

## **Meeting about Malvern Road Open Space 28<sup>th</sup> July 2005**

Invitations to attend this meeting were sent to all 17 people who had ticked the box saying that they would be willing to organise events. Posters were also put on Malvern Rd Open Space shortly before the meeting to invite those interested in organising the next steps. 6 acceptances were received and 6 apologies.

On the night the meeting was attended by:

Sally Oldfield, Bristol Parks Local Nature Reserves Officer who had kindly agreed to facilitate the meeting

Susan Acton-Campbell, Chair of Friends of Troopers Hill

Rob Acton-Campbell, Works Party Organiser for Friends of Troopers Hill

Kit Elliott, Membership Secretary for Friends of Troopers Hill

Liz Read

Mr and Mrs Hepburn

Gillian Dyte

Maureen Melksham

The meeting starting with an introduction from everyone and their reasons for coming to the meeting.

Susan Acton-Campbell then explained Friends of Troopers Hill's involvement. It had become clear that although Malvern Rd Open Space is not part of Troopers Hill Nature Reserve, many people regarded the two areas as one. As a result Friends of Troopers Hill had included a task in their 5 year management plan to carry out a consultation to identify what, if anything, people wanted in Malvern Rd Open Space. This was done by distributing a questionnaire to 1,700 homes and an encouraging 170 replies were received.

Susan gave a summary of the content of the 170 replies.

Hayley Hepburn asked why only the 17 people had been invited and not the 70 who said they would willing to attend a meeting. Susan's answer was:

A meeting of 70 people is not very manageable and would probably have covered much of the same ground as the questionnaire and not moved us further forward. By inviting people who had said they would be happy to organise events we were choosing people who we hoped would be interested in taking up actions that would later result in a meeting for the 70 and as many more people who were interesting to discuss more concrete proposals.

Sally Oldfield and Susan then described the support that can be offered by Bristol Council and Friends of Troopers Hill to people who wished to take forward the work started by the questionnaire. Friends of Troopers Hill would be happy to offer their experience of applying for funds and as they are an established group with a constitution and bank account, could offer that "umbrella" to a group of people looking to raise funds for projects on Malvern Rd Open Space. They can also offer access to tools, work party organisation experience and the contacts they have built up during their existence as a group. Friends of Troopers Hill are not willing to lead any

activities on Malvern Rd Open Space themselves as they are already fully committed on Troopers Hill but would like to offer support to other people who take on that leadership role. Bristol City Council can also offer advice and contacts.

The meeting then moved on, with Sally facilitating, to a SWOT analysis. This is a technique to identify Malvern Rd Open Space's current Strengths, Weakness and then move on to identifying the Opportunities to improve it and the Threats to improving it. Attached are the lists that came under those headings. There was some discussions to explain the items on the list as they were but at this stage there was no debate as to whether items should be on the list or not. Everyone with a suggestion had that suggestion included on the list.

Then it was agreed that it was best to concentrate on a single opportunity and identify the tasks necessary to achieve that. Once that had been achieved then some or all of the opportunities could be tackled. The single opportunity was to get new play equipment and move the site of the play equipment. The task list to achieve that is also attached.

The task list was reviewed and it was clear that the starting point before any further steps could be taken would be a meeting with Bristol Council Play Officer John Knowlson. It was agreed that Sally Oldfield would contact John to find out when he would be available during August to meet on Malvern Rd Open Space to answer our initial questions. Sally Oldfield will also contact Richard Fletcher, Community Development Officer, to come along to the same meeting.

What was clear in our meeting is that while those of us who attended are willing to help there are no people able, currently, to take leading, organising roles. An action picked up by all the attendees was to talk to friends and relations who they feel would be good potential candidates for these roles.

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm.

## **Strengths**

Play area (running about etc)  
Big open area  
Safe space  
Meeting space  
Flat  
Nice grass  
Potential  
Village green  
Well used  
Nice path  
Good for sports  
Nothing much there – can use imagination  
Good access  
Near to lots of houses  
Lots of blackberries  
Wildlife edge  
Good way to get to other places  
Cluster of shady trees

## **Weaknesses**

Dog mess  
No swings / play equipment  
Vandalism  
No view  
Too many nettles  
Path unreliable for wheelchairs / buggies  
Nowhere to sit down  
Nothing to stop motorbikes  
State of fence between allotments and Malvern Rd Open Space  
Not enough people go there – makes me nervous it's so empty  
Out of control dogs  
What is it? (soil composition etc, foundations)

## **Opportunities**

Dog loo area close to gates (or not)  
Meadow area – soft landing for children falling out of trees  
Path for wheelchairs and buggies going the whole way round in wet weather  
Move play area closer to houses (Summerhill Terrace)  
Get new stuff (play equipment)  
Teen shelter (not near play area)  
Lighting – coming on with movement focussed on play area  
Multi-purpose pitch  
Seating (view / play area / rest)  
Picnic areas  
Glades to create view  
Design competition

Green spaces strategy  
Big Lottery Fund /funding  
Council support  
Support from questionnaire respondents / larger community  
Litter bins

### **Threats**

Vandals  
Inconsiderate dog owners  
Money (lack of)  
Development  
Lack of people to organise  
Indifference/ lack of support  
Grumblers / opposition  
Lack of consensus  
Lack of maintenance

### **Tasks**

Land survey  
Money  
How much? Play officer  
Find out strategy – Play officer  
Speak to play officer  
Speak to other park groups  
What do we want? – Play officer  
Planning issues? – Play officer  
Where do we want it? – Play officer  
What obligations are the council under to replace/provide equipment ? Play officer  
Look at other play areas  
Which are the most successful play areas? Play officer  
Design (fence/ seats / equipment / shade/ location) – Play officer  
Get more people involved (after Play officer)