

08 November 2011 - No 82

In this update:

BPF Meeting Minutes - Bristol Town Green Consultation - Arnos Vale Wins English Heritage Angel Award - Snuff Mills Community Garden - Bristol Parks Office Move

BPF Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting will be on the website next week at:

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/#meetings

Following the election of our new chair and extra committee member I have now updated the email forwarding so that emails to info@bristolparksforum.org.uk are seen by all the committee.

Bristol Town Green Consultation

Following on from the national consultation on Town Greens, Bristol City Council are running their own consultation on the process used to determine Town Green applications.

This follows the withdrawal of proposals for a change which were made at the Public Rights of Way and Greens committee in April. The new proposals are similar but the word 'Occasionally' has been removed from the description of when an application should be referred to a public enquiry.

The consultation runs until 13 Dec.

Details are here:

www.citizenspace.com/bristol/consultation-research-intelligence/tvg_application_process

The response that the BPF made to the committee in April is here:

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFStatement150411Final.pdf

The BPF committee will be making a response, but you or your group may also wish to respond.

Arnos Vale Wins English Heritage Angel Award

Good news from Arnos Vale where the Arnos Vale Trust have won an important national award.

Details are here: <http://tinyurl.com/bn6jzb8>

The Daily Telegraph website features interview with Joyce Smith, MBE, talking about the restoration project at <http://tinyurl.com/cakkejy>

You can find out more at www.arnosvale.org.uk or www.facebook.com/arnosvalecemeterytrust

Snuff Mills Community Garden

There was an excellent article in the Evening Post last week about Snuff Mills and their community garden - <http://tinyurl.com/csuy5rp>

More on Snuff Mills at <http://snuffmills.blogspot.com>

Bristol Parks Office Move

As you may know Bristol Parks have recently moved from Colston 33 to Brunel House. Phone numbers and email addresses are unchanged.

Rob Acton-Campbell

BPF

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

2012 meeting dates: Sat 14th Jan, Sat 21st April, Sat 14th July, Sat 13th October.

22 November 2011 - No 83

In this update:

Full Council Meeting - Filwood TG Application - Bristol Parks Contacts - Funding Sources - Funding Success - Troopers Hill vs The Loch Ness Monster

Full Council Meeting

As expected today's Full Council Meeting decided to defer the decision on disposal of 49 spaces for the Neighbourhood Committees to decide. Note, it will be the Neighbourhood Committees, not the Neighbourhood Partnerships that make the decisions.

The cross party report to the meeting that lists all the spaces can be seen here:

www.bristol.gov.uk/committee/2011/ta/ta000/1122_7c.pdf

The BPF Committee made a statement to the meeting which can be seen here:

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFxPartyStatementB.pdf

Our main concern was that with the threat of changes to national planning policy and the Government's talk about selling off public assets then the process shouldn't be allowed to delay the Site Allocations document. We have been told that the Neighbourhood Committees will be asked to make their decisions by the end of January.

Filwood TG Application

The second inspector's report on the application for Town Green Status at Filwood Park has now been produced. It recommends that Town Green status shouldn't be granted. The key paragraphs are 17 & 18:

[17] At a meeting of the full council on 14th May 1985 the council considered a report of the Resources and Co-ordination Committee. Part V of that report recommended additional proposed schemes for inclusion in the Capital Programme for 1985/86. Appendix B to the report listed the schemes which included £20,000 expenditure on Filwood Park. The full council resolved to accept Part V of the report and to approve and adopt the recommendations. It therefore appears that on 14th May 1985 the full council approved capital expenditure of £20,000 on Filwood Park to improve it as a park.

[18] It appears to me that this resolution must have effected an implied appropriation of Filwood Park to public park purposes under s. 164 of the PHA 1875 for the reasons explained in para. 139 of my earlier report. It follows that recreational use of Filwood Park after 1985 was not "as of right" but "by right". This is fatal to the town green application.

The inspector explains more about why he considers this to be an implied appropriation later in the report, it answer to the points raised by the applicants:

[23] The first thread is a submission that there would be no illegality in the full council's authorising expenditure on Filwood Park as a public park without appropriating the land to open space purposes. I do not accept this submission. If the site of Filwood Park was held for education (or airport or housing) purposes, it seems to me that the council would be acting outside its statutory powers in authorising capital expenditure on Filwood Park as a public park. If a council holds land for one statutory purpose, I consider that its duty is to spend council money on the land for that purpose and for no other purposes.

Bristol Parks Contacts

Further to our last meeting Bristol Parks have produced a structure chart giving contact details for the Grounds Maintenance Team under Richard Stransom and the Neighbourhood Engagement Team under Richard Fletcher

It can be seen here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/ParksContacts.pdf

Funding Sources

Karen Lloyd from the Neighbourhood Engagement Team has used some software to put together a list of possible funding sources. You can see the list here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/FundingSources.pdf

Remember that the document will have a shelf life in terms of accuracy of information, (as funding deadlines come and go) but it will certainly give you some ideas and does show just how many possible sources of funding there are.

Up to date information can be found via the Voscur website at www.voscur.org/funding

If you have a project in your park that you want to fund then talk to your Area Environment Officer (see above) as a starting point. If your project needs some Section 106 money (perhaps as match funding) then you will have to talk to your Neighbourhood Partnership, but they do not otherwise need to get involved so long as your project does not conflict with anything in the Green Space

Investment Plan for your area.

