

## 01 November 2008

### Castle Park - Urgent

We have all seen crowds of people enjoying the sun at Castle Park – but do you have any photographs of them? For various reasons people tend to take photos of parks without people but the Castle Park User Group need photos showing lots of people for the Town Green Public Enquiry. Opportunities to take photos this year were limited by the poor summer weather. If you have any suitable photographs please email Mary Bannerman [marybannerman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marybannerman@hotmail.co.uk)

### Bristol Development Framework – Call for Sites

The next stage of this process is now under way - this is the 'Call for Sites' .

Details and forms are at <http://tinyurl.com/5p2chx>

Here is the text of a message from the BDF team:

"Bristol City Council wants to involve you in considering how land in Bristol might be developed in the future and would like you to help us to identify land or buildings that you think could be developed or put to a different use. This is an important opportunity to suggest land and/or buildings where change could take place.

The council is keen to ensure it has a full picture of local community issues relating to land in your area and wants to hear from people and organizations across the city, as well as from landowners and the development industry. Your suggestions could be in any part of the city and the sites do not need to be within your ownership or control.

We are currently developing a new suite of planning documents that will guide development decisions in the city called the Bristol Development Framework (BDF). Work is now beginning on the Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD), which will form part of the BDF. The Site Allocations DPD and accompanying Proposals Map will allocate land for development and designate land for particular uses. The Site Allocations DPD will need to be consistent with the overall spatial strategy set out in the emerging Core Strategy.

Sites submitted and their suggested uses will subsequently be assessed and considered for inclusion in the Site Allocations DPD. A consultation draft of the Site Allocations DPD is expected to be published in Summer 2009.

Potential development sites and their potential uses should be put forward for consideration as part of the Call for Sites by 19th December 2008. At the same time we are publishing a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping report for consultation.

The accompanying guidance notes explain how you can respond to the call for sites. Please read these before submitting suggestions. For each site we would like you to complete a form and provide an attached map accurately identifying the site boundary. The form can be downloaded from the Bristol Development Framework website ([www.bristol.gov.uk/bdf](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/bdf)). Please feel free to contact us on 0117 903 6727 if you would like any assistance completing the response form or identifying sites on maps.

Completed forms and maps should be submitted to the following address before 19th December 2008:

By e-mail: [bdf@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:bdf@bristol.gov.uk)

By post: Site Allocations (CD/BH)  
Freepost BS6529  
BRISTOL  
BS1 5BR

This is an important opportunity for you to influence the future of your area and we look forward to hearing from you."

Although the process is obviously aimed at finding development sites this is also an opportunity to nominate sites that are candidates to become parks, nature reserves or other open spaces. See Fraser's report on the last BDF meeting at <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/bdf.htm>

BDF - Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) 2008

This can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/6555hn>

Of particular interest is the SHLAA Methodology Stakeholder Technical Assessment which has a list and maps that show possible sites for use as housing and includes some P&GSS sites. Although the document has several notes to the effect that nothing has yet been decided it does show some of the sites that are under consideration. This document seems to pre-empt the Area Green Space Plans. Hugh sums it up well:

"I'm increasingly getting the impression that the AGSPs will be rushed /irrelevant, given the remorseless pressures to get the BDF finished".

Hopefully this is something that Richard Fletcher will address in the AGSP update that Peter Wilkinson promised us at the last BPF meeting.

More Threatened Green Space

The Biodiversity Action Plan was adopted at the cabinet meeting. Together with the protection of Grove Woods through the TPO this seems to show that at least some members of BCC are interested in protecting green space – but there are still threats.

Ashton Vale Heritage Group submitted this statement to cabinet:  
<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/AVHGstatement301008.pdf>

They will be looking with interest at the plans for a large football stadium in their area which will get their first public showing this week.

