

06 October 2011 - No 79

In this update:

Whitchurch Town Green - BNS Photographic Exhibition - Brislington's Gone Batty! - RHS It's Your Neighbourhood

Whitchurch Town Green

The meeting of the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee on Monday 3rd October agreed that the land at Whitchurch should be registered as a Town Green. The inspectors report can be seen in the papers for the meeting via www.bristol.gov.uk/meetings and the Evening Post report is here: <http://tinyurl.com/65tqb3n>

The papers for the meeting also give an update on other Town Green applications which I have used to update the information on the BPF website at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BristolTG.pdf

BNS Photographic Exhibition

Bristol Naturalists' Society are planning an exhibition of natural history photographs to celebrate 150 years nature in Bristol. The event will be held in Henleaze at the Bradbury Hall on 14th April 2012 on the anniversary of the exact day when BNS was founded in 1862.

This is a great opportunity for park groups to celebrate the wildlife or geology in their nature reserve or other open space, both in the city and surrounding areas.

Groups are invited to bring along a display showing the wildlife and any other promotion of their group (on their own self standing display boards).

People may also enter their individual photographs in digital form (pdf).

Full details can be found at www.bristolnats.org.uk/photographic-exhibition-2012

For more information or to book a place for a group display e-mail: sec-bristolnats@blueyonder.co.uk

Brislington's Gone Batty!

A message from Rowan Matthiessen , Discover Brislington Brook Coordinator

Discover Brislington Brook is having it's first event on Wednesday 26th October 2pm - 6:30pm at the Wicklea Centre Wick Rd.

2 - 5pm - A Batty Afternoon

Including workshops making shadow puppets, bat boxes, lanterns and bat masks, tea and cakes from the community cafe, bat experts and an apple press - so bring along your apples and a plastic

bottle to take fresh juice home!

5.15pm onwards - Evening Bat Walk

Suitable for all ages this will be a dusky walk through Nightingale Valley with storytelling, shadow puppetry and bat detectors. Wear warm clothes and bring torches if you have them. This should be the perfect pre-Halloween activity.

Calling all volunteers - If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer please get in touch! Help needed setting up before hand, with activities on the day, putting out lanterns along the path of the walk and marshalling the walk route to make sure nobody gets lost! I'm looking for around 10 people in total.

Please have a look at the flyer for the event at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/batty.pdf and feel free to pass on to your family, friends and group mailing lists.

This is part of a day of activities going on in Brislington - if you're free in the morning, Wick Rd Library are having an open event with Rhymetime at 10 followed by coffee morning and craft sale til 12 (don't eat too much cake everyone!).

Rowan

Discover Brislington Brook Coordinator
Brislington Community Partnership
rowan.matthiessen@bristol.gov.uk

RHS It's Your Neighbourhood

It was good to see several familiar faces at the Mansion House for the presentation of certificates to the Bristol groups in the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme by the Lord Mayor.

The full list of Bristol awards is at <http://tinyurl.com/iynBristol>

The It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme is run as part of the Royal Horticultural Society Britain in Bloom initiative. Bristol's entries are co-ordinated by the Bristol in Bloom Community Association (who are members of the BPF) and Bristol City Council.

This year, having swept the board in the South West in Bloom regional finals - Bristol has now taken a Gold and the Cup for Large City at the highly prestigious Britain in Bloom national awards held in St Andrew's, Scotland. You can read more in the Council's press release at www.bristol.gov.uk/node/8641

The Bristol in Bloom website also has details of Bristol's successes in both the regional South-West in Bloom and the National Britain in Bloom competitions - www.bristolinbloom.org.uk

Rob Acton-Campbell

BPF

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

Next BPF meeting: Sat 15 October (AGM) www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFAgenda151011.pdf

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

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In this update:

Defra consultation on Town Greens - The Bench Issue 70 - Let's be Friends

Defra consultation on Town Greens

A reminder that the consultation on Town Greens closes on Monday 17th October.

The consultation documents can be seen here:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/07/25/town-village-greens/>

The BPF committee has put together a proposed response to this consultation which we will be asking the meeting on Saturday to support. Due to the very short time between the meeting and the deadline for the consultation, there will be no time for any substantial revisions to the response to be made so if the meeting does not support it as written then it will not be submitted.

The proposed response can be seen here:

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFtgConsultationResponse.pdf

The response supports the position of the Open Spaces Society which can be seen here:

<http://tinyurl.com/6gc7kuc>

Please feel free to use information from either of these in making your own response.

The Bench Issue 70

The latest edition of the GreenSpace Newsletter 'The Bench' can be seen here:

<http://tinyurl.com/bench70>

Let's be Friends

The National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces has put together a leaflet aimed at encouraging the formation of new parks groups. You can download the leaflet from the NFPGS section of the GreenSpace website.

www.green-space.org.uk/downloads/NOSF/NFPGS-Lets-be-friends.pdf

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In this update:

BPF Meeting Report - Bats & Owls - Fishing in St George Park - Love Parks Week 2012 - Bristol City Council Website - Parks Cafés

BPF Meeting Report

The minutes from the meeting will as usual be sent out by Catherine in due course. Due to a mix up between him and Hugh, Cllr Guy Poultney was unable to attend, we hope he will be along in January. Here are some notes on the main issues from the meeting:

AGM:

Hugh had to stand down as Chair having completed 3 years (two before Fraser took over). Nancy Carlton (Kingfisher Group & Windmill Hill Community Orchard) was elected in his place. Fraser remains as Vice Chair and myself, Hugh, Roland, Mary and Alison were re-elected to the committee. We were also joined on the committee by Alison Devonshire of Friends of Okebourne and Friends of Elderberry. It is good that the new groups that have joined the BPF over the last couple of years now have a voice on the committee.

