

09 January 2012 - No 87

Happy New Year.

In this update:

BPF Meeting 14th January - An update from Knowle West - A message from the Events Team - Work for the AWT - The Love Parks Club

BPF Meeting 14th January

A reminder that our first meeting of the year is on Saturday at Windmill Hill City Farm. The agenda is on the website at:

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFAgenda140112.pdf

An update from Knowle West.

Its been a long time since we updated the Forum, but with the series of articles in the Evening Post about the number of homes planned in each Neighbourhood Partnership, we thought it useful to do one now.

Taking each of the initiatives in turn:

1 Kingswear/Torpoint/Marksbury Road College and Haldon Close - Development Brief

The Development Brief is due to be published to tenderers to prepare bids on 5 January 2012.

We have been pressing the Council, the Homes and Communities Agency and Knightstone Housing Association on the following:

- * Using some of the objectives from the Knowle West Regeneration Framework in the brief; as even if it is on a separate process, it doesn't make sense to not use the objectives when the development is in the Regeneration Framework area.
- * The extent of the development opportunity should not include loss of green space uphill of Kingswear Road. We have already agreed to the loss of some green space near the College site and at the western end of Haldon Close.
- * Set an upper limit to the number of dwellings involved in the whole site (up to 250), as we believe that too many dwellings, with too many people will radically alter the area, and affect its ability to be part of the whole Slopes area for people and wildlife; and provide ecosystem services.

We haven't been able to agree with the Partners on any of the above, so we haven't accepted the invitation to get involved in the tender assessment process.

Unfortunately, the green space involved, is now receiving even less management than before from the Council - which means with the theft of manhole covers and railings from the site, with even more fly tipping - health and safety is becoming an issue. We are talking to the Council about this.

On the positive side - the move to keep the remaining green space after development under City Council Management (rather than another organisation) is appreciated; and we have been working on our own positive future for the area - and the part of the Slopes owned by housing developers next door, rather than just being negative about everything.

2 Knowle West Regeneration Framework

We are still waiting to see whether the Council will adopt Option 2, as amended - but in the meantime:

a) Homes and Communities Agency are due to put in a planning application on Filwood Park and the Hangar Site following an Enquiry by Design event over 5 consecutive days in November. Details of the design so far - www.knowlewest.co.uk/2011/11/filwood-park-design

b) Barratts are interested in building on privately owned green space on the Western Slopes (between Hartcliffe Way and Novers Hill), an area which connects the Slopes to Malago Valley/Manor Woods.

c) Design work is going ahead on Filwood Broadway area itself. See www.bristol.gov.uk/page/knowle-west-regeneration-framework

We also understand that there may be an Area Green Space Plan process for the Regeneration Area after all.....but we haven't received any details yet.

For both of the above initiatives we have been pressing on how funds available from the selling off of Council land would be used for our green spaces and whether they would be kept within the area. So far we haven't been able to get a detailed answer. We are hoping that it will at least be similar to other parts of Bristol.

For further information also check our website - which is currently being redesigned to include a special Kingswear page - www.northern-slopes-initiative.co.uk

Len

May all your weeds be wildflowers

A message from the Events Team

A Very Happy New Year to You,

Its that time of the year when I start my monthly(ish) announcements to the great and the good associated with outdoor events in Bristol. If your receiving this email consider yourself on of the many great people who organise, plan, finance or enquire about events and event spaces in Bristol.

With 2011 now behind us 2012 is looking like a very exciting year for events in Bristol. The Diamond Jubilee (and longer bank holiday weekend) in June promises to be the start of a fantastic summer long season of outdoor events culminating in The Olympics.

If you haven't yet contacted the Site Licensing team to enquire about a provisional booking for an event you may have planned don't delay. There are still lots of viable sites available for events of all shapes and sizes and I recommend booking as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

Between January and March the Event Licensing team will be doing all they can to finalise the diary for 2012 and offer advice and guidance to those that may need some initial support with event safety planning.

I cannot stress enough how important it is that you avoid contacting the team for lengthy discussions in the Spring as that is the start of our busiest time of year. To help support your event planning we have a very informative website with downloadable toolkit. We are also working towards getting a snapshot of our Parks diary online so you can get a better idea about availability for sites using the website. We are also exploring how we can simplify the site licence application with an aim to make it easier to complete online.

Avoid the rush and get your paperwork in as early as possible please. If you know of someone thinking of holding an event, encourage them to call now rather than wait until Late March / April.

