proposal to charge for car parking at Blaise and Oldbury Court with out any other impact on the Parks budget.

As Mark mentioned we are keen to have feedback on the meetings and what you would like to see covered at future meetings.

I will include the feedback I received on tree planting in the next update.

The minutes from the meeting will be available shortly.

NP Review

The future shape of Neighbourhood Partnerships is likely to have a big impact on how Park groups operate in the future so please get involved in the consultation. Links and details of the consultation sessions are at <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/node/14953>

The public survey is at www.bristol.gov.uk/npask

Consultation sessions are:

18th February 6pm - 8pm, Knowle West Media Centre

20th February 6.30pm - 8.30pm, City Hall

28th February 7pm - 8.30pm, Badocks Wood Primary School, Southmead

27th March 6.30pm - 8.30pm, City Hall

I went to the first session last night, there was some very open discussion, but it needed more people!

Enjoy this Weekend

Lots of chances to get out and enjoy Bristol's wonderful green spaces this weekend...

--- Northern Slopes ---

Catkins and Cool Wildlife walk – on the Northern Slopes....

Saturday 16th February – 10am to 12noon

All are welcome to the first of a series of walk across the Slopes – at different times of the year.

Lead by Trudi – this one starts from the Park, Daventry Road – BS4 1DQ.

The poster says it all....

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/WalksPoster160213.pdf

--- Brislington Brook ---

St Anne's Wood Community Clean Up

It's that time of year again when we don our wellies, arm ourselves with litter pickers and make the woods sparkle ready for spring!

Meet at the entrance to St Anne's Park on Wick Road, Brislington

www.facebook.com/events/406388459446743/

--- Kings Weston ---

Just a reminder that it is our working party this Saturday. We will meet at 10am outside Kings Weston House and walk over to the former quarry garden. Map here shows where we will be working in case you miss us or want to join us later. We will finish at about 3:30.

Plenty of clearing self-seeded saplings and undergrowth and for all abilities. Come along in appropriate work wear and boots/shoes and make yourself known to one of KWAG's leaders before you start work. Feel free to bring your own tools and gloves though we are expecting the City Council to provide some for our use.

Hope to see you there!

www.facebook.com/KingsWestonActionGroup

--- Brandon Hill ---

The Friends of Brandon Hill intend to prune the trees in the Community Orchard Sunday 17th Feb, starting at 10 am. They meet outside the park keepers' depot. They can provide several pairs of secateurs and quite a few pairs of gardening gloves, but it is helpful to bring if you have them.

Knowle West/Kingswear

Northern Slopes development....

Its now 4 years since we first got involved in the Knowle West Regeneration and Kingswear/Torpoint/Ex Marksbury Road College development....but we are still here.... The Council confirmed the Regeneration Framework – pending Site Allocations Process – in October.

The Council and partners then declared that the Former Marksbury Road College Site would be separated from the Kingswear/Torpoint/Haldon Close site.

A hasty consultation was held with community groups in December on the College Site – and a hybrid planning application was made in December. Hybrid means one part was in detail (in this case the College/proposed new Primary School part) – while the rest is in outline, pending further work.

Just recently community involvement consultations restarted on the rest of the Kingswear/Torpoint/Haldon Close area. This too will be a hybrid application in March.

We have had to change position on one of our requirements the retention of the whole of the Marksbury Road College Building, as long as the promised community facilities do arrive – but we remain determined to fight for the other requirements about loss of green space, the type of green space involved – and the number of homes across the sites.

More info – www.northern-slopes-initiative.co.uk/kingswear

Bristol 99

A message from Lucy about the project that Mat talked about at our meeting...

The idea behind bristol99 developed from the fact that there are 99 designated Sites of Nature Conservation Interest within Bristol. We wanted to do something a little bit different to celebrate Bristol Festival of Nature's 10th anniversary, so decided it would be a great idea to try and run some sort of wildlife event on each and every one of them in the run up to the festival! Ambitious indeed!

The plan is to use our very successful BioBlitz event, now in its 5th year, as a template for a number of scaled down events. These don't necessarily have to be as comprehensive or detailed - they could just focus on a couple of specific activities, but the idea is to include some element of wildlife recording.

