



**Bristol Zoological
Society**
Saving Wildlife Together

STATEMENT A3

Planning Application number – 21/01999/F
Proposals for 62 new homes on land at West Car Park, College Road, Clifton
Development Control Committee A – Wednesday 22 September 2021

Chris Booy OBE – Vice Chair of Trustees, Bristol Zoological Society

In late 2020, Trustees of Bristol Zoological Society voted unanimously to relocate Bristol Zoo to the Wild Place Project site.

As a lifelong resident of Bristol, Chairman of Clifton Suspension Bridge Trust and Bristol Bears, as well as being Vice Chair of Trustees for Bristol Zoological Society, I recognise that Bristol Zoo Gardens has a special place in the hearts of many people.

The decision to relocate after 185 years of memories was not taken lightly, but after making an operating loss in four of the last six years, we had to move forward to safeguard the future of the Society.

This decision followed an extensive process to explore a number of options, as well as taking independent professional advice.

Only through the sale of our property assets will we safeguard the future of our charity; generating the funds to enable us to develop a sustainable and revolutionary new Bristol Zoo; and achieve a significant wildlife conservation impact for generations to come.

Throughout the planning process, we engaged with local people, and groups, like Bristol Civic Society, to create a scheme which meets your officer's approval, achieves best value for the site, and transforms a concrete car park into much-needed new homes for Bristol. A legacy that the Trustees of Bristol Zoological Society ask members to approve.

