

CHANGES IN PROCESS IN CANFORD PARK

A Message from the Westbury on Trym Society

Bristol City Council is still in the process of working out what exactly its approach will be to the management of its various parks, both formal and wild, large and small and for the many different styles of green space within the City

In the meantime various new methods of operation are being trialled. The main objectives, taking account of all current and planned budget cuts, are to make money towards maintenance where possible and to save money by reducing services to basic essentials and inviting volunteers to assist with jobs in their own localities, where this is feasible.

An income stream possibly:

Tennis Courts - it has been policy for some time since last year, to improve courts at certain parks within the City and to engage the Lawn Tennis Association in a contract whereby the LTA will undertake re-surfacing and maintenance of courts and use some of them for coaching sessions across the City. Canford Park is one park selected to receive the improvements. Officials have recently been observed taking measurements locally and they confirmed that plans are in place to upgrade our courts quite soon. Once completed all players will have to book sessions and pay for them - most likely on line, although this has not yet been confirmed. Spokespersons from Westbury, including from the Westbury on Trym Society, have sought a guarantee that hours most used by local families after work and school will be kept available for easy booking. We shall continue to press for this.

A means of saving money possibly:

The Rose Garden in Canford Park has been through various stages of cultivation in recent years – not all of them very successful. Work has been at a premium and hybrid rose bushes do not appreciate neglect, from either lack of compost and manure or disease control. The Parks Department has decided to change its horticultural styles there as a consequence. Currently it is working with Urban Buzz, a new project to sow wild flower seed and plant Bee-friendly perennials in areas of Bristol's parks. This is partly to save on labour costs and partly to help swell the Bee population, badly depleted recently due to a virus. This year Parks has invited us to provide volunteers from among those who love gardening and /or the Park! Insurance is given during work sessions with a Parks representative present or in control. So far members of the Westbury Society and Sustainable Westbury have had one co-operative working party, removing diseased roses! We shall be helping to re-model and improve the rose garden during this summer/autumn. If you would like to join our informal group: CART (Canford Restoration Team) please email wotsoconhil@gmail.com or phone 0117 962 2795 to find out details of the next session. Hilary Long: pp WOTSOC

