

09 January 2013 - No 115

I am sorry to have to start the New Year with some sad news. We were very sorry to hear that Greg Eynon from the Neighbourhood Engagement Team passed away over the new year.

In this update: BPF Meeting 19 January - Mayor's Budget Proposals - Neighbourhood Partnerships - BCC Site Allocations DPD - KWAG - The Bench - Avon Wildlife Trust - Free courses for Community Groups

BPF Meeting 19 January

The agenda for our first meeting of 2013 at Windmill Hill City Farm is now on the website at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFAgenda190113.pdf

Mayor's Budget Proposals

The draft BCC revenue budget for 2013/14 has been released for consultation. It can be seen at www.bristol.gov.uk/budgetconsultation

The headlines for Parks are:

£100k cut in parks maintenance;
Car parking charges for Blaise, Oldbury Court;
'rephase' the £3.5m Parks investment;
Loss of £29k Clean & green pot.

There will be an opportunity to hear more details and to discuss this with Tracey Morgan & Gus Hoytt at our meeting. The final budget will be agreed at the Council meeting in February.

Neighbourhood Partnerships

Gus Hoytt's responsibilities in Cabinet include Neighbourhood Partnerships as well as Environment. Gus has recently tweeted that we should 'Prepare for big advances in Neighbourhood Partnerships in next few months' and it seems to be the Mayor's policy to give them more responsibilities.

Gus has also said that he is keen to get views on NPs both from those who are involved and also those who aren't to find out why they aren't. You can email Gus at gus.hoyt@bristol.gov.uk or of course speak to him at our meeting.

Meantime Voscur are organising a meeting about NPs.

Matthew Symonds writes:

During 2012 Voscur supported a working group of voluntary and community members from Bristol's Neighbourhood Partnerships to evaluate resident and VCS involvement with NPs.

The working group reports (see <http://tinyurl.com/9wmuro3>) identified a number of recommendations to improve NPs, one of the recommendations was to establish a city-wide network for NPs that could help share good examples of NP activities, and possibly consider city-wide and relevant strategic issues that affect NPs.

Voscur has agreed to organise a first meeting city-wide for VCS members of NPs on Saturday 2 February, 10am - 12.30pm at the Southville Centre, Beaulley Road, Southville, Bristol, BS3 1QG.

The meeting will give you an opportunity for you to;

- meet informally with people from other Neighbourhood Partnerships
- share experience of and examples from your Neighbourhood Partnership
- comment on how the Mayor's budget proposals may impact on Neighbourhood Partnerships.

To book your place at the meeting, please click here <http://tinyurl.com/aj6rrsu>

I hope that you will be able attend the meeting and promote it to others from your Neighbourhood partnership who might be interested in attending.

Best wishes

Matthew

BCC Site Allocations DPD

The Site Allocations DPD is going to Full Council next week (15th Jan) for debate before being formally published for consultation. This is the document that sets out where development will happen in Bristol through to 2026 and is part of the Bristol Development Framework.

Details of the meeting are at www.bristol.gov.uk/committee/2013/ta/agenda/0115_1400_ta000.html

The draft document, including maps can be seen at www.bristol.gov.uk/siteallocations

The last version of this document in 2010 showed all the Parks sites that were being considered for disposal as potential development sites. Except from those very few spaces that were agreed for disposal by Neighbourhood Partnerships (and two that were agreed for school use) all 'Parks' land should be shown on these latest maps as 'important open space' - please let us know if yours isn't! Note the maps on this draft are not all that clear but no doubt there will be better ones available when the consultation starts in March.

KWAG

You will see that there will be a short report from Kings Weston Action Group at our meeting. You might remember that last time they were due to speak to us we ran out of time, this is the first time since then that we haven't clashed with one of their work parties - their next one is this Saturday (12th).

The latest KWAG Newsletter can be downloaded from www.facebook.com/KingsWestonActionGroup and includes details of a proposed memorial to Tim Denning.

There is also news of what is hoped will be a better future for Kings Weston House with a new 'owner' who has bought a 110 year lease on the House. The 'thisisbristol' report can be seen here: <http://tinyurl.com/amuevmz>

The Bench

The latest edition of the GreenSpace newsletter, The Bench, can be seen here: <http://tinyurl.com/bench84> This includes details of the Government's Review of the Environment Agency & Natural England as well as a new funding scheme for parks 'The GreenPlaces Fund' that is being introduced in Birmingham and Nottingham.

