



## AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

### DUNDRY VIEW NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

17<sup>th</sup> December 2012

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**Title:** Crox Bottom Management Plan

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#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Dundry View Neighbourhood Partnership approves the Crox Bottom Management Plan.

That the Partnership notes that the plan will be effective from 2013 to 2018.

#### Context

1. The Dundry View NP allocated S106 budget of £24,663 for work to improve Crox Bottom Open Space. At their meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2011 the NP agreed to allocate the following funding:

- Habitat management works (£4298.37)
- the preparation of a management plan for the future enhancement and improvement of Crox Bottom by the Council (£5000), with the remainder for
- immediate improvement works (£15,364.63)

This S106 money expired on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2012. The habitat management works and the improvement works were completed within this time frame.

2. The Dundry View Pride of Place group (Environmental Sub Group) discussed the devolved money for Crox Bottom at their meeting on 12th December 2011. The group requested that local people were involved in developing a management plan and in making decisions about the improvement works.

3. Following agreement of a priority list of improvements to be funded from the available S106 funding it was agreed that a Management Plan for Crox Bottom would be produced.

## **Proposal**

4. The Crox Bottom Management Plan was prepared by BCC officers in conjunction with the Pride of Place Environmental Sub Group of the Dundry View Neighbourhood Partnership. BCC officers and the Pride of Place Environmental subgroup worked together to define priorities and proposals for current and future investment in the site.

5. The Crox Bottom Management Plan will guide future initiatives and maintenance of the park over the next 5 years from 2013 to 2018 and will also be used as a bidding document in attempting to secure funding with which to implement improvements. The plan will ensure that a coordinated approach is taken in developing the park and that any improvements are made according to priority. This document can be used to attract funding from external sources as it shows that the improvements and proposals identified are part of an overall strategic management plan for the site and already have the support of the local community.

6. Improvements to Crox Bottom may necessitate additional management and maintenance to ensure this investment is protected and sustained into the future.

7. The Management Plan recognises the commitment of Bristol City Council to achieve a high quality park, which services the needs of the surrounding neighbourhood.

## **Financial**

The proposals contained within the plan will require additional funding and maintenance. Some funding has been identified for some of the proposals eg maintaining existing seats on site and ensuring there is sufficient provision of benches throughout the site. However other sources of funding will have to be identified with which to implement the full management plan actions. The management plan can be used as a tool to lever in funding and shows potential funders that there is a clear

strategy to implementing the improvements and that a coordinated approach is being taken which has the support of the local community.

There is a sum of transport S106 funding that could be accessed to provide a footpath / cycleway link across Crox Bottom to provide a link from Headley Park area to Imperial Park.

## **Equality Implications**

The proposals within the Crox Bottom Management Plan will improve access to the site for all and will encourage greater use of the site by all sectors of the community.

For example improvements to the existing path network to reduce gradients will greatly benefit those people in wheelchairs or with buggies and the elderly or infirm. Measures proposed to reduce the speed of bikes through the site will help people with young children and the elderly who are most in danger of being knocked down by speeding cyclists.

The introduction of more seating throughout the site will be of benefit to people who may need to rest whilst they are in Crox Bottom.

The plan includes a proposal to restrict access for motor bikes while retaining access for wheelchairs and pushchairs. The removal of opportunities for motor bikes to enter the site will be of benefit to the whole community.

Proposals to install interpretation panels will be of benefit to school children and young people generally as well as the wider population. These can be designed to benefit visually impaired people.

The proposal to create a Friends of Crox Bottom group will ensure that anyone in the community can be involved in the development of the site and that they will have opportunities to ensure the site is developed in a way that is inclusive to all.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Crox Bottom Management Plan

A decorative header strip at the top of the page. On the left, there is a small grid of four square images: a green spiral, a yellow sunflower, a red fern, and a blue spiral. The rest of the header is a dark green and blue background with faint, stylized images of plants and trees.

**Parks and Estates**

**APPENDIX A**

The main background of the page is a large, semi-transparent image of a weeping willow tree with its characteristic long, drooping branches. The image is tinted with a light green color. The text is overlaid on this background.

**A Management Plan for  
Crox Bottom**

**2012—2017**

# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

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## Acknowledgements

This document has been produced by Bristol Parks in consultation with local residents.

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# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

## Site plan



**Bristol City Council**  
**Neighbourhoods**

Crox Bottom  
Aerial

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Date: 18/07/2012



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# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 The Reason for Producing a Management Plan

Crox Bottom is an attractive public open space at the edges of Hartcliffe and Headley Park. This natural area links Hartcliffe Way and Hengrove Way, under which there is an on road route to the northern part of Willmott Park. Running through the space is Pigeonhouse Stream which is culverted under Hengrove Way but is open again through Valley Walk. There is a retention lake in the space, which holds stream flow off at times of high rainfall and is therefore an important element of the stormwater drainage system serving a large area. Crox Bottom also has significant wildlife value and the site is recognised as a 'Site of Nature Conservation Interest' (SNCI).

This site is important for both wildlife and local people and therefore a management plan is considered necessary for Crox Bottom to be managed to a good standard in order to continue to support wildlife and to meet the needs and aspirations of local people.

This management plan will demonstrate how the Parks Service wishes to work with local user groups to maintain the park to the highest standard, in order to continue to serve current and new park users and local residents now and into the future.

As part of the Council's continuing work to raise the quality of our parks and open spaces the preparation of individual management plans for open spaces will assist in directing resources and investment to maintain the standards achieved and to continuously improve them.

At a meeting in December 2011 The Dundry View Neighbourhood Partnership agreed to allocate funding for the preparation of this management plan for the future maintenance, enhancement and improvement of Crox Bottom.

This is a working document and as such will be reviewed and amended every 5 years.

### 1.2 The Purpose of the Plan

This Plan will guide future initiatives and maintenance of the park over the next 10 years from 2012 - 2022 and will also be used as a bidding document in attempting to secure funding with which to implement improvements. The plan will ensure that a coordinated approach is taken in developing the park and that any improvements are made according to priority. At present there is no additional funding available for much of the work outlined in the 5 Year Work Plan (Section 7) but this document can be used to attract funding from external sources as it shows that the improvements and proposals identified are part of an overall strategic management plan for the site and already have

the support of the local community.

Improvements to the park may necessitate additional management and maintenance to ensure this investment is protected and sustained into the future. This document includes a consideration of maintenance, and staff resources in Section 6.

The management plan recognises the commitment of Bristol City Council to achieve a high quality park, which services the needs of the surrounding neighbourhood.

This management plan will therefore seek to achieve the following:

- Assist Bristol City Council to look at the long-term management of Crox Bottom by setting policies and management priorities.
- Provide continuity by providing a stable business plan when personnel change.
- To identify investment that needs to be made in the site.
- Provide sound aims with which to approach other organisations and council departments with a view to working together to achieve mutual objectives.
- Prepare a rolling 5-year work plan that will

# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

be reviewed annually to manage the site in the medium term.

- Enable the Parks Service and The Friends of Crox Bottom (currently being developed, July 2012) to agree ongoing maintenance work to be carried out by the Parks Service and volunteers.
- Inform all interested user groups and individuals about the long-term future of Crox Bottom and explain to them both the daily maintenance regime and the reasons behind any major changes.

Other useful advantages of having a Management Plan in place include:

- Everyone can work together to the same ends.
- Consultation with service users giving validation to decision making.
- Provides open and 'transparent' decision-making, with service users giving validation to decisions through the consultation process.
- Enable the Council to identify significant projects that are presently beyond their financial resources so that additional capital and revenue funding can be sought, possibly from outside organisations.
- It will help to address and resolve any conflict arising from competing demands.

## 1.3 Structure of the Plan

The plan has been split into a number of key sections as follows:

- **2.0 Policy Context** - This section provides a brief summary of the relevant policies that have been considered in developing the plan. Further details of the policies are held in Appendix 1.
- **3.0 Site Description** - This provides plans and an overview of the main facilities within the park, and highlights areas of conservation and heritage value.
- **4.0 Community Use** - This provides details on community use and involvement, and outlines the approach to marketing through the provision of information, events and promotion.
- **5.0 Proposals** - Proposed improvements for Crox Bottom.
- **6.0 Management and Resources** - This section provides specific details on management arrangements and maintenance, including the approach to dealing with litter, cleanliness and vandalism, a summary of the approach to environmental sustainability and management of health, safety and security.
- **7.0 A 5 Year Work Plan** - This details a five year action plan for the park.

## 1.4 The Life of the Plan

The plan is intended to have a life span of 10 years. It contains a 5-year work plan that will be reviewed annually as part of the process of creating an annual action plan. This is because it identifies a number of longer-term proposals that cannot be implemented until financial resources have been identified.

## 1.5 Vision and Aims

### Vision

The vision of the sub group of the Dundry View Pride of Place group is to set up and oversee the working of the Crox Bottom Management Plan. They will support the development of a Friends of Crox Bottom group to increase the diversity of the wildlife environment for the benefit of local residents, users of the space and increase future usage of the site.

A long term aim is to achieve Local Nature Reserve status for Crox Bottom.

### Aims

The following aims will be used as the main headings in the 5 year work plan (see section 7). Under each heading there will be a number of actions that need to be completed in order to fulfil the aim. There are also a number of overarching actions that are not specific to individual aims.

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## **Aim 1**

To provide suitable facilities and opportunities for public enjoyment of the site, for present and future generations of Bristolians, providing that these do not conflict with nature conservation requirements.

## **Aim 2**

To provide maximum opportunities for interpretation of historic and natural environment features and encourage educational use of the site.

## **Aim 3**

To encourage greater community involvement in the site and in particular the active involvement in the care and management of the site.

## **Aim 4**

To assist organisations or individuals with any ecological research and surveys.

