



31 October 2025

SILVER MOTION (LABOUR PARTY): SAFER, MORE INCLUSIVE PARKS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Your Park Bristol & Bath was established as a charity in 2019 to enable everybody to benefit from parks and green spaces across Bristol & Bath.

Parks can have transformative impact on our health, wellbeing and quality of life, but not everyone can enjoy them.

As such we agree with the issues raised in this motion and support the need for action to overcome the barriers that prevent women and girls from accessing parks as often as men.

We are pleased that the motion also refers to ‘people from marginalised communities’ as these barriers won’t be experienced equally. Disabled girls, girls from global majority communities and those living in lower-income areas face compounded barriers to access.

Groundwork's Out of Bounds report, 2021 found that people from low-income households or areas, minority ethnic groups and Disabled people are among the groups least likely to use parks and therefore missing out.

These findings play out locally, with only 38% of Disabled people in Bristol using parks at least once a week, 46% of Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups and 40% of people living in the 10% most deprived areas (Bristol QoL Survey, 2023). Women and girls from these communities will experience intersectional barriers that make using parks even more challenging.

Organisations representing all the communities least likely to use parks should be designated as external consultees, with women and girls organisations.

We have been looking at these issues as part of our ‘Parks 4 All’ programme and our Reimagining Parks project.

We have partnered with Make Space for Girls to reimagine Brickfields Park in Bath for teenage girls. Following extensive consultation our partnership has introduced these incredible new features to the park;

- a five-way swing;
- entrance gateways opened to make them more accessible and welcoming;
- a tree trunk social seating and climbing area;
- a bespoke figure of eight bench;
- somersault bars and;
- reduced height of hedges to improve sightlines across the park.

We published research into the experiences of Disabled people and carers when trying to use parks; ‘Not just a check box’. We have co-developed a toolkit to enable these interconnected communities to make plans to

Enabling everyone to access parks and their transformative health and wellbeing benefits



improve their local parks. Our new research with Bristol's different ethnic groups will be published in December 2025.

In Bristol, Hartcliffe Millennium Green is a vital site for people living in BS13. We're working in partnership with the local community to make it an exemplar park for Disabled people and carers.

Thanks to our partnership with local Disabled people and carers, the Friends of Hartcliffe Millennium Green, Bristol City Council and our funders and donors, the community garden has been transformed with a wider entranceway, smooth resurfaced paths, sensory markers, raised planters, additional accessible seating, a community noticeboard, a hand rail, a large shelter and a sensory garden.

We have a lived experience reference group 'Your Park, Your Say' to ensure that the views of Disabled people, carers and global majority communities are embedded in our work from developing our strategy to delivering projects.

We were pleased that the 2024 Bristol Parks Strategy included a goal of making parks and green spaces more accessible and inclusive for people of all backgrounds.

We agree that the redevelopment of Castle Park presents an opportunity to ensure inclusivity, safety and accessibility are built in from the start.

While there is funding available for work in Castle Park, this is not the case for other parks and it is vital that these principles are applied to all parks, especially those in more deprived areas. The Council should use Community Infrastructure Levy funding to re-distribute wealth across the city to enable this.

Crucially, if work is carried out to identify interventions, then it is vital that local communities with relevant lived experience, especially those not currently using parks as much as others, are involved in the process. It is also vital that funding is put in place, so that where solutions are co-developed action to implement them can happen on the ground.

We look forward to working with BCC and Councillors across Bristol to do more to ensure that the benefits of our wonderful parks and green spaces are shared more equitably.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Acton-Campbell (Chair of Trustees)
Charlee Bennett (CEO)

References:

<https://yourpark.org.uk/parks-4-all>

<https://yourpark.org.uk/not-just-a-checkbox>

<https://yourpark.org.uk/reimagining-hartcliffe>

<https://yourpark.org.uk/reimagining-brickfields>

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