

09 July 2012 - No 102

In this update: Next BPF meeting Sat July 14th - Cabinet Meeting 4th July - Bristol in Bloom 2012 - South Bristol Link Consultation - Singing in the meadows - Stoke Park Walk - Ice Cream on Brandon Hill

BPF meeting Sat July 14th

The agenda for Saturday can now be seen at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFAGenda140712.pdf

Friends of Horfield Common will also be doing a session under the 'Current & Planned Activities & Projects' section.

Cabinet Meeting 4th July

This meeting considered the allocation of the £3.5m available for investment in Bristol's parks. The report that details the allocations that were approved can be seen at: www.bristol.gov.uk/committee/2012/ua/agenda/0704_1800_ua000.html it is item 7 on the agenda.

The webcast can be seen via <http://tinyurl.com/btbvsg3>

The BPF committee made the following statement to the meeting:

'Bristol Parks Forum welcomes the £3.5 million investment in Parks and Play, providing it complies with the priorities laid out in the P&GSS, as agreed by the Cross-party Working Group. We expect that this, and future investment, will seek to remedy shortfalls in open space and facilities where these are identified as being below the minimum Bristol standard. Further, given the controversy surrounding the AGSP process, we would assume due weight will be given to sites where there is strong evidence of community involvement.'

You might also be interested in Item 16 on the Agenda 'Trees in the Townscape'

Bristol in Bloom 2012

The Britain in Bloom judges will be in Bristol on Thursday, July 12 and the Entente Florale jury members will visit the city on Tuesday, July 31. You can read more at www.bristol.gov.uk/node/12525

South Bristol Link Consultation

The BPF committee submitted a statement in response to this consultation which can be seen here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFSouthBristolLink.pdf

Singing in the meadows

A different way to see the Downs

Saturday 14th July - 10.30am - 12.30pm £4.00

A poster with more details can be seen at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/Singing.pdf

Stoke Park Walk

Steve England (the now regular 'Post' contributor) is leading a geology/fossil walk of the Frome Valley for SMAG on Thursday 12th July meeting in Snuff Mills car park at 6.30pm. Since it is Steve, the press will also be along. Steve says that if anyone from other parks groups are interested in going along it would be nice to see them.

Ice Cream on Brandon Hill

We were pleased to receive the following message from Bridget of www.veedoublemoo.co.uk the new ice cream vendor at Brandon Hill:

'Dear BPF, I am very happy to let you know that I have won the ice cream tender for Brandon Hill. As a former environmental consultant I am planning to keep a tidy site and the business has an environmental policy. Also importantly I'll be offering really good quality ice cream, homemade cakes and hot and cold drinks throughout the year.

Please could you let me know the date of the next meeting for BPF - it might be good to come along and find out more about current issues for Bristol's parks.'

I hope you will agree that it is good to have people working in parks who take an interest in the site and want to get involved.

Rob Acton-Campbell

BPF

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

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

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In this update: BPF meeting Sat July 14th - Stoke Park Walks - 11+2 Green Flags - Rivers of Bristol Facebook Page - Love Parks Week - Make Parks a Priority - Quiz Challenge - The Amazing Park Keeper

BPF meeting Sat July 14th

A few links from items discussed at the meeting:

Reports from Groups:

Troopers Hill, Stepping Forward - www.troopers-hill.org.uk/steppingforward

Friends of Horfield Common - www.friendsofhorfieldcommon.com

Kings Weston Action Group were not able to attend because they were holding a work party - see www.facebook.com/KingsWestonActionGroup

Bristol Parks Contacts:

The current list of Area Environment Officers (AEOs) is still as it was at the April meeting, details are at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/AEONoteApril2012.pdf

As discussed at some length the AEOs should be the first point of contact. If you have issues that are ongoing to do with operations then you can contact that team directly.

A map showing the areas is here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/ParksAreas.pdf

Parks operations is led by Richard Stransom, assisted by Pete Clark.

The North & East areas which have 'in-house' teams are managed by Jamie Roberts, assisted by Jerry Cole.

The Central & South areas which are contracted to English Landscapes and Quadron respectively are managed by Chris Hammond, assisted by Miles Harris.

Richard Bevan is responsible for Estates, Cemeteries and Play Areas as well as catering at the new kiosks and Ashton Court. The various Estates Rangers report to Richard B, but the gardeners are managed by Richard S and Jamie Roberts. The Estates Structure chart is here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/EstatesStructure.pdf

Stoke Park Walks

As he mentioned at the meeting Steve England will be leading two walks soon and would like to invite forum members and park users.

On Saturday 21st July there is a Fossil and Geology walk of the Frome Valley meeting at Snuff Mills Car Park at 2pm where he will display his fossil collection and give a talk in the car park after the walk. This walk is for SMAG. There is a poster for the walk here:

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/FossilWalk.pdf

On Sunday 22nd July there is a History tour of Stoke Park starting at 10.30am meeting at the Cameron centre Lockleaze this is part of the Wild City Project, again a very popular walk and Steve would love to see forum members come along.

The latest 'England's Glory' column can be seen here: <http://tinyurl.com/86onna3>

11+2 Green Flags

Green Flags were presented to Bristol's eleven winning parks at Redcatch Park this afternoon. The winners are listed at www.troopers-hill.org.uk/gf.htm where there are also a couple of photos of Susan and me with the Troopers Hill flag.

There were also two Community Green Flag awards made to sites in Bristol which went to Snuff Mills and Easter Garden.

Rivers of Bristol Facebook Page

Kathy Derrick has been in touch to tell me that there is a new New Rivers of Bristol Facebook Page. She says "Please 'like' the new page and share what's happening in our waterways. If you have your own facebook page that relates to rivers please let us know and we'll 'like' you too". The page can be found via <http://tinyurl.com/rivers-fb> You can contact Kathy Derrick on 0117 93525894.

Love Parks Week

A reminder that Love Parks week runs from 21 to 29 July, there are more details at www.loveparkweek.org.uk

Make Parks a Priority

You may not have seen the journal Horticulture Week, but it is running a campaign to get the Government to formally debate the impact of the current cuts in parks funding which are impacting on many areas around the country. So far Bristol has escaped these cuts, and I suspect that many other parts of the country would love to be having a debate about how quickly their parks department is able to spend an extra £3.5m as we were on Saturday.

However, things might change!

Details of the Horticulture Week campaign and the 'Early Day Motion' that it is asking MPs to support is at www.hortweek.com/makeparksapriority

Quiz Challenge

Friends of Troopers Hill will have a team at the Beeses Quiz on Thursday 26th July. Do any other park groups have teams they think could beat us?

More details at <http://beeses.co.uk>

You might also be interested in Beeses Butcombe Day on Friday (20 July) with an opportunity to taste a range of Butcombe Beer and hear from the brewers from 6pm to 8pm.

'There are just a few places left so call 0117 977 7412 to reserve your space and get to drink the beer, hear about the love and care that goes into brewing it and enjoy a Butcombe hotdog, all for £10. All profits go to Friends of Eastwood Farm and Troopers Hill' - which is of course why I'm mentioning it.

The Amazing Park Keeper

Finally a good news story on ThisisBristol from St George Park.

<http://tinyurl.com/cd5kpxm>

Rob Acton-Campbell

BPF

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

Next meeting date: Sat 13th October
(9.30 to 12.30)