

Notes of a meeting of the Bristol Parks Forum
Saturday 9th March 2024 at 9.30am
at Headley Park Church, St Peter's Rise, Bishopsworth, BS13 7LZ



1. Welcome & Introduction – Len Wyatt, Chair BPF

Len welcomed everyone and introduced committee members who were present: Frances, Sarah, Derek and Ted.

Apologies were noted from Cllr King Cabinet member for Public Health and Communities; and the Bristol City Council (BCC) Parks Services Managers and Volunteer Coordinators.

April Coombs, BCC Heritage and Estates Officer was introduced; and it was noted that Charlee Bennett, CEO Your Park (YP) would be joining the meeting later to give an update on Your Park. Boys in Bristol were also present and introduced.

Although they were not present, Len thanked the Councillors who have been engaging with the Bristol Parks Forum, and their interest in our Parks and Green Spaces. It is understood that not all are standing in the forthcoming local elections for re-election.

Len thanked the Manor Woods Valley Group who were hosting and paying for the hire of the hall and provided refreshments including their own home-grown apple juice from the apples in the site's orchard.

Those present were reminded that there would be an opportunity for a guided walk around Manor Woods Valley afterwards.

2. Introduction to Manor Woods Valley

Peter Loy-Hancocks, Chair of Manor Woods Valley Group

Peter described the site. It is a Local Nature Reserve with the Malago stream running through it. He mentioned that there is Ancient Woodland on the site shown in the Domesday Book and a post-war wood known as New Manor Wood. They also have Allotment Wood, Pond Wood, Hope Wood. There is a large wildflower meadow and one of the notable plants is corky fruited dropwort which has self-seeded.

The Group works with both the Universities in Bristol. There is an annual project with students from the University of Bristol and also from the University of the West of England's (UWE) Wildlife, Environment and Conservation Science course. UWE 2nd year students undertake 60 hours of volunteering with the group.

The group has planted wildflowers with funding from the Community Pollinators fund and Bristol City Council's Parks Department manages the meadows. The group's volunteers undertake quite a lot of bramble bashing during the year.

The orchard trees planted by the Group are all non-true varieties from seedlings and planted ones. The group holds a number of events each year such as their Annual Blossom Day coming up at the end of April, their Apple Day in October when they have previously picked 600-700kg of fruit from the orchard, and a January Wassail each year.

They have an active volunteer's day one Saturday a month and UWE volunteers attend each Wednesday.

See their website for more information. <https://manorwoodvalley.org/>

3. Minutes of October meeting

These were approved with one exception as Steve Wickham pointed out that he had not been actually present at the meeting. Minutes to be amended.

4. Matters arising from

BCC to contact Eastside Trust about Future Parks and Chaplin Park - no further news. To be dropped from action list.

Frances had contacted David Smith about access to ParkHive data and photos. The app is still available. Need to consider what next and so the Forum Committee The committee will consider the best way forward for the Park Hive App

Action: BPF Committee. The committee will consider the best way forward for the Park Hive App.

Len has continued to work with the BCC Parks Volunteers Coordinators, Nic and Steff, on a Directory of organisations involved in supporting Parks and Green Spaces groups; and clarifying Bristol City Council processes and contacts, which are involved in Park management and support so that people can use them to help find support.

Action: to continue

5. Report from the Parks Forum Committee – Len & committee members

Len reported that the Forum Committee had met twice since the last meeting. Once to organise meetings on the Local Plan and the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy, and once to organise this meeting. They met with the City Council to sort out dates for face-to-face meeting on Strategy in January.

Len gave a big thankyou to all of those who helped with responses or sent in comments to these consultations.

He reported that the Forum Committee and Chair met with and swapped information on approaches to our Local Plan and Parks Strategy responses with Your Park; and Bristol Tree Forum and Bristol Civic Society. He explained that the Forum maintained a “critical friend” approach to the City Council – and a “distinctive voice” for ourselves.

In addition to responses on the Local Plan and Parks Strategy, the Forum had also sent written responses to BCC on Budget 2024 onwards, Frome Gateway Framework, and Temple Quarter consultations. These responses are all available on the Bristol Parks Forum website.

Len as Chair attended the National Federation of Parks Forum meeting. 20 Forums attended including ourselves. Some are relatively small – others very large. He heard about how other Forums are doing – some new, others well-established – others have closed.

