

02 January 2011 – No 44

Happy New Year

AGSP Call In

The Cabinet Decision made on 16 December will now be considered by the 'Call In Panel' of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on Thursday, 6 January 2011. The paperwork for that meeting can be seen at www.bristol.gov.uk/meetings or directly at www.bristol.gov.uk/committee/2011/sc/sc014/0105_5.pdf

There is a note on the website that says:

'You are welcome to make public forum submissions at this meeting but please bear in mind that the purpose of the meeting is to review the way in which Cabinet reached its decision and as set out in the notice of Call In. It will therefore be a process review meeting - the Panel will not be looking specifically at the individual submissions made previously to scrutiny and the Cabinet.

If the Panel decides to refer the decision back to the Cabinet with recommendations or indeed, if the Panel refers the decision to Council, for a wider debate by councillors, then either of these will probably be a more appropriate forum for you to make further written submissions about the individual green space proposals.

(NB : It will not be necessary for you to re-submit previous statements/petitions which are already in the possession of appropriate officers and have been seen by the Cabinet and relevant scrutiny commission members).'

Core Strategy Consultation on Potential Significant Changes

The Core Strategy is the central document of the Bristol Development Framework (BDF). The council have now published potential significant changes to the Core Strategy arising from the examination hearings that took place in June, July and September 2010. They are set out in a 'Schedules of Potential Significant Changes' document. The council is now inviting representations on these changes.

The document includes new targets for housing and employment land needed in the City for the twenty year period covered by the BDF which runs to 2026.

More details and the document itself can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/2f7ohht>. The closing date for comments is on Friday 28 January 2011.

The Site Allocations document, which was consulted on at the same time as the AGSP, is also part of the BDF. It is of course this document that will determine what development (if any) will be permitted on some of the sites that the AGSP has listed for disposal. It is intended to show where the new housing and employment land suggested by the Core Strategy can be built.

There is a 'interim timetable' on the BDF website under the 'Local Development Scheme' (LDS). This shows publication of the Site Allocations Document in May, but I understand that this has been delayed until at least June; presumably in part because the Core Strategy has been delayed due to

the need for these further changes. After publication the Site Allocations Document also has to go through a public examination before its adoption; this will apparently take another 12 months. The Core Strategy is currently about 18 months behind the original LDS timetable so it wouldn't be a surprise if these dates slip even further.

More on the BDF can be seen at www.bristol.gov.uk/bdf

Snuff Mills Booklet

Snuff Mills Action Group has just produced a booklet about Snuff Mills, with the help of children from Begbrook Primary School and the Avon Wildlife Trust, funded by the People's Millions Big Lottery grant SMAG won last year. The booklet traces the industrial and natural history of the area, contains photographs and is really nicely produced. It also includes a CD about the oral history project the children made by interviewing local residents and all for the modest sum of £3!

SMAG have lots of copies available and they can be obtained from the cafe in River View car park at the entrance to Snuff Mills in Stapleton or from SMAG committee members. They offer a discount for multiple purchases....

Greetings from The Next Field

The BPF committee were pleased to receive a seasonal message from Peter Wilkinson. If you would like to find out what Peter has been doing since he left Bristol Parks in late 2009 then visit www.thenextfield.co.uk

Rob Acton-Campbell

BPF

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

2011 meeting dates: 29 Jan, 16 April, 16 July, 15 Oct

08 January 2011 – No 45

BPF Meeting Sat 29 January 9.30am Venue to be confirmed

The BPF committee met yesterday to start putting together the agenda. As usual it will include time for groups to speak about issues or give updates. If you would like to have a slot on the agenda please let us know.

AGSP Call In

As expected the Call In panel decided to take no action, so the Cabinet decision on disposals stands.

Although the focus has been on disposals, it is important to remember that the only decision that has finally been taken is that over 97% of Parks land is protected from development for at least the next

20 years. Those sites that have been listed for disposal still have many stages to go through before they can be developed including the various stages of the planning process. Ultimately Councillors on planning committees are likely to be the ones making the decisions on how much if any of the sites can be developed.

One of the spaces now 'protected' by the strategy is Castle Park. Before the verbatim reports of the consultation were removed from the website it was pointed out to us that in one response the Council's appointed developer was still suggesting that some of the park could be built on when the derelict buildings were redeveloped. The fact that development of part of the park was supported by the Council despite the strategy demonstrating that the area was short of green space was of course why the Town Green Application was made. A report from December 2008 on the BBC website can still be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/57cas9> It includes an interview with the then Council Leader.