Sue Flint at South Purdown had the following comment:

"Friends of South Purdown hope that some of that attitude will rub off on the Education Dept which continues to pursue its desire to wreck South Purdown. Objectors to the consequential footpath diversion are gathering their evidence for the public inquiry on Dec 9th, (10 a.m. at Fairfield School) and have had some favourable Evening Post coverage recently (21st Oct and 24th Oct - links on our [www.bristolparksforum.org.uk](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk)). "

Cycling City

On behalf of the BPF Fraser submitted questions on this to Thursday's cabinet meeting – the questions and answers can be seen here: <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/A12.pdf>

Rob Acton-Campbell

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

## 7 November 2008

BDF - Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) 2008

This can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/6555hn>

I mentioned this in my last email, the SHLAA Methodology Stakeholder Technical Assessment has a list and maps that show possible sites for use as housing and includes some P&GSS sites. The briefing notes have now been updated. On the subject of P&GSS sites and SNCIs they say:

“The SHLAA Stakeholder Technical Assessment includes a small number of sites which are designated as Sites of Nature Conservation Interest and identified as Parks and Green Spaces where we would like to gather further information on their deliverability and developability. These sites are usually part of larger sites, which may have potential for accommodating homes, or where these sites may be needed in future to support other strategic objectives such as regeneration or urban extensions.”

There is a response form for you to send your views about the possible use of these sites for housing.

More information on the BDF at <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/bdf.htm>

Saving Ashton Vale

'Walk the Line' - Saturday 15 November, 1pm to 4pm. Starting point at the PROW lane at the end of Ashton Drive - follow the signs.

This event is for members of the public to take a walk along the public right of way to see Ashton Vale Fields (SNCI), where the new stadium is proposed and the natural green space where wildlife has always thrived due to the wetland area. Further PROW's can be taken from here leading to Ashton Court and along Colliter's Brook for anyone wishing to keep their walking boots on (walking boots or wellies advisable).

More details at <http://www.ashtonvaleheritage.co.uk/>

## Parks Structure Review

The BPF committee has been invited to a meeting with Bristol parks next week to discuss this further. We will let you know the outcome.

## Parks & Green Spaces Strategy

The notes of the meeting between BPF committee members and Bristol Parks held in early October are now on the website at <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFParksMtg071008.pdf>

Several points of principle were discussed as well as issues around specific sites. It has now been agreed that similar meetings will be held every three months.

One important issue is ensuring that the P&GSS maps show all public green space. A process is being put in place to ensure that the P&GSS board and therefore the BPF will be informed about any development proposed on these sites.

The P&GSS maps can be downloaded from <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/parks.htm>

If you know of public green space in your area that is not shown on these maps please let us know. One example that we will raise with Bristol Parks is Newquay Rd Playing Fields.

## Email List

You have received this email because you are on the BPF email list. If you know of anyone else in your group (or other groups) who would like to receive these messages they can now sign up to the list via our website. See <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/signup.htm>

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# 15 November 2008

## Parks Review Update

The BPF committee met with Bristol Parks on Monday and had a useful discussion about the reorganisation. The updated proposals for the structure and some notes explaining the changes since September are on our website at <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/ParksReview.htm> There is also a document setting out the comments received in response to the consultation and Parks' response.

The most notable change is that there are now to be only four Community Parks Officers; one for each of the four areas. The money saved has been used to fund additional 'gardeners'. Part of the reason for this is that the 'Head Gardeners' will be taking on some of the role currently carried out by the CPMs and will have less time to spend driving machines etc. Many of the issues raised by the public through the planned 'call centre' or email will be passed to Head Gardeners for action.

This will apply in both the 'in-house' and contracted areas.

The CPOs will be the ones who are most directly involved with Parks Groups and part of their role will be to encourage more community involvement. Bristol Parks would like suggestions on how their performance in this role could be measured.

The aim is still for the new structure to be in place next April though the timetable is now very tight, so the structure now proposed is very likely to be the one that is put in place. At this stage there is nothing to be gained by having another open BPF meeting to discuss the changes but if you have any specific concerns please let us know. More detailed notes about the meeting will be posted on the website soon.

### Bristol Biodiversity Action Plan

This was launched on Wednesday and the full colour version can now be downloaded from the BCC website via this link: <http://tinyurl.com/brisbap>

### Area Green Space Plans

A reminder that the latest timetable we have is here:  
<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/AGSPprogrammeOct08.pdf>

The intention is to complete the 'stakeholder' consultation phase for all areas by April 2009. There will then be a public consultation on all the plans in the summer. If you want to get involved in your area then make sure that Richard Fletcher [richard.fletcher@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:richard.fletcher@bristol.gov.uk) has your details.

### TreeBristol Sponsorship Scheme

This scheme was launched on Thursday; details here: <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/redirect?oid=PressRelease-id-28532116>

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You have received this email because you are on the BPF email list. If you know of anyone else in your group (or other groups) who would like to receive these messages they can now sign up to the list via our website. See <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/signup.htm>

# 19 November 2008

## Castle Park Town Green Public Inquiry

The public inquiry begins Monday 1st December 10.00am at the Old Council House, Corn Street, Bristol. To support the move to protect this green space for all time please assemble at 9.15am outside the Old Council House; bring banners and placards.

