

31 May 2008

Parks Forum Mailing List:

As you may know after working very hard to help make the Parks Forum a success over the last few years, Alison is now getting more involved with planning groups and is reducing the time she spends on parks issues. Since I now run the website I have agreed to take over administration of the BPF email distribution list that she held. The information that I have for you (name, park group and email address) is at the top of this email. If this is incorrect or you want any changes please let me know. There is a separate list of Park Groups and contacts held by Bristol Parks which includes post addresses.

The intention of this list is that it will allow Fraser and Hugh to pass on information that they think you will find useful or to get views from the Forum between meetings. We will also post information on the website at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

Bristol Festival of Nature 7th and 8th June 2008:

We are still looking for more volunteers, particularly for the lunchtime slots both days (12 - 2) and for the Sunday afternoon (2 - 4) session. More information can be found here: <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/FoN.pdf> Please email info@bristolparksforum.org.uk if you or other members of your group can help.

Rob
BPF
www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

4 June 2008

More news from BPF...

Dates for you diary:

Bristol Festival of Nature - 7th/8th June

Next BPF meeting - Sat 12th July 9:30am - 1pm Windmill Hill City Farm

Are your group's needs being met by Parks? - What needs to change?

Bristol Parks have applied for a Charter Mark and members of some Park Groups have been invited to meet the assessor to talk about how Bristol Parks interacts with Park Groups. Hugh Holden, Vice-Chair BPF, would like to be able to report to the assessor the views of those groups who aren't at this meeting, as this could perhaps be a matter of some controversy. In the near future we will also be consulted on the proposed restructuring of Bristol Parks. If you have any comments about the support your group receives from Bristol Parks or Bristol City Council in general we would be pleased to hear from you, please email info@bristolparksforum.org.uk or hughholden@gmail.com This subject will also be discussed at the next BPF meeting in July (we ran out of time in April) the

main points from any comments you send us now will be used at that meeting to start the debate.

Bus Rapid Transit Latest - Malago threatened?

While the threat to the Railway Path appears to be receding, the Kingfisher Group have been having a close look at other parts of the new Bus Rapid Transit project. They are particularly concerned about the proposal for the route from Hengrove / Hartcliffe to the city centre, as it impacts heavily on the Malago green corridor. The proposal is to actually pave over the Malago at Malago Vale and also build the pavement through the Cotswold Road green space, which are the spaces the Kingfisher Group looks after.

The group are trying to mount a campaign similar to the one that opposed the Bristol-Bath cycle path route and would be pleased to hear from anyone who shares their concerns and/or can offer help. Some documents giving the details of the proposals are posted on our website. Please contact the Kingfisher Group via Nancy.Carlton@uwe.ac.uk

Listing of Parks and Parks Groups

There is a listing on our website at <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/parks.htm> of all of Bristol's parks and green spaces with the names of Park Groups along side.

We are sure that this list contains errors and omissions - please email info@bristolparksforum.org.uk to let us know what they are! The park names are taken from Bristol Parks' official list. Where we know of websites for groups we have included a link, and we have also linked to information about the parks on the BCC website where any exists. If there are any links we have missed please let us know. If you don't have a website, we would be happy to post information sheets that you have about your group or the parks you look after. Please send any information to rob@bristolparksforum.org.uk ideally as a pdf file. Information about parks in your area is likely to be particularly useful when discussions start about Area Green Space Plans.

Rob
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www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

12 June 2008

Area Green Space Plans

Those of you who were at the last BPF meeting will have seen Richard Fletcher's slide giving the timetable for this process. This has altered since the last Forum meeting. Now a public consultation will take place on each AGSP in turn rather than one for the south and one for the north of the city. Richard has supplied us with the revised timetable and it can be seen on our website at:

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

It is vital that as many Park Groups as possible get involved in this process - remember it is this that will decide which areas of Bristol's green space (if any) will be sold.

Are your group's needs being met by Parks? - What needs to change?

The meeting about the Charter Mark took place on Wednesday but we would still like to hear from you if you have any comments about the support your group receives from Bristol Parks or Bristol City Council in general, particularly if you are not able to attend the next BPF meeting. Hugh has raised a question with Bristol Parks about why the Parks Forum was neither informed in advance of the Charter Mark application, nor asked to be involved in the selection of attendees.

Malago threat update

The Kingfisher Group have received a reply from the West of England Partnership to some questions that they raised. It can be seen here:

<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/rbt/WEPresponse.pdf>

There is a chance to see the Malago by taking part in the annual Malago trek, which is organised by Bristol Living Rivers, and takes place on July 13. The Kingfisher Group hope to use the event to raise awareness of the threat from the RBT.

Wildlife in Parks

I hope you all enjoyed the Festival of Nature. Before the Festival we received an email asking what the Parks Forums views are concerning wildlife habitat in Bristol parks? Hugh replied saying that many of our groups play an active role in encouraging/ creating habitats in their parks and green spaces and that BPF as a whole is obviously very supportive of any efforts in this direction. In fact looking through the mailing list about half of the park groups represent Nature Reserves rather than traditional parks. If you would like to encourage more wildlife into your parks then I'm sure that Bristol Parks' Natural Environment Team would be pleased to help. Part of that team is Sally Oldfield who runs the Nature in the City Project based on some of the Nature Reserves. It is this project that the P&GSS promises to roll out to more sites. You can download Sally's Newsletter and events listing from Bristol Park's website via this link: <http://tinyurl.com/656618>

Don't forget:

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Rob

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12 June 2008

You might be interested to know that there is a conference in Bristol next week called Parks for Life - organised by GreenSpace. It will be focusing on maximising the impact parks can have on health and wellbeing.

More details are here:

<http://www.green-space.org.uk/events/GS/latestconference.php>

This comes with a recommendation from Peter Wilkinson Head of Bristol Parks who says "Some of the speakers are very good - especially William Bird (top bird) the

health and green space guru who invented health walks and the green gym concepts. I always remember his NHS is the Natural Health Service."

Peter also suggests that GreenSpace might be able to do forum members a good deal if any one is interested in attending.

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A couple of events that you might be interested in...

Northern Slopes - Wed 9th July

The Northern Slopes Initiative are holding an Open Evening Event on 9th July to encourage people to come and see the Northern Slopes and the recent improvements that have taken place there. They would particularly like members of other park groups to come along.

The event is free, but phone 0117 922 4429 to book.

More details: <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/NSI9July2008.pdf>

Big Cafe 3 - Sat July 19th

This is a workshop event to discuss Transport, organised by Bristol Sustainability Network. The implications on Malago Valley and Bristol - Bath railway path of some transport proposals are already apparent!

More details: <http://www.ecojam.org/interact/events/big-cafe-no-3-transport>

Attendance fee £20 including lunch/coffee. Concessions £10, students £8.

If you know of any events that you think other groups might find of interest (or if you are organising one) please let us know.

Minutes of BPF meeting 19th April

The minutes from the last meeting are now on the website at

<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFMinutes19Apr2008.pdf>

A copy was also sent out by email from Bristol Parks on 18 June. If you did not receive a copy by email it means that you are not on Bristol Parks' contact list for park groups. If you would like to be added to their list (which is separate to the one I use) then please email Bristol Parks via

bristolparks@bristol.gov.uk

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