



**FORP COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**NOTES (Sian ET)**  
**Tuesday 6th June, 6.30pm | The Pavilion**  
**(Next Meeting: Tuesday 5th September, 6:30 | The Pavilion)**

Apols: Ben Skingly, Carole Hall, Les Powell, Matt Norris, Campbell Hutchinson

- **Friends Subscriptions & Donations**

We have sold a total of 22 annual subscriptions since we started. (£360)

17 Full price | 5 Over 65

6 of the full price are for fitness companies using the park and being advertised on the website. 1 is for a dog walker who we allow to post on our Facebook page.

We will do a recruitment drive for subscriptions after the Balloon Launch when hopefully people will be more open to the idea of helping us run the group and do more events etc. If you haven't yet bought a subscription, then please do.

This revenue is the life blood of the group, to pay for website hosting, email boxes and office costs etc.

We recently got a donation of £75 thru Paypal via the website.

- **Redcatch Clothing Exchange**

So far RCX has generated £519 in funds and a lot of positive feedback in the community. Big thanks to Matt Norris for allowing us to use the church as the venue and for turning up to run the café and share the revenue from that with RCX.

The next one will be Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June and at this one we shall be allowing men's clothing as well to see if that increases the footfall.

If anyone would like to donate any women's or men's clothing then please let me know.

- **Balloon Launch Update**

- Everything is in place for the event. We have 21 volunteer Safety Marshals allocated, 4 of which are committee members so thanks to them for stepping up. Marshals will gather on site from about 4.30pm for a briefing

- Les and I (and our trusty husbands!) will be onsite from early in the day setting up.



- The balloonists will arrive at about 5pm. Their vehicles will be escorted onto the field by Marshals and then the launch perimeter will be secured again. There will be up to 5 balloons with one promised to be a shaped balloon! They will prepare and then inflate and launch one by one. The vehicles will then be escorted off the field and the event will be over. Redcatch Community garden will be open for food and drinks until 9pm
- We have an emergency medical team of two on site for the event from GWP Medical (similar to St John's Ambulance who were not available due to Glasto). They will have a tent next to FORP
- The local police will be present to act as a reassurance/deterrent. They will set up at the bottom of the central path near the playground
- We will have a FORP tent on site at the top Redcatch Road end of the main path. Rosemary Bertin-Smith will be in the tent for most of the time and Les and I will be floating. Rosemary will give out free badges and stickers to all the kids and information about FORP and take donations. There should be card readers for donations, at least one, possibly two depending on volunteers with appropriate phones.
- Donation Buckets: There will be some volunteers carrying FORP donation buckets. If anyone would like to do this please let me know.
- The Community Garden will have two pop food offerings for the day: Korean Chicken burgers and Mediterranean Wraps and Rice Bowls. These will be onsite from lunch time until after the balloons have launched.
- The Garden will also host a free kids colouring in session for which FORP have provided a balloon themed colouring sheet
- The FORP Hi-Vis jackets and volunteer tshirts were donated by Gary Cleverly Builders
- The fundraising raffle is still going and as of writing (Sunday) has so far generated £1334 with only 2% of that going to the raffle platform. The draw will be done at 6pm and we will announce the winners at the event and on Facebook. If you haven't yet bought a ticket then **please** do so, we want to hit our target of £2000. So there are only 600 tickets left!  
<https://www.friendsofredcatchpark.com/balloon-launch> the tickets can be purchased here near the bottom of the page!



- **All costs** associated with the event will have been covered from sponsorship and donations. The full list is below the raffle button check them out.

- **FORP Financial Statement**

Copy for committee members attached. This is as of 31<sup>st</sup> May. Soft copy will be forwarded with minutes.

