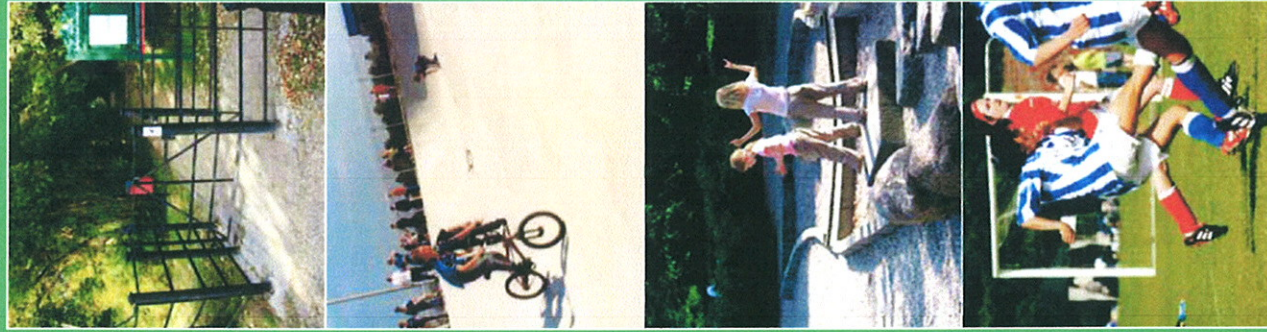


This section includes;-

- a) Extracts from Bristol City Council Ideas and Options Paper for Henleaze, Westbury-on-Trym and Stoke Bishop, a consultation document that was issued for consultation late 2010, which clearly shows on the plans on pages 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 that Stoke Lodge Parkland is not considered green space, is not administered as public green space and is not maintained by Parks department.
- b) A letter from Bristol Parks Forum, an umbrella organisation of interested stakeholder groups, to Bristol City Council regarding the future of various green spaces including Stoke Lodge Parkland.



Ideas and Options Paper

Henleaze, Westbury-on-Trym and Stoke Bishop

Area Green Space Plan

A spatial and investment plan





Vision for Green Space in Bristol

A City with good quality, attractive, enjoyable and accessible green spaces which meet the diverse needs of all Bristol citizens and visitors.

Source: Parks and Green Space Strategy



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Section 1.

Introduction

This draft Ideas and Options Paper is for the Neighbourhood Partnership Area of Henleaze, Westbury-on-Trym and Stoke Bishop. It sets out ideas for investing in green spaces over the next 20 years to ensure everyone has easy access to a range of good quality green spaces with new and improved facilities, such as children's playgrounds, sports pitches, young people's facilities and wildlife areas. It will also identify if any green space is no longer needed and can be disposed of to fund improvements to other spaces.

In drawing up these options local groups and experts have given their views. We would now like feedback from all Bristol residents - your views are important and will inform a final Area Green Space Plan for your area.



Consultation on the Ideas and Options Paper for Henleaze, Westbury-on-Trym and Stoke Bishop Area Green Space Plan - how to make your comments.

We would like your views on all the ideas and options presented. You can make comments and give us your own ideas. We will not be able to afford all the ideas presented in the plans so we would also like to know which spaces and types of facility you would like to see us invest in first. Your views will inform a final Area Green Space Plan which will set down improvements and priorities over the next 20 years.

To make the most of your opportunity to comment we suggest you look at the Ideas and Options paper before you start to complete the questionnaire. You can choose to comment on all the spaces or select those you are most interested in.

The public consultation is open for 20 weeks and will end on 29th October 2010

All ideas and options are open for comment.

How to make your comments

There are a number of ways you can submit comments to us; via a questionnaire online, by obtaining a paper copy of the questionnaire or by visiting one of our drop in sessions.

Online at www.bristol.gov.uk/agsp

You can view the Ideas and Options paper and complete a questionnaire online. If you do not have Internet access you can visit any of our libraries or customer service points which offer free Internet access.

Paper and cd versions

Alternatively paper and cd versions of the Ideas and Options Paper and questionnaire are available from:

Bristol City Council, Parks, Colston 33,
Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4UA

Or by telephoning: 0117 922 3719

Or by e-mailing: Park.Strategy@bristol.gov.uk

Drop in sessions

A drop-in session is being organised for each Neighbourhood Partnership Area - this gives the opportunity to see the document and talk through the ideas with council officers. For details about when these drop-in sessions will be held go to www.bristol.gov.uk/agsp, call 0117 922 3719 or email: Park.Strategy@bristol.gov.uk

Available to view

Paper versions of the Ideas and Options papers are available to view at all Bristol libraries, customer service points and The Council House, College Green, Central Bristol, BS1 5TR.

What happens next

The views put forward during this consultation will help to inform a final Area Green Space Plan for your area. All views put forward by the public will be analysed and carefully considered, following the close of the consultation on 29th October. Final Area Green Space Plans will be drafted and further comment will be sought from key stakeholders and Neighbourhood Partnerships. The current aim is to adopt the final Area Green Space Plans early in 2011.

