

02 November 2014 - No 162

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News from Green Connect

The latest news from Green Connect (who organised the recent conference in Exeter) can be seen here: www.eepurl.com/6vL2n

Included are links to the presentations from the conference. Given the discussions about professional dog walking at our last meeting you might also be interested in the item on new guidance on dealing with irresponsible dog owners.

Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission

Following the abortive attempts to introduce park byelaws earlier in the year, the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission is to hold an Inquiry Day on Monday 17th November 2014 to discuss how best to tackle nuisance and anti-social behaviour in parks and green spaces in the context of the various legal remedies available, including byelaws and the new provisions in the 2014 Anti-Social Behaviour, Policing and Crime Act.

The theme of the day will be "How do we keep our parks and green spaces safe for everyone".

The day will include speakers from BCC Neighbourhoods and Legal departmental officers, Avon and Somerset Police, a perspective from an external organisation, and will include interactive workshops.

The meeting will be held during the day so most of the committee will be unable to attend, but Fraser will be representing the Parks Forum.

Bristol Walking Festival

In a couple of weeks time an invitation will be sent out for groups to submit walks for the 2015 Bristol Walking Festival which will run from 1st May until 31st May. The closing date for submissions will be mid-January.

Aims of Bristol Walking Festival 2015:

Bristol City Council to work with lead partners and an event coordinator to organise a walking festival throughout May 2015.

- To encompass walking for leisure, travel, health, culture, tourism, learning and creativity.
- To increase the number of people walking
- To showcase Bristol both locally and nationally (with 'Destination Bristol' as a key partner)
- To showcase organisations and professionals providing walks in Bristol

Objectives for 2015 Festival:

- To link the programme to key cultural events and activities including Green Capital 2015, Mayfest, Festival of Ideas, Active Travel to School Week, Walk to Work week, Food Connections and 'Shaun the Sheep' arts trail.
 - To build on 2014 programme eg. creative walks and events, popular walks offered more than once
 - To engage under-represented groups at previous festivals and for walking in general i.e. priority neighbourhoods, BME, people with disabilities and families.
 - To provide an accessible advertising plan i.e print media required for 50% of population in deprived areas and older population not having internet or using social media
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Green Volunteers Awards Party

Entries have closed and judging is now well under way for this year's Green Volunteer Awards but there is still time to book tickets for the Awards party on 12th November at Paintworks, Bristol - 6.30pm – 11.00pm

www.bnhc.org.uk/green-volunteers/green-volunteers-awards-ceremony-2014

Green Capital Grants

There is lots of working going on at the moment to make applications for Green Capital funding, the strategic grants deadline is on Wednesday. The Neighbourhood Partnerships each have their own closing dates many of which are imminent (and some have passed). Links to information about all the grants are on our website at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/green-capital-2015

Avon Gardens Trust Funding

The Avon Gardens Trust have some small scale funding available that might lend a helping hand to park groups.

Are you a group growing food for your community and helping those new to gardening to learn new skills?

The Avon Gardens Trust is able to give some financial support to community groups with a communal green space for growing food or perhaps a community orchard? Are you trying to set up a group or are you restoring derelict land?

The Avon Gardens Trust is keen to help communities make the best use of land available to them as well as to conserve historic uses. We like to keep in touch with community projects we have helped and form an ongoing relationship with them.

Please contact us by email on news@avongardenstrust.org.uk for further information.

Felling a Council Tree

Following a request from the Tree Forum on the 6th October the Council have now devised a way for Councillors to be alerted of any proposals to fell a Council owned tree in their ward.

The Council currently puts a Notice on a Council owned tree that they believe needs to be felled, with reasons and then seeks feedback within 14-days of the Notice being posted. They do not put up a Tree Felling Notice if a) the tree is below 15 cm in diameter (at 1.3 metres height) or b) where the operation is thinning i.e. removing some trees to benefit neighbouring trees.

There is now new sequence of actions tree officers intend to follow:

1. Tree Officer puts a notice on a tree to be felled.
2. Tree officer takes photograph using smart phone of the completed Tree Felling Notice which is attached to the tree earmarked for removal;
3. Tree officer emails the Ward councillor whilst on site at the point the Notice is attached to the tree, with a picture of the Tree Felling Notice ;

Councillors can then use the 'Asset ID' on the tree notice to find the tree on the Council's mapping system. Hopefully Councillors will also then pass this information on to anyone in their ward who might be interested in the proposals.