Funding Success

I'm pleased to say that Friends of Troopers Hill has been successful in our latest bid for funding. We have been awarded just over £30,000 from the Big Lottery Community Spaces Programme. More details are at www.troopers-hill.org.uk/steppingforward

Troopers Hill vs The Loch Ness Monster

Staying with Troopers Hill, we have found ourselves on a website searching for the 'Greats' of Great Britain. The list of 'Nature' greats is here:
www.thegreatexhibition2012.co.uk/greats/category-nature

You will see that we are currently second behind the Loch Ness Monster. So if you think Bristol's only Green Flag Nature Reserve is more deserving of being a 'Nature Great' than an imaginary Scottish monster - please vote for us!

Rob Acton-Campbell

BPF

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2012 meeting dates: Sat 14th Jan, Sat 21st April, Sat 14th July, Sat 13th October (all 9.30 to 12.30, venues tbc).

28 November 2011 - No 84

In this update:

NPs & Disposals - Plant a Tree in National Tree Week - Bristol Town Green Consultation - Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Consultation - Design Bristol - Brandon Hill - Agenda for Next BPF Meeting

NPs & Disposals

Following the Full Council meeting we are awaiting details of how the process for Neighbourhood Partnerships to decide on disposals will work. It is likely following the debate that the 'incentive' system will change. It is also not yet clear whether the principle of NPs making the decision on land disposals will apply in Knowle West which has so far been excluded from the process.

You can see the webcast of the debate here: <http://tinyurl.com/crqad2m>

There was an interesting article on Bristol 24-7 : <http://tinyurl.com/cmbxbsc>

It is worth remembering that there is still a lot of pressure from central government for Councils to sell assets and also to get more houses built. Whatever process NPs use to make decisions needs to be something that can't be challenged later if spaces are to be protected. It is also important that all

retained green space gets listed as important green space in the Site Allocations document.

Plant a Tree in National Tree Week - THIS WEEK

A message from TreeBristol

Dear tree lover,

To celebrate National Tree Week we will be running three community tree planting events - everyone is warmly welcome to come and plant a tree.

Tuesday, 29 November Redcatch Park, Knowle, from 10am,
Thursday, 1 December Blaise Castle Estate, the Royals Area, from 10am,
Sunday, 4 December Petheridge Cycle Way, off Muller Road, from 10am,

Please wear warm and waterproof clothing and sturdy footwear. We provide the trees, tools, and all the guidance you need to plant a tree.

To view the planting plans and more information visit www.treebristol.com .

Hope to see you there,
Josie Sadler
TreeBristol Officer

Bristol Town Green Consultation

A reminder that this consultation runs until 13 Dec.

Details are here:

www.citizenspace.com/bristol/consultation-research-intelligence/tvg_application_process

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Consultation

The figures in the Cross Party Working Group report were on the basis of 27% of the proposed CIL (that will partly replace S106) would go to Parks with £10.5m being raised by 2026. Bristol City Council have now launched a consultation on the introduction of CIL. The consultation seems to suggest that only 20% of CIL would go to local communities with 80% going to 'strategic infrastructure projects'. That would seem to suggest that Parks will get a much lower figure than predicted.

From the Strategic Planning Team:

Bristol City Council is moving forward with the introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bristol. At the same time we are amending our Planning Obligations SPD in order that both CIL and our revised Planning Obligations policies are implemented simultaneously.

We wish to invite comments on the following documents:

A CIL Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule

A Revision to SPD4 (Planning Obligations)

Consultation on these documents starts on Monday 28 November 2011 and both documents are available on our website at the following links:

CIL <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/community-infrastructure-levy-cil>

SPD4 <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/revision-spd4-planning-obligations-consultation>

Paper copies of the documents will be available to view at Bristol Central Library and the Council House on College Green. Copies of the consultation documents can also be provided by contacting the Strategic Planning Team on (0117) 903 6724.

Comments on either document can be submitted until 20 January 2012, and may be made by email to bdf@bristol.gov.uk or by post to:

Jim Cliffe
Planning Obligations Manager
Strategic Planning Team
Bristol City Council
Brunel House
St. Georges Road
BRISTOL
BS1 5UY

For further information please contact the Strategic Planning Team on (0117) 903 6724 or email jim.cliffe@bristol.gov.uk

Design Bristol

Bristol City Council is seeking to raise the quality of urban design and place-making in the city through the City Design Initiative. As part of the initiative, we would like to invite you or your organisation to become a member of Design Bristol: www.designbristol.ning.com.

Design Bristol is an online forum, developed by the Council's City Design Group, for anyone involved or interested about the future design of the city's buildings, streets, spaces and neighbourhoods.

Design Bristol is best described as an on-line noticeboard. As a member Design Bristol will enable you to:

- share your ideas for the city
- form a community group with other members who share your particular interest
- upload photos of good design in the city
- blog about interesting ideas you've seen elsewhere and
- find out about or promote design related events.

The website also provides links to a range of resources that can help people start thinking about the design of their neighbourhood.

Over 1,000 people have visited the site so far and this is growing each month - we hope that you will find Design Bristol to be a useful resource and encourage you to "join the conversation".

If you would like some promotional postcards of the attached image, please contact:
citydesigngroup@bristol.gov.uk

Thank you for your interest.

The Design Bristol Team

Brandon Hill

Following on from the Community Spaces award for Troopers Hill, I was pleased to see that Friends of Brandon Hill have received confirmation of planning permission being granted for their project on the Old Bowling Green so that their application can now proceed. I hope to be able to report good news soon after Christmas. Details of the project can be seen by looking at planning application No. 11/03437/F via <http://planningonline.bristol.gov.uk>

Agenda for Next BPF Meeting

We are starting to put together the agenda for the meeting on 14th January, please let us know if there is anything you would like included.

Rob Acton-Campbell

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