Don't forget we need at least 6 weeks notice for smaller scale events during the peak season if we are to guarantee your licence in time for your event.

For those smaller scale community events (Less than 200 people) our 'Park Permit' is available and I encourage all community groups to take advantage of the scheme.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Peter Watts

Events Licencing Team
G 27 - Council House
Opening Hours 10 - 3 Mon, Tues , Thur and fri. 10-12 Wednesday.
parks.events@bristol.gov.uk

Work for the AWT

The Avon Wildlife Trust have two job vacancies to deliver their new Feed Bristol project. Details are at www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/people/careers.htm Please pass the details on to anyone who might be interested.

Even if you are not interested in working for them, it is worth following the above link and exploring the excellent AWT website.

The Love Parks Club

Coming soon from GreenSpace, some details are here:
www.slideshare.net/GSNF/coming-soon-the-love-parks-club

Not much information yet, but I thought that since they had quoted me in their presentation I ought to mention it!

Rob Acton-Campbell

BPF

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

2012 meeting dates: Sat 14th Jan, Sat 21st April, Sat 14th July, Sat 13th October

(all 9.30 to 12.30)

16 January 2012 - No 88

In this update:

BPF Meeting 14th January - Town Greens - Green Space Disposals - Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Consultation - Community Festival & Event Fund 2012/13 - Barbecue Survey - Green Connect South West - City Wide Litter Picking Day

BPF Meeting 14th January

As always the minutes from Saturday's meeting will be issued by Catherine in due course.

Looking back on it, there were several bits of good news that are worth highlighting:

- 1) Gary Hopkins said that the next Cabinet meeting (on 26th Jan) would be asked to approve an additional £3.5m capital spending on parks.
- 2) Stoke Park is now in the ownership of Bristol City Council
- 3) The £30 fee for small events will be waived for events organised by BPF member groups with the support of Bristol Parks
- 4) There is a plan to re-open the cafés that are currently closed with them being managed by Bristol Parks

In addition there was lots of good discussion about Neighbourhood Partnerships and Community Infrastructure Levy and an excellent presentation on Bristol in Bloom.

If you have any thoughts about how our meetings are organised or the sort of things you would like to see on the agenda please let us know. We are keen to hear both from people who attend regularly and those who don't.

Town Greens

As you might have seen in the media the supporters of the Town Green application for Ashton Vale have been given permission to proceed to Judicial Review. More details on the Bristol 24-7 website here: <http://ow.ly/8uAy4>

There was a programme about the cost of Town Green applications on BBC 1 this evening which can be seen on iPlayer via www.bbc.co.uk/i/b019p3nx

The inspector's report on Grove Wood was due today, I hope to include details in my next update.

Green Space Disposals

As reported at the meeting the Cabinet will devolve the decisions on any green space disposals to Neighbourhood Committees and its meeting on 26th January.

It is then intended that the decisions should be made in the next round of Neighbourhood Partnership meetings most of which will be held in March.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Consultation

A reminder about the CIL consultation. This is into the rates to be applied, not into how it will be split up. The higher the rate the more the potential pot. As mentioned at the meeting once the CIL rate is set developers have to pay it, there is no negotiation as with Section 106 contributions.

The consultation can be seen via the following links:

CIL <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/community-infrastructure-levy-cil>
SPD4 <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/revision-spd4-planning-obligations-consultation>

Comments can be submitted until 20 January 2012, and may be made by email to bdf@bristol.gov.uk or by post to:

Jim Cliffe
Planning Obligations Manager
Strategic Planning Team
Bristol City Council
Brunel House
St. Georges Road
BRISTOL
BS1 5UY

Community Festival & Event Fund 2012/13

The Community Festival and Event Fund is allocated annually to cover community based events across the city. The fund is open to Bristol based community groups, Bristol Parks Forum members

and non-profit making organisations who are organising free festivals and events outdoors.

Details are at www.bristol.gov.uk/node/5421

The Funding application deadline for 2012-13 is: 4pm 9th February 2012.

If you have any questions please call or email the events team on claire.teasdale@bristol.gov.uk or 0117 9224665

Barbecue Survey

The issue of whether or not to allow barbecues in parks and green spaces is one that I have mentioned before. This has been raised particularly at Brandon Hill, St Andrews Park and Troopers Hill. It has also been discussed and the Downs Committee meetings since they are currently banned under the Downs by-laws.

