

Dear Bristol Political Party Organiser

We are writing to you to ask that you forward this message to your Party's Bristol Local Election Candidates and ask that they respond to our questions below, both in terms of the parks and green spaces in the political ward in which they are standing for election and in terms of the city wide Parks and Green Spaces issues, including a proposal for a new Big Park.



From: Bristol Parks Forum
To: All Bristol Local Election Candidates

Subject: Questions from Bristol Parks Forum for local council candidates regarding support for the Forum's Vision for Bristol's Parks and Green Spaces, the future of our Parks and Green Spaces, and support for a new Big Park in Central Bristol

Bristol Parks Forum is as an umbrella organisation for community park groups and organisations in the city with an interest in their local parks and green spaces.
www.bristolparksforum.org.uk.

Bristol Parks Forum's Vision was adopted in 2019 and can be read here
<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFVision.pdf>

Bristol Parks Forum (BPF) is calling on Bristol's local council candidates to support the Forum's Vision for Bristol's Parks and Green Spaces. We are also calling for a new Big Park – a large, multifunctional green space – for central Bristol.

We are asking the following questions of all candidates and parties across Bristol and would ask that you respond to us, by email, thank you.

1 Do you support the Bristol Parks Forum Vision - <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFVision.pdf> - and what would you do to ensure it can be achieved?

2 How can you contribute to ensuring that the health and well-being benefits our parks and green spaces provide for people and wildlife in your ward are maintained and enhanced?

3 Bristol Parks Forum has submitted a proposal that the Local Plan includes wording which allows for the redevelopment of Central Bristol to include a new large multifunctional green space to serve the proposed thousands of future residents the central Bristol area will be housing. Do you support this proposal and how would go about ensuring that this new green space is created?

For background to the Big Park question, Bristol Parks Forum has made a representation on the need for a Big Park as part of its submission to the proposed Local Plan.

The Forum's submission states:

"The current plan does not enable sufficient parks and green spaces for central Bristol, to deliver sustainable development in that area, while also contributing to tackling the housing,

climate and ecological emergency. The modification improves the current wording while, also allowing flexibility in the functions of the new park. See also other related representations. This version at this scale of policy provides a direction which would maximise the ability of the new park to deliver the benefits to people and wildlife. While we welcome improvements to existing parks and green spaces; and the provision of new open space including pocket parks and within development green infrastructure, only a new park at a sufficiently large size will provide the benefits needed to deliver adequate public space to meet the needs brought about by the amount of change proposed for central Bristol. There is a real risk that open space will be “hard surfaced” and “isolated” without this wording. Existing parks either within or nearby to St Philips are too small or have insufficient room to provide the space needed for the residents of somewhere between 2,500 and 7,500 new homes. St Philips is the only area left in central Bristol, with the potential to provide this feature, as most areas in central Bristol already have planning applications or framework proposals in position or nearing finalisation.”

We look forward to receiving your response so that we may advise our members and the wider public of your position on these questions.

If you can reply to info@bristolparksforum.org.uk rather than this address that would be really helpful.

Many thanks

Len Wyatt
Chair
Bristol Parks Forum
Working for the Bristol Parks Forum

email info@bristolparksforum.org.uk

Website: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/