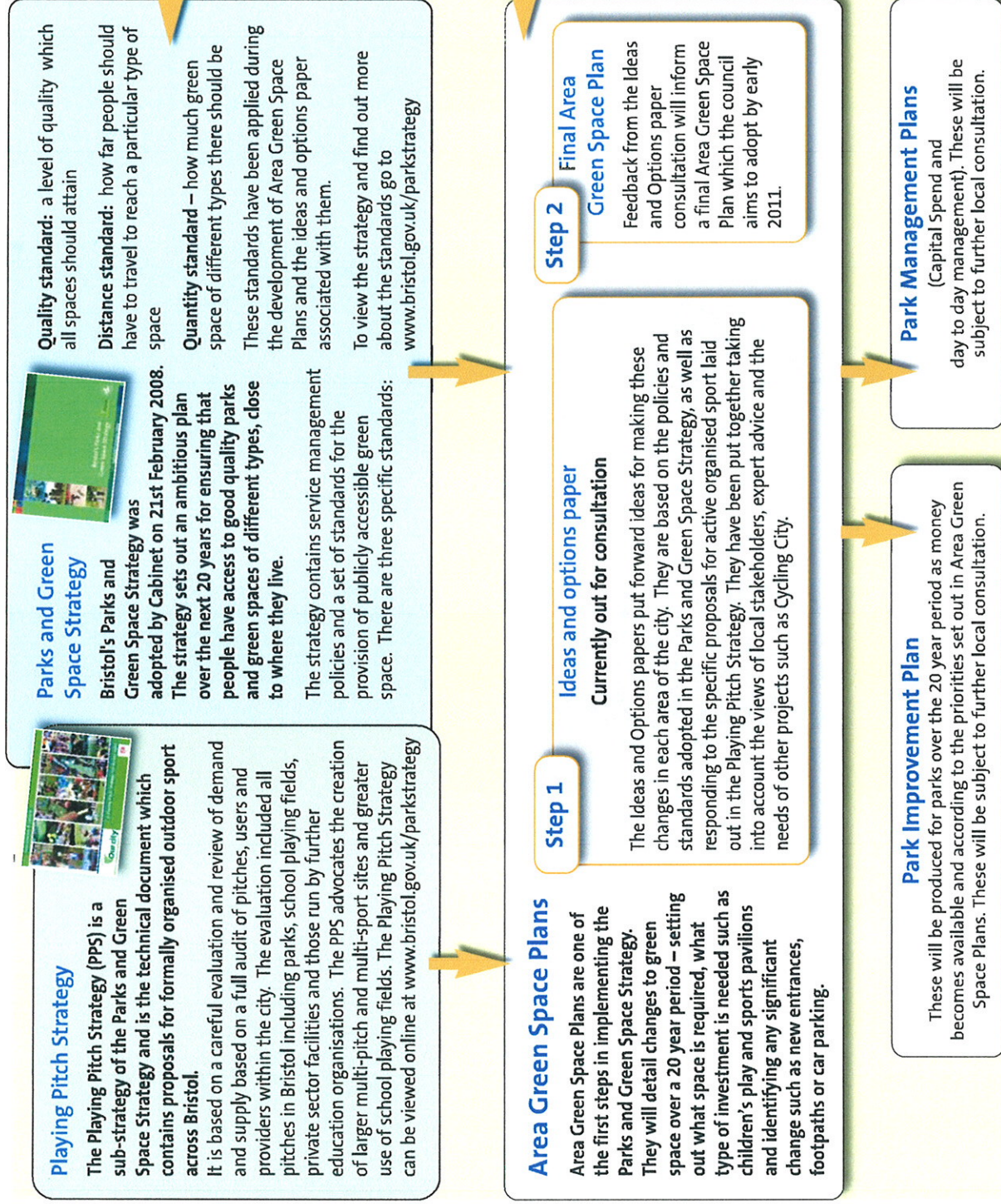
In addition to Henleaze, Westbury-on-Trym and Stoke Bishop, ideas and options papers are also available for comment on the following areas:

- Knowle, Filwood and Windmill Hill
- Hengrove and Stockwood
- Hartcliffe, Withywood and Bishopsworth
- Bedminster and Southville
- Cabot Clifton and Clifton East
- Brislington East and West
- Avonmouth and Kingsweston
- Henbury and Southmead
- Bishopston, Cotham and Redland
- Horfield and Lockleaze
- Ashley, Easton and Lawrence Hill
- Eastville, Frome Vale and Hillfields
- St George East and West

Other consultations you may be interested in

The Site Allocations and Development Management Options Document is also out to consultation up until Friday, 29 October 2010. This document suggests specific sites in the city which may be developed to provide new homes, jobs or shops in your area. It also proposes land to be protected for open space, industry, nature conversation and shopping. In terms of green space, while the Area Green Space Plans cover publicly accessible green space only, the Site Allocations will include consideration of a wider range of green space in the city including allotments and grazing land. Visit www.bristol.gov.uk/siteallocations or email bdaf@bristol.gov.uk or call 0117 903 6725.

Section 2. How does the Ideas and Options Paper fit into the plans for green space and wider citywide planning?



What green space will the Area Green Space Plan cover?

An Area Green Space Plan will consider only green spaces for which there is legitimate public access and which provide recreational benefit (publicly accessible green space). In line with the Parks and Green Space Strategy the Area Green Space Plan will consider five different types of space described below. This Ideas and Options paper has been drawn up using these categories and definitions.

Type of space and key attributes

Map key (Legend)

Children and young people's space

These are spaces specifically designed to increase opportunities for children and young people to play or meet safely within equipped and unequipped environments. Sub-types include, wheels parks, games areas, children's play space.



Formal green space

Sites with a consciously organised layout whose aim is aesthetic enjoyment. This can include sweeping landscapes such as the Repton landscapes of the historic estates, to ornamental gardens which include flower beds and features such as statues.



Informal green space

Informal in layout and character, where the emphasis is on informal recreation. They generally have few or no additional facilities.



Natural green space

Sites providing people with access to, and experience of nature. It includes woodland, grassland, scrub, hedgerows and wetland.



Active sports space

Those areas which are used for a variety of organised and competitive sports.