## **Aim 5**

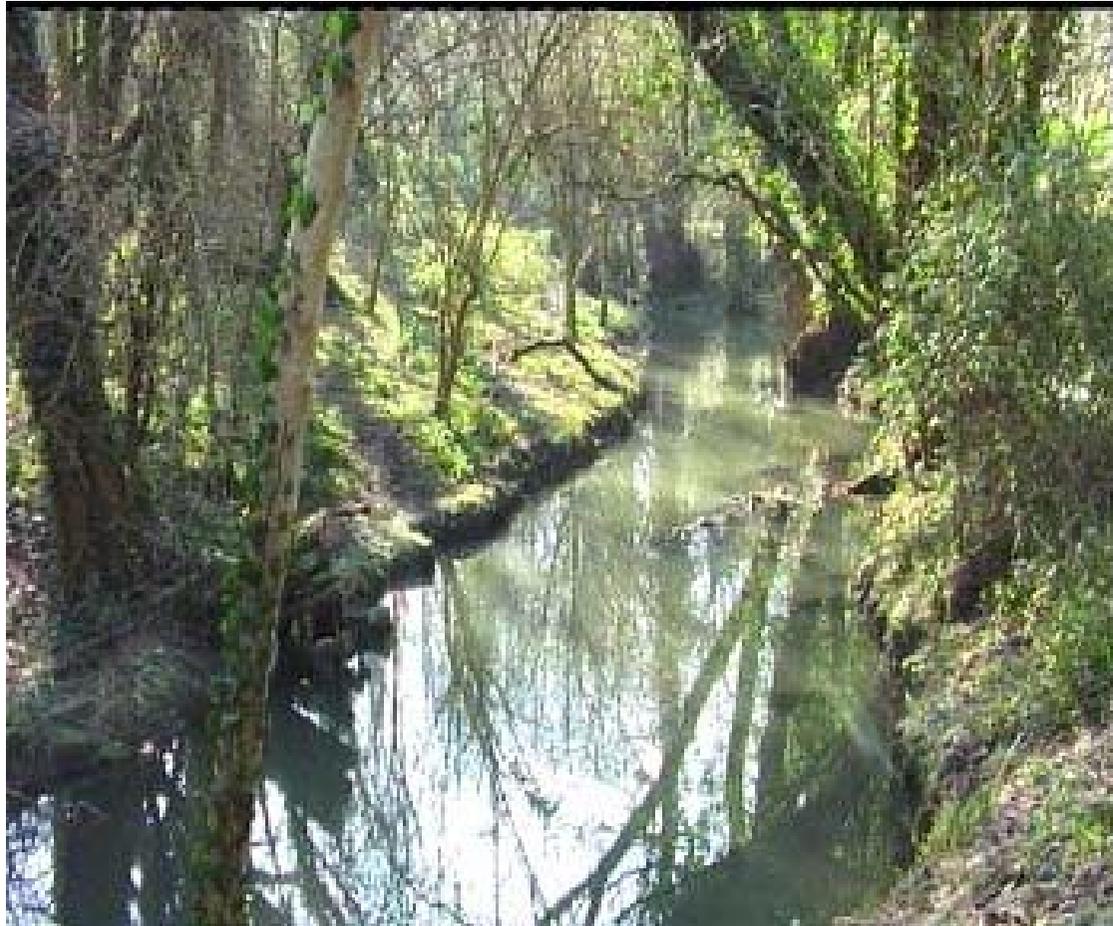
To ensure that Crox Bottom is safe and accessible to all within the natural constraints of the site.

## **Aim 6**

To ensure that antisocial behaviour is controlled and its impacts reduced.

## **Aim 7**

To ensure that Crox Bottom is well managed, and well resourced, balancing all the various public uses with the wildlife and nature value of the site.



Photograph by Bob Giles

# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

## 2 Policy context

This section provides some strategic context within which the management plan has been produced and provides an example of how actions and aims within the management plan are both guided by, and relate back, to wider strategies. Bristol City Council is guided by a Corporate Plan, The Bristol Partnership Community Strategy and other key strategic documents. National and local strategies provide guidance and help to steer and formulate objectives.

### 2.1 The Corporate Plan

The Corporate Plan sets out what, within available resources, Bristol City Council plan to achieve over the next three years towards the delivery of the longer-term vision for the city. The Corporate Plan can be viewed at [www.bristol.gov.uk/corporate-plan](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/corporate-plan).

#### 2.1.1 Parks and Green Spaces Strategy (2009)

The Parks and Green Space Strategy (P&GSS) outlines a 20 year investment programme for the future provision of green space and the facilities and services that should be provided. Its core vision is to create a city with good quality, attractive, enjoyable and accessible green spaces which meet the diverse needs of all Bristol citizens and visitors. The P&GSS can be viewed at: [www.bristol.gov.uk/agssp](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/agssp)

The P&GSS has eight objectives:

1. Raise the quality of parks and green spaces.
2. Encourage greater use and enjoyment of Bristol's parks and green spaces by all sectors of the community.
3. Contribute to the wider planning of the urban fabric of the city by providing a range of good quality parks and green spaces, which play a significant role in meeting the needs of balanced and sustainable communities and enhancing the urban landscape, to help make Bristol a green and sustainable city.
4. Protect needed green space from development.
5. Rectify shortage in particular types of green space across the city to ensure all residents have access to formal, informal, natural, sports and children & young people's spaces.
6. Provide a clear basis for beneficial investment in green spaces - identifying those areas of Bristol where investment and improvements in green space are most needed - helping the council 'spend better'.
7. Encourage active and healthy life-styles and promote social inclusion.
8. Encourage community participation in the improvement and management of green spaces.

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The following table shows how the policies in the PGSS relate to the Crox Bottom Management Plan.

Ref	Policy Detail	The Crox Bottom Management Plan response
<b>NG Natural Green Space</b>		
<b>NG2</b>	Improve maintenance and management regimes ensuring optimum conditions for wildlife alongside attractive, welcoming and easily accessible places for people to enjoy.	Key members of parks staff have been made aware of the value of the site for both ecological and geological conservation. Developing a skilled workforce means that they are more able to manage this site through the lead of the management plan and the Nature Conservation Officers (NCOs).
<b>NG5</b>	Create new habitats for wildlife to remedy shortfalls in natural green space.	Explore potential to create new wildlife habitats and improve existing ones.
<b>LM Land Management Policies</b>		
<b>LM6</b>	Develop the role of on-site parks staff and dog wardens to tackle problems of dogs' mess and uncontrolled dogs through education, encouragement and enforcement.	Key members of parks staff will receive training to enable them to educate, encourage and as necessary issue fixed penalty notices for uncontrolled dogs and fouling.
<b>LM9</b>	Adopt sustainability targets in the management of Bristol's parks and green spaces.	The management plan seeks to undertake a range of sustainability measures, which form part of the Parks and Estates Environmental Management Audit Scheme (EMAS) commitment.
<b>D Delivery Policy</b>		
<b>D1</b>	Support participation and involvement in parks and green spaces through consultation, participation in active management of spaces, volunteering, education and outreach activities.	Bristol City Council will support and work in partnership with the Friends of Crox Bottom to increase consultation and community participation.
<b>D2</b>	Increase use and enjoyment of spaces through a range of activities including providing health and exercise related opportunities, events, festivals and improved information provision.	The need to provide and increase the use and enjoyment of Crox Bottom has to be carefully balanced with the protection of its natural assets and wildlife.

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## 2.1.2 Park Improvement Plans

Crox Bottom is located within the Dundry View Neighbourhood Partnership area and is included in the Park Investment Plan for that area. Dundry View covers the local communities of Bedminster Down, Bishopsworth, Hartcliffe, Headley Park, Highridge, Teyfant, Uplands, Whitchurch Park and Withywood.

The Park Investment Plan is both a spatial and plan and an investment plan. The Plan applies the policies and standards set out in the Council's Parks and Green Space Strategy whilst ensuring that investment in parks is guided by local communities and agreed by local Councillors through the Dundry View Neighbourhood Committee. The Plan sets out where different types of facilities and space - such as children's play areas, young people's facilities, toilets etc - are to be located over the long-term.

## 2.2 Bristol Strategic Context

This management plan complements the wider strategic context of Bristol City Council and its partners. It seeks to achieve the objectives of the strategic framework by translating those policies that are appropriate to the management of Crox Bottom.

The management of Crox Bottom has been governed and guided by local policies, strategies and Local Plan designations. These

are listed in Appendix 1 along with regional and national policies that have guided the development of the Crox Bottom Management Plan.

## 2.3 Biodiversity Action Plan

The Bristol Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) provides the overarching framework for habitats and species conservation in Bristol. It recognises the benefits of wildlife to people and helps to identify ways to better promote, and engage people in biodiversity conservation in Bristol.

The Bristol BAP provides a means by which national and regional biodiversity strategy can be translated into effective action in the city. It also provides the opportunity to take into account local conditions and distinctiveness.

The National Biodiversity Action Plan covers both species and habitats, and within Crox Bottom, the following BAP habitats and species are known to occur:

- Species: Song Thrush, Bullfinch, House Sparrow.
- Habitats: Broad Leaved semi-natural (mixed deciduous) woodland, ponds, lowland species rich meadows, rivers.



Photograph by Bob Giles

# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

## 3 Site description

### 3.1 Location and Area

The grid reference for the site is; Easting - 358152.46, Northing - 168937.67 and the approximate area of the site is 107,917 sqm. See Site Plan on Page 4.

### 3.2 Ownership

The whole of the site shown outlined in red on the plan on page 4 is owned by Bristol City Council. The southern section of the plan is managed by Parks and Estates and the northern section is managed by Allotments.

### 3.3 A Short History of Crox Bottom

Until the suburbs of Hartcliffe and Withywood were developed in the 1950s Crox Bottom was a part of a continuous rural farming landscape that stretched over Dundry to the outskirts of Bedminster. Crox Bottom Farm, with its cowsheds and water mill, survived until 1962.

The Pigeonhouse Stream (which runs through the site) as well as the Malago, drains some 12 square kilometres of the Dundry Slopes. During periods of high rainfall these streams were prone to cause flooding on their lower reaches. A ferocious storm in 1968 saw extensive flooding in Bedminster. A flood prevention scheme built in the 1970s created storm water interceptors which divert much of the flow of the streams down underground

pipes to the River Avon. One of these interceptors is at the Crox Bottom section of the Pigeonhouse Stream.

The early 1970s also saw the arrival of the Wills cigarette factory and administrative HQ. As part of that development, Crox bottom was extensively remodelled. The course of the stream was considerably altered but additional landscaping and planting was substantial and of high quality. A sizeable area outside the Wills site was laid out as a public open space and this is what is now known as 'Crox Bottom'. The two lakes were, in part, designed to collect silt, before the water enters the storm water interceptor.

