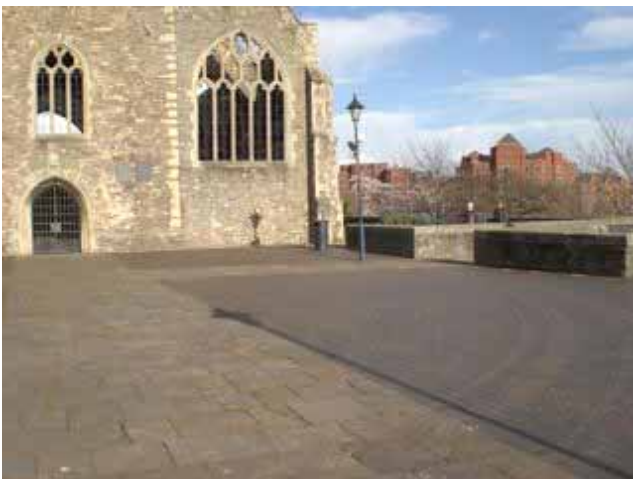


FROM THE AMENITIES AND SPACES GROUP

We recently welcomed a **new member**- Hugh Holden, who also Chairs the influential Bristol Parks Forum, for which we provide two representatives, Gordon Tucker and Gill Brown. Hugh is hoping for even closer co-operation with the Society, which has always been our aim as well.

Ashton Court Mansion

Another meeting of about 20 interested parties took place on Jan 17th, with the aim of setting up a Steering Group of 6-7 to proceed with what promises to be a very long and complex exercise to bring the areas empty for up to 30 years back into life and of benefit to the citizens of Bristol – it is the “People’s Palace” - and the public in general. For getting to this stage, two people must be thanked - Martin Lee - a member of my group for longer than he might wish to reveal - who for many years has been lobbying the Council on our behalf about the neglected state and suggesting logical uses, and Peter Weeks, who you will recall, in a recent Newsletter and in the press, as a “mere” taxpayer and not for the Society, suggested the house be used as a hotel or somesuch as there were such wasted opportunities.



The environs of St. Peter's Church, Castle Park

Castle Park

The redevelopment of St Mary le Port's half derelict site seems now on the back burner until a new brief can be written, with the site excluding the “workers’ green spaces” at the Baldwin Street corner.

So meantime, is the Park going to be left in its unsatisfactory state? Just consider

- an underused and part obscured childrens’ playground
- a sand strewn “arena” (what was that for?)
- the underused paved area next to St Peter’s Church, and,
- most shameful of all, a weed filled Castle Keep, the history of which, as elsewhere, is “explained” by a mouldering information plaque.

Is this the best way, for yet another year, to help to prepare the city for another tourist season in a few months time?



The “hard to find” children’s play area, Castle Park

Castle Park is potentially a wonderful asset for this central locality and it will be much more in demand once all the flats and houses have been completed in Quakers Friars, St Judes, the old Courage Brewery, Temple North (Dings locality), and off Midland Road - especially if they have a family content which is what balanced planning control should be ensuring. No longer can the Council sit back and allow no maintenance funds for the Park, as has apparently been the practice during its 20 year life; in fact if this is true then all credit to the successive Leisure Services officers for doing so well with little or nothing in the kitty!

Rumour has it that the Castle Park Support Group who protested about the loss of the green space (see above) have applied for Village Green Status for the Park to ensure its preservation against development inroads. Their fears would be well allayed if the Council prepared a well consulted, researched, and costed replan of the whole Park so that it could better serve the population.

Old Market

You might have seen the reports in the Evening Post last month about the proposed Bus interchange (part of the Showcase Bus Route) in this famous street. As Dorothy Brown (who did so much to rehabilitate the north side) complained in the paper, sadly there were no trees proposed nor some widening of the pavements to make it more pedestrian friendly; moreover, the scheme looked as if entirely produced by Traffic Engineers with no

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