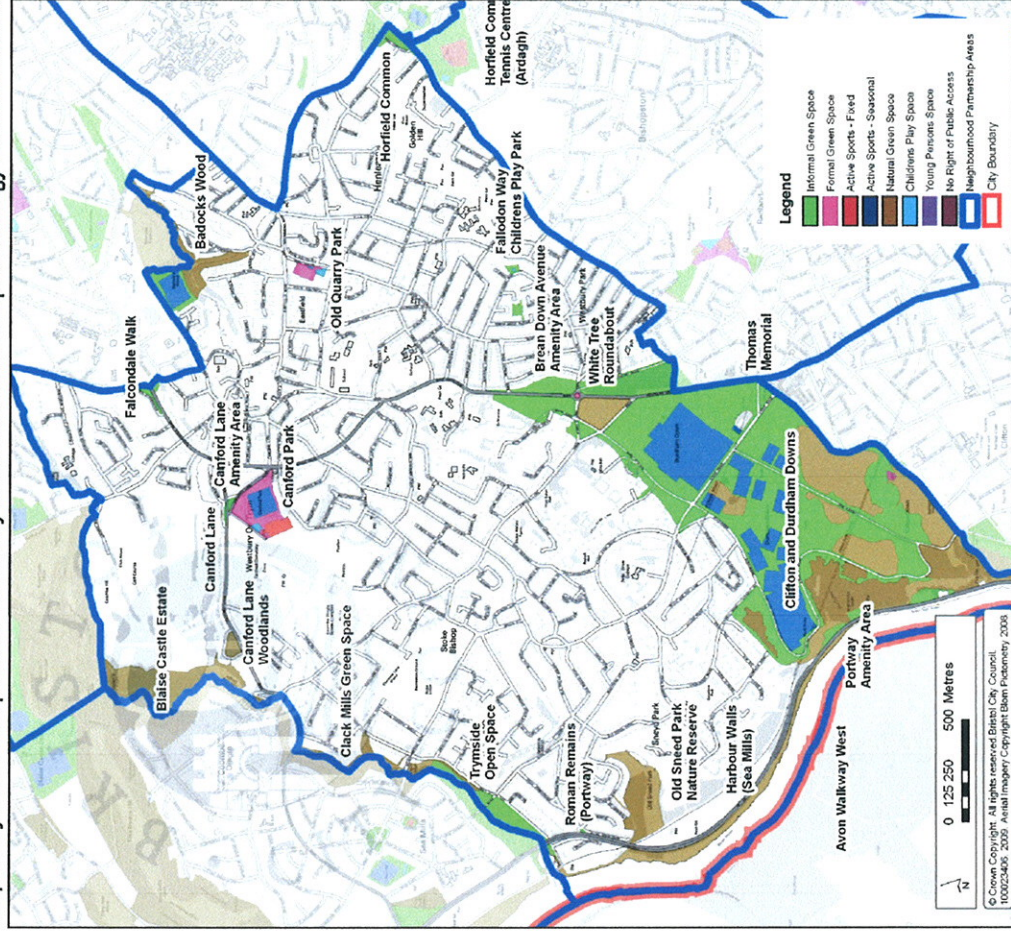
What isn't included in an Area Green Space Plan?

The Area Green Space Plan will not consider green spaces that are not freely accessible to the public, including allotments, city farms, school grounds, or Sites of Nature Conservation in private ownership. In addition it excludes small pieces of

land that don't serve any recreational purpose such as road verges and small areas within housing.

However the contribution of all these spaces to the urban green infrastructure of the city for wildlife, leisure and gardening is recognised and taken into account when drawing up these plans.

The publicly accessible spaces considered by the Parks and Green Space Strategy as outlined in 2008.



Green Space in Henleaze, Westbury-on-Trym and Stoke Bishop

The Area Green Space Plan is defined by the boundaries of the Henleaze, Westbury-on-Trym and Stoke Bishop Neighbourhood Partnership area - itself defined by the three electoral wards.

The Neighbourhood Partnership Area contains a mixture of spaces including public open space, allotments, private sports facilities, churchyards and school grounds. The area is green in appearance with large swathes of land being in University and independent school ownership. Many households have proportionally large gardens. Surprisingly few publicly accessible open spaces are to be found across this area but there are some significant spaces. Most of Clifton and Durdham Downs, ('The Downs') and a small part of the Blaise Estate fall within the area. Other accessible spaces include Canford Park, Old Quarry Park, Falldon Way Children's Play Area, Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve, Badock's Wood and the Trym Valley. The Avon Gorge also falls within the area which is extremely significant for its landscape and wildlife value but to which access is limited.

The Area Green Space Plan considers only the public open space element of this. The map of green space that will be considered by the plan, and therefore by this Ideas and Options Paper is shown here. These spaces are categorised into five different types as outlined in the Parks and Green Space Strategy.



Appendix 1. How the Area Green Space Plan is meeting the PGSS standards

The Parks and Green Space Strategy adopted new minimum standards for the provision of publicly accessible green space. There are three specific standards:

1. Quality Standard – a level of quality which all spaces should attain.
2. Distance Standard - how far should people have to travel to reach a particular type of space.
3. Quantity Standard - how much green space of different types there should be.

A key aim of this Area Green Space Plan is to propose how these standards will be met in the Neighbourhood Partnership Area of Henleaze, Westbury-on-Trym and Stoke Bishop.

Quality

A Bristol quality standard has been devised in consultation with national advisers and local parks users, which takes into account design, condition and maintenance, and assesses a comprehensive range of features of parks and open spaces. It takes into account a number of aspects which are of particular public concern such as entrances, safety feel, and facilities.

Before the adoption of the Parks and Green Space Strategy, each park and green space across the city was assessed for its quality. As a result the council was able to know which sites met the Quality Standard and which sites needed improving. On a 1 to 4 scale (poor, fair, good and excellent), where 3, or 'good', is the quality standard threshold, the quality assessment process revealed an average quality level across Bristol of 2 (fair).

The final Area Green Space Plan will be informed by a review of the quality of parks and green spaces - to take place this year. This is because the original assessment is now between 4 and 5 years old and does not take into account investment to improve spaces over this time. For this reason an analysis of quality in each Neighbourhood Partnership Area is not shown here.

Distance Standard

The aim of the distance standard is to protect and promote an accessible network of green space. The distance standards are based on research on how far Bristol residents feel it's reasonable to walk to get to the different types of space, combined with an analysis of Bristol's layout to ensure the standards are credible. A distance standard has been set for each of the five different types of space recognised by the Parks and Green Space Strategy.

The maps on the following pages demonstrate how well the standard for each type of space is currently met across the Neighbourhood Partnership Area and how proposals to invest in new types of space will improve access across the area.

When proposing a new type of space the Area Green Space Plan ensures that the existing value and character of a site is enhanced and not compromised. If it is clear that the existing type is of high value then no change is proposed and either an alternative site is found or it is accepted that the standards may not be met in that area.