Two main discussion points were:

- How do we successfully attract and retain more volunteers for our Friends Groups and our Area Forums?
- In the light of the worsening underfunding crisis for Local Authorities what can we do to protect green spaces?

Len noted that for some local authorities there were S114 notices in place (i.e. local authority could not “balance the books” so have declared “bankruptcy”). In response to the first question Len mentioned that there was a need not just to do things in our parks and open spaces but also to support and care for groups/individuals.

Len mentioned the Bristol Parks Forum’s funds. He explained that as there is no membership charge, the Forum is reliant upon donations from groups to fund the Forum. Primarily funding is needed to pay for meeting room hire and refreshments, and for some printing / copying costs. The current Forum balance is £214 (although we currently hold funds for Parkwork; and Castle Park). Hiring Meeting Rooms for a Saturday morning in a church hall or community centre can cost nearly £90 – plus refreshments costs. This means that the Forum is heavily dependent financially on the Parks Groups donations to keep going or, such as today’s meeting with one of the groups paying for venues. Groups can pay through cash, cheques or bank transfers whichever works for them. There is always a tin for cash donations for room hire and also to pay for teas, coffees etc.

The Committee had discussed putting the amount requested for donations up to £15. The decision was that the request would remain at £10, while if you could afford more, any amount above that would be appreciated; if however, your group cannot afford to make a donation, please just turn up and take part.

Steve Wickham, Dame Emily / Cumberland Basic South group, thanked Len and the Committee, saying well done for all your work. The meeting concurred.

6. Looking to the future:

Len put up slides about the potential priorities for the Parks Forum from here on

<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/BPFLookingFuture090324.pdf>

Len explained that the Committee would like the Forum members’ guidance on what to prioritise to help the Forum achieve our vision for Parks and Green Spaces.

He showed the three priorities that the Committee had identified and discussed in detail and who was leading on them.

1 Local Plan submission – large multifunctional green park in St Phillips – examination in public in Summer 2024 – Len

2 Parks Strategy submission – big conversation – funding the future – Ted

3 Strengthening relationships – Sarah and Ted

Then three other possible priorities are being considered by the Committee:

4 Reviewing links with the City Council and Your Park – with those organisations

5 Standing groups to help the Forum respond to queries and consultations.

(Possible options Finance, Maintenance; and Climate and Ecological Emergencies).

6 Updating terms of reference and purpose of Forum.

1. St Philips

Len outlined that there will be potentially 2250 – 7000 new homes in the area with a home having an average of two people per household. Obviously there could be some with more people and some with less. The Parks Forum is calling for a new large park. Most parties agree there is a lack of open space in central Bristol. But as yet there is no detail about the type and location for a new park.

Next steps for the Local Plan is that it is expected to go to Examination in Public in August. The Committee needs help with preparing for the examination. We need access to someone who can operate a GIS system; someone who is good with figures; and someone with a pram (or a parent with a pram and child). The latter is to assess distances and accessibility to existing parks and open spaces in the central area.

Comments from the Forum included the need for green pathways across the new development; agreement that routes for prams and people with mobility issues – referencing work of Sustrans and the Disability Forum; the need for, for example, underpass under the railway (due to topography) which from past experience can take 10 years to achieve. Also noted that the developments being proposed include a high number of student accommodation in the area. Len commented that the land ownership is both private and public and important to get the funding needed from the developers.

Jo, Eastwood Farm, thought she could offer a person, a baby and a pram and a dog and would let Len know. **Action:** Jo, Eastwood Farm to contact Len.

Jo also noted that development funds also need to go in Spark Evans Park. Len mentioned that the Forum had written in supporting pocket parks, within development green space and improvements to existing parks such as Sparke Evans.

Other issues raised were the need for path safety by water and in the dark and also noted that lighting was not the answer to making women safer (as has been noted by other Forum members at past meetings) and that lighting can be inappropriate for nature, yet seen as a panacea to make “woman and girls safe”. Len noted that there are a number of initiatives such as Making Space for Girls and the Local Plan addresses some of the safety issues. Toilet provision in a new park was also important.

Frances commented that this would be the very last chance for Bristol to have a new park, a new big park so it was really important to push for this as there would never be another opportunity for a new big park in Bristol.

Action: Forum members needed please contact the Forum if you can offer help. Help needed from someone who is good with GIS; someone who is good with figures – and someone who can lend Len a pram or can offer access to a mother and child; or a disabled group.