Engagement with Bristol Parks

The Evening Post had a report on 6th January about the most popular improvements suggested in the consultation (see <http://tinyurl.com/36oldq2>). I was disappointed to see the following comment from Kate of Friends of Eastville Park:

"We know things are tight and are prepared and would like to help. So far the parks dept has made this very difficult. Their idea of community involvement is to allow us to litter pick at weekends. They do not seem interested in the skills and knowledge that us 'friends' have and will not enter in discussion with us in any sensible way."

That is not the way things should be working, if you have a similar experience please let us know. Restructuring within Bristol Parks will be on the agenda on 29th January.

Health & Safety Training

If, like Kate, you want to work with Bristol Parks to improve your park then there is a scheme which allows you to carry out work and be covered by Bristol City Council's insurance without the need for anyone from BCC to supervise the work. At least one member of the group has to have training on the safe use of tools and risk assessments etc. The training is only four hours and Bristol Parks are planning to run a session on a weekend in February. If you are interested please let me know.

Wild City Project Update

A message from Paula Spiers:

As you know, Helen Adshead and I began work on the project at the beginning of December. We have spent our first few weeks working through the detailed business plans and dividing the work up between us.

There are a number of overarching projects and larger events/festivals that Helen and I will work on together. Otherwise, we have divided the work between us across the city on roughly an east / west

basis. Helen will work on projects and act as the Wild City point of contact for sites in the west of the city, and I will cover the east. This works out as follows:

Key Wild City Project Sites (sites forming the major focus of the project)

Lamplighter's Marsh - Helen
Avon New Cut - Helen
Northern Slopes - Helen
Callington Road Nature Reserve - Paula
Eastwood Farm LNR - Paula
Stoke Park - Paula
Hengrove Park Mounds & Hawkfield Meadows - Helen and Paula

Wild City Network Sites (sites receiving support through the project on a 'lighter touch' basis)

Lawrence Weston Moor LNR - Helen
Badock's Wood LNR - Helen
Manor Woods Valley LNR - Helen
Narrowways Millennium Green - Paula
Stockwood Open Space LNR - Paula
Troopers Hill LNR - Paula
Royate Hill LNR - Paula

Helen works on Mondays, Tuesdays and alternate Wednesdays, and I work on alternate Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. It is likely that we will both work on different days occasionally, in order to accommodate project needs.

We will be contacting groups over the next few weeks and are very much looking forward to meeting and working with everyone on this exciting project!

With very best wishes,

Paula.

Become a Green Flag Judge

Bristol Parks are organising training for some of the operations staff to become Green Flag judges. The training is being co-ordinated by Caroline Hollies and she has said that any members of Park Groups that are interested in becoming judges could be included.

You can find out more about the Green Flag scheme at www.greenflagaward.org.uk

Click on 'Judges' and then the 'Become a Judge' panel to download an 'application pack' that includes information about the experience you need to become a judge. Rob Thurston and Helen Hall who are existing Green Flag judges, within Bristol Parks are happy to speak to people about the scheme. If you are interested email them directly or let me know and I will pass your details on.

Bristol's seven Green Flag Parks are listed at www.bristol.gov.uk/greenflagparks I understand that it is hoped to add St Andrews Park to the list this year.

Rob Acton-Campbell
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www.bristolparksforum.org.uk
2011 meeting dates: 29 Jan, 16 April, 16 July, 15 Oct

16 January 2011 – No 46

BPF Meeting Sat 29 January 9.30am Venue to be confirmed

The agenda for the meeting will be sent out in the next few days. As well as discussion about Area Green Space Plans and reorganisation within Bristol Parks we have invited Savita Custead, Chief Executive, Bristol Natural History Consortium as a guest speaker.

Area Green Space Plans

I have updated our parks listing at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/parks.htm to show the status of the spaces under the AGSP proposals; I think I've got the details right, but please let me know if anything is shown incorrectly in your area.

Knowle West was of course excluded from the AGSP process, so I have just marked those spaces as 'Knowle West'. The decisions on these spaces depends on the Knowle West Regeneration Framework Framework (www.bristol.gov.uk/kwrf). The website now has the results of the consultation, there was highest support for the Residents' Planning Group option (Option 2).

Tree Planting in Bristol

TreeBristol have several tree planting events planned over the next few weeks, the next being at Troopers Hill Field at 10am on Thursday (20th Jan). More details about TreeBristol and the dates for future events can be found here: www.bristol.gov.uk/treebristol

You may be interested to know that the Government launched a new tree planting campaign last month, details are at www.direct.gov.uk/thebigtreeplant

Don't forget that if you are interested in trees in Bristol you can join the Bristol Tree Forum. Details at www.bristol.gov.uk/treeforum

Funding

If you group is looking for funding then a good place to start is the Voscur website at www.voscur.org/funding. Many of the funds have fixed deadlines for applications and are announced at relatively short notice so it is worth checking the website regularly. One fund currently open under 'Health & Wellbeing' is for Grants of up to £500 from NHS Bristol. Friends of Troopers Hill received money from this fund in 2008 & 2009 to run Tai Chi sessions.

