

Agenda Item 7 (v)

BCRNP parks report. **DRAFT FOR COMMENT** Jan 2016

Action:

1. NP to note Ground Maintenance Performance report
2. NC to take a decision on allocation of s106 money

Grounds Maintenance performance.

Representatives from 4 of the 5 parks in the BCRNP area met Sarah Tyler from BCC Parks to be updated and discuss the maintenance of parks in the NP.

Since early 2014, Parks Maintenance had been brought in house and after a slow start, the contract was now working OK. There had been few reports of maintenance failure from groups and the public since the changeover. ST explained that the parks staff had been organised into teams for grass cutting/ litter/ horticulture and Fix-it. There was a reduction in the number of full time staff but an increase in seasonally employed staff.

Grass cutting was done at 12 times / year for parks, though there were some areas where 3 and 1 cut /year had been trialled to see how this improved the wildlife environment. Additional locations for wildflower meadows were being considered.

Shrub and ornamental flower beds were being brought up to standard after a period of substandard maintenance and this was ongoing.

An audit of parks bins had been carried out and recycling bins had been introduced in some parks across Bristol; the aim is to identify additional locations for these.

There are 2 Fixit teams for North Bristol and East and Central Bristol; south Bristol is dealt with differently. A stock of equipment, benches etc is being built up to make replacement more rapid, work is prioritised according to Health and Safety considerations and whether work is already funded.

Parks Section 106

07/01925 / 99B and 99C Redland Road, Redland / ...S952

The provision of improvements to Parks and Open Spaces within one mile of 99 Redland Road **£14,564.64**
(No Time Limit)

The group discussed the possible allocation of the section 106 money. Note all parks in the NP are within 1 mile of 99 Redland Road and are therefore eligible for this funding.

Area Green Space Plans were drawn up for Cotham Gardens, Horfield Common, Redland Green and St Andrew's Park. Ashley Down Green is a new park which post-dated the AGSP process.

AGSP priorities were set out in a consultation exercise carried out in 2011. A number of short term priorities were identified in Jan 2012. See Appendix for report presented at January 2012 meeting. Many of those have been completed. There has not been an update of the priorities since January 2012.

At the meeting on 5 Jan 2016, group representatives identified the following short term aspirations for their parks.

Ashley Down Green. Potential shortfall on children's play area as size has increased since s106 condition was agreed. Signage to and in the park needed.

Cotham Gardens. Replacement of play equipment in sandpit area and refurbishment of seating around area. Restocking of ornamental beds at the top of the park, inside and outside the fence.

Horfield Common. Small grant applications have been submitted for refurbishment of the putting green and for resourcing the Community Asset Transfer of the Ardagh building. *(info from Matt Jones as Sam Thomson had not been able to attend meeting)*

Redland Green. Installation of a Lucy post , electrical pole for use by ice cream vans outside the playground area. Would also be available for event use eg May Fair. Repairs to fencing round the children's play area.

St Andrews Park. Refurbishment of wc block to create a baby changing area and additional wcs. Scheme already costed at c.£6K, signage to the wc block, £2112.

The representatives of the 4 parks groups present discussed the possible allocation of £6K from the available s106 money to refurbishing the wc block in St Andrew's Park and agreed that they would support that on the basis that the remaining £8.5+K would be made available to the other groups to bid for.

The BCRNP parks group would therefore support an application from St Andrews's Park for £6K of the s106 pot and asks the councillors to confirm this.

Alison Bromilow 6 Jan 2016

For comment