

4 October 2009

£2,500 needed for Castle Park Appeal

A message from the Castle Park Users Group:

Please help us to preserve Castle Park by making it a town green. We recently submitted a town green application to the council which went to inquiry. We met all the criteria but one. Our barrister firmly believes that the inspectors decision on that point is wrong in law and that we should appeal. He believes that we have a strong case and a good chance of winning. His opinion is supported by our legal advisor who has taken other such cases to review. Given this, we have decided to take the decision to judicial review.

The judicial review will of course cost money. Some of this is expected to covered by legal aid but we need to raise £2,500.

Please give us your support through the purchase of bonds to help pay for the judicial review and ask your friends to do the same. If we win our case and our costs we will refund them to you if you claim it back from us after the final legal decision within six months. Please give what you can afford.

To donate you can complete the form at:

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

and send a cheque to the address on the form

You can also can also donate by bank transfer, email Fraser via info@bristolparksforum.org.uk and he will send you the details.

Please pass this message on to other members of your group or anyone else who you think might consider donating.

Young Spacemakers - Free Design Training for local Young People

Do you know of any small groups of local young people who are/about to become involved in a design project in their local area (parks, schools grounds, community building, youth centre, community space etc)

There is a free practical design course for groups of young people aged 12-17 who are passionate about their neighbourhood and would like to see how their input can make their local area a better place live.

The Glasshouse Trust is partnering with the Architecture Centre, Bristol to deliver a Glass-House Young Spacemakers course.

The course will allow young people to:

- * Look more closely at their area from an urban design perspective
- * Visit inspiring projects

- * Develop creative skills through model making and drawing
- * Explore who the other people who might affect their project are and how best to communicate ideas to them
- * Work up an action plan for their project to take back to their neighbourhood

When: 26/27 October 2009 (half term)

Where: YHA, Bristol Harbourside

How to apply: Go to www.theglasshouse.org.uk - What's on - Design Training and fill in an application form, or if you don't have internet access, call 020 7490 4583 to get one sent to you.

For more information on Young Spacemakers visit www.theglasshouse.org.uk or email: amy.harrison@architecturecentre.co.uk

A well designed neighbourhood impacts us all, and what better way to encourage young people to get involved than provide them with the hands on skills to make their local area a place to be proud of.

It is also worth looking at www.theglasshouse.org.uk for other events that might be of interest to you or your group.

Area Green Space Plans Consultation

The plans for the public consultation on the AGSPs that starts in January are now being put together by Bristol Parks and the BPF will be asked for comment and input. There may also be a chance for a small working group of BPF representatives to see some draft AGSPs and to comment and advise on the format and presentation. If you would be interested in getting involved in this process along with the committee members please let us know.

Rob Acton-Campbell

BPF

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Conference: 16th January 2010, Vassall Centre, Fishponds BS16 2QQ

15 October 2009

Agenda for BPF Meeting 31 October

The agenda for the next BPF meeting will be agreed at a meeting of the BPF committee and Bristol Parks on Mon 26 October. If you have any items that you would like to be included please let us know.

Wild City Consultation

As I mentioned in an earlier email, Bristol Parks are bidding to Natural England for Access to Nature funding for a new project to be called Wild City. The project aims to build on the huge

success of the Nature in the City project which was run by Sally Oldfield as Local Nature Reserves Officer. The project will fund one (or maybe two) Local Nature Reserve Officers.

You can see a map showing the sites that are proposed to be covered by Wild City here:
www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/WildCityMap.pdf

The consultants who are putting together the bid are currently arranging meetings with the groups that are directly involved. However, they would also like feedback and (hopefully) support from anyone else with an interest in the project and/or ideas for projects that could be run in partnership with Wild City. More details, including contact details are available on a flyer they have produced here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/WildCityConsultationFlyer.pdf

Green spaces 'improve health'

The annual rates of 15 out of 24 major physical diseases were also significantly lower among those living closer to green spaces...

Read more at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/8307024.stm>

Ashton Vale and the BDF

The first week of November is going to be busy for planners. The planning committee meeting to discuss the application to build the stadium (and associated housing etc) on Green Belt land (Bristol Planning Application Number 09/02242/P) will be on 4 November. The application to build a Tesco store on the current stadium site (09/03208/P) will then be considered on 5 November.

The North Somerset ref for the stadium is 09/P/1061/F2 - it is worth looking at their website (see <http://tinyurl.com/yle22gg>) since they publish comments as they are submitted. Objections received by North Somerset so far include those from the Environment Agency and the Avon Wildlife Trust. The statement submitted to Bristol CC by the BPF (as agreed at our last meeting) can be seen here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFAshtonValeSNCI.pdf

In the meantime the BDF Core Strategy which will include a policy on 'Green Infrastructure' and (in the absence of the RSS) will set the target number houses to built in Bristol before 2026 will go to a meeting of the full Council for approval on 10 November. Papers for that meeting will be published on 2 November and so the proposed document will be made public just before the planning meetings on Ashton Vale.

As you know, there have been a series of community involvement sessions in which Park Groups have taken part, the last of which was in September. We have been told that 'the team working on the core strategy has used the notes from the meeting to continue to refine the emerging Core Strategy, in particular the policies for Green Infrastructure, Housing Provision and Green Belt'.

The planning application for the South West Urban extension 'Ashton Park' is also now under consideration by officers at both Bristol City and North Somerset - see <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/swbue> Again the North Somerset allows you to see the objections already submitted; no doubt they would also publish comments in favour if there were any!

Quality of Life Scrutiny Commission - 19 October 2009

The report to this commission from Gary Hopkins which includes a section on Bristol Parks can be seen via <http://tinyurl.com/yzej488> It includes references to the P&GSS, Grove Woods and Park Keepers amongst other things. Fraser will be representing the BPF at the meeting.

London Green Spaces Friends Groups Network

London has now followed Bristol's example and held a conference for Friends Groups. More information in a press release here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/LondonNetwork.pdf

Don't forget our next conference looking in particular at the Area Green Space Plans is on 16 January 2010, at the Vassall Centre, Fishponds BS16 2QQ

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22 October 2009

Voscur Awards – Winners

Congratulations to Julian Thomas and Oli Roberts as joint winners of the 'Thanks for Supporting the Sector' Award.

There are more details here: <http://www.voscur.org/node/5695> and a photo of them receiving their award can be seen on Flickr here: <http://tinyurl.com/jtor09>

Malago Greenway Saved?

It looks like the Malago is safe from the bendy bus threat. You can read the Evening Post report here: <http://tinyurl.com/ylqz9jq> and there are maps showing the two remaining options on the West of England website here: <http://tinyurl.com/yg3xgz2>

It's not all good news though; the second option still seems to pose a threat to the Northern Slopes proposed LNR (www.northern-slopes-initiative.co.uk)

Playdays in Parks

Some events in parks in south Bristol next week. Funding for these was received at short notice so there has been limited publicity. Please pass this on to anyone who might be interested.

Free playdays with costume and lantern making workshops 12-5 in the following parks:
Kings Head Park Monday 26th October
Big P in Wilmott Park and The Core Wednesday 28th October
Withywood Park Thursday 29th October

to be followed by a SPOOKY PARADE Saturday 31st October
[5pm minibus pickup form Kings Head Park and Bishopsworth Shops]
Parade starts from Withywood Park.

Stoke Park

You may have seen the article about Stoke Park in the Evening Post last week -
<http://tinyurl.com/ylqfvga> We hope to have an update at our next meeting on the progress towards Bristol City Council taking over Stoke Park.

Park History

The Barton Hill History Group (www.bhhg.co.uk) hosted a very enjoyable evening on Wednesday talking about St George Park. There was lots of talk about how proud the Victorians were of their parks but also how lack of Council spending since the since the Second World War allowed them to deteriorate. However there were also positive comments, particularly about the recent bench restoration scheme that Friends of St George Park have been involved in.

If you are interested in the history of Bristol's formal parks there is an excellent book written by David Lambert that was published in 2000 by the Avon Gardens Trust called 'Historic Public Parks – Bristol' The Avon Gardens Trust website is at <http://avongardenstrust.50webs.com>

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27 October 2009

The next meeting of the Bristol Parks Forum will be on Saturday 31st October 9.30am at Windmill Hill City Farm, Philip Street, Bedminster, Bristol.

The agenda is here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFAgenda311009.pdf

As you can see it is a very full agenda, but hopefully there will still be time in the AOB section for some issues to be raised from the floor. Ashton Vale may well be one of these – see below.

It is also our AGM – as I mentioned before we would like to have at least one committee member from south Bristol and ideally one from each of the four operational areas. If you are willing to stand please speak to Fraser during the meeting.

The Parks Events Workshop stems from discussions we had with Parks earlier in the year about why Park Groups should pay fees for events and why the licensing process is so complex for even the smallest events. Jennifer Crook in the Events team has reacted very positively to what we said and the workshop is aimed at developing a way to make it easier for groups to hold events. It will also look at the way Parks events budget is spent and is a chance for BPF members to have a say in planning events for 2010.

Ashton Vale - Planning Application 09/02242/P

The application for the new stadium, housing on Ashton Vale SNCI and various other buildings and facilities will be considered by the Development Control (South & East) Committee on Wed 4 November at 6pm in a committee room in the Council House. The officers report and recommendation will appear on the BCC website www.bristol.gov.uk/meetings from tomorrow (Wednesday).

The BPF response that was agreed at our last meeting can be seen here:
<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFAshtonValeSNCI.pdf>

The Ashton Vale Group are also asking that the BPF make a statement to the meeting.

The Avon Wildlife Trust has sent the following message to its members:

Please will you help the Trust to halt plans for a football stadium at Ashton Vale and so save an important and legally-protected wildlife site from destruction?

We don't want to stop Bristol getting a new football stadium; we know that many people are excited at the prospect of the city becoming a World Cup venue (some of our own staff, supporters and family members among them!). Our objection stems solely from a belief that Ashton Vale is entirely the wrong place to choose - for these main reasons:

1. Ashton Vale benefits from very strong protection because of its conservation value – if it can't be protected, where can be?
2. The development will destroy the homes, feeding and breeding grounds of many wild animals, including rare ones, such as bats, otters, wading birds and water voles.
3. Granting permission will set a planning precedent, making it much harder for the council to defend other green spaces from development.

There are plenty of other places in Bristol for a stadium. The same isn't true for wildlife in an a bustling city. So, please, stand up for wildlife! Urge the council to think again.

Find out more at www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk

Bendy Bus Routes

As I mentioned in my last email the remaining two routes in South Bristol (maps here: <http://tinyurl.com/yg3xgz2>) still raise concerns for the impact on the Northern Slopes. It has also been pointed out that it looks like one route will cover over some of Pigeonhouse stream at the bottom of the Hartcliffe Way near the fire station. Filwood Park also seems to be on a possible route. There will be time for a short discussion about this at our meeting.

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