



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

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Bristol Temple Quarter Partnership

Temple Quarter Partnership – St Phillips Marsh Masterplan Consultation June-July 2025 – Response from the Bristol Parks Forum.

The Bristol Parks Forum is writing in to respond to the above consultation. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We apologise for the lateness of our response.

The Bristol Parks Forum is the only community voice dedicated to all publicly owned 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/>.

Background to our work:

The Parks Forum has over a number of years been promoting the idea of a new large multifunctional green park or green space – also known as a “Big Park”, in the St Phillips Marsh Regeneration Area. This developed from a deep concern about whether there would be enough green space to deliver health and well-being benefits to people and wildlife in the Regeneration Area – and Central Bristol.

This work has included submitting evidence to the Local Plan Examination on the need to include text in the Local Plan to enable the new park or green space to happen. Examples of how we have approached this work are available on the website [Public Statements – Bristol Parks Forum](#).

This response is after consideration of our previous work, against the scenarios in the consultation information, and our understanding of what needs to be done to maximise the benefits that a large multi-functional green space can bring.

Providing a new big park, alongside other green space measures would mean that by the end of the redevelopment of the area:

- that people who live, work and visit the area, have sufficient space for a full range of activities, including play, relaxation, exercise, exploration, socialisation, and quiet contemplation etc.; and
- that wildlife will find habitats which are able to support their lives including feeding, socialising and breeding opportunities.

This response was discussed at a full Parks Forum meeting on the 23rd July.

Our response:

We welcome the inclusion of “open spaces” as an issue in this consultation.

We understand that the term “open spaces” could include a variety of types of space, including hard surfaced public realm, play facilities, as well as different types of green space etc.

We ask for the emphasis to be on green space.

We still support the provision of publicly accessible green space within developments such as enhancements to existing parks, pocket parks; and the development of a linear park along the New Cut and the Feeder for active travel and flood relief etc.

While acknowledging that the scenarios have little detail in the descriptions so far, we believe that none of the three scenarios would provide enough green space to meet the needs of those living and working in the area, or in surrounding areas where there is limited green space.

One of the scenarios in your engagement process includes what is described as a “large park” in the text, but is only approximately the size of Sparke Evans Park which is acknowledged to be a small park.

We ask that the Masterplan includes the provision of a big park.

A “big park” which should be a single area of sufficient size to support a range of health and well-being benefits for people and wildlife.

It would also provide developers with benefits where their developments are close to the park.

It would need to be much bigger than the existing Sparke Evans Park (2.35ha),

It needs to be based on the City Council's Parks Provision standards using the 3 criteria together of Quality, Distance and Quantity (see Bristol's Parks Provisions Standards – March 2024) which for the development area would make it more like 18.8 ha park provision for a residential population of 10,000 homes.

As a very significant part of the Masterplan it would give a clear statement that the Partnership believes that green space and its related benefits is critical to the redevelopment of the area to help ensure a sustainable community is delivered. It would also positively contribute to the City's tackling of the Climate and Ecological Emergencies, to the Keep Bristol Cool Framework, the new Nature Together project, and reduce the heat island effect that the new developments will inevitably experience. It would also assist in the delivery of the West of England Nature Recovery Strategy.

At this larger size the green space has the potential to be not just a resource for those living in the St Phillips area, but as a "destination" park for future generations of Bristolians.

We have not proposed a location but it is critical that the park is available to people of all abilities from across the regeneration area.

There are advantages and a great opportunity in this development area to provide links from the new Big Park and residential and commercial developments through green infrastructure, providing wildlife corridors and safe, traffic free routes for the new and existing communities.

Preparing for the next Engagement in October.

We would welcome the chance to meet with the Masterplan team offered in your reply of 18th July 2025 before the next Engagement, so that parks and green spaces play a central part alongside other features in the Masterplan; and subsequent Supplementary Planning Document. Do you have any dates or times in mind?

We are copying this letter to the people in the list at the end of this letter.

Can you please ensure that any reply is sent to info@bristolparksforum.org.uk so that one of the Bristol Parks Forum Committee can pick this up.

Yours sincerely,

Frances

Frances Robertson
Committee Member
For Bristol Parks Forum
29 August 2025

This letter has been copied to:

Helen Godwin, Mayor, West of England Mayoral Combined Authority

Tony Dyer, Leader of Bristol City Council

Cllr Shona Jemphrey and Cllr Yassin Mohamud, Ward Councillors for Lawrence Hill Ward, Bristol City Council

Cllr Andrew Brown, Chair; and Cllr Jenny Bartle, Vice-Chair, Economy and Skills Policy Committee, Bristol City Council

Cllr Stephen Williams, Chair; and Cllr Emily Clarke, Vice-Chair, Public Health and Communities Policy Committee, Bristol City Council.

Cllr Martin Fodor, Chair; and Cllr Ellie King, Vice-Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Policy Committee, Bristol City Council.

Clem Teagle, Jane Greenaway and team, Temple Quarter LLP

Members of the Bristol Parks Forum