2 Parks Strategy Submission – Big Conversation – funding the future – Ted

Ted said that parks and green spaces related funding lurches from crisis to crisis; and that we need to be aware that over time, even with gradual reductions in funding year on year, that the effect of these cuts over time, we know can be devastating for our parks and green spaces.

The current situation is not helped by central government austerity and parks not being a statutory service like some Council Services.

It could be argued that the involvement of volunteers, instead of making something positive, are actually stopping full consideration of the impact of funding cuts.

Originally, the idea was for a Big Conversation on Parks funding as part of the new Parks Strategy, unfortunately, the Strategy does not mention the Conversation.

Ted explained he is also involved in the RSA (Royal Society for Arts, Manufactures and Commerce). He had organised a meeting of RSA in September 2023 about parks and green spaces issues; and a wide range of organisations attended.

He stated that we have a growing population – with a need for thousands of more homes by 2039; and more services, including green space. There must be a range of options for delivering more benefits to people related to green spaces. And potentially there must be a range of new organisations/groups who could contribute positively to the situation.

Are the issues related in any way to:

- A lack of opportunities for different voices to have conversations together. Do we tend to think in siloes – even though solutions to situations, mean that we should not do this?
- People talk about managing problems with parks rather than their value and importance?
- The range of options never widely discussed – especially in terms of fairness, efficiency and long term stewardship for future generations.

So maybe an answer is to have a better conversation between interested parties to find both common ground – and potential solutions, including funding issues.

On the back of the RSA meeting Univ of West England and Your Park will be looking further at whether we can develop a wider network of supporters.

He suggested that some parks in Bristol were “better off” than others (e.g. The Downs) and there was pressure for commercialisation, and cited Eastville Park as one example where opportunities have been identified to do this. He thought it was important to make sure funding for parks was outside vagaries of government funding.

In conclusion - Could there be a better way of funding our parks and green spaces – is having a conversation about this a way forward?

Frances queried whether Ted was suggesting that parks would be moved out of the council ownership. She said that the Milton Keynes example that some people talk about is not something we should be using as it is not replicable. She said she understood that the Forum had a clear position in the Forum that we do not want parks moved out of Council control / ownership either in part or as a whole. Is he suggesting our position has changed on this?

Kate, Oldbury court/ Vassals park asked where next with the Big Conversation?

Ted said that the links with UWE and Your Park will probably organise stakeholder links but the most important thing is to get the City Council involved and that will not be until after the local elections in May.

Len reported that had found that in the National Federation some members are positive about trusts, while some are not. He considered that the conversation has to happen because every year we have to deal with the budget and what does that mean for parks and green spaces.

Action: Committee to consider how best to take this forward, taking into account work by RSA and new City Council approach.

3 Strengthen relationships – Ted and Sarah

Sarah spoke to her presentation – see here

<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/TheHeroesJourney.pdf>

The diagram is called “ A hero's journey for parks friends“ because it is based on a number of stories where people see an opportunity for change and achieve it. An example of this, is the story behind the Star Wars movies.

Each of our groups will be on a different part of this journey.

You have to remember that parks groups, don't just bring volunteers to do things. We bring passion, experiences and our own thoughts about what is important about our green space (health, wildlife, climate change adaption etc).

The journey is focussed on building valuable relationships between various parties involved. We need to find help/support/allies (organisations or individuals that can help us).

You start on the left and move towards achievement and celebration. Somehow you have to avoid the THE PIT, which is all the things that get in the way, put you off or discourage people.

Not all journeys will follow this route.

And you have to remember that when you get to the “end” – if things are not right, you are not at the end and still have further work to do.

Keith from Hartcliffe and Dundry mentioned that we used to have local neighbourhood partnerships. He felt we are just token residents. He cited AWT writing a management plan for some of the green spaces in his area but they have not involved him nor other Parks groups locally. He said that residents have to stop things being done that should not be.

Sarah agreed that local knowledge we have in Parks Groups is not going further up through Parks officers and management, and other organisations, and it is important that this is done. We have a number of organisations who are really good at support us, especially at getting funding and raising profiles, but like many organisations do they pick up what residents are saying?

Strengthening relationships is also about trying to connect parks groups and share information.

Len suggested that we re-run opportunities for groups to share their experiences when visiting other parks and green spaces.