Green Space & Public Health

There has been a lot of press coverage recently about the benefits of green space for mental health. Mental health charity Mind is calling for local authorities to integrate green space and ecotherapy programmes into public health strategies and boost spending on preventing mental illness.

You can read more in an article from Horticulture Week here: www.tinyurl.com/kyp5rcw

Earthed Project

A reminder that the Earthed Project is looking for Park Groups interested in taking part in an exciting arts and discovery project in 2015.

More information and contact details are here www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/EarthedParks.pdf

If you are interested you need to email Julie Guerrin at hello@partexchangeco.org.uk soon so that they can finalise their Green Capital bid by the closing date of 5th November. They have said they would like to talk to park groups no matter what money (if any) they could contribute.

Rob Acton-Campbell
www.twitter.com/RobCrewsHole
Bristol Parks Forum
www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

Meeting dates for 2015: 31 Jan - 18 Apr - 27 June - 10 Oct (venues to be confirmed)

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In this update: End of Year Report 2014 - Love Parks Survey - Green Capital Applications - Green Volunteers Awards Party - National Pollinator Strategy

End of Year Report 2014

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/Report2014.pdf

Love Parks Survey

Love Parks are carrying out a survey of park groups throughout the UK. They say 'Your answers will help us build a picture of current activity levels and enable us to develop Love Parks to support your group/community where you need it most.'

You can complete the survey online here: www.quicksurveys.com/s/n9LDz4w

Green Capital Applications

Mark, Sam and myself had a busy couple of days this week finalising and submitting our applications for Green Capital Strategic Grants. At the same time Derek, who has taken on the role of BPF treasurer has been arranging to set up a bank account so that we have somewhere to put the money!

A summary of the applications we submitted can be seen here:
www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFStrategicGrantApplications.pdf

We also submitted our end of year report and a statement on how the BPF will be governed in the future as we move to being a body with its own funds, this also includes our Environmental management and sustainability plan.

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/StatementonGovernance.pdf

Applications for the strategic grants have now closed but there are still opportunities to apply for smaller grants, see www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/green-capital-grants-update

Green Volunteers Awards Party

There are still tickets available for the Awards party on 12th November at Paintworks, Bristol - 6.30pm – 11.00pm

National Pollinator Strategy

The government's national pollinator strategy was published on 4th November and can be seen on the Gov.uk website via this link www.tinyurl.com/UKpollinators

The strategy has been welcomed by Butterfly Conservation who have some information on their website here www.tinyurl.com/lnp8cr6

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In this update: ParkWork Coordinator Job Opportunity - Vote for Headley Lane Park - Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission - Grounds Maintenance Review - Bristol Walking Festival - Trails and Walk Guides - Tree Planting Events - Saplings Give Away - Bristol Naturalists' Celebration

ParkWork Coordinator Job Opportunity

During the summer we (Bristol Parks Forum) in tandem with BCC and LUC (Land Use Consultancy) secured funding for our ParkWork project as part of the Nesta Rethinking Parks programme. We are now recruiting through Bristol City Council for a coordinator to help us run the project. The ParkWork coordinator will engage persons supplied by various Agencies whose clients come from disadvantaged backgrounds / circumstances to work in horticultural teams to add value in parks / green space and deliver positive health and employment outcomes for those taking part.

Please see the following link for details of the job and how to apply.

www.tinyurl.com/ParkWorkJob

Vote for Headley Lane Park

Friends of Headley Lane Park have been selected as finalists in the ITV People's Millions competition and stand a chance of winning £50,000 to redevelop their park.

A film will be shown on Monday 24th November on the ITV regional news between 6 and 6.30pm. Phonelines open at 9am that day, closing at midnight. The telephone number will be printed in the Daily Mirror on the 24th and will be at the website www.peoplesmillions.org.uk on that day only.

See their project page for more details:
www.peoplesmillions.org.uk/2014-finalists/west-country-east/space-2-play

You can also visit the group's website at www.headleyparkers.btck.co.uk

Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission

As I mentioned in an earlier update, Fraser attended the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission Inquiry Day on Monday (17th November) at which they discussed how best to tackle nuisance and anti-social behaviour in parks and green spaces.

The day included a presentation by Leeds City Council who have recently introduced bye-laws following the Government's template (ie the same wording as proposed earlier in the year for Bristol). Their experience seems to have been positive with the issues they were trying to resolve being successfully dealt with.

