



Bristol Parks Forum

*Campaigning to protect and enhance all public green space
in the City of Bristol.*

See our Vision for Parks & Green Spaces at

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/vision

Dear Harbour Hopes Team.

Consultation on Western Harbour Masterplan Autumn Engagement – response from Bristol Parks Forum Committee.

The Bristol Parks Forum Committee is writing to respond to the above consultation.

The Bristol Parks Forum is the only community voice dedicated to all publicly owned and accessible parks and green spaces in Bristol. We work with Bristol City Council to ensure our spaces are well looked after and to help local groups to enhance their green space. Further information about the Forum can be found at <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/>

We have based our comments on the information shown on the exhibition boards used at various locations.

We are writing in to ask for three things in the preparation of the future Masterplan:

- 1) That all aspects of the potential development, are treated equally, whether related to environmental, social, economic or cultural/historic issues. We ask that masterplan avoids an overemphasis on one type of infrastructure over another (eg: grey/hard over blue and green). This in our view will better ensure that the proposal delivers sustainable development and sustainable communities.
- 2) That the masterplan must ensure that there are sufficient new parks and green spaces are included for use by people and wildlife. Other plans and developments have failed to do this and place an inappropriate reliance on making some improvements to already overcrowded and overused areas. Pocket parks and with small open spaces within developments have their place, but this must not be to the exclusion to good sized parks/green spaces that can accommodate the increased numbers and pressures of users while contributing positively to tackling the city's ecological emergency strategy and nature recovery.
- 3) That proper consideration is given to the implications of the proposals for people and wildlife within a reasonable distance (Zone of Influence) of the

“red-line” area. Not only are there important areas within the site, but the impacts of change on the surrounding areas must be considered, as otherwise there will further losses of habitat and species; and loss of quality green spaces. Examples of those areas are the Avon Gorge, Leigh Woods and Downs open spaces (some of which are designated nationally and locally) where mobile species such as bats and peregrine falcons are found which are known to use the plan area; and Greville Smyth Park which already provides ecological services to a wide range of people from the surrounding housing and businesses.

We would bring to your attention recent information about the value to people and wildlife of blue and green infrastructure, including the positive effects of it on the value of nearby properties (ONS Urban Natural Capital Accounts UK December 2023 - <https://tinyurl.com/58xf5rt9>)

We have copied this to Cllr Stephen Williams, as Chair of the Public Health and Communities Policy Committee; and Jon James, Head of the Natural and Marine Environment in the City Council.

If you have any questions on our response, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Len Wyatt
Chair

For Bristol Parks Forum
14th November 2024