Wills factory and offices closed in 1989. The factory was eventually demolished and its site has since been redeveloped as a retail park. The old administration block has been redeveloped as housing creating approximately 350 apartments.

### 3.4 Landscape Analysis

Crox Bottom consists of a steep sided valley with a meandering stream and lakes that join Hartcliffe Way in the North with Hengrove Way in the South. The land rises steeply from the North to the South and the valley sides consist of a mix of open grassed areas and wooded areas with the occasional footpath.

The site is an attractive open space with high wildlife and ecological value due to its riparian setting, wooded slopes and varied topography. The site already provides good amenity value although this is constrained by the sense of isolation due to the lack of surveillance from adjacent properties and clear views of access and egress routes. There is the potential to enhance the amenity value and sense of safety by improving surveillance and providing facilities for picnicking and interaction with the lake and stream.

Footpaths are predominantly bitmac and vary in their condition with some awkward cambers. The narrower pedestrian paths tend to be in poorer condition than the wider bitmac path that is used as a cycle route connecting Hengrove way with the Hartcliffe Way. Due to the gradient of this route there are reports that cyclists tend to cycle too fast here, this could be addressed by landscape interventions - chicanes or rumble strips, designed to reduce the speed of cyclists.

Strategically the site contributes to the green infrastructure of Bristol City, providing a physical and visual connection with other green routes and open spaces such as northwards to the Malago and Bedminster and southwards away from the city through Wilmot Park to the Dundry hills. There is an opportunity to strengthen and improve these strategic connections for both cyclists and pedestrians.

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Elevated views form an important landscape element within the site and some provide panoramic long distance views of the city. Other elevated positions within the park also afford good local views within the site, across the valley bottom with its lakes and stream. It is proposed that benches are installed at some of these view points to encourage people to utilise the space for longer periods of time.

The area of the site between Headley Lane, Broadleas and Hartcliffe Way is managed by the Allotments Team and is currently used as grazing land and it is anticipated that this use will continue for the foreseeable future.

## 3.5 Natural Heritage

Crox Bottom is a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI). This is a designation that means that the area is protected as an important area for wildlife and geology. This level of designation is often referred to as a 'non statutory wildlife site'. The site consists of a wooded stream valley and two associated ponds along with areas of woodland, scrub hay meadow and amenity grassland. Some of the grassland is unimproved (low nutrient) with good species diversity and includes admixtures of both calcareous (lime loving) and more prevalent neutral grassland.

An Ecological Management Statement (2011 - 2014) has recently been produced for the site and includes the following Statement of Intent:

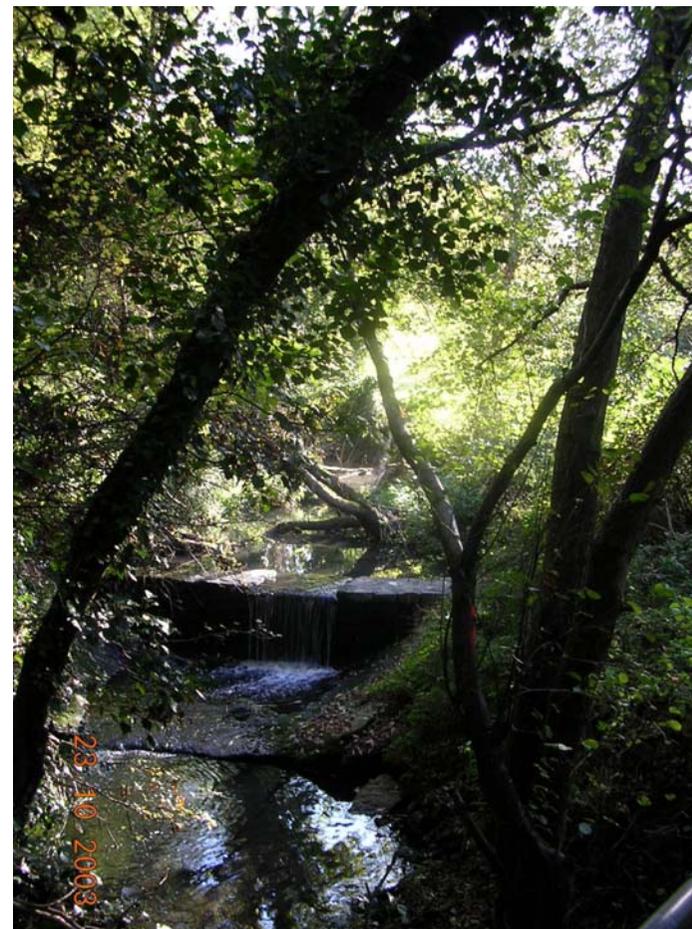
- To maintain and enhance unimproved meadows by appropriate management
- To reduce and control scrub encroachment onto meadows
- To thin scrub encroachment at margins to pond
- To cut areas of scrub by 30-50% and allow to regenerate, to create diversity of age and structure
- To minimise colonisation by non-native trees in ancient woodland areas
- Install appropriate placed bird and bat boxes to enhance wildlife value

34 tree and shrub species were recorded between 1984-2005 and 94 species of herbaceous plants have been recorded including potential ancient woodland indicator species (AWTs) which include Yellow Archangel, Bluebell, Honeysuckle and Wood Dock. Plants recorded in the ponds include Trifid Bur Marigold and Fennel Pondweed.

Over 70 species of birds have been recorded in Crox Bottom including Song Thrush, House Sparrow and Bullfinch. Dragonflies and Damselflies have been recorded along with 25 species of butterfly between 1983 and 1993 and six butterfly species recorded in 2005. Mammals in evidence include mink (2005) fox and badger (2005 and 2010) and water voles and weasels. European moles had previously been recorded

between 1983-93.

Crox Bottom would benefit from a full Ecological Survey to bring all the information gathered over the years up to date.



Photograph by Keith Way

# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

## 4 Community use

### 4.1 How local people use the site

According to a survey of local people in January 2012 most people used Crox Bottom in the following ways - for dog walking, cycling, as an access route or cut through, for walking, watching wildlife, photography or for picnics. There are also groups of young people regularly using the site for socialising and as a place to hang out particularly in school holidays. A main aim of this document is to increase the level of use of Crox Bottom making it a safer and more usable space for all.

### 4.2 Anti Social Behaviour

Due to a lack of passive surveillance opportunities the site does suffer from some anti social behaviour. Consultation undertaken for the Parks and Green Space Strategy has found that peoples' priorities for parks include keeping spaces clean and free of litter and dog mess and preventing vandalism. Wooden picnic benches that were previously installed in Crox Bottom were set on fire some 15 years ago. More robust metal picnic benches and a standard park bench were installed in June 2012.

Litter is collected by Bristol Parks contractors but rubbish often accumulates in the water and often larger objects such as shopping trolleys are deliberately dumped. Littering is a serious

problem within parks and green spaces and can detract hugely from the quality of a space. This problem can be worse during summer months when larger numbers of people use parks and open spaces particularly on sunny days. Reducing excess litter requires a multi-faceted approach involving education, sufficient provision of bins, adequate emptying of bins and raising awareness of potential prosecution. Fly-tipping is also becoming a greater problem in parks. Rubbish will usually be removed from site as quickly as possible. The number and location of bins within a park are crucial to ensuring litter is disposed of properly and is easily collectable. In June 2012 two additional bins were installed in Crox Bottom in locations adjacent to the main path and in close proximity to the picnic benches which should help to reduce the problem of littering.

Findings from research and consultation has identified a significant concern about the level of dog mess and dogs being walked off a lead, particularly from disabled people, children and parents/carers with young children.

Although poop scoop campaigns such as one carried out in Bedminster and Southville in 2007 have improved the situation, education alone has not delivered a suitable solution. Policies within the Parks and Green Space Strategy aim to retain adequate and legitimate access for dog owners, but to deal decisively with the problem.

It is proposed that provision of dual use bins in appropriate locations, and ongoing education will help to reduce this problem.

It is recognised that most dog owners are fully in control of their dogs but the degree to which this problem (created by a significant minority) affects visitors shouldn't be underestimated.

Anti social behaviour needs to be addressed both through physical measures and better surveillance but ultimately it will take a multi agency approach to reduce anti social behaviour in the park. The police, anti social behaviour teams and experts from across Bristol City Council now focus on the issues of anti-social behaviour in parks and green spaces. Communication between organisations and teams has improved significantly. This has enabled a more coordinated approach to tackling anti-social behaviour. It is important that incidences of ASB are reported to the Police.

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## 4.3 Visitor Facilities

In response to requests from local people additional park furniture and signage was installed on site in June 2012. This included 2 picnic benches, one standard park bench, 2 new bins, a finger post sign, new entrance signs at the two main entrance points off Hengrove Way and Hartcliffe Way and a pagoda entrance feature at the Hengrove Way entrance. Further improvements such as interpretation panels are included in this plan for future installation as and when funding becomes available.

## 4.4 Consultation

There has been considerable consultation with local people about how this space could be improved. A report produced by Peter Milner in 2007 highlights a number of potential improvement to Crox Bottom including better links with surrounding green spaces, better interpretation of the site, seating, signage and access points as well as possible opportunities to increase use of the site by local schools.

In 2010 consultation was undertaken as part of the Area Green Space Plan to formulate options for the site. This also identified the need for improved links with surrounding residential areas and green spaces along with improved signage, the importance of managing the site for wildlife and people and the need for a management plan.

Further consultation in January 2012 with local residents identified a number of improvements

including better pruning of trees and brambles, better clearing of paths, removal of rubbish, more involvement of children in the site, improved signage including warning signs for cyclists to slow down.

## 4.5 Community Groups and Other Interested Organisations

It is crucial for the success of this management plan that a Friends of Crox Bottom group is formed. There is a strong base of local people who have an interest in the site for a variety of different reasons and it is important that this shared interest is represented through a constituted group.

A Friends of group allows the community to take a degree of responsibility for the site and to have an active involvement in its management. With the support of BCC officers the friends group can:

- Organise work parties and volunteers to improve the park in specific ways such as litter collection and vegetation control.
- To influence and advise on the development of the site.
- Run events in the park providing opportunities for local people to become more involved in the space.
- Record and research wildlife.
- Guided walks and talks.
- Report antisocial behaviour.
- Fundraise for events and site improvements.