The distances proposed are in the table below:

Distance Standard	Distance 'as the crow flies' (metres)	Estimated Time (minutes walk)
Distance to the nearest green space	400	9
Children's play space	450	10
Formal green Space	600	15
Informal green space	550	13
Natural green space	700	18
Active sports space	Determined by Playing Pitch Strategy	

Barriers to access

When applying distance standards barriers to accessing parks such as railways, rivers, major roads, hills and valleys and large industrial areas have been taken into account. When considering these barriers any legitimate crossing points - bridges or pelican crossings for example - have been located. The effect of barriers and crossing points is incorporated in to the application of each distance standard across the area.

There are no barriers that have been identified in the Henleaze, Westbury-on-Trym and Stoke Bishop Area.

Children's and young people's space

Henleaze, Westbury-on-Trym and Stoke Bishop is currently under-provided for in terms of children's play, with just three playgrounds in the area. An extension to the play area at Canford Park was provided under the Play Pathfinder project in 2009. Two other play spaces are provided at Falloolen Way (which caters for under 5's), and Old Quarry Park. There are large areas outside the children's play standard across Stoke Bishop - which has no children's play facilities. Blaise Castle Estate accommodates a large play area just outside the Neighbourhood Partnership Area which caters for some of the residents within this area.

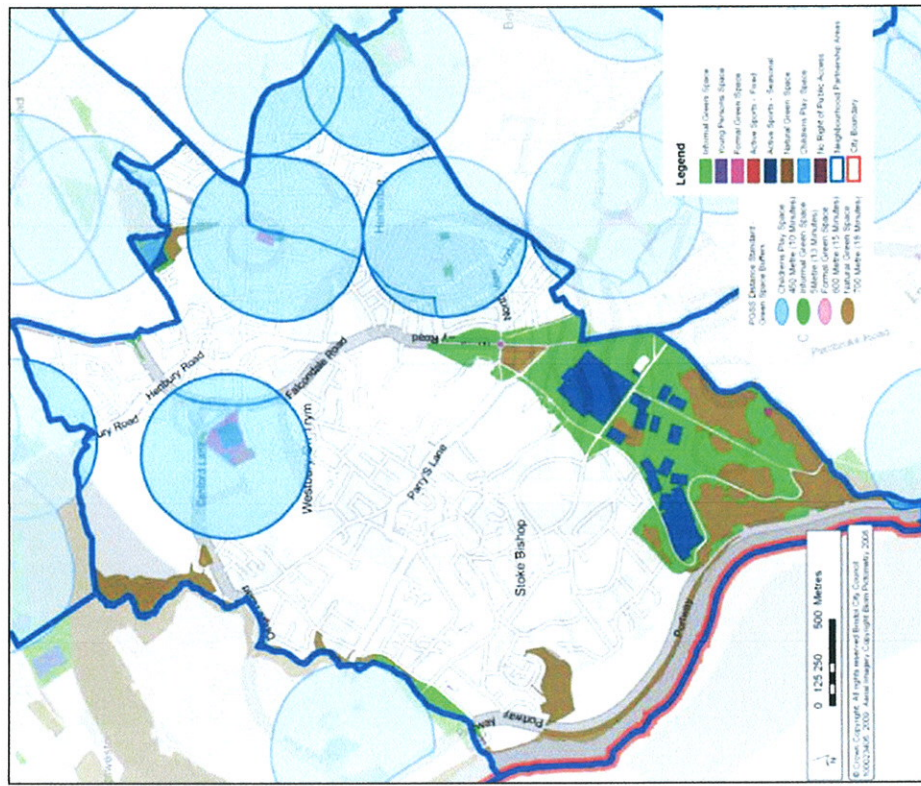
Because of the restrictions on the public open space available it is difficult to propose changes that would improve opportunities for play.

There may be an opportunity to provide a new play area at Stoke Lodge but at present this land is predominantly used as school playing fields for Cotham Grammar School and is not publicly accessible.

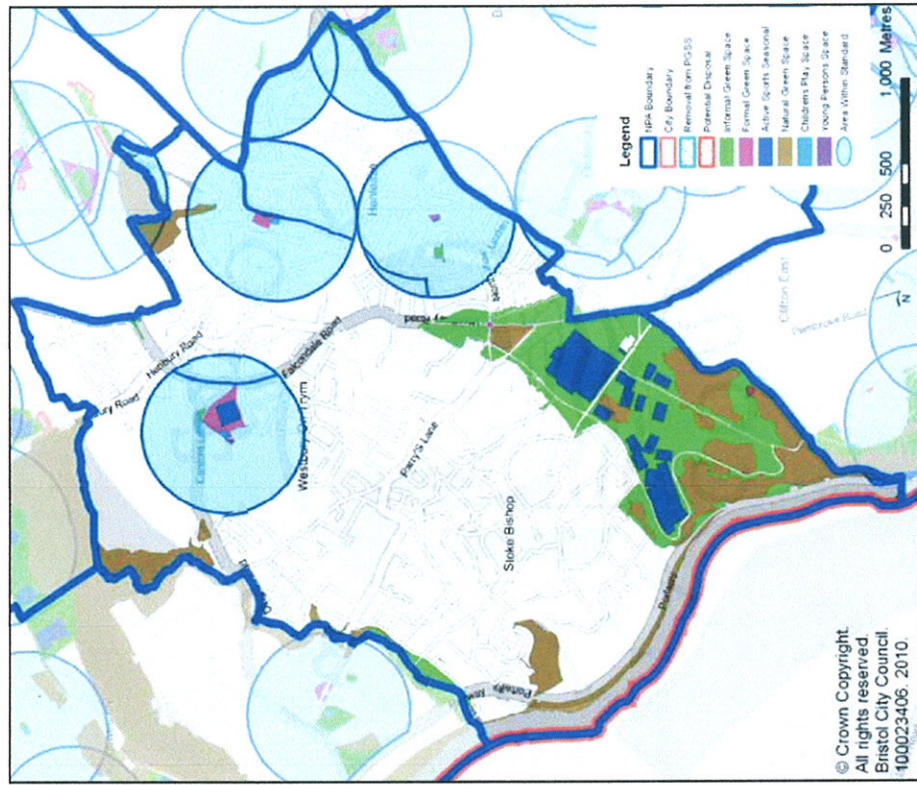
The possibility of a new play area on The Downs is to be explored, Given the lack of play facilities the priority across the neighbourhood partnership area is to ensure that all current publicly accessible play facilities are improved to an excellent standard.