What are we hoping to achieve? Firstly, we are hoping that by delivering events to people directly where they live, we will be able to reach and engage a much wider audience. Hopefully we can encourage a more long term interest and involvement in wildlife, and for people to become custodians of their local green space. This, I'm sure you will agree is hugely important in the society we live in.

Secondly, the data that is collated will be a valuable addition to any existing records and may document important changes in sites that are rarely or infrequently surveyed. Without regular

surveys, some of these sites may run the risk of losing their protected status, which in our fight to save our green spaces would be tragic indeed.

Why have I contacted you? I am guessing you are already aware that the park/green space that you are involved with is one of these 99 sites? I was hoping that you might like to be part of this pioneering project, by hosting an event at your specific SNCI? I have attached a document with further information on how you go about this, and the role that BNHC can play in facilitating your event, and both Matt and I are available to brainstorm any ideas. Please take a look at this document and if you have any questions, do email me: lucy@bnhc.org.uk.

I have created a blog - www.bristol99.org.uk, which you might find a useful resource. This will cover the build-up to the event, provide interesting information on the sites and document the events themselves through a variety of media. There is also a calendar, so you can check the dates of other events that might be organised at the same time as yours.

I hope very much that you will be as enthusiastic as we are about this, and that I hear from you with your ideas very soon!

Kind regards

Lucy

Lucy Gaze

Bristol99 Officer, Bristol Natural History Consortium

Training Available

--- Woodland Trust ---

Free training events from the Woodland Trust aimed at those working with young people aged 11-16 years.

The course is for;

People from the voluntary and charitable sectors who work with young people.

Youth workers and those other than teachers who are employed by local authorities to work with young people.

Key Stage 3 and 4 teachers and teaching working in schools, special schools and Pupil Referral Unit

More info at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/DiscoverWoods.pdf

--- Forest of Avon Trust ---

Forest of Avon Trust is running training courses in Bristol for outdoor leaders wanting to engage groups with natural spaces.

* Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th March 2013 - Forest Schools (Paediatric) First Aid Course - Ashton

Court Bristol (8.30am-5.30pm both days)

This course is designed to meet both the requirements of the 12 hour Paediatric course as required under the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the 16 hours required to become a Forest Schools Leader. The course will be as practical as possible and include a number of role-play scenarios.

This course is also suitable for anyone leading groups outdoors. It covers all key aspects relating to working with groups outside - including activities that relate to Forest School - such as the use of tools and fires. It will cover providing first aid to children and adults. Cost of training: £125

The course is being put on by Bristol based Acorn Health & Safety (who specialise in outdoor first aid training). There is limited availability so please get in touch asap.

* Woodland Management & Woodland Crafts - develop your confidence in using tools safely, undertake tree felling and management and explore woodcraft activities to use with groups you work with - 22nd March - £75.

* Firecraft and cooking - explore a range of techniques from fire steels to fire by friction and undertake creative ways to cook on a fire with groups - 17th May - £75.

* Leading Family activity walks - explore a range of inspiring sensory activities to be used on walks to engage family groups with nature - 5th July - £75.

Further details on these courses and accredited Forest School courses can be found at www.forestofavontrust.org/training/ or by emailing jonattwood@forestofavontrust.org or calling Jon Attwood at the Forest of Avon Trust on 0117 963 3383

Highridge Common

There is a consultation ongoing at the moment about 'exchange land' for the 6,820 square metres (8,160 square yards) of Highridge Common that will be used for the South Bristol Link.

You can see consultation at:

www.citizenspace.com/bristol/west-of-england-partnership/highridgesurvey

The consultation closes on 25 February

View from the Top

We were able to get some unique photos and video of Troopers Hill last week when the steeplejacks working on the chimney agreed to take our cameras up. You can see the wonderful view at www.troopers-hill.org.uk/topview

Rob Acton-Campbell

<http://twitter.com/RobCrewsHole>

Bristol Parks Forum

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

Future meetings: Sat 13 April - Sat 29 June - Sat 12 October
(all 9.30 to 12.30 at Windmill Hill City Farm)

28 February 2013 - No 119

In this update: Budget - Bristol 99 - Tree Planting - John Purkis Memorial Tree - Tree Forum - NP Review - Other Consultations - Monitoring & Management Plans

Budget

As you may have heard the budget was duly passed without car parking charges. However, the discussions start now on the budget for the next three years and as Tracey Morgan said at our meeting there are many more cuts to come.