- Consult local people about future improvements.
- Promoting the space.
- Producing leaflets about the site and information for inclusion in the park sign boards.

In July 2012 local residents entered Crox Bottom into the Royal Horticultural Society It's Your Neighbourhood Awards in which Crox Bottom achieved a level of Developing and was commended as demonstrating how local ownership can help shape and preserve valuable open space.

## 4.6 Access and Green Space Links

The location of Crox Bottom makes it an important link to other green spaces nearby. Improvements to the footpath network and better access and signage will help to strengthen this and increase use of the paths by walkers and cyclists. If in future the wider path network continues to be strengthened this will lead to the creation of a green transport and recreational network across south Bristol of which Crox Bottom will be an important part.

See plan on the next the page.

## 4.7 Constraints

The implementation of the proposed improvements in this plan will be subject to funding being made available with which to carry out the proposals. Some funding may become available through planning agreements from local developments. Other funding will

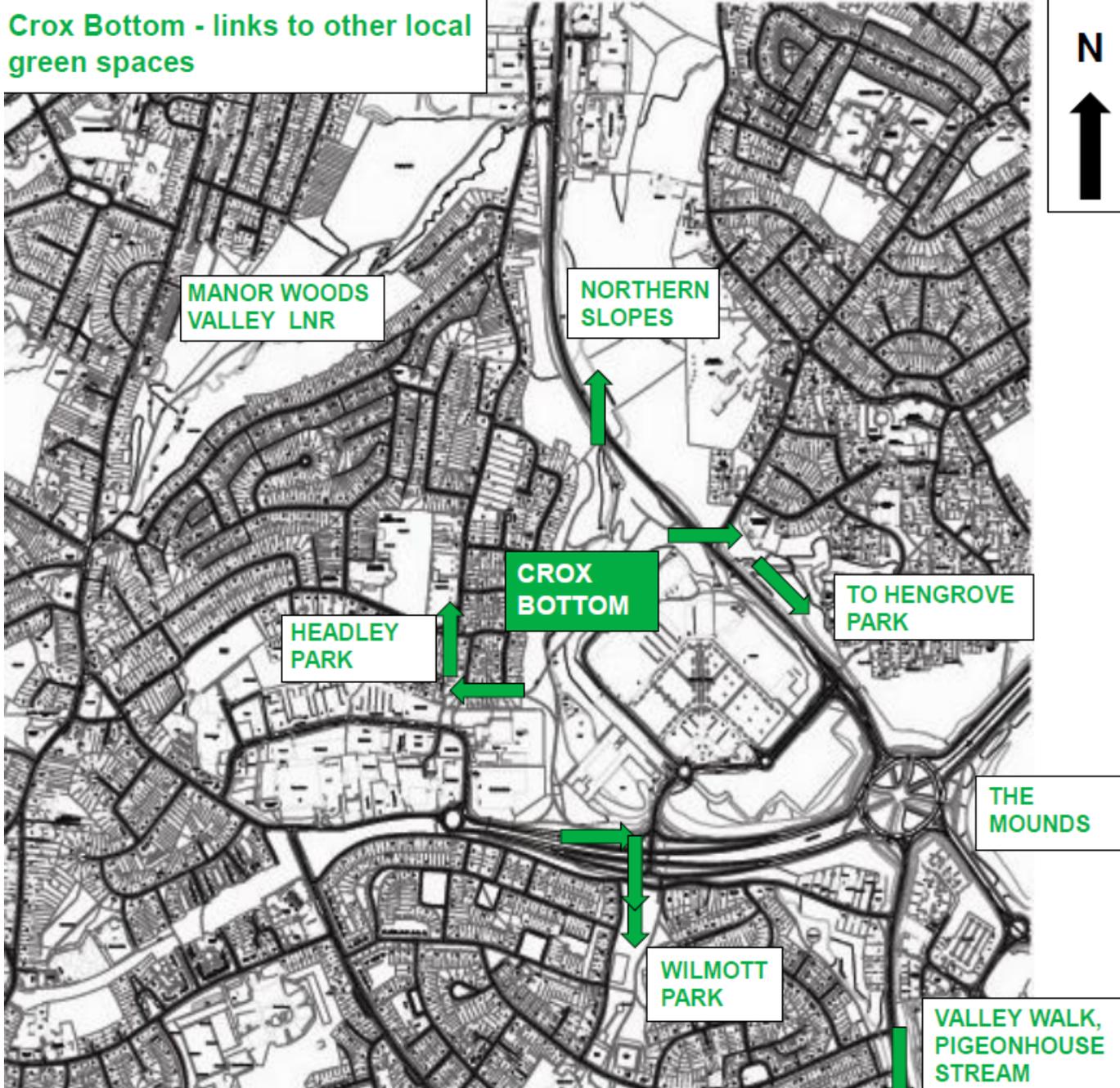
# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

need to be applied for from external organisations for specific improvements. The Council is committed to improving its parks and will seek funding from numerous sources in order to achieve this aim. This will be done in consultation with the Friends of Crox Bottom and other community based groups.

The costs shown in the 5 year work plan are estimates and do not include any additional design fees and project management fees that may be incurred during implementation. In addition some proposals such as the creation of entrances into Imperial Park may require specific consents to be obtained.

## 4.8 Children and Young People

An important way of fostering positive attitudes towards this space is through children being involved in the site through school projects. A proposal within this plan is to install a pond-dipping platform adjacent to the lake which could allow investigation of the watercourse and its ecosystem.



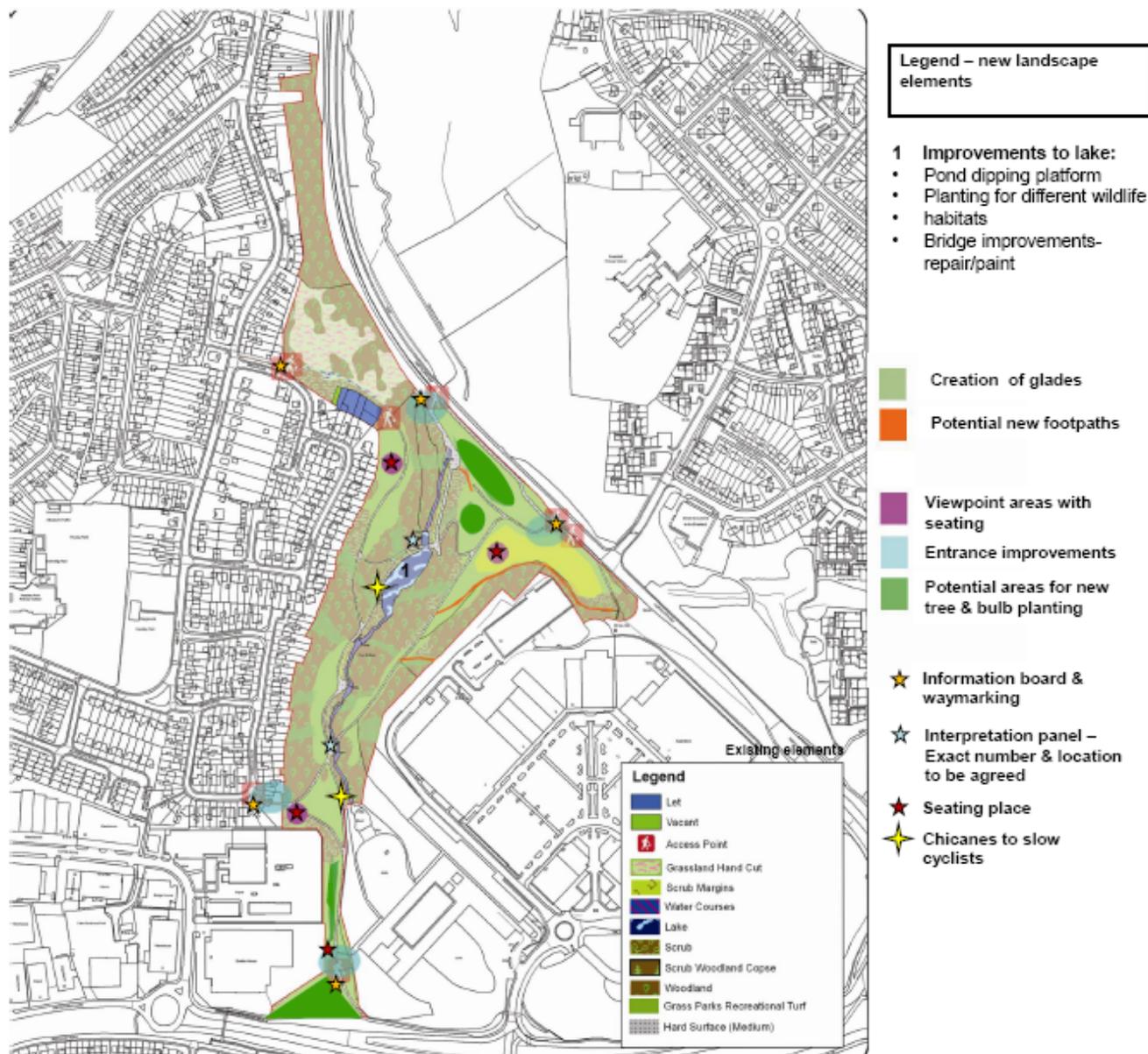
# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

## 5 Proposals

In May 2012 funding became available through the Neighbourhood Partnership to enable a number of improvements to be made in Crox Bottom. These improvements were the subject of public consultation and agreed with local residents. The improvements included:

- Two new notice boards - one at Hartcliffe Way entrance and one at Hengrove Way entrance.
- A new pagoda feature at the Hengrove Way entrance and painting existing railings.
- Reprofilling a collapsed bank to recreate a former path that had been lost.
- Two new metal picnic tables.
- Two new litter / dog waste bins.
- A way marking finger post sign.
- A new bench over looking the weir.

This work will help to guide people through the site, provide opportunities to inform users about the site and encourage people to stay longer and visit the site more often. Further proposals to build on these initial improvements are as follows.



# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

## 5.1 Entrances

It is important to clearly mark the two main entrances to Crox Bottom (Hartcliffe Way and Hengrove Way) to let people know they are entering a managed space and also to highlight the existence of the area to passers by who may not know of it. This can be achieved through strong visual elements such as the pagoda feature at the Hengrove Way entrance. A similar feature should be installed at the Hartcliffe Way entrance. It is also important that surfaces here are in good condition and well maintained.

The Hengrove Way entrance area in particular could be improved with additional tree and bulb planting.

More minor entrances such as that at Durville Road should also be enhanced. In particular this entrance should be more inviting to the public and should show the way to Crox Bottom through improved signage and waymarking. The narrow entrance way should be improved by repairing the boundary wall and providing visual interest such as a wall mosaic or mural.

An additional entrance could be created into Imperial Park with signage and entrance features.

At certain entrances and in particular at Novers Lane opportunities exist for motorbikes to access the site. Measures should be taken to reduce these opportunities and as far as it is

possible ensure that motorbikes cannot access the site at all.

## 5.2 Path Improvements

To aid access and encourage greater use of Crox Bottom the path network needs to be in good condition, free from litter and vegetation, well signposted and accessible to all. At present some paths have a very steep gradient. These should be realigned to make access with buggies and wheel chairs possible. The existing cycle path provides a good link through the site but cyclists often travel too fast through the space particularly toward the Hartcliffe way entrance which can cause problems for pedestrians and children. It is proposed that appropriate measures are made to the path to force cyclists to slow down.

In order to aid circulation around the site and encourage greater pedestrian use it is proposed that a number of new footpaths are created. These are marked in blue on the Path Improvement plan on page 18. It is also proposed that there are better links and access to Imperial Park which will provide greater access for local people. It is also proposed to upgrade the path from Broadleas across the grazing land into Crox Bottom.

Footpath improvements should be made to provide better links and access from the site to all surrounding areas and in particular Headley Park and Imperial Park.

## 5.3 Woodland Management and Creation of Glades

The Ecological Management Statement (2011 - 2014) recently produced for Crox Bottom includes a proposal to minimise colonisation by non-native trees in ancient woodland areas. Along with this it is proposed that glades or clearings are created within the areas of vegetation on the higher ground along the back of the houses on Durville Road. Through the management of woodland areas it will be possible to increase wildlife value and diversity, increase surveillance of Crox Bottom, improve safety and provide educational opportunities.

Glades and other open spaces are very important structural elements within woodland, providing valuable habitat for a wide range of wildlife. A diverse range of sun-loving plants and insects benefit from sunny open areas, often reminiscent of communities in unimproved grassland, heath land or other open habitats. In contrast, other insects, plants, birds and mammals benefit from the woodland edge.

One advantage of glades is that larger patches of habitat can be maintained. Felling one or more corners around a ride intersection is probably the easiest way of creating and maintaining glades.

The creation of clearings/glades will allow greater surveillance throughout the site. Glades can be created that allow residents of

# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

## Detailed path improvements plan

### General objectives:

- Remove moss and clean surfaces to reduce slipperiness on slopes
- Repair damage to tarmac – potholes, cracks, fire damage
- Alter camber
- To ensure some paths are DDA compliant i.e 1:20 gradient with landing stages every 20m
- Chicanes to slow cyclists
- New paths, some bitmac and/or hoggin or wood chip though wooded areas as less physical and visual impact.

### New footpaths

Blue lines show potential new footpath routes. These can be bitmac, hoggin or loose fill to suit location.

Minimum width 1.2m

Timber or PC edge to suit location and type of surface

Existing paths to be improved



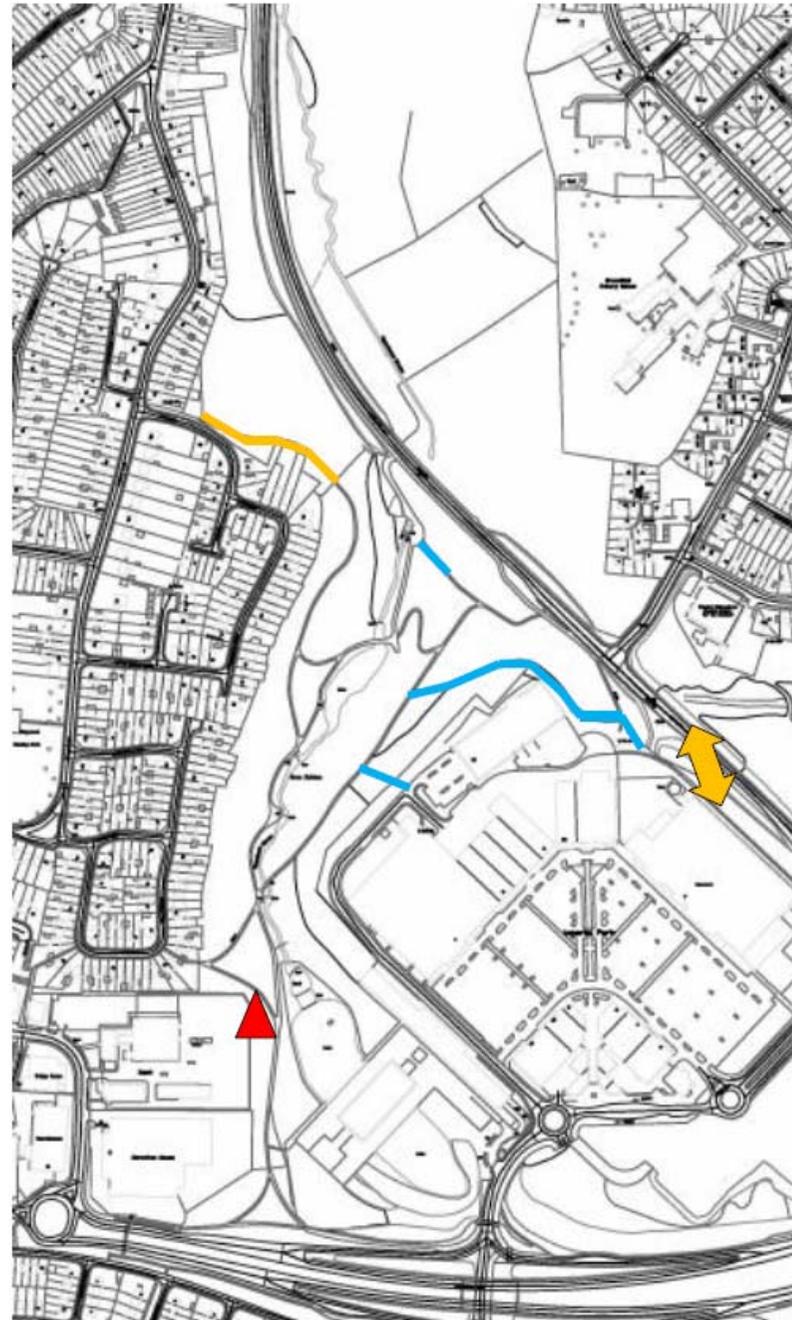
### New links

Create footpath links to retail park to allow greater accessibility on foot/bicycle for residents at Hengrove Park



### Safety and accessibility

Alter camber to path to reduce risk to pedestrians and make more accessible to more users



properties that adjoin the site views into and across the site thus ensuring the site is overlooked. The public are therefore more likely to use the site and linger, e.g. stopping for picnics if they feel less isolated i.e. they can gain glimpses of the boundary and neighbouring properties. Clear sight lines to pathways and exits can also help increase the perceived sense of safety.



Glades & woodland management



# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

## 5.4 Lake and Watercourse Improvements

Lakes and ponds are fascinating habitats containing a large number of different plants and animals. The invertebrates found vary from large airborne insects like dragonflies, down to small slimy flatworms and their comparatively alien nature makes them a source of fascination for children. They are also a major asset when it comes to teaching the primary curriculum, providing opportunities to teach most topics within SC2 (life processes and living things).

There is an opportunity to construct new and improve existing access areas and enhance the wetland habitat. This could be achieved by using a combination of boardwalks and platforms to allow the public greater access and interaction with the water. Tree surgery works, including willow pollarding and coppicing, poplar crown reductions as well as other tree safety works will allow visibility and safety. The ponds can also be enhanced through the planting of reed beds and reed bed management and invasive vegetation clearance.

Regular clearance of the build up of silt will also help to improve the habitat for wildlife.



**Improvements to lake**  
Boardwalk and reed beds to encourage wildlife diversity and opportunities for interaction and education

# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

## 5.5 Tree Planting

It is proposed that a tree planting plan is devised in conjunction with Tree Bristol. Locations for planting more trees on the site will be identified along with the proposal to plant more trees at the Hengrove Way entrance. Approximately 10-15 new trees could be planted on this site. These trees will be planted as part of the Tree Bristol programme.

## 5.6 Park Furniture

It is important to ensure there is a balance between provision of sufficient park furniture but at the same time not over cluttering the space with too many fixed items of park furniture in what is essentially a natural green space.

It is proposed that new benches are installed at 3 view points to provide a resting point and encourage people to stay longer. A new bin is required at the entrance on Hartcliffe Way and as the site has such an interesting past and varied wildlife a number of interpretation and information panels could be installed.



Viewpoint 2 – North distant views towards and across city

# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

## 6 Management and Resources

### 6.1 People with Responsibilities for Crox Bottom

The day-to-day management of Crox Bottom rests within the operations section of the Parks and Estates Service. The Grounds Maintenance Manager (GMM) is responsible for Parks and Operations across the city including delivery of relevant council policies. The GMM has assistance from Area Park Managers (APMs) that look after an area of the city each and hold the budgets for their specific areas. Their role is to assist the GMM to deliver policy, manage all changes and monitor day-to-day maintenance to ensure that there is one standard for high quality ground maintenance across the city. Each APM manages an assistant who will support their work and alongside park keepers act as the first point of contact for the service users.

Area Environment Officers (AEO) work with the local community and neighbourhood to develop ideas and proposals for improving the local environment.

The Nature Conservation Officer (NCO) has responsibility for providing ecological advice and supporting Crox Bottom as an important wildlife site in Bristol.

Any complaints about parks in Bristol can be made directly to Bristol Parks 0117 922 3719 or

by email to [bristol.parks@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:bristol.parks@bristol.gov.uk). These complaints are then logged and dealt with by the relevant officer in order of priority.