The inquiry is due to run for one week, with two evening sessions.  
The times are 10.00am to 5.00pm each day, plus Monday & Wednesday 6.00pm to 8.00pm

There is more information at [www.castlepark.org.uk](http://www.castlepark.org.uk) and you can download a flyer about the inquiry from <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/CastlePark.pdf>

Please forward this to everyone concerned about our open green spaces.

## Felling of Trees next to Eastville Park

Some of you might have seen this reported in the Evening Post. Over 70 trees were felled on private land next to Eastville Park on Sunday 9 November. Bristol Parks tree officers responded quickly to place Tree Protection Orders on the remaining trees and the Forestry Commission are preparing a case of possible prosecution. More details on our website:  
<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/#eastville>

## Maps for Call for Sites

It is now possible to print maps from the Council Pinpoint mapping system, this will make responding to the Call for Sites much easier and avoids the need to buy large scale OS maps. It also means you can print maps showing areas owned by BCC and lots of other information including for example the routes of public footpaths.

This link: <http://tinyurl.com/68gk14> will take you to the part of the map showing Castle Park. You can use the tools across the top of the map to zoom in or out or move around the map. The Adobe pdf icon is used to create a pdf page to print when you have the map that you want displayed. The layer list can be used to show different features. Try typing your postcode into the 'Find Location' section to see a map of your area.

There is more information about the Call for Sites, including a Guidance Note from the Bristol Neighbourhood Planning Network at <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/bdf.htm> It is particularly important that you respond with details of any green spaces that are not on the P&GSS maps – these can be seen at <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/parks.htm>

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# 24 November 2008

BDF, Call for Sites, SHLAA, AGSP, P&GSS, Site Allocations...

If you are confused about what these all are and how they all fit together then you are not the only one! Richard Fletcher has promised to send out a briefing paper that will try to clarify the situation and is also planning a joint evening briefing session with Sarah O'Driscoll of the BDF team for BPF members and Planning network members. I will pass on the details when I receive them.

BDF Community Involvement Session Wed 26 November

This is the latest in the series of monthly meetings and is being held at Broadmead Baptist Church 5:30 – 8:30 pm details have been sent to everyone on the BDF membership list. If you are interested in attending please email [bdf@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:bdf@bristol.gov.uk) or contact Dave Carter on 0117 9036725 by 12 noon Tuesday. You can also contact [bdf@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:bdf@bristol.gov.uk) for more information or to be added to their mailing list.

The programme for Wednesday is here:

<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BDF26NovProgramme.pdf>

Where will 36,500 homes be built?

"The Regional Spatial Strategy Proposed Changes has stated that Bristol's allocation of new homes should increase to 36,500. The approach set out in the Bristol Development Framework Core Strategy Preferred Options January 2008 was based on about 29,500 new homes. Land for developing new homes within the city is limited. If the Regional Spatial Strategy confirms the 36,500 figure, how could the homes be accommodated?"

This question is taken from a discussion paper that will be discussed at the BDF meeting on Wednesday, the paper is here: <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BDF26NovDiscussion.pdf>

If the Government confirms that Bristol has to find room for the extra houses the BDF have to suggest where they can be built, the paper makes some suggestions, including:

Denser developments with more tall buildings in the City Centre;

Additional use of urban open land ie build on more green spaces in the City;

Additional urban extensions / use of Green Belt land;

Use some land reserved for employment use for new homes;

Redevelop St Philip's Marsh for mixed uses including new homes.

It is still early stages and the numbers of homes required might still be changed by the Government but these are obviously discussions in which the BPF and all park groups need to make their voice heard.

Good News for Nature Reserves

Before Sally Oldfield left her post as Local Nature Reserves Officer to move to Islington she put together an application for Lottery money to fund two LNROs to replace her and to continue her

work in designating new LNRs and enhancing the existing ones. The application was for the Access to Nature scheme. Bristol Parks heard last week that Sally's Stage 1 application has been successful; they now have to put together a more detailed application for stage 2 of the assessment process. Passing stage 1 is no guarantee of success in stage 2 and there is strong competition for the available funds, but it is good news that Bristol has at least got this far.

