

01 November 2013 - No 137

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BPF Manifesto

The adopted version of our Manifesto (with minor revisions agreed at our meeting) is now available on our website at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/manifesto/

The launch of the Manifesto and the associated action plan that we will now be producing will be discussed at the next BPF committee meeting.

Green Volunteers Awards

A reminder that the closing date for nominations for the awards is Monday 11th November www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/green-volunteer-awards

Health Benefits of Parks

At our meeting with the Mayor Claire Lowman from Active Bristol mentioned some research into the benefits of nearby open space, especially for older people.

This was discussed at a conference in September to launch the Bristol Health Partners 'Supporting Healthy Inclusive Neighbourhood Environments Health Integration Team (SHINE HIT) '

A report on the conference can be seen at www.tinyurl.com/kzwq82q. Of particular interest is the presentation from Catharine Ward-Thompson, Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Edinburgh which can be downloaded as a pdf file here: www.tinyurl.com/ogdbjne

Live Music in Parks

The Department for Culture Media & Sport (DCMS) is currently consulting on further deregulation for musical entertainment. The closing date for the consultation is 17 December 2013. The document can be seen at www.tinyurl.com/kpsx9rn.

The changes proposed apply to events taking place between 0800 and 2300 hours with an audience size of up to 500. Amongst other changes it would mean that for events with recorded or live music on Local Authority land (including parks) there will be no need for a separate licence for the music (ie Temporary Events Notice or Premises Licence). Currently you need a separate licence for a music event unless the event is live music only with an audience of less than 200.

The changes would only apply if the event had the permission of the Local Authority, so it would

still be necessary for organisers in Bristol to apply for a Park Permit or Events Licence depending on the size of the event. However, it would remove another layer of regulation and cost if you are planning a small scale music event.

Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve

The Draft Management Plan for Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve is now on their web site at www.spnaturereserve.com (see links bottom right).

There is an open meeting on the evening of their A.G.M. on Thurs 14th November at which the plan will be discussed. In order to help with catering arrangements, if any one wishes to attend who is not a member of the Friends of Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve please contact them via the website.

Funding for Peat Free Growing

Defra, in partnership with the RHS, is offering funding to help groups increase their use of peat-reduced and peat-free growing media as part of the Sustainable Horticulture in Partnership (SHiP) Scheme. Launched in 2013, the two year scheme is making £50,000 available each year to local authorities and community groups.

The second year of the SHiP Scheme will be launched in January 2014.

More details are at www.tinyurl.com/me7b9qb

Brandon Hill, Cabot Gardens

Over the last six months plans for the upgrade of the gardens around Cabot Tower have been taking shape. The details of what is planned can be seen on our website at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/brandonhill/CabotGardens.pdf

Comments welcome! Email info@bristolparksforum.org.uk and we will pass them on.

SOGS Annual Conference

An event that might be of interest:

The Save Our Green Spaces (SOGS) National Network Inaugural Annual Conference

"Getting Your Group's Voice Heard in the Planning & Development Process"

Conference Date: Sunday 1st December 2013, 12.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Conference Speakers

1. Shaun Spiers, Chief Executive, Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE)
2. Chris Skidmore MP (Kingswood) Chair, All Party Parl. Interest Group on the Green Belt.
3. Jacob Rees Mogg MP (N.E. Somerset),

There will also be an opportunity to talk about the aims & objectives of this new national network, not a group as such but promoting a sustainable approach to development.

Conference Venue:

Somerset Hall, The Precinct, High Street, Portishead, Bristol BS20 6AH
(5 minutes from M5 J19, Gordano Services, follow the signs to Portishead town centre.)

This conference is free but donations are of course always welcome.

Please further information contact the conference co-ordinator, Ron Morton by email only on firstclassteach@aol.com

If you would like to attend please contact the conference organiser so that we have a clear idea of potential numbers, though no-one will be turned away! Ideally you might consider bringing a car-full! Copy this email to anyone you might think will be interested.
Bring your own lunch, tea & coffee will be available.

Conference Purpose

- To inform individuals & local campaigning groups of recent national developments.
- In keeping with the existing SOGS objectives, to equip autonomous local campaigning groups across the country to function better when challenging inappropriate developments on sensitive green spaces in their own local areas.
- The conference will also launch SOGS onto a national platform and re-launch the SOGS website.
- To enable campaigning groups from around the country to meet each-other, establish networks and learn from each-others' experiences. Bring a banner!