### 6.2 Contractors

Parks and Open Space maintenance is undertaken by external contractors. At present Quadron are the contractors employed to maintain Crox Bottom. Their current contract, which started in February 2010, is a 5 year contract with an option to extend this for another 5 years depending on performance.

The main duties of the team are maintenance of the following features: hedges, hard surface sweeping, herbaceous areas, shrubs, litter bin emptying, dog waste bin emptying, pressure washing of seats once a year, reporting of any damage to the Area Park Manager, attempt to remove any graffiti or report to Area Park Manager for further investigation.

### 6.3 Specifications

(Copies are available at the Bristol Parks Office in Brunel House)

The present grounds maintenance specifications uses performance or standards based criteria. The in-house team monitor and report on the success of the operations and the Area Park Manager (APM) also checks the work on site.

### 6.4 Resources

#### Existing Expenditure and Resources

Grounds maintenance is presently carried out to a specification that was written by the client (Bristol Parks and Estates Service) and implemented through Quadron.

Planned Maintenance is work carried out through the grounds maintenance contract every year such as litter picking and the current cost (2012) for this site amounts to £9,004.67 p.a.

Response Works e.g. vandalism repairs or fly-tipping is dealt with by the APM.

#### Other Support

In addition to the APM who has control over day-to-day site management through the contractor, there is technical and specialist support for arboriculture and natural environment provided through the Parks Service. Support for archaeology, planning etc. is also supplied through other parts of the Council.

#### Income

**Additional (new) expenditure and resources** These can be categorised as either financial or as people and their skills.

# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

## Financial

Capital expenditure can be sought through:

- Contributions from local development
- Grant aid from external bodies.
- Sponsorship
- Donations of materials e.g. wood for steps or fences.

Revenue expenditure is more difficult to raise, because it is an ongoing commitment.

However, it is possible to seek it through:

- Annual sponsorship of particular events such as education.
- Grant aid.

## People and their Skills

Volunteers are becoming more important to both local government and private institutions as an important resource. There may well be training and health and safety issues but these are more than offset by the benefits.

## 6.5 Standards

Quality Standards for grounds maintenance are written into the Contract with Quadron. This is available to view at the Parks and Estates Office, Brunel House. The measuring of standards is undertaken through contract monitoring. The specification details the quality and frequency of work tasks and this is monitored and recorded by the APM team.

## 6.6 Publicity and Promotion

It is important to promote any events being held in the park as well as any achievements made or funding received for the site.

Positive promotion about the site can:

- raise the profile of the park to local people
- increase the use of the park to improve safety
- generate interest in the natural environment to protect and enhance the site for future generations.

Publicity and promotion can be done in a number of ways but is most effective if carried out by the Friends of Crox Bottom. The two notice boards installed at two main entrances to Crox Bottom act as a space for the promotion of events and work parties in Crox Bottom and can also be used to display other information about the site.

A good way to promote the park locally is through the production of leaflets about the site such as its history or wildlife. These are often produced to accompany guided walks. In other parks these have been produced by the Friends group with support from BCC officers.

It is important to publicise events and improvements to the park through the local press. This helps to raise awareness of the site and encourage local people to get involved.

Some Friends of Groups have their own web site which is a good way to promote events and

inform local people of any work planned for the park.

There are currently no interpretation panels in Crox Bottom. However there are stories to be told about Crox Bottom and it is intended to provide interpretation that promotes understanding and appreciation of the area. Information about water power and mills, flooding and flood prevention, wildlife, WD and HO Wills and the Malago Greenway could all be presented in an engaging manner that would add to the richness of a visit to Crox Bottom.

## 6.7 Bristol Parks Forum

Bristol Parks Forum (BPF) is a network of individual community groups and organisations that are working to improve parks and green spaces or have an interest in them. It is supported by the Parks and Estates Service but acts independently. It has around 80 members representing many different neighbourhoods and green spaces across Bristol. Membership is free. If a Friends Group for Crox Bottom is formed it is recommended that they become members of the BPF.

# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

## 6.8 Sustainability (Including Pesticides Policy & EMAS)

### Environmental Strategy

Bristol City Council is committed to improving the local environment and helping to protect it for the future. We recognise that our wide range of activities and services have positive and negative impacts upon the environment, and that we have a leading role to play in creating a sustainable city. To achieve this goal an Environmental Policy is in place and an environmental management system was implemented in 2006 called EMAS ('Environment Management Audit Scheme'). EMAS is an independently verified system that ensures that significant environmental impacts are monitored and managed, and overall environmental performance is continually improved. The Environment and Leisure Department is EMAS registered, as part of the corporate system.

Most aspects of Crox Bottom come within the remit of EMAS, and are open to external audit. Each Section and Department within the City Council is required to keep their own environmental register of principle environmental legislation; to be aware of the parts of the corporate register that apply; and to know how to keep up to date with new developments. Parks are using the legislation register originally compiled by the Landscape Design team, and will continue to customise this.

The council also subscribes to a quarterly database that is available on the intranet called CEDREC to enable departments to keep up to date with legislation. See Appendix 2 for headline targets of the Environmental Policy and EMAS actions relevant to operations on Crox Bottom.

## 6.9 Risk Assessments

Risk Assessments are filed at the Parks and Estates Office in Brunel House.

The Parks and Estates Service also has a Health and Safety Support Pack that is used to ensure that all works carried out on site by volunteer groups are carried out safely. Copies are available to view at Brunel House. This involves training individuals to carry out risk assessments in advance of the work that are countersigned by the APM and how to give a talk on tool use before every work party starts work. No work should be carried out unless such a trained person is present on site.

## 7 The 5 year work plan

The 5-year work programme will be subject to change from outside influences, including pressure from site users, from the results of surveys or monitoring and the availability of finance. Therefore it will be reviewed annually so that it remains a 5-year programme. Some objectives have been identified as being desirable but they cannot be scheduled at present until finance has been identified.

### 7.1 Table of Aims & Objectives

Source of funding: E= Existing resources, e.g. officer wages  
R = Revenue budget (s) as indicated,  
C = combination of Capital / Grant  
O = Other (S106 or external source)

Some of the costs associated with the maintenance of the site are included in the grounds maintenance specification held by BCC. These are highlighted in the table with a \*.

GMM = Grounds Maintenance Manager  
APM = Area Parks Manager  
FoCB = Friends Of Crox Bottom  
MT = Monitoring Team  
NCO = Nature Conservation Officer  
PO = Projects Officer  
AEO = Area Environment Officer

# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

<b>Aim 1</b>									
<b>To provide suitable facilities and opportunities for public enjoyment of the site, for present and future generations of Bristolians, providing that these do not conflict with nature conservation requirements.</b>									
<b>Actions</b>	<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>LEAD</b>	<b>Y1</b>	<b>Y2</b>	<b>Y3</b>	<b>Y4</b>	<b>Y5</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Source</b>
1.1	Form a constituted Friends of Crox Bottom Group.	AEO	#	-	-	-	-	£0	-
1.2	Organise events programme and publicise locally.	FoCB	#	#	#	#	#	tbc	R / C
1.3	Maintain existing litter and dog waste bins on site and ensure sufficient provision of bins throughout the site.	APM	#	#	#	#	#	tbc	R
1.4	Maintain existing seats on site and ensure sufficient provision of benches throughout the site.	APM	#	#	#	#	#	tbc	R
1.5	Monitor levels of litter on site and clear as and when necessary. In particular clear rubbish accumulating in the water course.	APM	#	#	#	#	#	tbc	R
1.6	Install benches for the three view points.	APM	-	#	-	-	-	£2,940	R/O
<b>Aim 2</b>									
<b>To provide maximum opportunities for interpretation and encourage educational use of the site.</b>									
2.1	Produce and install on-site interpretation panels.	APM/ NCO	-	#	-	-	-	£2000 each	O
2.2	Maintain and update information on BCC website.	APM	#	#	#	#	#	£0	-
2.3	Create a website for Crox Bottom.	FoCB	#	-	-	-	-	£0	-
2.4	Produce information leaflets that can be downloaded from a Crox Bottom website.	FoCB/ NCO	#	#	#	#	#	£0	-
2.5	Produce downloadable information on the history and ecology of the site specifically aimed at school children and encourage greater use of the site by local schools.	FoCB/ NCO	#	-	-	-	-	-	O

# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

<b>Aim 3</b>									
<b>To encourage greater community involvement in the site and in particular the active involvement in the care and management of the site.</b>									
<b>Actions</b>	<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>LEAD</b>	<b>Y1</b>	<b>Y2</b>	<b>Y3</b>	<b>Y4</b>	<b>Y5</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Source</b>
3.1	Display notices on site informing people of working parties and how to contact both the council and the friends group.	APM & FoCB	#	#	#	#	#	£0	-
3.2	Establish programme of working party events and publicise.	AEO & FoCB	#	#	#	#	#	tbc	-
3.3	Tree Planting as part of Tree Bristol initiative at Hartcliffe Way Plant approximately 15 trees.	Tree Bristol	#	-	-	-	-	£300 per tree	Tree Bristol
3.4	Promote achievements and events through the local press.	FoCB	#	#	#	#	#	£0	-
<b>Aim 4</b>									
<b>To encourage greater biodiversity within the site and assist organisations or individuals with any ecological research and surveys.</b>									
4.1	Undertake an Ecological Survey of the site.	NCO	-	#	-	#	-	£990	O
4.2	Undertake Botanical survey of the pond edge and monitor cleanliness of the watercourse and levels of wildlife in it.	FoCB	-	#	-	-	-	£990	O
4.3	Carry out dragonfly and damselfly surveys along Pigeonhouse Stream and ponds.	NCO	-	#	-	-	-	£660	O
4.4	Undertake bat survey along scrub and woodland edge and review number and location of bird and bat boxes. Additional boxes.	NCO	-	#	-	-	-	£660	O
4.5	Organise bird and bat box making workshops and install.	NCO/ FoCB	-	#	-	-	-	£300	O
4.6	Carry out regular Invertebrate Surveys and Butterfly Transects.	NCO	-	#	-	-	-	£1400	O
4.7	Clearance of glades to diversify wildlife habitats and for better surveillance of the site.	APM	-	-	#	-	-	£3000	O
4.8	Regular clearance of silt from watercourses.	APM					#		

# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

<b>Aim 5</b>									
<b>To ensure that Crox Bottom is safe and accessible to all within the natural constraints of the site.</b>									
<b>Actions</b>	<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>LEAD</b>	<b>Y1</b>	<b>Y2</b>	<b>Y3</b>	<b>Y4</b>	<b>Y5</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Source</b>
5.1	Carry out regular health and safety audits.	MT	#	#	#	#	#	*	E
5.2	Cut back vegetation adjacent to and overhanging footpaths and entrances and keep clear of leaves during autumn.	APM	#	#	#	#	#	*	R
5.3	Ensure that paths are in a suitable condition for use by wheelchairs and pushchairs.	APM	#	#	#	#	#	*	R
5.4	Implement programme of footpath repair work, regrade any steep gradients and access improvements.	PO	-	#	-	-	-	£10,100	C
5.5	Install pedestrian direction signs from surrounding roads and throughout the site to aid pedestrian movement.	APM	-	#	-	-	-	£1,600	E
5.6	Upgrade Hartcliffe Way entrance with pagoda, surface repairs and a new bin.	APM	-	-	#	-	-	£6000	E
5.7	Improvements to Durville Road Entrance.	APM	-	#	-	-	-	£3000	O
5.8	Create new entrance to Imperial Park Retail Park.	APM	-	-	#	-	-	£5000	O
5.9	New footpaths as shown on Footpath Plan.	APM	-	-	#	-	-	tbc	O
5.10	Upgrade path through allotments land from Broadleas into Crox Bottom.	APM	-	-	#	-	-	£5000	O
5.11	Install measures to reduce speed of cyclists.	APM	-	#	-	-	-	£3,000	O
<b>Aim 6</b>									
<b>To ensure that antisocial behaviour is controlled and its impacts reduced.</b>									
6.1	Repair any fence or gate, which may allow vehicular access within 20 days of being reported.	APM	#	#	#	#	#	*	R
6.2	Report anti-social activity on site to police.	ALL	#	#	#	#	#	*	E
6.3	Wherever possible, engage with all users of the site e.g. dog walkers and young people to explain the value and importance of the site to them and to hopefully recruit them to assist in encouraging behaviour that is socially aware.	ALL	#	#	#	#	#	*	E
6.4	Create glades to aid surveillance from rear of Durville Road properties.	APM	-	-	#	-	-		O
6.5	Install fence and gate at Novers Lane entrance to deter motorbikes from entering the site.	APM			#			£5000	O

# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

<b>Aim 7</b> <b>To ensure that Crox Bottom is well managed, and well resourced, balancing all the various public uses with the wildlife and natural value of the site.</b>									
Actions	OBJECTIVE	LEAD	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	£	Source
7.1	Remove graffiti on site within 24 hours of it being reported unless specialist equipment is required.	APM	#	#	#	#	#	£156 per visit *	R
7.2	Remove burnt out vehicles within 24 hours of being reported, dependent on location and conditions.	APM	#	#	#	#	#	£208 per vehicle *	R
7.3	Remove fly-tipped litter within 2 days of being reported.	APM	#	#	#	#	#	£312 per visit	R
7.4	Recycle as much litter as possible when carrying out litter picks.	Con-tractor	#	#	#	#	#	*	R
<b>Aim 8</b> <b>Over Arching Actions</b>									
8.1	Audit the site from the EMAS perspective.	APM	#	#	#	#	#	£520	E
8.2	Revise the 5-year work plan.	APM	#	#	#	#	#	£520	E
8.3	Review the management plan.	GMM	-	-	-	-	#	£1,040	E
8.4	Review SNCI status with a view to applying for LNR status in the future.	NCO	-	-	-	-	#	£520	E

## Appendix 1—Local and national policies

### Local Policies

#### Overview

This Management Plan complements the wider strategic context of Bristol City Council and its partners. It seeks to achieve the objectives of the strategic framework by translating those that are appropriate to Crox Bottom.

#### Anti-social behaviour Strategy 2008-11

To reduce anti-social behaviour in Bristol by working together in partnership with citizens to improve quality of life and to create safer, peaceful, tolerant communities.

#### Bristol Development Framework

Bristol City Council is producing a new suite of planning documents to guide development decisions in the city over a 20-year period. Together these documents make up the Bristol Development Framework (BDF), which will gradually replace the Local Plan. Documents in the BDF are shorter than the Local Plan and can be produced and reviewed independently as required. A programme for preparation of these documents can be found in the Local Development Scheme (see below).

#### Bristol Biodiversity Action Plan (2008)

The Bristol Biodiversity Action Plan provides the over-arching framework for habitat and species conservation in Bristol. Importantly, it also recognises the benefits of wildlife to people and helps to identify ways to better promote, and engage people in, biodiversity conservation in the city.

#### Bristol City Council Corporate Plan

Increasing participation in sport and other physical activity.  
Improving recycling and waste management.  
Improving the cleanliness of the city

#### Bristol City Council Education Development Plan 2005-2006

Multiple actions about raising standards and increasing inclusion e.g. Raising attainment in Early Years and Primary Education.

# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

## **Bristol Climate Protection Action Plan**

Bristol has a wide range of parks, historic gardens, woodlands, nature reserves and open spaces that are rich in wildlife. Two are of international importance – the Severn Estuary and the Avon Gorge – although at present it is uncertain what the impacts of climate change will have on these sites. The indirect ones could include the need to construct more flood defences, thereby possibly damaging existing wildlife sites. Climate change could also lead to changes in water table levels, which could affect sensitive habitats and species.

## **Bristol Community Strategy**

### ***Vision for Bristol***

A city that realises its full potential and exerts influence appropriate to its status at the regional, national and European level;  
A modern, cosmopolitan, ambitious city at the heart of a prosperous and confident area that is the gateway to the South West;  
A diverse and accessible city made up of vibrant and balanced communities;  
Where everyone is valued and can thrive economically, culturally and socially;  
A safe city that promotes health, learning and sustainable development;  
A city where no one is disadvantaged.  
Implement cycling and walking schemes to provide alternative modes of transport to the car (Bristol City Council with partners).

## **Bristol Parks Service Delivery Plan 2009-2012**

## **Eco Management Auditing System (EMAS)**

## **Health Strategy 2006-2009**

## **The Joint Local Transport Plan 2006/7 - 2010/11 (The Walking Strategy)**

## **Parks and Green Space Strategy 2008 (See section 2.1.1)**

## **Playing for Real 2004 and Making Play Matter 2003**

## **Parks Wildlife Strategy**

## **Public Art Strategy**

## **Public Consultation Strategy 2001 and update 2004**

## **Safer Bristol Partnership Plan 2008-11**

## **Sustainable Energy Strategy Bristol City Council**

# A Management Plan for Crox Bottom

## National Policies

### CABE Space Guidance:

- A Guide to Producing Parks and Green Space Management Plans
- Adapting Public Space to Climate Change: Public Space Lessons
- Decent Parks? Decent Behaviour? The Link Between the Quality of Parks and User Behaviour
- Making contracts work for wildlife: how to encourage biodiversity in urban parks
- Parks need parkforce
- Parkforce fact pack
- The Value of Public Space: how high quality parks and public spaces create economic, social and environmental value

### Green Spaces Better Places

This is the final report of the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce published by the DTLR in 2002. The document provides a baseline assessment and comprehensive review of the state of public open spaces within England. The report highlighted a number of issues in relation to the decline of urban parks in England through a process of poor strategic planning, weak leadership, a lack of core and sustainable funding and the noticeable absence of information and data in order to inform the decision making process.

In the context of park management plans, the report formed the precursor for the renaissance of urban green spaces. The report established the need to invest in parks and open spaces and recognises the need that the open spaces have a much wider role to play in the local community in terms of the health, community safety and the social renewal agendas.

The Government's response to the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce was published in 2002 as part of the Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener document. This report set out to respond to the issues highlighted by the Green Spaces Better Places report and committed the Government to providing a Strategic Framework for the improvement and betterment of green spaces over the next five years. This is manifested in a Government Champion for parks and open spaces Cabe Space and the release of substantial funds for park renewal pilot schemes through the Liveability Fund.

### Developing Accessible Play Space

This good practice guide was published in 2003 by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to act as a reference for providing stimulating and accessible play for all children. With the Disability Discrimination Act the guide recognises that each child is different and that access to the social

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experience of play is key. The principal recommendation of the guide is 'that developers should concentrate on making the environment fit for the child'.

## **Parks and Green Spaces: Engaging the Community**

Published by Green Space (formerly the Urban Parks Forum) in July 2002, this local authority guide outlines the reason for engaging local communities and encouraging community participation in the management of parks and open spaces. The guide gives pragmatic advice on the benefits of involving people in the decision-making process and shows examples of how this can be achieved. In conclusion the guide suggests that:

## **The Park Keeper**

Compiled by English Nature, this short history contributes to the ongoing debate in relation to skills within the parks sector. This document charts the history of the park keeper and the changing role of curators, superintendent, foreman and gardeners and recognises their past skills and contribution to the legacy of public parks in England.

## **Park Life, Urban Parks and Social Renewal**

Published by Comedia and Demos in 1995, this report provides the first real assessment of the state of urban parks and green space and is the starting point of the current renaissance in urban parks. For the first time the wider social benefits of high quality open spaces were recognised and the need to invest and put open spaces and people at the heart of modern urban regeneration was documented.

## **Policy Planning Guidance 17**

Policy Planning Guidance 17 and the accompanying guide; assessing needs and opportunities, sets out the Government's objectives for delivering high quality and sustainable open spaces that meet the aspirations and needs of local communities. The long-term aims of this document are to deliver:

- Networks of accessible, high quality open spaces, which are both economically and environmentally sound and meet local need;
- An appropriate balance between new and existing open space provision;
- Clarity for developers in relation to the requirements and expectations of the local planning authorities.

Through PPG17, local planning authorities are now required to demonstrate that the local portfolio of public open spaces meets local demand based upon *quality, quantity, accessibility* and *primary purpose*.