### Planting Places Awards 2009

Any public green space can be nominated for this award; this includes everything from parks, community gardens and allotments to green routes (ie cycle paths), playing fields and even cemeteries and rooftops.

Information and an application form is available on the Planting Places website – [www.plantingplaces.org.uk](http://www.plantingplaces.org.uk) (click on the 'awards' page), and can be submitted by a local community group, local authority, NHS Trust, NGO, private organisation or individual. Completed forms must be returned by 5pm on Tuesday, 27 January 2009.

The 'case studies' page has details of last year's winners which included Victoria Park, The Bristol to Bath Railway Path and St Werburghs City Farm.

An awards ceremony will take place at the Architecture Centre, Bristol at a date in early March. The winners will be highlighted in a special exhibition, which will be on display at the Architecture Centre from 3 – 29 March 2009 (approx) as part of their Spring Green Programme.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Lynn Gibbons on [lynn.gibbons@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk](mailto:lynn.gibbons@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk) or phone 0117 900 1753.

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## 26 November 2008

BDF, Call for Sites, SHLAA, AGSP, P&GSS, Site Allocations...

If you are on Bristol Park's mailing list you will have received a statement from Richard Fletcher about how all these link together. The statement is also now on our website here:

[http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/RF\\_Statement24Nov08.pdf](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/RF_Statement24Nov08.pdf)

The deadline for submissions on the Call for Sites and SHLAA is currently 19 Dec 2008, given that BCC has only just sorted out a way for maps to be printed and that we are still getting clarifications about the process you might think that this period should be extended. If you agree you can sign an on-line petition asking for an extension here:

<http://epetitions.bristol.gov.uk/petition.php?id=230>

Life near a city park can be as healthy as out in the country

If anyone you know still questions the importance of green space in the city you can point them at this article from the Independent <http://tinyurl.com/57r59e>

There are also several 'discussion documents' on the importance of green space and wildlife that form part of the P&GSS. Some of these were in the consultation documents but have not yet found their way on to the main strategy website.

The discussion document on wildlife is on the main website:

[http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset\\_id=23437021](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset_id=23437021)

The document on trees is here: <http://tinyurl.com/6qv938>

Health: <http://tinyurl.com/5663gf>

Water: <http://tinyurl.com/6kjpuf>

General principles: <http://tinyurl.com/5slna>

### St George Park Play Area

There was an article in today's Evening Post about the proposed new play area for St George Park. This is funded by the City Pathfinder Play grant and section 106 money. If the reality is as good as the plans this will be a real boost for St George and will show what can be done elsewhere.

The article is here: <http://tinyurl.com/5dtf3q>

While mentioning my local area a quick plug. Meadow Vale Community Association has a small building next to Meadow Vale Open Space. They would like to extend the building and you can vote for them tomorrow (Thur 27<sup>th</sup> Nov) in the People's Millions TV phone vote.

More details are here: <http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/StGeorgeNP/VoteMeadowVale.pdf>

The phone number will be on this site <http://tinyurl.com/5gfnhf> from 9am or visit [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/peoplesmillions](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/peoplesmillions)

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## 30 November 2008

BDF Call for Sites – What you need to know!

The deadline for the Call for Sites is Friday 19 December – less than 3 weeks away.

What is most important for the Forum members is to identify all those green and open spaces (including woodland, wetlands, playing fields etc etc.) that are not covered by the P&GSS process. ie not on the maps of the NP areas on the BPF website at [www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/parks1.htm](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/parks1.htm)

These are the spaces that need to be covered under the Site Allocations process and for which you should submit details for the Call for Sites saying they should be protected as green space.

Some of the publicity implies you can only submit sites for development – this is not true, any proposed use including protection as green space can be submitted.

Links to the BDF webpages as well as the guidance notes from the BNPN are on:  
[www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/bdf.htm](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/bdf.htm)

Direct links to Call for Sites forms (you don't need to complete Part 2 if you don't have the information):

In Word: [http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset\\_id=28423089&](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset_id=28423089&)

As pdf: [http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset\\_id=28458087&](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset_id=28458087&)

Maps can be printed from the BCC Pinpoint Maps: <http://tinyurl.com/68gk14>

If you have any questions email [bdf@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:bdf@bristol.gov.uk) or phone 0117 903 6725

#### BPF Meeting Dates for 2009

We have now fixed the dates for the 2009 meetings, all are Saturday's starting 9.30am. We will confirm the venues later. The dates are:

24th January, 16th May, 25th July, 31st October

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