Action: Groups to be invited to invite others to visit them. Groups to provide dates, times and locations; details to be published in BPF Update.

Len also stated that it was important to make friends with your next door Parks Group even if they are very different from yours. Have you made contact with the next door park group and share information and experiences?

Action: Committee to see where this work can go next, which makes a difference to groups.

4 Reviewing links with the City Council and Your Park – with those organisations.

The Committee felt that while there is a lot of commitment and energy from our three organisations, there is a risk that there is duplication of effort especially when supporting new groups, or it is not clear enough to groups where you need to go to get information or support.

This ties in with the strengthening relationship initiative above.

Action: Committee to come back to July meeting with more details, after talking to the City Council and Your Park.

5 Standing groups to help the Forum respond to queries and consultations (Possible options include Finance, Maintenance; and Climate and Ecological Emergencies). Len

BPF Committee consists of 5 people – two officers and 3 members.

There is a Chair, but no vice-chair or secretary.

Derek is standing down as treasurer in October, and we need a new treasurer.

Tasks are shared between the Committee as best we can, bearing in mind people have other priorities as well.

At times we have come close to not being to respond to consultations etc, while trying to keep things running as smoothly as we can, answer queries and support groups.

There is a view that if we continue as we are, we will need to prioritise what we do even further.

The idea is to have on “standby” small groups of people who will look at the consultations from the parks and green spaces viewpoint; and make recommendations to the Committee on how to respond.

The Committee did put out initial information on this and asked if anyone was interested in joining such as group, but there were no replies.

Action: Committee to come back to July meeting with more details of what is involved; and ask again.

6 Updating of Terms of Reference and purpose of Forum - Len.

Since 2022 it has become clear that our Terms agreed in 2017, may need updating, especially as the way Parks Group start up, set their priorities and operate has changed over that period.

Additionally, work on the Local Plan had highlighted, at least from the planning perspective, the risks related to having a very broad “purpose” eg: Campaigning for all publicly owned and accessible green spaces”. Does that include road verges, Cemeteries and Crems, land around Council owned estates etc. Some of our groups are involved in private land, with public access.

Action: Committee to come back to July meeting with a suggestion on how to do this.

7 Groups' stories

1 - Luke Cooper, Hartcliffe and Withywood area (H&W)

Presentation from Luke about his local parks and work he has been involved in.

Len introduced Luke as the Your Parks 2024 Green volunteer of the year having recently won the award.

Luke explained that most parks in H&W are long and thin. They can be quick shortcut to various places so get used as walkthroughs. But they also link to other green spaces and Dundry.

Luke is a Neighbourhood Wildlife Champion who is trying to make links between groups but also people's health and green and blue space. Most of the play equipment in the area is over 20 years old. Some play areas have had investment, but others have not.

AWT has undertaken ecological assessments of three of their parks and are talking about mowing strategies and tree planting.

He is talking to a wide range of organisations, including the City Council, Your Park, Manor Wood Valley, Redcatch Park and Garden, H&W Partnership, H&W Ventures and Keith in Dundry and Hartcliffe Wildlife Group.

There are already a number of initiatives in the area such as Space Makers and H&W Community Development Plan which he uses to make further connections.

Luke explained that he is involved in looking at a number of ways to improve things including:

- Withywood Park has a shipping container which was barely used, but could be used to support a number of initiatives.
- Funding to pay for play and fitness equipment
- A loop to link up Wilmot Vale Walk to other locations, with plaques put up along the route.
- Connecting with Younger People to try and get more ownership to reduce some of the problems that occur with Anti-Social Behaviour
- Investigating improvements to the Pigeonhouse Stream with Bristol Avon River Trust.
- Investigating uncovering part of the Malago River

2 - Keith Way - Hartcliffe & Dundry Wildlife Group

Here are the links to the following documents presented by Keith:

South Bristol Parks Map - <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/SouthBristolParks090324.pdf>

Hartcliffe 1A Green Streets Map - <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/1aMAP090324.pdf>

Hartcliffe 1AGreen Streets Comments - <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/1aMAPcomments090324.pdf>

Brief History of the DHWC - <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/DHWCMar24.pdf>

The group started in 2001. Its interest is in wildlife.