- Community engagement is not about reaching an end point but is a dynamic process requiring high and sustained levels of involvement;
- It is important to establish the reason for engaging the community;
- Community based activities ought to compliment the aims of the organisation;
- Developing site management plans in partnership with the community helps to ensure ownership;
- Linking community groups together as part of a wider supportive umbrella can add more support to the local authority.

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## Appendix 2—Index of environmental legislation

<b>LD</b> Landscape Design Team		<b>Office Handbook</b>
Planning Transport and Sustainable Development, Bristol City Council		<b>Environmental Legislation</b>
<b>Index of Environmental Legislation: A – Z</b>		

<b>A</b>	<i>Air Quality Regulations, 2000</i>	Pollution Control - Air Quality
<b>B</b>	<i>Badgers, Protection of, Act 1992</i>	Protected Species
	<i>Biodiversity Action Plan, UK, 1994</i>	Biodiversity Action
<b>C</b>	<i>Circular 02/99: Environmental Impact Assessments, published DETR 12 March 1999</i>	Environmental Impact Assessments
	<i>Conservation (Natural Habitats, &amp; c.), Regulations, 1994</i>	Protection of habitats and species
	<i>Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000</i>	Common Land Public Rights of Way
<b>E</b>	<i>Education Act, 1996, s.508 -</i>	Facilities for recreation and social and physical training.
	<i>Environment Act, 1995</i>	Pollution Control - Air Quality
	<i>EU Council Directive 85/337/EEC(1)</i>	Environmental Impact Assessments
	<i>EU Council Directive 97/11/EC(1)</i>	Environmental Impact Assessments
<b>H</b>	<i>Habitats Regulations, 1994</i>	Protected Species
	<i>Hedgerow Regulations, 1997</i>	Protection of Hedgerows

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<b>L</b>	<i>Local Authorities (Recovery of Costs for Public Path Orders) Regulations, 1993 (SI 1993 No 407)</i>	Public Rights of Way
	<i>Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976</i>	Trees and Excavations
<b>N</b>	<i>National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949</i>	Local Nature Reserves
<b>P</b>	<i>Pollution Protection and Control (PPC) Act, 1999</i>	Pollution control agencies' responsibilities
	<i>Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004</i>	Planning System change, including Local Development Framework.
	<i>Protection of Badgers Act, 1992</i>	Protected Species
	<i>Public Path Orders Regulations, 1993 (SI 1993 No 11)</i>	Public Rights of Way
<b>R</b>	<i>Rights of Way Act, 1990</i>	Public Rights of Way
	<i>Road Traffic Act, 1988, s. 34</i>	Offence to drive vehicle on common land
<b>T</b>	<i>Town and Country Amenities Act, 1974</i>	Trees
	<i>Town and Country Planning Act, 1990</i>	Compulsory Purchase Orders Planning Obligations. Planning Process Public Rights of Way Tree Preservation
	<i>Town and Country Planning Act, 1990, s. 197</i>	Tree and Tree Group protection Trees in Conservation Areas
	<i>Town and Country Planning Act, 1990, s. 202</i>	Tree Preservation Orders, powers to make
	<i>Town and Country Planning Act, 1990, s. 210/1</i>	Punishment for damage or destruction of TPO tree.
	<i>Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act, 1985</i>	Woodland
	<i>Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales), Regulations 1999</i>	Environmental Impact Assessments
	<i>Town and Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999, SI 1999/1982</i>	Trees
	<i>Town and Country Planning (Public Path Orders) Regulations, 1993 (SI 1993 No 10)</i>	Public Rights of Way
<i>Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order) (Amendment) and (Trees in Conservation Areas) (Exempted Cases) Regulations 1975</i>	Tree and Tree Group protection Trees in Conservation Areas	

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<b>U</b>	<i>UK Biodiversity Action Plan, 1994</i>	Biodiversity Action
<b>W</b>	<i>Water Framework Directive</i>	
	<i>Water Industry Act, 1991</i>	Pollution Control - Pollution control agencies' responsibilities
	<i>Water Resources Act, 1991</i>	Pollution Control - Water Resources
	<i>Weeds Act, 1959</i>	Weed Control
	<i>Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981</i>	Areas of Special Protection Public Rights of Way Protected Species Trees

<b>File Ref:</b>	<b>Originator/Date: SH, 26.8.05</b>
	<b>Updated by:/ Date:</b>

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## Appendix 3—Approved pesticides

Only materials containing the following active ingredients shall be used. If for a specific problem an alternative pesticide is required then the contractor shall obtain the Supervising Officer's written agreement. The Unitary Authority Pesticide Management Group is responsible for the approval and authorisation of the pesticides used. This schedule of materials may be altered from time to time as a result of decisions taken by this group.

### Chemical Active Ingredient

Aluminium Ammonium Sulphate	Pirimicarb
Ammonium Sulphamate	Propyzamide
Bupirimate	Pyrethrins
Captan	Thiabendazole
Carbendazim	Thiophanate Methyl
Chlorothanil	Trichlopyr
Chlorpyrifos	
Cypermethrin	
Deltamethrin	
Dicamba	
Dichlobenil	
Dichlorophen	
Ferrous Sulphate	
Glyphosate	
Iprodione	
Maleic Hydrazide	
Mancozeb	
MCPA (with restrictions)	
Mecoprop (with restrictions)	
Metaldehyde	
Methiocarb	
Myclobutanil	
Oxycarboxin	
Pichloram	

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## Appendix 4—Environmental policy and EMAS

### **Providing leadership and support for environmental management within the Council through elected representatives and senior managers**

Support is given from the EMAS implementation team.

### **Providing for identification and compliance with all environmental legislation, policies and codes of practice relevant to our activities and services**

Maintain an updated environment register based on the one currently compiled by the Landscape Design team and ensure that it is maintained up to date and relevant.

Work with other directorates and management teams to ensure legislation relating to all aspects of Crox Bottom is complied with i.e. events, street scene, planning, waste management etc.

### **Continually improving overall environmental performance through the implementation and review of objectives and targets**

Annual review of the 5-year work plan

Annual review of EMAS Action Plan

### **Identifying and managing environmental aspects relevant to Council activities and services**

Improvement will occur through continual service and management plan review. Actions relevant to Crox Bottom will be identified, agreed, implemented and monitored through EMAS and the 5 year work plan.

The City Council Events and EMAS teams are currently seeking to identify policies and operations, to reduce the environmental impact of events.

### **Ensuring that the environmental consequences of all new policies and practices are assessed**

The service and management planning procedures will ensure that the introduction of any new policies and operations will be assessed for their environmental impacts. This will be undertaken through officer team meetings and management plan reviews. (See 8.0).

### **Prevention of pollution**

The council has a Pest Management Policy (see next section).

Standard corporate procedures for chemicals use and storage exist; these apply to all depots and operations

Contractor operations are discussed at regular monthly client-contractor meetings.

### **Minimising the effects of resource use by conserving water**

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## **Reducing the consumption of fossil fuels by conserving energy and promoting the use of renewable sources**

Vehicles and machinery are maintained to high standards to ensure that they are energy efficient. Service records are kept and monitored with Fleet Management. Investigate the use of bio fuels by events organisers.

## **Minimising the disposal of waste through reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery**

Develop recycling for all arisings and as much litter as possible.

Evaluate the arguments for and against the provision of litter bins and the cost thereof.

Used Oil will be disposed of through Fleet Management.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) timber will be specified for all repairs of benches, fences where appropriate etc, if locally grown timber is unavailable.

Metals removed from this site and others are collected in a skip and when full removed for recycling.

## **Evaluating and monitoring air, noise, water and land pollution, and influencing others to reduce such pollution**

Herbicides, chemicals, paints and other materials are all COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) regulated and usage is kept to a minimum. There is an approved chemical list.

## **Monitoring and protecting biodiversity**

The preferred option of the City Council timber policy is to source all timber from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

'Environmental Guidance for Landscape Design' will be prepared in 2007 for material specifications covering hard and soft work and will include guidance on materials, embodied energy, toxicity, use of pesticides, treatments, paints, drainage, material durability etc.

This will be reviewed against current material and maintenance specifications.

Develop wildlife monitoring program for Crox Bottom.

## **Encouraging suppliers and contractors to improve their environmental performance in order to reduce any detrimental environmental impact of the goods and services used by the Council. This will be achieved through the Council procurement strategy and by controlling the on-site activities of contractors**

'The Bristol First Guide to construction, planning and development' provides guidance for all construction and maintenance operations.

The relevant content will be extracted as a separate leaflet to be called 'Construction Sites - Environmental Good Practice'.

The City Council will ensure waste carrying contractors are chosen from the approved lists where their annually renewable waste carriers licenses and Waste Transfer Notes (WTN's) for removed material are regularly checked.

Contractors will be encouraged to explore green energy providers and undertake energy efficiency audits at offices and depots.

## **Actively involving our staff through training and awareness programmes to ensure that they improve their environmental performance**

The Parks and Estates Service will review and record all directly relevant training undertaken by City Council directorates with responsibility for Crox Bottom.

There are Environmental Awareness Representatives (EARS) in all departments that are kept up to date on all developments in environmental performance.

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## **Regularly reviewing and reporting on progress which will include producing an annual Environmental Statement for departments that have been verified**

Bristol Parks Management will provide input into the Environmental Statement and will make this available as appropriate for communication to stakeholders.

## **Communicating with interested parties and making this policy publicly available**

This management plan is available to the public and has been distributed to all stakeholders.

## **Pest Management Policy (Available to view at Brunel House)**

A Pest Management Policy has been produced in conjunction with Trade Unions, Safety Representatives and other representatives of the Council. The Policy has been adopted by Bristol City Council and is evidence of the Council's commitment to ensuring the safety and well being of all its employees.

The Council recognises and accepts its responsibility as an employer and will ensure as far as practicable the protection of employees, occupiers of its premises and the general public from exposure to harmful chemicals, and to minimise the impact of the use of such chemicals on the environment. All employees of the Council who use pesticides must abide by the Policy, which applies to all Departments of the Council.

## **Approved Pesticides**

Chemical usage is kept to a minimum. There is an approved pesticides list that is part of the contract specification (see Appendix 3).

## **Recycling**

All rubbish collected by working parties is sorted into materials for recycling.

## **Peat**

There is no peat usage at Crox Bottom.

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Cover image by Keith Way