- **Bristol Parks Tennis Model**

- We took a vote on whether to support the Bristol Parks Tennis Model consultation. This was carried 8/1. We agree that this is the best long term model to assure us of having an up to date facility which does not depend on volunteer fundraising or applying for council CIL funding to maintain the courts. We also like the fact that it opens up quality tennis coaching for children in Knowle. The council will not and cannot maintain the courts from parks budget. The courts are starting to deteriorate, and we need to mend the roof while the sun shines.
- The model is a pay model run by sports charity Wesport in liaison with the LTA and Bristol City Council Sports department. Here are the topline details:
  - Full renovation of courts to LTA match standard
  - £35 per year **per household**
  - £25 per year per household for those on benefits or low income
  - Further concessions/free play for groups as put forward by FORP or other local organisations/individuals e.g. Dementia Group, Over 65s, Refugees, Weekly Free Play Day for the community
  - Pay per session for those not wanting membership
  - Online booking
  - No cancellation fees
  - Free tuition for children with LTA approved coaches



- All revenue raised is used for booking management and court maintenance.
  - System is active and successful in 3 other Bristol parks, St George's Eastville and Canford. All feedback from their facebook pages or in person replies from users canvased had overwhelming support for the program. There was no negative feedback given at those parks to our representatives.
- The consultation will go live this week for one month and then the results will be analysed and published and the next steps agreed.
- We also plan to hold an in-person information session if possible, later in June while the consultation is live. We are liaising with BCC Sports about this. A discussion about possible lighting of the courts will be part of the consultation, but is not necessary for the scheme to come to the park.
- There has been significant opposition from Knowle Community Party specifically Cllr Gary Hopkins for this consultation. Resulting in them publishing a statement in their June Newsletter, containing untrue and very misleading information to their constituent database. We are contesting this information as it appears to be an attempt to subvert the consultation process. They have failed to give a balanced account of the model and deliberately chosen to portray it negatively by not stating its benefits or that FORP have done research and deem this consultation and model worthy of support. We have asked Gary Hopkins to issue a retraction of this summary. He has not responded and so we are making a complaint to the council citing his actions as a breach of the BCC Member Code of Conduct. This newsletter also has preempted FORPs announcement of the scheme being under consideration.

KCP NEWSLETTER LINK:

<https://mailchi.mp/eab42df18e07/news-from-your-knowle-focus-team-9332217?e=4a08d82f29>

- Redcatch Quarter Update

- As you will all know by now, the Council's Development Control Committee voted unanimously to decline the Outline Planning Permission application on Weds 31<sup>st</sup> May.



I was at the meeting and made a statement. It was democracy in action and I was proud of the community for their representation and the councillors for their decision. There has been some blowback on our Facebook page about my stance about the decision but this is from two members of the public close to Cllr Chris Davies (his daughter Ada Ada) and her friend Emily Ohara, so therefore I take this criticism with a pinch of salt. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

The declined plan was 356% above the recommended density for a heart of city, as recommended by our Bristol City Council itself.

- We have been in touch with the developers and they have agreed to share their decisions vis a vis the next steps. Their options are:
  - Appeal to the planning inspectorate and try to push the Redcatch Quarter (Given the unanimous decision of the committee I think this is doubtful)
  - Submit a full planning application for the 420 dwellings they already have outline permission for (there is a sell by on this application so they would need to be very quick)
  - Submit a new planning application for a modified scheme somewhere between 420-850 dwellings.
  - Sell to another developer with the existing outline permission and walk away

- **£56k Funding Allocation**

We finally managed to get some coherent sense from BCC via Cllr Ellie King and Susy Feltham who is responsible for all projects in parks, about pulling down the £56k that came to the park from the sales of land on Salcombe road. Lesley and I compiled a list based on the park playground survey and also including a chunk for RCG.

The list included:

- Wooden all weather shelters for Redcatch Community Garden
- Replacement of the broken roundabout in the children's playground
- A zip wire for older children (voted number 2 in the recent playground survey)
- New notice boards for the park

The process of accessing the money is slow and clunky but we at least have a point of contact now in Susy Feltham and are confident that the RCG all-weather shelters will be in place by the end of the year. The funds for some of the work have been approved. Other funding and projects will need to happen when plans can be agreed



and matched to any existing fund.