It covers the Dundry Slopes, Valley Walk and the area around the southern edge of Hartcliffe known as "Macy's"

Keith said he had attended around 2014/ 2016 a BPF meeting where everyone was angry with some of what the City Council were doing, and after that meeting he decided to try and cover all of the area because no one else was doing it.

In 2015 there were 3 meadows in these areas. It is hoped to improve these and create more meadows.

Recently, Ben Barker arranged meeting with council and meeting with Richard Ennion about wildlife and parks and green spaces. Looking at the new Parks and Green Space Strategy (PGSS), he felt it did not push for improvements to parks and green spaces enough. However, he said that he wrote to George Ferguson (who was the City Mayor) in 2013 with ideas for parks and green spaces and these ideas were now in the PGSS 10 years later.

In 1990 AWT and BCC did a study of green spaces and green corridors but this seems to have stopped and nothing is in the PGSS about it

His view is that nature recovery is only being done on Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCl) but lots of areas being mowed elsewhere. Loads of grass verges which are mowed which removes the wild flowers. He said this was not good enough. He is talking to Council re changing mowing patterns.

Keith started working on the Dundry area in 2013 and AWT joined into that and had input into management plan. He had spent three days walking around with Mary Wood from AWT. Then there was a lull. A lot of Dundry was unmanaged for 25 years or more. Then Keith found out about the ideal of rewilding and he considers that Dundry has been doing that for 25 years its own. Then a AWT wanted a new plan in 2019. That included "haloing" of trees to create deadwood which Keith had to oppose and it was removed from the plan. Then in 2023 the plan was re done and they have now put haloing back in. Keith has emailed back to the original tree officer who said haloing would not be good and Becky Belfin (City Council Nature Conservation Officer) and Councillors. It is not clear what is happening now.

At Dundry the City Council are planning to open up some areas to the public and other areas prioritising wildlife. However, Keith said people can add a negative aspect to wildlife. Motorbikes are ridden so much on one field that local people refer to it as the motorbike field. Trees have also been felled – apparently by the public and probably for wood to burn. Keith posed the question - How do we stop this vandalism?

Keith flagged up the issue that the AWT officers don't know the area.

2006 - identified 3 to 4 meadows for managing for wildlife

2013 Keith said his group were renovating and leaving grass but now those responsible for the management, rake it up and dump it under the trees and it gets set fire to, damaging the trees in the process.

PGSS talks about more volunteer involvement but Keith suggested that he and groups like his should maybe be the stewards. He noted that Your Park hasn't worked with his group and AWT has sidelined them. Keith said that maybe they should have the funds and look after these areas ourselves.

Sarah, Eastville Park commented that AWT feed into the Catchment Partnership. So many of our parks have rivers and we (Parks Groups) are not partners in that process and they are therefore not gathering and valuing local knowledge including BCC.

Keith mentioned that Univ of Bristol geography department students been doing projects since 2018. Drainage from new housing development was a big concern.

Peter, Manor Woods Valley asked Keith whether his group would be able to manage the parks. Peter said that MWV group would not be able to have that level of responsibility. They would not want to manage money, contractors etc.

Keith replied no, they are a small group and do not have a bank account. He also noted that CIL money stalled at the moment for his area.

Keith stated that Your Park have £150,000 to manage X sites but he and his group do not have any input. His group does not have a bank account so he suggested that other partners can hold money for them. He was concerned that they do not want to be accused of fraud. He also queried why, if AWT getting National Lottery funding, why can we cannot access this?

8 Your Park (YP) Update

Charlee Bennett, CEO

Charlee Bennett stated this will be the 5th year of their organisation - Your Park / Bristol & Bath Parks Foundation this year. She explained that YP is a charity set up initially by the City Council and Bath and North East Somerset Council.

Charlee introduced their strategy covering 2023 to 2026 – see presentation <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/YourPark090324.pdf>

Their Mission is to use parks as a vehicle providing transformative health and well-being benefits. While empowering communities – and cultivating inclusive, nature rich and engaging park activities.

This approach was based on the Bragg and Lake model of how nature and people can fit together. See presentation for further details.

Charlee outlined the projects that they had undertaken or are involved in – e.g. Your Park Awards, Skillshare, PhD with University of Bath on inclusiveness, review of accessibility of individual parks, health and well-being initiatives, and applying “making space for girls” principles etc

She explained that last year Your Park had had to spend a lot of their time focusing on raising funding and now they are looking more at how they can work more with the Forum and other organisations, and get involved in the Big Conversation as well.