The lack of current opportunity to provide new accessible and safe play will mean that taking account of the projected increase in population will mean the total population outside the 450m distance standard will increase from 65% to 67%.

Areas where the standard is currently met



Areas predicted to be within the standard in 20 years



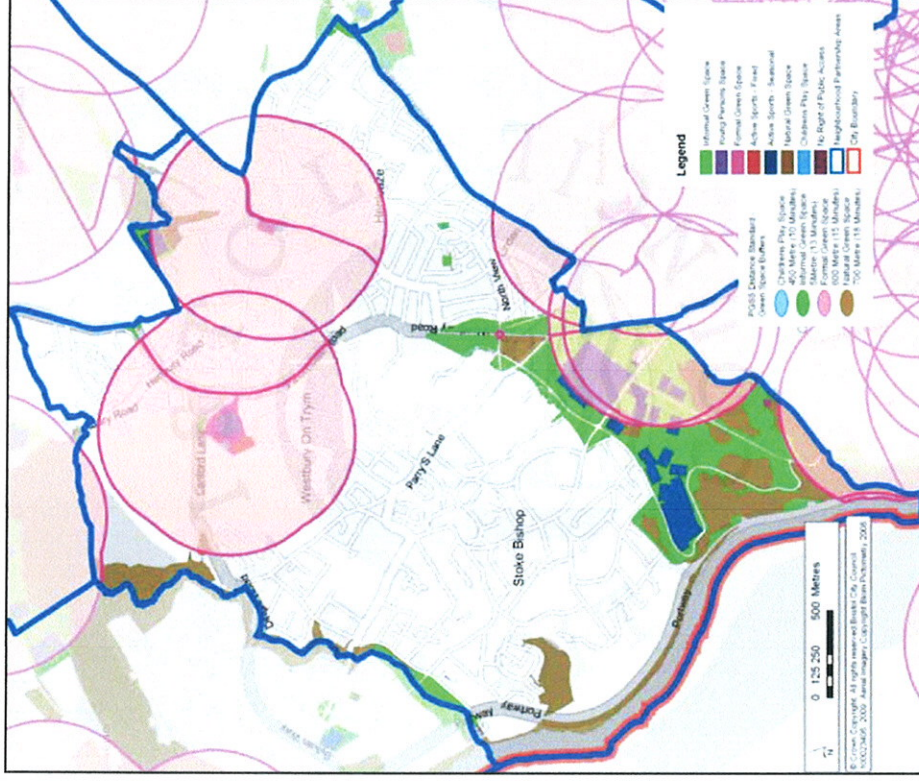
Formal Green Space

Two publicly accessible formal green spaces are currently available in the Neighbourhood Partnership Area; Old Quarry Park and Canford Park. These are both successful in providing a traditional form park experience for the residents of Henleaze and Westbury. It is proposed to re-designate the Informal space at Falloiden Way to Formal Green Space (see informal space section). As a result the provision of formal green space will be slightly higher, but gaps will still exist, mostly across Stoke Bishop ward.

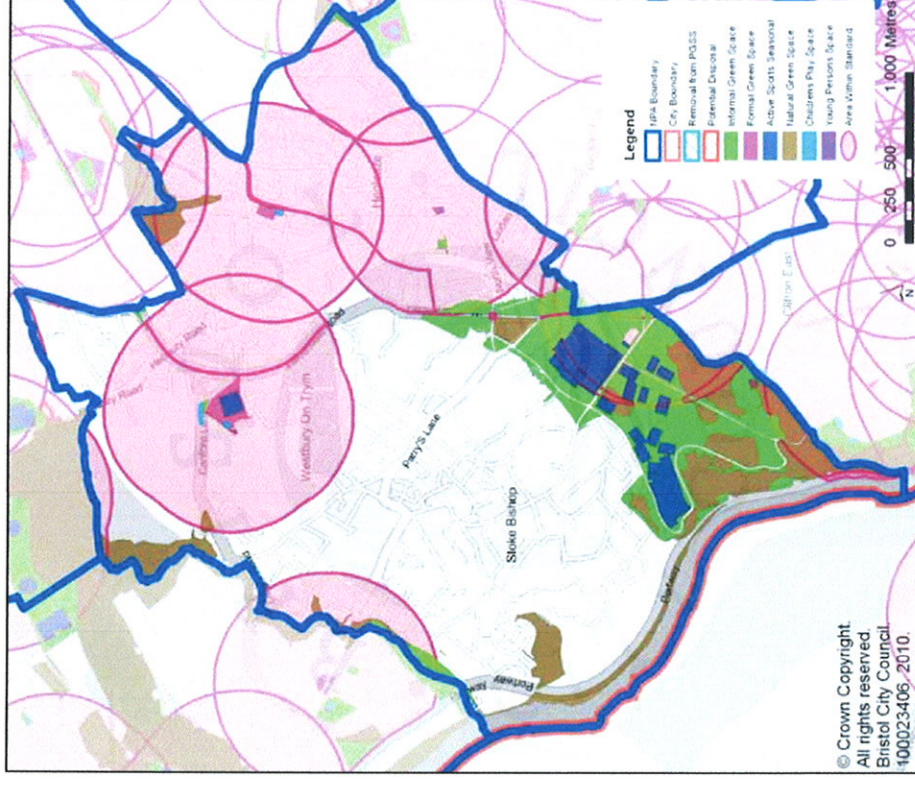
There is currently no suitable space to address this shortfall.

The percentage of the predicted future population that will be outside the distance standard for Formal Green Space will go down from 62% to 42%.

Areas where the standard is currently met



Areas predicted to be within the standard in 20 years



Informal Green Space

Much of the Neighbourhood Partnership Area is well provided for Informal Green space due to the inclusion of the Downs within the area, but there are large gaps. It is proposed to add The Furlong as an informal space, which will serve the eastern part of the Neighbourhood Partnership Area.