P&GSS Working Group:

There will be a report from this group to the Full Council Meeting in November.

Parks Operations:

Pam Jones, who is Service Manager reporting to Tracey Morgan, introduced herself to us. Pam will now be taking a more active role in Parks having spent the last few months dealing with the new waste contract. Richard Stranson (Grounds Maintenance), Richard Ennion (Horticulture Services) and Richard Bevan (Estates) all report to Pam.

In turn the two Area Park Managers - Chris Hammond (assisted by Miles Harris) and Jamie Roberts (assisted by Jerry Cole) report to Richard Stranson, who also spoke to the meeting. Pete Clarke is Richard Stranson's assistant.

Richard Fletcher as Neighbourhood Engagement Officer and Sue Lutkenhouse (Projects) report to Colleen Bevan who is the other 'tier 3' manager reporting to Tracey. Both Colleen and Pam have other people reporting to them dealing with waste and other issues covered by Tracey's team.

Everyone at the meeting expressed the hope that this new structure would now stay in place for long enough that people can settle into their roles.

Neighbourhood Engagement Team:

Richard Fletcher was not able to attend but Pam presented some papers setting out the details of his team and some Q and As to show how it should work. The papers which include contact details are on our website at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/#net

Trees:

Richard Ennion gave an overview of his team's work and was followed by Russell Horsey with an enthusiastic presentation on TreeBristol and the Big Tree Plant. Hugh stressed that anyone with a particular interest in trees should get involved with the Tree Forum - see www.bristol.gov.uk/treeforum It was agreed that the Tree Forum should consider possible sites for establishing community orchards in the City.

Green Spaces and Development:

In Bristol the next stage of the consultations on the Site Allocations document has been delayed until January. However there is a lot going on nationally. Details including the BPF response on the Town Green Consultation which was agreed at the meeting can be seen at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/#con ('con' is of course short for consultation!). It is well worth looking at the Natural Environment White Paper and the other information from Defra.

Since the meeting the BPF committee has submitted a statement to the Development Control Committee meeting tomorrow expressing our concern that developers are routinely being allowed to reduce S106 contributions and thus reducing the money available to parks, the statement can be seen here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFS106StatementA.pdf

Stoke Park:

It was confirmed that BCC will not now be taking ownership of Stoke Park until January. Steve England expressed his concerns about the vandalism etc which is happening in the meantime. As he promised there was an article about it in the Evening Post the following week - <http://tinyurl.com/6jftw28>

Stoke Lodge:

This has now been transferred on a long lease to Cotham School which is now an academy. A TPO has been imposed on the trees and they will continue to be maintained by Russell Horsey's team. I gather the lease allows for continued public access, but given Bristol school's past record on erecting fences it remains to be seen whether this access will truly be open.

Castle Park:

The Council and their developers are not currently pursuing any plans to develop the buildings at the Bristol Bridge end of the park.

National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces:

Roland reported on the September conference which seems to have been a success. The NFPGS now has a website at www.natfedparks.org.uk which links to more information on the GreenSpace website.

Bats & Owls

A reminder that Brislington goes Batty tomorrow - www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/batty.pdf

Then on Friday there is an Owl Prowl at Conham - www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/OwlProwlOct.pdf

Fishing in St George Park

The issues around fishing at St George Park have been the subject of much discussion at the St George Neighbourhood Partnership Environment Sub-Group. Bristol Parks have produced a report into the options and are now carrying out more consultation with fishermen and also the Friends of Eastville Park, since the lake there is likely to be impacted by any action taken in St George. The report on the options available can be seen here:

<http://tinyurl.com/SGNPenviro/StGeorgeFishing.pdf>

There is also more background on the sub-group website at <http://tinyurl.com/SGNPenviro>

If you have any bright ideas that might help, or any experience of running angling clubs, please let me know.

I would also be interested to hear how other Neighborhood Partnerships Environment Sub-Groups are working - or not!

Love Parks Week 2012

If you are planning events for next year, you might like to bear in mind that Love Parks Week 2012 will be 21-29 July. That is the week running up to the start of the Olympics. If you hold events in that week you might benefit from extra publicity surrounding the week. More details are at www.loveparksweek.org.uk

Bristol City Council Website

The redirectors that weren't working on the new BCC website have now been fixed and the list on our website at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/redirectors.pdf has now been updated so that all those listed should now work. Check that you are seeing the latest version (Updated 18 Oct) and not one in your cache.

The only ones that have been removed are those to webpages that were not transferred to the new site such as the one for Stoke Park. I'm told that the Parks team are looking at different ways to display the Parks information on the website and considering which parks should have their own page so hopefully some of the parks whose pages were lost will soon see them reinstated.

Another correction that has been made to the website is that Parks & Green Spaces are now listed under Leisure & Culture on both the main website and on the mapping system (they were originally under environment on the maps).

Parks Cafés

As briefly mentioned at the meeting (and as noted at www.bristol.gov.uk/parkscafes) most of the cafés and kiosks in parks are currently closed. This includes: Ashton Court Estate; Blaise Castle Estate; Canford Park; Castle Park; Oldbury Court Estate and St George Park.

This is due to Diamond Catering who had the contract to run all the cafés having gone out of business. The Council is apparently trying to get them reopened as soon as possible.

Rob Acton-Campbell
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