This is also an issue for other cities and we thought you would be interested in the results of a survey carried out in Southampton, which can be seen here:

www.southampton.gov.uk/council-partners/consult/Previousconsultations/bbqoptions.aspx

Green Connect South West

Organised by GreenSpace South West, this is a free networking and learning event for Friends of Parks groups, community groups and parish councils. It is being held at Bridgwater College & Walled Gardens at Cannington near Bridgwater Saturday 25th February, 10am-3pm

Nancy and Hugh are attending as speakers.

More details and a booking form can be seen at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/GreenConnect.pdf

If you are attending please let us know and we will put you in touch with anyone else that is going so that you can share transport if you wish.

City Wide Litter Picking Day

This was mentioned by Denise James during the Bristol in Bloom presentation and came originally from a suggestion by Snuff Mills Action Group.

The idea is that as well as improving the appearance of our green spaces we could get some good publicity for park groups throughout the City.

Having spoken to Denise after the meeting we are suggesting the weekend of the 19th & 20th May. This is the weekend before the Olympic Torch visits Bristol and two weeks before the Jubilee Weekend.

If you think your group would like to take part then please let me know. It will only happen if there is enough support.

Rob Acton-Campbell
BPF

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

2012 meeting dates: Sat 21st April, Sat 14th July, Sat 13th October
(all 9.30 to 12.30)

22 January 2012 - No 89

In this update:

Green Space Disposals - Professional dog walkers and trainers - Events in Parks - Live Music Bill-Grove Wood

Green Space Disposals

The report to the 26th Jan Cabinet meeting on devolving decisions on disposals to Neighbourhood Committees is now on the BCC website at:

www.bristol.gov.uk/committee/2012/ua/ua000/0126_7.pdf

Key points are that:

* Neighbourhood Committees will meet during Feb/March to decide on the surplus sites. If a Neighbourhood Committee chooses not to work within this timescale then they must agree the timeframe they wish to work to.

* Funding of £3.5m for strategic infrastructure investment in parks has been included in the Capital Programme form 2012/13.

* 30% of land sales that would have been allocated corporately will now be spent on green space infrastructure costs across the City.

* The incentive scheme for disposals remains the same as it was in the Cross Party Report.

At the time the incentive scheme caused some questions amongst the BPF committee, so here is my attempt to explain it:

The starting point is that if all the disposals in the area are agreed then the NP gets 70% of the value for parks in their area and the 30% goes into the central parks pot - so 100% for parks which is good news!!!

If the NP only decides to dispose of 80% by value of the potential disposal spaces in their area, then it will only get 80% of the 70% of the value of the reduced disposal sites. The rest going to the central parks pot. So still 100% for parks but now from the reduced total 56% (80% of 70%) goes to the NP and 44% to the central pot.

ie 20% not sold, 80% sold which is split so NP gets 44.8% and the central pot gets 35.2% of the total value of potential sale sites.

Likewise if the NP decides to dispose of 50% by value of potential disposals then the NP gets 35% (50% of 70%) and the central pot gets 65% of the reduced total.
ie 50% not sold, 50% sold which is split so NP gets 17.5% and the central pot gets 32.5% of the total value of potential sale sites.

If the NP decides only to dispose of 20% by value of potential disposals then the NP gets 14% (20% of 70%) and the central pot gets 86% of the reduced total.
ie 80% not sold, 20% sold which is split so NP gets 2.8% and the central pot gets 17.2% of the total value of potential sale sites.

Professional dog walkers and trainers

There is a pilot scheme at Ashton Court to charge professional dog walkers and trainers who use the park. Details are here: www.bristol.gov.uk/node/2592#jump-link-12

The events team who are administering the scheme are particularly keen to get any views on this from Park Forum members. If it is successful it could be rolled out to other parks.

Events in Parks

Further to my brief update at the meeting I thought it was worth summarising the current rules for holding events in Bristol City Council parks and green spaces.

1) Guided walks and work parties / task days can be carried out by trained leaders in accordance with the BCC Health and Safety Pack which can be downloaded from www.bristol.gov.uk/parksafety These events will then be covered by BCC insurance. If you have not completed the training you will need someone who has (or an employee of BCC who is suitably qualified) to lead the event.

2) Events with less than 50 people on site and no site set up do not need permission, but it is worth letting the events team know so as to avoid clashes with other events.