Avon Wildlife Trust

Avon Wildlife Trust have a new a new Chief Executive, Dr Bevis Watts, who took up the appointment on 2 January. More details are on their website at www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/news.htm#bevis

Free courses for Community Groups

Two free courses on 'Influencing change in your community' and 'Managing your community group's money' are being run in January as part of a Lottery funded scheme. Details are here: <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/JanuaryCourses.pdf>

Rob Acton-Campbell

<http://twitter.com/RobCrewsHole>

Bristol Parks Forum

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

2013 meetings: Sat 19 January - Sat 13 April - Sat 29 June - Sat 12 October
(all 9.30 to 12.30 at Windmill Hill City Farm)

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In this update: BPF Meeting 9 February - £3.5m Capital Stimulus - Car Parking Charges - Cycle Ride Round Bristol's parks - Zoo's walk of fame - Bristol in 1946 - Strange goings on at Narrowways

BPF Meeting 9 February

A special thanks to Adrian Pannett at Bristol Parks for helping us to sort out an alternative date for the meeting so quickly. Given the ice on Saturday morning a postponement was clearly the right decision. There is an updated agenda on the website at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFAGenda190113.pdf with the new date, but the timings are the same as the one issued for the postponed meeting, so there is no need to waste paper by printing the new version.

£3.5m Capital Stimulus

I mentioned in the last update that the budget proposals included 're-phasing' the spending of the £3.5m allocated to Parks. There will be more details of this at our rescheduled meeting but in the meantime Gus Hoytt has given us the following message:

"The Capital Stimulus funding has been approved in the budget consultation which means all the projects that have been approved will continue. We have asked that the programme be delivered over the next two years, which means completion by March 2015 rather than the assumption they would be completed by March 2014. The reality may have been that even without asking for them to be planned over the two years some may have slipped into 2014/15 anyway.

We will ensure that the schemes that have S106 match funding which is time critical will be prioritised to ensure that there is no risk of losing any S106 funding.

Hope this shows our commitment to supporting parks developments.

All the best,
Gus"

Sue Lutkenhouse had prepared an update on progress of the projects that was to be distributed at the meeting. The update can be seen here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/ProgressJan13.pdf and the current programme here: <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/ProgrammeJan13.pdf>

Note, neither of these documents take account of the re-phasing so the programme will change.

Car Parking Charges

We would be interested to hear your views on the proposals in the budget to charge for car parking at Blaise, Oldbury Court and Snuff Mills. The proposals give the possible impact as:

'Initial cost of putting in infrastructure would have to be taken into account. Parking charges could result in less people visiting sites, income from cafes could reduce. Ongoing revenue costs of

collecting fees and enforcing.'

As with all the budget proposals there is more detail in the 'Equality Impact Assessments' the one for the car parking charges can be seen here: <http://tinyurl.com/aoj5ezh>

If you send us your views we will collate them and send them to Gus. You will of course also have the chance to state them yourself to Gus at our meeting.

Cycle Ride Round Bristol's parks

Bristol Civic Society has recently arranged a couple of joint Bristol Cycling Campaign/BCS cycle rides (one last September and one in 2 weeks' time), and they are working on another ride for later this year. They have an idea: a ride visiting various Bristol Parks, and they are hoping for help from Parks Forum members.

They need to find someone to act as a guide. Ideally, someone who can be both a guide and who is also a cyclist. But it's possible they could split the planning of the route, the production of a commentary on the parks visited, and the leading of the ride itself.

A possible date for the ride is on Sunday June 23rd, as they are putting on walks around then as part of a programme around 'Civic Day', a national day when civic societies across the country celebrate the civic movement.

They need to at least get the date fixed soon, because the copy deadline for the BCS magazine Better Bristol is in early February.

If you or anyone in your group is a cyclist and/or would be willing to help in any way please email info@bristolparksforum.org.uk and we shall pass the details on to BCS.

Zoo's walk of fame

Friends of Troopers Hill were very flattered to be mentioned in the 'Post' story about the Zoo's plans to honour the unsung heroes who devote their time to benefit wildlife in and around the city.

You can read the story here: <http://tinyurl.com/ahwu9x9>

There are lots of people involved in Park groups who would qualify so get your nominations in! There are eight different categories including one for groups.

The nomination form and list of categories is here: <http://tinyurl.com/9wpj2j9>

Bristol in 1946

The Council's excellent mapping tool at www.bristol.gov.uk/knowyourplace now has an aerial view of Bristol taken in 1946. From a parks point of view it illustrates just how many of the parks were turned over to allotments during the war.

There is a report about it on the Bristol 24-7 website here: <http://tinyurl.com/b8bwx85>

Strange goings on at Narrowways

There is a report here <http://tinyurl.com/a356mys> on a burial at Narrowways that was investigated by the Police.

There is a chance to find out about strange happenings in St Werburghs from 100 years ago (almost to the day) on Saturday (26th Jan) at 3.30pm when Harry McPhillimy & storyteller Martin Maudsley will lead a walk as part of the Bristol Story Telling Festival.

Details are at www.bristolstoryfest.co.uk/programme

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