



AGENDA ITEM 8

St George Neighbourhood Partnership (SGNP) Tuesday 25th March 2014

Report of: Rob Acton-Campbell – Environment Group Champion & Denise James Area Environment Officer.

Title: Environment Subgroup

Recommendation:

- 1- Note St George Park update
- 2- Note Dundry Park update
- 3- Note other issues subgroup members discussed

Part 1: St George Park Update

- 1- The sub-group met on Thursday 6th March at Meadow Vale community centre.
- 2- The group were aware that the St George Park Keeper, Marie, had left for a new job outside the Council at the end of the previous week. Marie's excellent work at the park will be greatly missed; we wish her well for the future.
- 3- The issues around fishing at St George Park lake were a major subject for discussion and the fact that Marie was not being replaced immediately was a cause for concern especially in respect of the log of incidents being kept up to date. The fishing permit scheme had been in operation for only six days at the time of our meeting, but we were told that so far no permits had been sold. The scheme aims to reduce injuries to wildlife while allowing some fishing to continue. It is a 12 month trial and if it does not succeed then the sub-group will be asking the Neighbourhood Partnership to consider an outright ban on fishing. It was noted that the success in implementing the ban on fishing during the close season from 15th March to 15th June would be a major test for the scheme. Full details of the scheme can be seen at www.stgeorgenp.org.uk/fishingpermits

- 4- It was reported that there had been six viewings so far by people interested in the lease of kiosk see www.stgeorgenp.org.uk/st-george-park-kiosk-tender Following flooding of the area around the kiosk some work has been done to improve the drainage.

Part 2: Dundry Park Update

- 5- The issue of the pedestrian gate to Dundry Park near Preddys Lane was again raised. This gate is now permanently locked. It was the view of the meeting that access to parks should not be restricted and that options should be considered for providing an access in this area either in the form of a kissing gate or perhaps a stile. It was agreed that moving the entrance away from the wall may be a better option by making ASB incidents less likely as users of the entrance would be more visible. Ideally the whole length of the fence should be replaced with something more attractive but it was accepted that this might prove too expensive.
- 6- Denise James reported that problems had become evident with the current design of kissing gate used by Bristol Parks and its use was being reviewed. It had therefore not been possible to get costs for possible new gates at Dundry or Meadow Vale and therefore no S106 requests would be made to the March NP meeting.

Part 3: Other issues discussed

- 7- Grenville Johnson updated the group on St George in Bloom, for more information see agenda item 11.
- 8- Progress with on-going S106 projects was reported, see the Devolved services report.
- 9- The sub-group was informed that the introduction of bye-laws for parks throughout Bristol would be considered by Full Council on 18th March.
- 10- There was a brief discussion about the TreePips project and the implication for tree planting plans. Friends of St George Park highlighted an area where they would like tree planting to take place.
- 11- It was felt that there had been an improvement in recent months in street cleaning. The possibility of arranging a 'deep clean' of individual streets was highlighted.

- 12- The group welcomed the Traffic & Transport proposal for a map showing public rights of way and green spaces in St George.
- 13- The group agreed that mass lift offs of sky lanterns should not be permitted at events licenced or funded by Bristol City Council. This followed concerns raised by this being advertised as part of a recent event at Meadow Vale.
- 14- The recent survey of dog fouling at Troopers Hill which showed that approximately one third of dog mess is not being picked up was noted and the planned day of action on Troopers Hill Field welcomed.