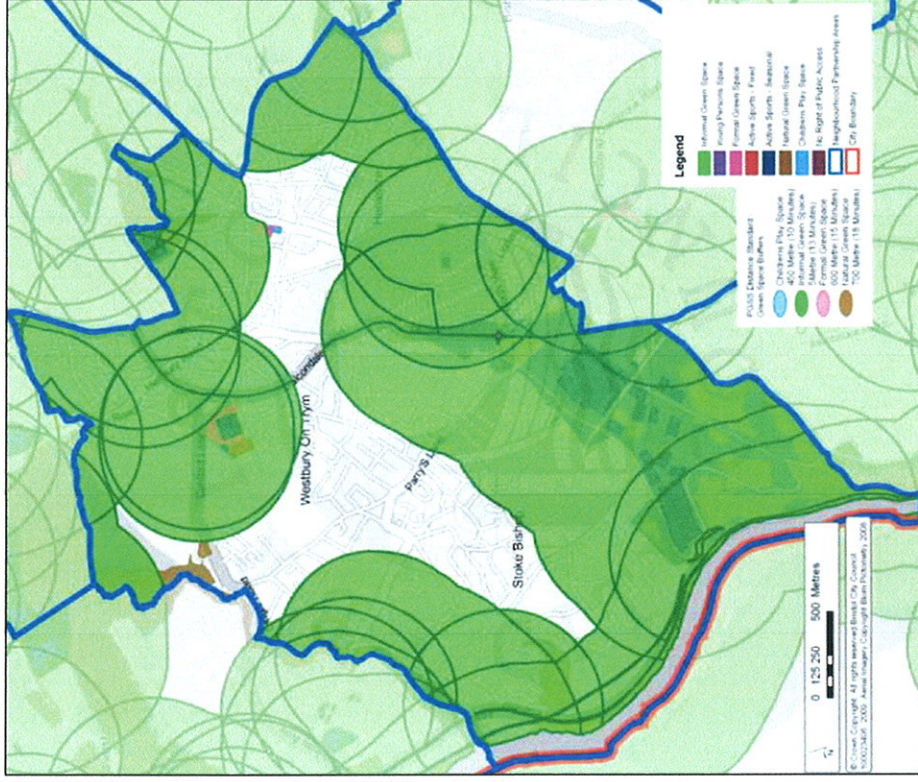
However because a suggestion to convert the area surrounding Falldon Way Children's Play area to formal space, this will no longer act as informal space.

The Council is exploring opportunities for public recreational use on part of Stoke Lodge Playing Fields.

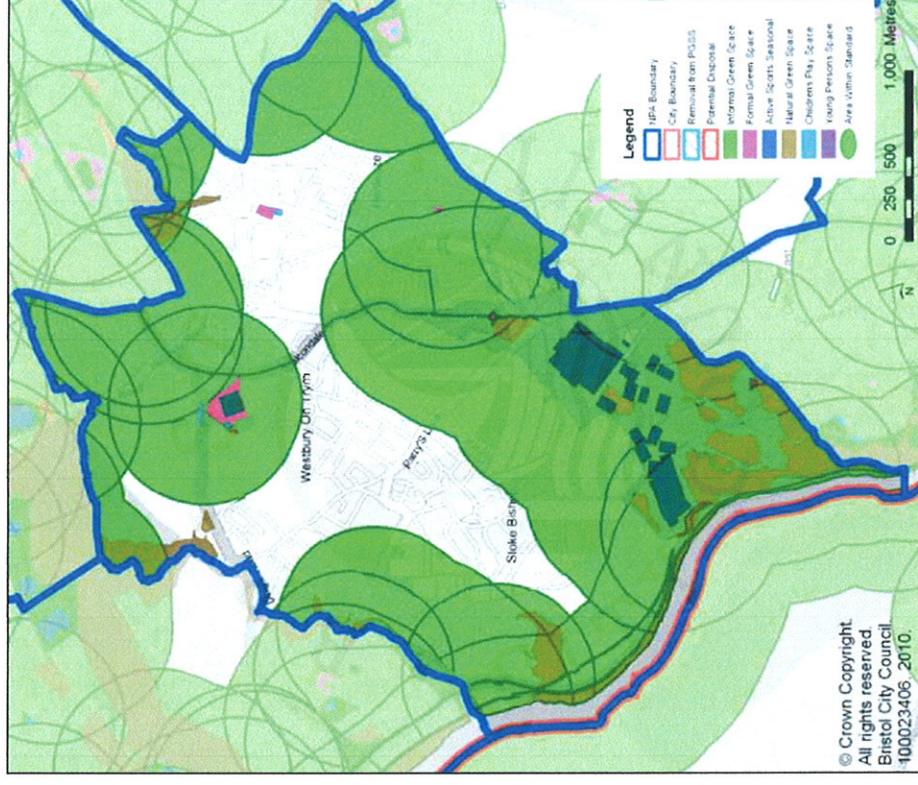
The inclusion of space here as Informal Green Space would have a positive impact on meeting the distance standard.

As a result of these slight changes the percentage of the predicted future population that will be outside the distance standards for Informal space will increase from 27% to 32%..