Charlee told the meeting that YP will be looking at using their resource to help groups like Forum members continue to thrive.

One method of raising funds is through charging corporates to undertake team days and to run sessions for employees. YP asks for between £15 to £50 a head per employee to do this, so that YP can bring them for a job and Parks Groups can have as much or as little work as they need done. It was noted that not all corporates contacting YP / the City Council / or individual parks groups directly wanted to pay.

She outlined how in South Bristol collaborative working between groups was very impressive – and that this involved a range of groups, not necessarily the biggest groups.

Julia, Chair of Friends of Novers Hill and Crox Bottom asked how Your Park works with the Council. Charlee explained that the Council Parks Department still does the maintenance in parks but the work that YP does is the added value work in partnership with Parks Department to develop projects and secure funding.

Charlee noted that the PGSS contained a lot of ambition but funds are hard to get. YP can do accessibility work but one blurry area is volunteer support. The City Council have their own Parks volunteer coordinators

Julia asked whether YP receives funding from the City Council
Charlee explained that in the past there had been some core funding from Bristol and last year was the first year they had none from the council.

Sarah Eastville Park said that it is great to bring corporates in, but we cannot get ParkWork to work with us and asked if there is a halfway opportunity
Charlee explained that Joe McKenna spends three days a week with YP and that they could look at doing something different.

Frances, Badock's Wood asked whether they could access Joe and ParkWork via Your Park?
Charlee said there is potential for this but would need to pay for materials.
Keith commented he had been trying to get Joe to work in their area but could not pay him.

Charlee said Your Park want to hear from you as they do not have all the answers. Ideas, feedback, questions, etc they would like to receive them all even those that were about issues and concerns.

9 Any Other Business / Other Information

April Coombs

Heritage and Estates Officer, Bristol City Council

April introduced herself. She had been at the council for five weeks. Kit Beaumont was her predecessor.

Heritage assets are not all about historical sites

She explained that the Spirit of Place approach looks at how a space may be important to the community.

If anyone has any important spaces they wish to talk to April about, please contact her on:
april.coombes@bristol.gov.uk

Bristol Parks Project - Boys in Bristol photography

They explained that they are highlighting amazing work that is being done in parks and green spaces.

So far, they have developed web pages showcasing St. Georges Park, Troopers Hill, and Brandon Hill, and are developing others for other parks, nature reserves etc. in Bristol.

They are aware that there is a lot of information but it hasn't been centralised and part of their Parks Project aims to do this.

They are also offering free nature photography workshops.

They are keen on getting communities together so are starting to hold meetings based on Bristol Come Together principles from Knowle West Media Centre, to record ideas and personal stories.

<https://www.bristolapproach.org/resources/come-together/>

Parks groups are invited to look at their website and to contact them about the project

<https://www.bristolparks.co.uk/>

Impact of Events in Bristol's Parks and the income from them - Sarah Eastville Park

Sarah, flagged up that Bristol's bigger parks are under been pressure from the City Council and event promoters to host big events in them.

Sarah thought that at Eastville Park they had finally got rid of festivals. In the past there were problems with drug dealing and other anti social activities in the local streets around the park. The Friends group consider that smaller events are OK and she was proposing to the Council that there should be a cap on the number of large park large events. Also, the group wants to get a percentage of that income from an event / festival in their park for the park group, but currently the income just goes into the central coffers of the City Council and the park community most affected gets nothing.

She would like to hear from others affected similarly and parks groups thoughts generally. Please contact Sarah direct via Eastville Park

Festival of Nature Community Day 9th of June

Festival of Nature is looking for people to offer events in their local community. If your group can offer any event on that day please let them know. More information and access to support and resources can be found here: <https://www.bnhc.org.uk/festival-of-nature/festival-of-natures-community-day-9th-june-2024/>

Meeting on Bristol Council Green Recovery Fund bid for £1 Million – Thursday 14th March 9.30 in City Hall - Len

City Council had agreed to submit a bid to West of England Combined Regional Authority, for nature recovery. It is for £1,000,000. The bid consists not only money for capital (eg; new machinery) but also money for species rich grassland creation, river restoration, piloting different grassland management etc. There is a meeting with representatives from some parks groups and other organisations on the 14th.

Manor Woods Valley Group and the students from University of West of England, were thanked for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments.