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Bristol Parks Forum Committee
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Reply to Tony Dyer
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Email Leader@bristol.gov.uk
Date 5 March 2026

Dear Bristol Parks Forum,

Thank you for taking the time to write to us and express your support for the Parks and Green Spaces in the city.

[Local Plan Inspectors decision re designation of Local Green Spaces](#)

We are very disappointed that the Local Plan inspectors have required that the proposals for Local Green Spaces are not taken forward. As your letter correctly sets out, the Examination note from the Planning Inspector has not supported our proposals for a number of sites to be designated as Local Green Spaces (LGS). The reasons are as set out in the inspectors note.

The inspectors' recommendations are binding on the council and are confirmed once received in their final report. The modifications they have asked for will be advertised for comment shortly. Once the inspectors have considered the comments that are received, they decide on the final modifications and the council can only adopt the plan with any recommendations their report sets out.

All sites that had been proposed as LGS are, in accordance with the inspectors' findings, proposed to be designated as 'Reserved Open Green Space' (*Policy GI2 Protected Open Space*). Most of the city's open green spaces will now become subject to protection under that policy.

While Reserved Open Green Space is still a protective policy approach, it is acknowledged that it may be seen as a less absolute and permanent planning protection than Local Green Space. Reserved Open Space protects green spaces for their intended use / benefit but is also subject to regular review.

This national planning policy is a very important material consideration in planning decisions. National planning policy is also applicable to open spaces in Bristol.

The criteria for national policy on open space is that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- A. *an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or*

- B. *the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
- C. *the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.*

[BCC position on protecting Parks and Green Spaces](#)

Our Parks and Green Spaces provide clear benefits to all communities in Bristol through climate adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity, recreation and wider social value.

Our [Parks and Green Spaces Strategy](#) commits to having non 'net loss' of green space in the city and we continue to stand by this commitment.

We confirm that we have no plans to dispose of any of our own council sites. However, some green spaces we had proposed as LGS are privately owned. It is possible these landowners could at some point make the case to allow development their land. We are committed to working with other landowners to protect green spaces in the city.

This is not the outcome we hoped for, but we are clear in our commitment to protecting council-owned parks and green spaces, and to ensure there is no net loss of green space.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Tony Dyer
Leader of Bristol City Council



Cllr Stephen Williams
Chair, Public Health and Communities Policy Committee



Cllr Andrew Brown
Chair, Economy and Skills Policy Committee