Rob Acton-Campbell

www.twitter.com/RobCrewsHole

Bristol Parks Forum

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

2014 meeting dates: Sat 25th Jan - Sat 12th April - Sat 28th June - Sat 11 Oct(venues tbc)

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In this update: Budget - Green Volunteers Awards Presentation - First Aid Training - Kings Weston Action Group - Parks Survey - Park Groups on Twitter

Budget

As you will almost certainly have heard the Mayor's proposed budget was published at 8pm on Monday. Details are on the Council's website at www.bristol.gov.uk//budget

As far as Park Groups are concerned the most significant cuts proposed are probably:

R-PL-005 Parks

Reduce work specification for parks, ground maintenance contracts

Re-letting contract in 2015 and reducing the specification of works in parks. This will enable essential functions such as, but not limited to, litter picking and grass cutting to take place in all parks and green spaces.

Saving £500,000 in 2014

R-PL-012 Trees

Review tree planting and maintenance service

All future tree planting will be absorbed into the PIPs (planting in primary schools) tree planting scheme (involving primary school children) which will introduce 36,000 new trees to the city over 3 years.

Saving £200,000 in 2014, £100,000 in 2015

R-PL-019 Public

Toilets

Review public toilet provision

Closure of 22 of the 23 public toilets across the city, except the weekend temporary toilets in the city centre and keeping one city centre toilet open. Increased promotion of the toilet scheme where cafes and other business allow customers to use their toilets and use of other public buildings in those areas.

Saving £500,000 in 2014

R-PL-014 Parks

Review Environment and Leisure project team

This team works with the Park groups and Environmental sub groups in delivering improvements and schemes that maintain and improve parks. This proposal will offset costs within the revenue budget and recharge them to capital schemes or development projects.

Saving £228,000 in 2014

The BPF committee is hoping to arrange a meeting with Tracey Morgan to better understand the full implications before making our response.

The consultation closes on Monday December 30, 2013 There are some public meetings next week where you can put your views to the Mayor, details at:

www.bristol.gov.uk/page/council-and-democracy/budget-consultation-meetings

Green Volunteers Awards Presentation

The Green Volunteers Gala Awards Ceremony is on Thursday, November 28th. There are a number of regulars at BPF meetings who have been short-listed and short interviews with all of us are being filmed to be shown at the event - don't let that put you off attending though!

The Awards start at 7.30pm promptly and run for approximately 90 minutes. However, the bar will be open from 6.45 pm for pre celebration drinks and will stay open until 11 pm, so there will be plenty of opportunities to toast the winners!

Please note, ticket numbers are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment. Get your tickets at <http://bristolgreenvolsawards.eventbrite.co.uk>

Details about the awards and the various categories are at www.bristolgreenvolsawards.org.uk

First Aid Training

Joe McSorley of Avon Wildlife Trust has a few places available on an Emergency First Aid Training Course at Willsbridge Mill on Wednesday, 27th November 9:30 - 4:30.

It's a certified course sponsored by Avon Wildlife Trust so anyone attending will receive a certificate afterwards which is valid for 3 years.

Joe is making a few places available on this and some of AWT's other courses to members of Friends of Groups in the Bristol City Council area.

If you would like to book a place or for more details email joemcsorley@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk

We are still awaiting dates from Bristol parks for the Health & Safety training that was mentioned at our last meeting.

Kings Weston Action Group

KWAG and David Martyn will feature strongly in the Green Volunteer awards short-lists. You can see their latest newsletter here:

www.flickr.com/photos/kwag/sets/72157637486605204/

Parks Survey

The online survey being run by Bristol Parks ends on 9th Dec. Please encourage all park group members and anyone else you know to respond with their views.

The survey can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/s/bcc-parks

Park Groups on Twitter

The twitter panel on the right-hand side of our website now shows tweets from Park Groups with twitter accounts as well as from Bristol Parks. It can also be seen at:
<https://twitter.com/RobCrewsHole/green-spaces>

You do not have to be a twitter user or sign up to anything to see these tweets.

If you know of any other park group accounts that you think I should add then please let me know.

Rob Acton-Campbell

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