

**DRAFT**

## **FAQs re the move of food handouts from the Bearpit to St James Park**

### **Q: What is happening ?**

A: From Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015 on, the free food handouts that currently take place in the Bearpit (the public space within the St James Barton roundabout) will take place in the nearby St James Park.

### **Q: Why has the move been made ?**

A: As the Bearpit is a busy thoroughfare and meeting place, frequented by large numbers of people, including families, a search was initiated for a more suitable venue for large food handouts. St James Park is a quiet, safe and accessible venue, which can accommodate the food handouts.

### **Q: Have you considered other venues ?**

A: Yes. A number of possible venues was considered. St James Park was considered the most suitable, taking into account all factors: accessibility and safety for clients of food handout services, public safety, impact on other uses of the space.

### **Q: Whom have you consulted about the move ?**

A: The Bearpit Improvement Group, which manages the Bearpit space by agreement with the Council, has involved the following organisations in a series of consultation meetings: Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland, Bristol Christian Action Network, Crisis Centre Ministries, Wildgoose Drop-in Centre, Street Life, Streetwise, Bristol Council, Avon & Somerset police. This includes most of the organisations involved in food handouts in Bristol. Efforts have been made to contact all providers of food handouts in the Bearpit.

### **Q: Food handouts have taken place in the Bearpit for many years. What right have you to move them ?**

### **Q: Have you consulted clients of the food handouts ?**

A: All the many parties that have engaged with the consultation agree that St James Park is the most suitable venue, taking into account all factors, including the interest of clients of the food handouts.

### **Q: Do all providers of food handouts in the Bearpit support the move ?**

A: All the many parties that have engaged with the consultation agree that St James Park is the most suitable venue, taking into account all factors, including the interest of clients of the food handouts. This includes Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland, which operates the largest food handout, each Saturday at noon. The group is very happy to talk to any other providers with whom it has not so far been able to engage, to explain the reasons for the move to St James Park.

**Q: Will free food handouts be banned from the Bearpit from now on ?**

A: The consensus of the many parties that have engaged with the consultation is that St James Park is the most suitable venue, taking into account all factors, including the interest of clients of the food handouts, and it is the intention that all food handouts will take place in St James Park from now on.

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Communication to any other providers of handouts in the Bearpit

Dear

Following consultation, it has been agreed that free food handouts that currently take place in the Bearpit will move to St James Park from Saturday 21st March onwards.

All the groups who have been consulted, which include most of the organisations involved in food handouts in Bristol, agree that St James Park is the most suitable venue, taking into account all factors, including the interest of clients of the food handouts. It is a quiet, safe and accessible venue, which can accommodate the food handouts.

Information will be displayed soon in the Bearpit and places like the Wildgoose Drop-in Centre to give advance notice of the move to clients of food handouts, and Churches Together will pass the information to clients of their Saturday lunchtime handouts. We can supply you with copies of the flyers for your clients.

We hope this does not cause you any difficulties, but if you do have any issues concerning the move, we would be very happy to talk with you.

With best wishes

Alan Morris  
Chair, Bearpit Improvement Group