Joining Up Bristol - Bristol Civic Society event - 8 February 2011

A public debate which is being presented by Bristol Civic Society. The event is free and open to all. It will be held at 6.30pm Tuesday 8 February in Colston Hall.

The ideas generated by the event will help to guide the preparation of the Bristol Central Area Action Plan. 'A lively debate is expected and members of the public are encouraged to come voice their opinions and influence the future of Bristol'.

For information about the event and the Bristol Society see www.bristolcivicsociety.org.uk
For information on the Bristol Central Area Action Plan see www.bristol.gov.uk/centralarea

Event Licencing Quarterly Update - Jan 2011

A Very happy New year to everyone. 2011 is now well and truly here and what it year its looking to be in the world of Event Licencing.

An extra bank Holiday, a Royal Wedding. The build up to the Olympic games (more on that later) 150 years of the Downs Act celebrated, a new approach to The harbour festival, spending reviews and more!

What all the above really means as far as gaining permissions to use Parks and open Spaces is that demand is on the up. Since the start of winter the team has dealt with a noticeable increase in general enquiries for site use in 2011 r with our Amphitheatre region again proving to be in great demand. If you were hoping to hold an event at The Ampitheatre this summer and haven't secured a place I am sorry to report that its now fully booked out each and every weekend right through till September.

However there are loads of other great event spaces available such as Castle Park, Blaise Estate, Eastville Park to name a few.

Here at Event Licencing we are preparing ourselves for the Street party culture that's being encouraged to celebrate the Royal Wedding at the end of April. We are expecting this to involve a lot of staff time to deal with enquires, process requests and co-ordinate with the Emergency Services a strategy for granting permissions and issuing licences to proceed.

Because of the impact this may have on the team its more important than ever this year to plan your event early and get your paperwork to us sooner rather than later. Usually our seasonal increase in applications takes place just after the Easter Break, however this year we are anticipating the phones to start to ring off the hook from mid March.

If you have a pressing need to speak to a member of the team or would like to pop in and speak to us - NOW is the time to do it, don't leave it until the Spring as you will be one of many event organisers vying for our time.

2012 is looking to be even more of a strange one due to the impact of the Olympic Games and its impact on our many event sites. If you are serious about hosting an event in 2012 we need to know today so we can start to build a provisional diary for next year. There will undoubtedly be disruption to usual event sites next year and as a team we are committed to letting you know as soon as we are aware of any plans for key sites.

While we try to offer great service, we are more than aware that we could improve, so I will be asking you all to complete a short survey in the near future. We are doing all we can to address the impact of budget cuts on the team and it's a great opportunity to review how we work and look at what we can do to streamline the service.

Good Luck with your event planning I look forward to hearing from you in the very near future.

Peter Watts
Festival and Events Officer (Licencing)

The Office opens from 09:00 until 17:00 Mon - Thursday with the exception of Wednesday which opens from 09:00 until 12:00 and Friday when it closes at 16:30

Tel: 0117 922 3466

Fax: 0117 922 3991

Email: p.watts@bristol.gov.uk

The Bench Issue 61

The latest news from around the parks and green space sector <http://tinyurl.com/4c3w7oe>

Rob Acton-Campbell

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www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

2011 meeting dates: 29 Jan, 16 April, 16 July, 15 Oct

21 January 2011 No 47

Health & Safety Training

The Health & Safety training that I mentioned in an earlier update will be held on Sat 12th February from 9am to 1pm at Ashton Court. Numbers are limited and spaces are going fast so if you would

like to sign up then please let me know as soon as possible. There is no charge.

Once you have completed the training you will be able to run work parties or task days on BCC owned green space while being covered by BCC insurance. The course will also allow you to be covered by the insurance while leading guided walks and is a good introduction to Risk Assessments etc which will help if you are organising events.

Tree Planting in Bristol

I mentioned the TreeBristol tree planting event at Troopers Hill Field yesterday in my last update, you can see details and photos from the day here: <http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/field.htm#trees> With three separate schools involved we all had a busy day but it was great fun. Thanks again to Josie Sadler and Emma Whitaker for all the work they put in to making the day a success.

The next tree planting event is this Sunday (23rd) at Bower Ashton Roundabout, 10 to 4pm. Meet at Blackmore's Lane. The forecast is good for Sunday and it is a very satisfying way to spend a day.

More details about TreeBristol and the dates for future events can be found here: www.bristol.gov.uk/treebristol and TreeBristol's latest news letter is here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/11TreeB01.pdf (It's 8MB so give it time to download!).

BCC Budget

The budget proposals for 2011/12 can be seen at <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/budget> They will be considered at the Council's Cabinet on 27th January, and then at full Council on 22nd February.

The only cuts as far as Parks are concerned seems to be in a general item in the Neighbourhoods budget 'Reduce management costs across services - Management restructure. Minimal service delivery implications as most of the savings will come from vacant posts not being filled.' No doubt Tracey will tell us more about this when we discuss restructuring at our meeting on the 29th Jan.

Rob Acton-Campbell

BPF

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

Next BPF Meeting Sat 29 January 9.30am Windmill Hill City Farm
Agenda here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFAgenda290111.pdf
Other 2011 meeting dates: 16 April, 16 July, 15 Oct

27 January 2011 No 48

Reminder - Next BPF Meeting

This Saturday, 29 January 9.30am at Windmill Hill City Farm

Agenda here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFAgenda290111.pdf

Avon Wildlife Trust Statement on AGSP

The Avon Wildlife Trust has asked for support from the BPF on a statement they have issued to us about the AGSP disposals.

You can see the statement at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/AWTstatement.pdf

Obviously this will be part of our discussions on Saturday.

Community Festival and Event Fund 2011 - 2012

Applications towards The Community Festival and Event Fund are now being accepted. Festivals/event can apply for any amount up to a maximum of £2000. Please note that due to budget cuts the fund is 50% smaller than it was in 2010 and the focus of this fund returns to that of arts & culture, utilising local parks and green spaces where appropriate. The fund is open to Bristol based community groups, Bristol Parks Forum members, organisations, companies and charities who are organising free festivals and events outdoors. The Funding application deadline for 2011 - 2012 is 2pm 18th March 2011. Fund Objectives:

- * Support community celebration through festivals and events that engage communities and enhance local image and identity.
- * Encourage good practice in supporting and developing creativity and the arts.
- * To develop new audiences for, and encourage participation in community celebration.
- * Improve access to and quality of community festivals and events.
- * To increase the use and enjoyment of parks and open spaces
- * To encourage a better spread of events throughout the year and develop the quieter winter / spring programme

Please email or call the arts, festivals and events team for more information on events.team@bristol.gov.uk 0117 9223287

The guidelines and application form can also be downloaded from the links below:

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

<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/CFEAppForm2011-12.doc>

Health & Safety Training

The Health & Safety training on Sat 12th February is now fully booked and we have several names on a 'waiting list'. Hopefully there will be another session soon.

GreenLink News

This message came from Sarah who is a member of the Birmingham Open Spaces Forum through the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces (NFPGS) mailing list.

I attended the GreenLink meeting last week, it was very interesting and good that we have a voice there now and we are getting ourselves known to a wider audience.

Some interesting points came out of the meeting that we need to circulate widely around our networks:

1. Heritage Lottery - they are doing a consultation on their website from January 31st to April 26th asking for feedback and input on where their funding should be targeted. Last time this happened there were only a handful of responses about the importance of parks and open spaces and these were all from local authorities. We need to get all our groups to go on to their website and take time to answer the consultation to show the importance of targeting parks and open spaces to the funding streams. Heritage Lottery is also getting a good proportion of funds to send out to groups and this grant fund does cover conservation and biodiversity as well as historic parks. So please get all your groups to answer the consultation, starting next week.

They also said in their presentation that the Your Heritage fund that is a one stage application and available to community groups should be going up from £50K to £200K, but I do not know when this will be happening.

2. Barriers Facing Community - GreenSpace are putting together a paper to go to a variety of Ministers soon about the barriers facing community groups to make a real difference to their parks and open spaces. Please can you ask around your networks and write down what you see as the barriers to your group making a difference on your open spaces. This could be through funding, red tape, general apathy etc. Please come up with the problems you are facing and how you think they could be overcome. I will then put together the information to go in to the GreenSpace document.

This is a good chance to get our voices heard and hopefully acted on, so I look forward to hearing from you all soon. I am currently asking the question around the Birmingham network.

3. Interesting reading if you have not already seen it: Blue Sky Green Space

Download Blue Sky Green Space and find out more about GreenLink at:

www.green-space.org.uk/resources/GreenLINK

Find out more about the NFPGS at www.green-space.org.uk/community/nfpgs Hugh will also be talking about the NFPGS at our meeting.

Troopers Hill in Oscar Nominated Film!

'Wish 143' has been Nominated as Best Live Action Short Film in the 2011 Oscars. Some of the scenes were filmed on Troopers Hill in August 2009. The film is featured in the BBC Film Network and can be seen here: www.troopers-hill.org.uk/OtherVideo.htm

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