

Agenda Item 6(a)

BCR NP Parks Report for March 2017 meeting.

The corporate strategy proposes that Parks will in the future run at no cost to the council. Parks groups representatives from BCR parks attended the Bristol Parks Forum meeting on 28 January 2017 to discuss this with other parks groups.

The BPF committee has met with the Cabinet Member for Parks, and shared the parks groups' concerns about the viability of this proposal. They have responded to the corporate strategy consultation and through the Scrutiny Commission.

At the BCC/ Locality meeting on 4 February, it was suggested that all communities can generate funding for local parks by taking on responsibility for their community buildings, through Community Asset Transfer, or building new community assets on unused green space in the area, and running businesses that will bring in an income. We pointed out that this was not going to be possible in our area. This seemed to be the only option presented by Locality.

BPF is networking with other parks and green space groups and organisations across the country, where a number of studies have already been done into management models for parks. So far, no solution has been found which does not include council funding support.

The budget implications are already being felt. High Kingsdown Residents Association has been told that their plans to replace some sections of tarmac hard surface with grass will not be allowed by BCC because it would necessitate more maintenance. This of course does not align with the wider aspiration to increase green infrastructure in the city for a number of flood management, health and wildlife aspirations. This is a project partly funded by BCRNP grant.

The Cotham Gardens and Lovers' Walk bench project, which was to be jointly funded by RCAS and BCR NP has not progressed following a meeting with the new Parks officer on 13 December 2016, where the full survey and conditions audit was passed to the officer for action.

Alison Bromilow
28 February 2017