Fraser described the meeting as positive. There are now new options available including 'Public Space Protection Orders' which have been introduced as part of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Council is now going to hold further meetings to agree which issues are best addressed with which legislation and Fraser has agreed to represent the BPF at these meetings. Unfortunately the meeting doesn't seem to have agreed any timescales for these further meetings.

Grounds Maintenance Review

The BPF committee had an initial meeting to discuss the next stages of this with Richard Fletcher and Tracey Morgan yesterday. The initial plan had been for Parks to present a paper to the next round of NP meetings, but that has now been postponed to allow further discussions with the BPF committee and others first (this is why your NP may have been trying to arrange extra meetings for the Environment sub-groups that have now been cancelled).

Given the new timescales we will probably not now be organising a separate BPF session to discuss this prior to the next BPF meeting in January.

Bristol Walking Festival

Invitations have now been sent out for groups to submit walks for the 2015 Bristol Walking Festival which will run from 1st May until 31st May. To have a walk included you must complete and submit a Walks Proposal Form by Friday 23rd January 2015. For more information and to request a form email bristolwalkingfestival@bristol.gov.uk

Trails and Walk Guides

While on the subject of walks...

Many groups have been thinking about creating trails and walk guides for their green space. Well, now all groups can do them! Park users can access any trail through a mobile phone whilst walking there - via a free phone App. They can also enjoy any of the trails created by others from all over the country, and even view them on their pc if they wish. .. You can do one or more trails to highlight your trees, facilities, landscape and heritage features, or for a treasure hunt!

The National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces has partnered with TiCL Media Ltd to ensure that every local Friends Group can create such trails easily and free.

The advantages to your group include:

- the content is under your control and editable whenever you choose
- it's the same App for ALL Friends Groups, ensuring that members of the public can access trails in their favourite parks via the same app.
- although one App - it can be branded locally by individual Friends Groups
- you don't have to pay for it or pay for its maintenance - TiCL do it
- by incorporating your own weblinks your trail integrates with and adds value to what you're already doing
- it's fun and allows possibility of games, treasurehunts, geocaching etc... 'gamification' encourages participation.
- it's easy to do

The trails, and how to create one, are explained in this special Step-by-Step Guide for Friends Groups:

www.natfedparks.org.uk/create-a-trail.html

So why not create one this week?! And then publicise it to your members and local communities for them to access and enjoy...

best wishes

Dave Morris and Sarah Royal
National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces

Tree Planting Events

Tree PiPs planting (in combination with schools) for the 1st half of the 2014/15 planting season includes the following public events (others are private events inside schools):

Tuesday 2 December 2014 - Kingsweston House, Kingsweston.

Thursday 4 December 2014 - Horfield Common, Wellington Hill,

Friday 5 December 2014 - Horfield Common, Bishopsthorpe Road.

Tuesday 20 January 2015 - South Street Park, Bedminster.

Monday 26 and Friday 30 Jan 2015 - Bennetts Patch & White's Paddock, The new Avon Wildlife Trust reserve

Thursday 5 February 2015 - Eastville Park

More details, including a video of TreePips in action and current consultations on tree planting plans are on their website at www.bristol.gov.uk/treepips

You can also follow them at www.twitter.com/TreePips

Saplings Give Away

While on the subject of trees...

Hi there,

My name is James Dowding, I work for Velopost in Bristol and I have been given a number of saplings to use as giveaways.

I am currently in the process of sourcing organisations, charities, schools and general worthy causes who might be interested in them.

Would you guys be interested in receiving some free saplings from us?

I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Kind Regards

James Dowding
Velopost Bristol Office Manager
james.dowding@velopost.co.uk

Bristol Naturalists' Celebration

This is an invitation from the Bristol Naturalists' Society to participate in their public Celebration of the Green Capital Year on Saturday March 7th 2015 in the Bradbury Hall, Henleaze, between 10.00am and 5.00pm.

We are inviting a dozen local wildlife organisations, to take a stand (no charge) to advertise their role in enhancing the wildlife of the city and its region. We will also have a programme of films, and brief 20 minute talks about projects or surveys in a separate room. There will be refreshments available, and we hope you would also advertise this event to your members.

The hall will be available for setting up on the Friday evening.

Please let me know promptly whether you can join us, and whether you would wish to give a twenty minute presentation.

Richard Bland, richard.bland123@btinternet.com

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www.twitter.com/RobCrewsHole
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