Areas where the standard is currently met



Areas predicted to be within the standard in 20 years

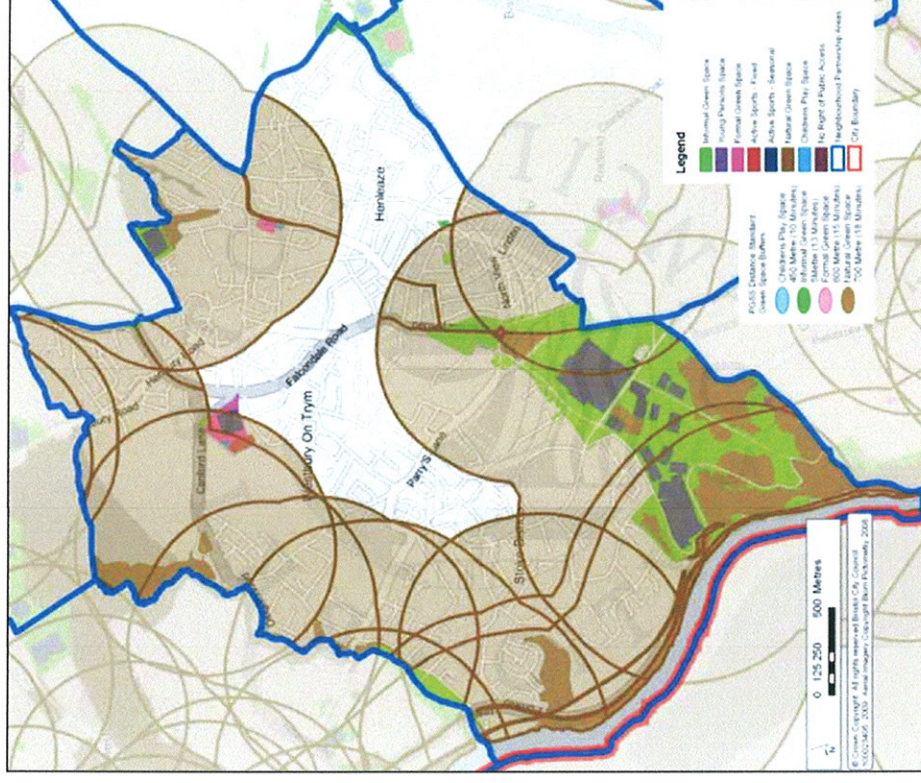


Natural Green Space

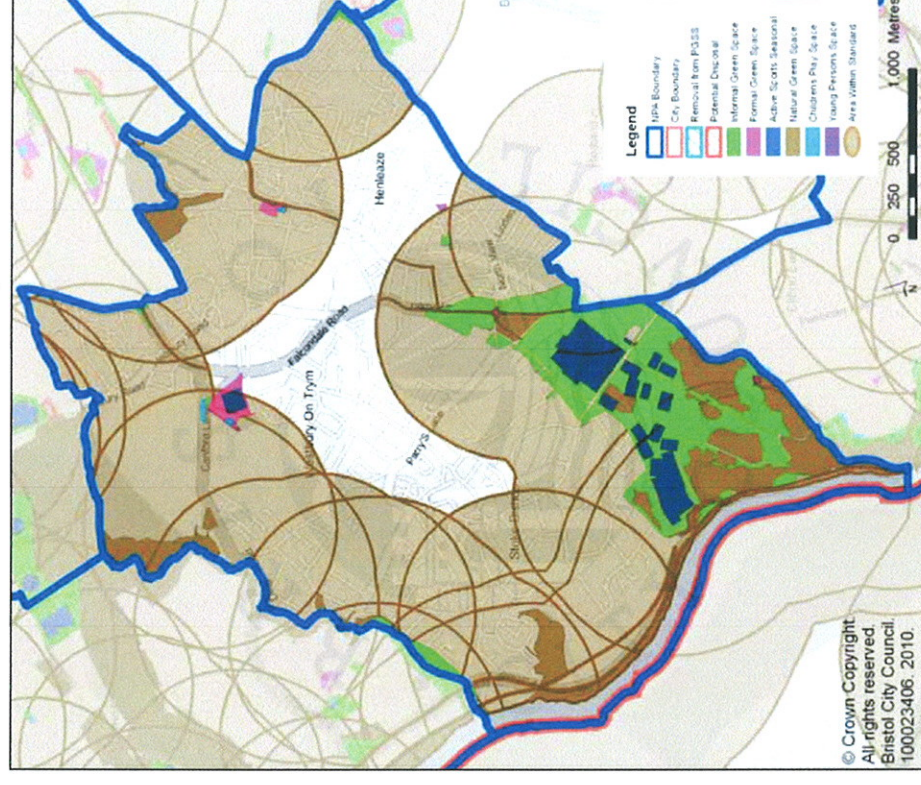
The Neighbourhood Partnership Area is better provided for Natural Green space than other types of publicly accessible open space but there is a gap in provision which spreads out towards Horfield and a lack of suitable sites to fill that gap. However it is proposed to redesignate part of an Informal Green Space to Natural at Horfield Common, which will serve part of Henleaze.

Consequently the percentage of the predicted future population that will be outside the distance standard for Natural Green Space will fall from 30% to 24%.

Areas where the standard is currently met



Areas predicted to be within the standard in 20 years



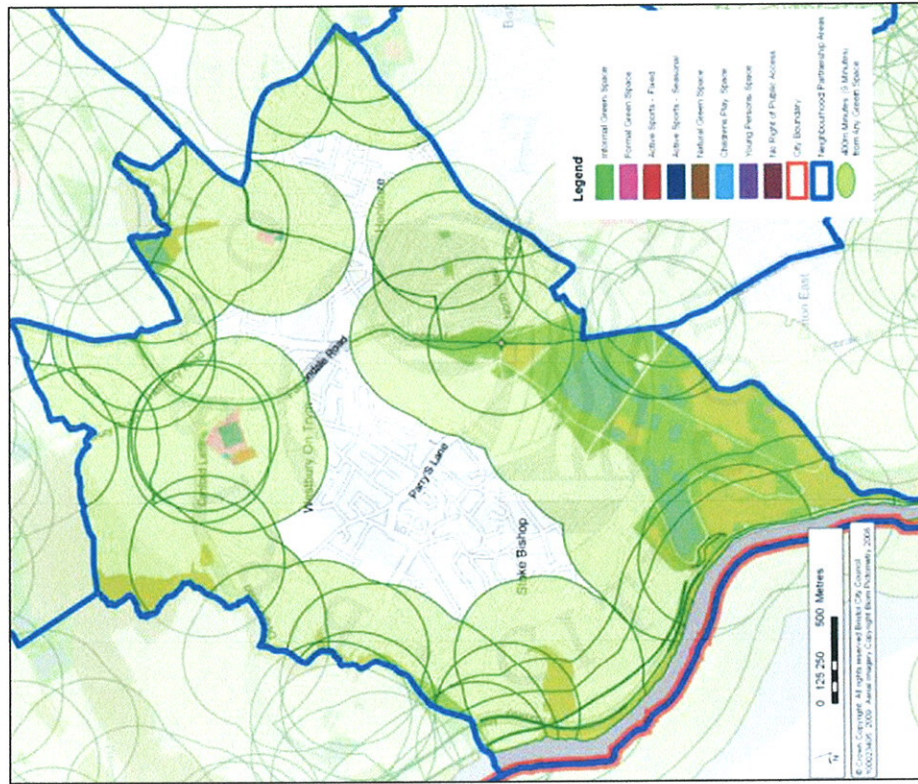
Distance to the nearest green space

There is a gap in the provision of all types of open space in the central part of the Neighbourhood Partnership Area.