- **Area 5 CIL Funding Applications**

We were told by Knowle Media Centre of how we could make applications for the Area CIL funding pot for 2023-24. I attended their online workshop and as a result Lesley and I produced a list of proposals to put forward. This wish list was taken from our park surveys and includes:

- New public toilet block
- Replacement and new items in the children's playground
- Renovation of benches and additional picnic tables
- Renovation of Pavilion (pending CAT decision)
- Replacing boggy area outside RCG with grasscrete and better drainage for winter months
- Renovation of Tennis courts (plan B in case Bristol Parks Tennis Model does not go ahead)

**We will not get all of these** but depending on the Area Committee making the decisions and depending on other people's applications we will get something. The toilets are the biggest priority both for the park and RCG. Anything we do get will be applied for again or from third party funding/grants

- **Pavilion Update**

*Statement in KCP Newsletter: After months of questioning, we finally have confirmation that the Pavilion can be available for transfer to the applicants of the football club and the community garden.*

The actual situation:

There has been an officer appointed to deal with this application and as soon as he is available there will be a meeting to discuss the situation. We are waiting for a date.

It is no longer clear whether a CAT is the way forward for the Pavilion as there would be terms stipulations which could make it unviable. There may be alternative ways to bring it up to scratch and manage it which do not load unsurmountable liabilities.

- **Anti-Social Behaviour in the park**

Logan Parnell and Tyler Reid, the boys that were causing all the trouble earlier in the year are back in the park and creating havoc. They terrorised a poor mother in the



play area with her two young children and forced her to run crying into RCG. She has vowed never to come to the park again. I've met with PC Kyle Jones and he's agreed to escalate their Acceptable Behaviour Order to a full ban, but this will take time and involves going to court. In the meantime, the police will do more patrols and we are told to call 999 if there are causing a disturbance. Sian to contact Street Space to see if they can provide any help with this ongoing situation.

- **Vision for Redcatch Park**

After a meeting with Susy Feltham head of parks projects at BCC, we have agreed to produce a Vision for the Park. The contents of this will be taken from the two park surveys that we did in October 2022 and April 2023. Lesley and I will work on a draft of it later this month and distribute copies to the committee. You can then put any extra ideas into it before we finalise and go back to Susy. The vision will be a very long term plan and will undoubtedly involve applying for outside grant funding from relevant bodies like the National Lottery. Other parks, like Page Park have been successful with this strategy and we intend to give it our best shot to get the best park we can.

- **H&S Update & Volunteer Activities**

I have now completed the BCC Health and Safety course and so both Les and I can now run maintenance sessions in the park. My first session flying solo was today! 20 volunteers from the Government Legal Department helped do a bit more tidying of the borders and edges.

**AOB**

- **Girls Survey**

There are plans for a survey for the park use by girls in the 12+ age range. Asking older girls specifically how they access the park to help promote play and investment by that age group. The suggestion was to go to the Youth Moves group at The Park Center. More information to follow

- **Facebook Page & Website Policy**

We want to ensure that the committee are all in agreement with the FORP policy on posting on the FB page and website. This has not been formally agreed but we'd now like it to be and put to a vote so that it can be published on Facebook and on our website. The proposed standards were not voted on at the meeting as there was not a sufficient number of the board and members there to have a quorum. We would like to vote at the next meeting (Tuesday 5th September 2023 in the Pavilion at 6:30)

- Lesley and I are admins of the FB page (other committee members can be added)



- All posts must be approved by an admin (unless they have been given free access e.g. relevant community groups, RCG).
- People posting hostile or derogatory posts on our page will be banned.
- We do not approve posts for businesses wishing to advertise unless they subscribe to become members. e.g Fitness classes held in the park or dog walkers, local cafes. Once they do then we will allow them to post once per month about their services or promotions.
- Any business wanting to advertise on the page must be a local business serving Knowle or the park.
- Admins can make value judgement calls on giving access to the page for community groups etc.
- Sponsorship is available for commercial businesses on the FORP website. This is £150 (or special terms by arrangement) and involves a space on the local business page on the website and access to post on the Facebook page.
- We will allow not for profit community groups to be listed on the business page by becoming members of FORP (£20)