Bristol 99

As mentioned in my last update Lucy Gaze of the Bristol99 project has set up a blog at <http://bristol99.org.uk/blog> so that you can keep up with news about the project. One of the blog entries at <http://bristol99.org.uk/2013/02/13/bristol99-needs-friends/> talks about our last meeting and makes some very positive comments about us!

This project is going to be a great way to demonstrate the huge range of green spaces in Bristol and their importance for wildlife, something that can only help with the fight against future budget cuts.

All you need to know about getting involved is here:
www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/Bristol99_RunningEvents.pdf

So please email lucy@bnhc.org.uk or matt@bnhc.org.uk about hosting an event on your site. This is an opportunity to get your green space noticed that shouldn't be missed.

Tree Planting

The feedback I have had so far about tree planting in parks has been positive about the tree planting events but less so about the production of the plans. There are also concerns that the need to go through Neighbourhood Partnerships and the fact that only one plan is being produced per year per NP is going to delay new planting and replacing lost trees in other parks.

Caroline Hollies came to the St George Environment Sub-Group yesterday with the first draft of the plan for St George Park. One of the first things she said was that TreeBristol realised that they needed to engage with park groups better and at an earlier stage, so hopefully things will improve.

The last two tree planting events of this season are:

6th March in Everest Road, Eastville Park, Fishponds. Postcode is BS16 2BZ.

13th March in St Andrews Park, Redland

Both will start at 10am and finish probably by 2pm. If you would like to go along please wear warm weather proof clothing and sturdy footwear. TreeBristol provide all the tools and equipment needed to plant the trees. They have lots of gloves but you may wish to wear your own. They put on hot drinks and biscuits and ask that you bring your own packed lunches.

John Purkis Memorial Tree

As well as the events above there is one other very special tree planting event. Friends of Greville Smyth and TreeBristol are organising the planting of a purple beech in memory of John Purkis at 2.00pm on Friday 15th March at Greville Smyth Park.

If you would like to go along to remember John then you would be most welcome.

Tree Forum

If you are interested in trees then you can also get involved with the Tree Forum - www.bristol.gov.uk/treeforum

The next meeting of the Tree Forum is on Monday 8th April at 6pm and features a talk by Bristol Water "Do the utilities still hate trees?" We are all invited, more details are here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BristolTreeForumInvitation_8thApril.pdf

NP Review

A reminder...

The public survey is at www.bristol.gov.uk/npask

The last consultation sessions is, 27th March 6.30pm - 8.30pm, City Hall

There is also to be an extra session in east Bristol but the details have not yet been finalised.

Other Consultations

As well as the NP review there are two consultations where you might want to respond and highlight the importance of Bristol's green spaces for health and well being.

The first is on 'A new Bristol Strategy for Sport & Active Recreation 2013-2018' The closing date is tomorrow (1st March) so you need to be quick. It can be found via <http://tinyurl.com/csyy2ql>

The second consultation is on the 'Draft Health & Wellbeing Strategy' which runs to 10 May and is at www.bristol.gov.uk/healthandwellbeing

Monitoring & Management Plans

At our meeting we talked about a workshop for anyone interested in producing Management Plans for their park. We are meeting Pam Jones the week after next and will try to finalise the details then. In the meantime if you would be interested in taking part and did not put a mark against your name at the meeting then please let us know.

There is more information at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/ManagementPlans

Information about the system to allow park groups to get involved in monitoring their parks is at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/Monitoring Please get involved with this process. It would be good to have a baseline score against which we can monitor changes in future, especially if budgets are cut.

Rob Acton-Campbell

<http://twitter.com/RobCrewsHole>

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