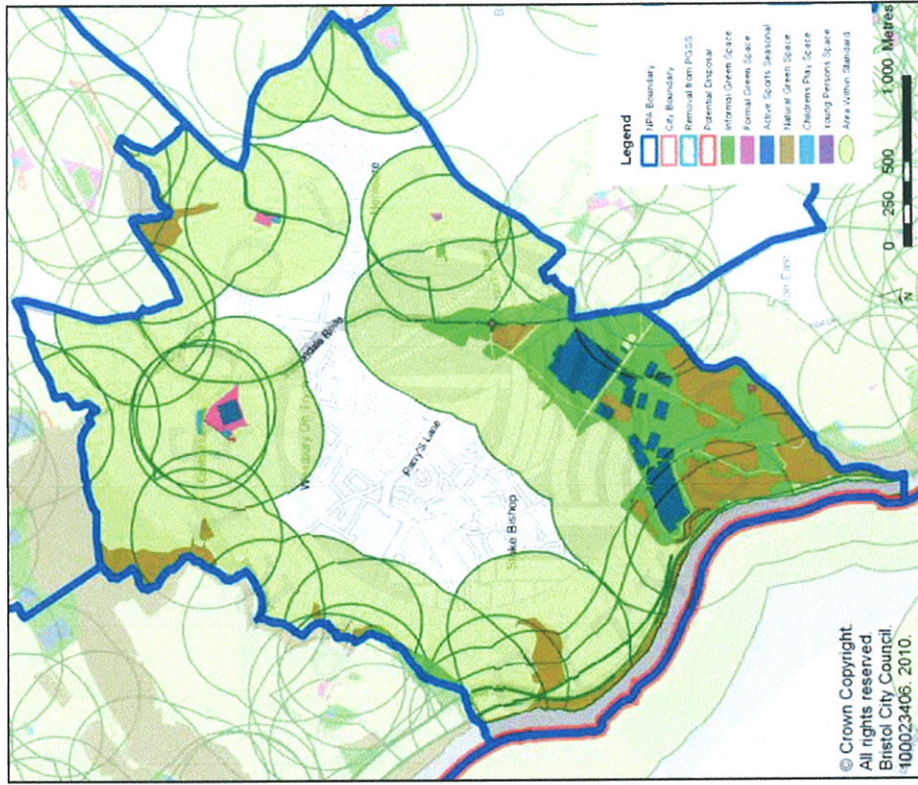
The main open space provision is The Downs.

The proposals in 'Future Opportunities' could make some change to the situation but ownership issues means that they cannot be formally taken into account at this stage. The percentage of the future population that will be outside the distance for any green space stay at 25%.

Areas where the standard is currently met



Areas predicted to be within the standard in 20 years





Bristol Parks Forum

representing resident led
park groups and citywide organisations
involved in protecting and improving
Bristol's green spaces

Stoke Lodge / South Purdown / School Playing Fields

To Cllr Barbara Janke,
cc All Cabinet Members, Tracey Morgan, Richard Fletcher

The issues surrounding public access to Stoke Lodge and South Purdown were discussed at the Bristol Parks Forum meeting on 17th July at Netham Park.

The meeting was in full agreement that unfettered public access to these important areas of green open space should be maintained indefinitely. The public has had unrestricted access to both these areas for many years and this should continue.

You will know that the education department's proposals for South Purdown have been of concern to the BPF for many years and we have supported the Friends of South Purdown in their efforts to protect this space. It is still not too late for this space to be saved from the proposed development and we urge the Cabinet to reconsider these proposals.

Stoke Lodge is in an area that is outside the distance standards for access to green space in accordance with the Parks & Green Spaces strategy; the confirmation of a public right of access to this space would address this. We accept Cllr Gary Hopkins statement that the plan that recently came to light does not represent the views of the current administration, however, it clearly does illustrate the thinking of officers in the education department who commissioned it and this causes us great concern.

As well as restricting public access, these plans would have a detrimental impact on the area's wildlife and destroy its historic landscape and appearance. Bristol Parks Forum is against any fencing of Stoke Lodge.

We request that the Cabinet publicly states that this space will be protected and that it is formally transferred to Parks & Estates to be held as public open space for the benefit of the community.

On a related subject we note the comments in the April report to Cabinet which referred to Stoke Lodge concerning public access to school playing fields. The Area Green Space Plan for Bishopston, Cotham & Redland suggests that Bishop Road Playing Fields could be used to partly address the shortage of space in that area. The BPF committee would be willing to contribute to discussions as to how this could be achieved.

We are also keen that schools should be encouraged to make better use of Bristol's parks and particularly the nature reserves as an educational resource. The Council's policy should be to remove barriers between schools and the community, not to erect new fences.

Yours,

Rob Acton-Campbell

on behalf of the Bristol Parks Forum

26 July 2010

rob@bristolparksforum.org.uk
www.bristolparksforum.org.uk



Stoke Lodge 22 July 2010 (photo Derek Hawkins)

Bristol Parks Forum

Bristol Parks Forum was established by Bristol Parks as an umbrella organisation for community park groups and organisations in the city with an interest in their local parks and green spaces.

The forum is supported by Bristol City Council but acts independently and is the only 'community voice' that is dedicated to all of Bristol's green spaces. The forum's three main roles are to:

- offer an opportunity to share ideas and experience
- act as a consultation body for the Bristol Parks service and other agencies
- influence decision-making, including the allocation of resources

Bristol Parks Forum <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk>