

**8 June 2009**

Hi,

Festival of Nature

I hope you enjoyed the Festival if you managed to get along. We had a steady stream of visitors to the Parks Form stand when I was there on Saturday afternoon. I think everyone involved thought it was worthwhile.

If you were there I hope you had a look in the 'Wild Bristol' tent which I thought was really well put together and was obviously attracting the kids; as Martin Evans from Radio Bristol said if there had been a prize for the best display they would have won it. It was a joint venture between the Avon Gorge & Downs Project, South Bristol Riverscapes, Forest of Avon and the Natural Environment Team at Parks and I know that a lot of hard work went into it on the Thursday & Friday getting it set up; I think everyone involved should be congratulated.

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Area Green Space Plans Update

Richard Fletcher has confirmed that, as mentioned at our last meeting, the public consultation will now be in January 2010. The final stage of the stakeholder consultation will take place over the next few weeks. Richard has given more details, including contact details for the Area Green Space Plan Project Officer for each Neighbourhood Partnership Area, in an update letter which he has asked me to pass on and which can be found at:

[www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/AGSPJune09.pdf](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/AGSPJune09.pdf)

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Save Our Green Spaces [www.saveourgreenspaces.org](http://www.saveourgreenspaces.org)

This campaign which was mentioned at our last meeting has been very successful in getting publicity over the last few weeks including this: <http://tinyurl.com/lr7fsq> article in the Evening Post. The Ashton Vale Heritage Group [www.ashtonvaleheritage.co.uk](http://www.ashtonvaleheritage.co.uk) are part of the campaign, they are also members of the BPF and spoke to us at our meeting in January.

The campaign is to save open countryside around Bristol and in West of England and to oppose the proposed urban extensions and other large scale developments. If you would like to show your support then there are letters that you can download from their website to send to the Secretary of State (now John Denham rather than Hazel Blears) and your MP.

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Consultations

After the six week break because of the local elections there will now be another rush of consultations, many of which will impact on Bristol's parks & green spaces. The latest on the BDF [www.bristol.gov.uk/bdf](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/bdf) is the 'Core Strategy Draft Development Principles Paper'. In the coming weeks there will be more on the Knowle West Regeneration and the further consultation on the

Chocolate Factory site that Gary Hopkins promised at our last meeting. There are also more consultations about play areas for the next phase of the Play Pathfinder Project and of course more AGSP meetings as I mentioned above. Links to many of these can be found at [www.opinionsuite.com/bristol/](http://www.opinionsuite.com/bristol/) and I will also try to highlight particularly relevant ones in these emails. Please do send me links to any that I haven't mentioned but which you think park groups will be interested in.

Rob Acton-Campbell  
BPF

[www.bristolparksforum.org.uk](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk)

BPF Meeting Dates: 25th July, 31st October

The Big Lunch 19th July [www.thebiglunch.com](http://www.thebiglunch.com)

Love Parks Week 25<sup>th</sup> July to 2<sup>nd</sup> August [www.loveparksweek.org.uk](http://www.loveparksweek.org.uk)

## 17 June 2009

Minutes of the May BPF Meeting

If you are on Bristol Parks emailing list you should have received a copy of these today from Catherine. They are also now on our website at [www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFMin160509.pdf](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFMin160509.pdf)

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Bristol Development Framework

As I mentioned in my last email the latest consultation on the BDF [www.bristol.gov.uk/bdf](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/bdf) is on the 'Core Strategy Draft Development Principles Paper'. Of particular interest to park groups will be the policy on 'Green Infrastructure' but there are also several other policies that will impact on parks and green spaces. The consultation runs until 17 July so please make your voice heard and take part in the consultation. There is a community involvement event tomorrow (Thurs) and I shall let you know anything significant that comes out of that in a future email.

The Bristol Development Framework is supposed to be following the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), the latest version of which is the one that has suggested a big increase in housing numbers and building on Green Belt (see [www.saveourgreenspaces.org](http://www.saveourgreenspaces.org) ). According today's report in the Evening Post <http://tinyurl.com/m5ofv9> the final version of the RSS will be delayed, perhaps for sometime. We wait to see what impact this will have on the timetable for the BDF.

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Park Group Websites and Newsletters

I've included links to websites that I know about for Park Groups on the listing at [www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/parks.htm](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/parks.htm) If you know of any websites I have missed please let me know.

The Friends of Troopers Hill also produce a Newsletter; the latest edition (including details of our

'Music on the Hill' event this Saturday) can be seen here: [www.troopers-hill.org.uk/news/Summer09.pdf](http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/news/Summer09.pdf) If your group has a newsletter that you think other groups would be interested in then please do email me a copy (or send me a link if it is already on the web) and I will upload it to the BPF website and include it in future emails.

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Park Life

In case like me you are wondering what has happened to this year's Park Life I am told that it is at the printers and should be sent out soon.

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## 19 June 2009

A short update with some important news...

I'm sure you will be pleased to hear that Peter Wilkinson has been appointed as Service Manager – Parks and Estates. In addition to his current responsibilities Peter is also now responsible for for the Cemeteries and Crematoria service. Peter has asked me to to pass on his thanks to all BPF members for their support.

For the two CPO posts that are still to be filled; Parks have offered one of the posts and are holding second interviews for the other. An offer has also been made for the Woodland and Wildlife Officer post.

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Park Life

Park Life 2009 is now on the web as a pdf file see <http://tinyurl.com/2009pl>

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