3) Events with 50 to 200 people on site at one time with low risk activities need a 'Park Permit' www.bristol.gov.uk/page/park-permits The fee is £30 but this will be waived for park groups holding events supported by Bristol Parks (you still have to apply for the permit). For community events BCC will provide insurance cover. There is a flow chart on the Park Permit page to show whether your event is eligible, the events team have some discretion on this so if in doubt contact them.

3) Events with over 200 people on site at one time or items such as stages or bouncy castles need a full Site Licence see www.bristol.gov.uk/page/event-site-licensing-0 Charges vary depending on the size of the event but start at £30.

As I mentioned last time if you are planning an event you can apply to the Community Festival & Event Fund 2012/13 details are at www.bristol.gov.uk/node/5421

The Funding application deadline for 2012-13 is: 4pm 9th February 2012.

Live Music Bill

More good news on events, the 'Live Music Bill' is currently going through Parliament. The bill removes the need to apply for a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) or a Premises Licence for 'unamplified live music taking place between 8am and 11pm in all venues'.

It also removes the licensing requirement for 'amplified live music taking place between 8am and 11pm before audiences of no more than 200 persons in workplaces not otherwise licensed under the 2003 Act (or licensed only for the provision of late night refreshment)'.

The bill has passed its 3rd reading in the House of Commons so is well on its way to becoming law. Details are at <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/livemusichl.html>

As an example this bill will remove the need to apply for a TEN for a brass band playing in a park if the music is not amplified.

I am not sure whether parks come under the definition of 'workplaces' for amplified music, if anyone knows please let me know and I will pass it on.

Grove Wood

Just to let you know that the Inspector's report didn't appear on Monday, it has been delayed again.

Rob Acton-Campbell
BPF

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

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(all 9.30 to 12.30)

30 January 2012 - No 90

In this update:

BPF Meeting Minutes - Grove Wood - Stoke Park - Nectar Margins - Cabinet Meeting - Professional Dog Walkers - BNS Photo Exhibition - Litter Picking Day

BPF Meeting Minutes

The minutes of our last meeting are now on the website at
<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFMinutes140112.pdf>

Grove Wood

The inspector's report has finally been issued and recommends that Grove Wood should be declared a Town Green more at <http://snuffmills.blogspot.com/> and a report in the Evening Post here <http://tinyurl.com/7hy7xqz>

It will now go to the PROWG committee for a decision.

Meantime the row over that committee's last decision goes on with another statement by Simon Cook reported on the Bristol247 website here <http://ow.ly/8KSyg> and in full on the Council website here www.bristol.gov.uk/node/10342

Stoke Park

Hidden away in the back pages of the Evening Post was a report on the handover of Stoke Park to the Council <http://tinyurl.com/7oe4nt7>

Nectar Margins

News of a scheme that is excellent news for some of Bristol's parks. 8 new flower beds (called 'nectar margins') will be created in selected parks and open spaces across Bristol as part of Bristol University's 'Urban Pollinators Project'.

More details of this exciting project can be seen here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/Nectar.pdf

Cabinet Meeting

The plans for delegating the decisions on disposals to Neighbourhood Committees went through unchanged at the Cabinet meeting. The dates for the Neighbourhood Partnership meetings can be seen at www.bristol.gov.uk/CommitteeMeetingFinder

The meeting also approved the allocation of an additional £3.5m for spending on Bristol's parks. This is additional to Section 106 and any receipts from land sales. We have been assured that the parks budget will not be affected by this decision and it will not be 'clawed back' from any land sales. So it is good news. The money is due to be spent over the next two financial years. No decision has yet been taken on funding for subsequent years.

Professional Dog Walkers

The comments I received about professional dog walkers being charged in a pilot scheme can be seen here www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/DogWalking.pdf I have sent this to the Events Team, thanks to those who responded.

BNS Photo Exhibition

Bristol Naturalists' Society are inviting groups to provide a display for their 150th Anniversary celebrations on Saturday 14th April 2012. The display should ideally contain lots of photos with the emphasis on the work that the group is doing and the wildlife they've seen on site etc.

There is a poster here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BNSphoto.pdf and more details about the exhibition here www.bristolnats.org.uk/photographic-exhibition-2012

This is a good opportunity to publicise your green space and the work of your group.

Litter Picking Day

I have been disappointed not to hear from anyone interested in Snuff Mills Action Group's idea of a City Wide Litter Picking day that was raised at our meeting.

We are suggesting the weekend of the 19th & 20th May but it will only happen if there is enough support. Please email me if your group is interested or if you would like to do it on a different date.

Rob Acton-Campbell

BPF

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