

## Local support for extra protection for Troopers Hill?

Friends of Troopers Hill are hoping that local people will show their support for a new planning designation to protect Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve, Troopers Hill Field and Troopers Hill woodland.

Bristol City Council is reviewing their Local Plan which is the framework on which planning decisions are made. They have now invited public comment on their review on [www.bristol.gov.uk/localplanreview](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/localplanreview)

The importance for Troopers Hill, the Field and the Woodland is that a new designation of “Local Green Space” is being proposed for them. It offers an excellent level of protection for the sites. Susan Acton-Campbell, Chair of Friends of Troopers Hill said, “It is important that the public write to [blp@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:blp@bristol.gov.uk) stating that they support this designation and why. This will then give supporting evidence of the value of the spaces when government inspectors review the designation. At a national level there is a drive for more housing development and without good evidence these designations might not be granted”.



The wording that Bristol City Council proposes to describe the protection of “Local Green Space” is “Land identified as Local Green Space will be retained as open space. Development that results in harm to the Local Green Space’s characteristics, appearance or role, will not be permitted”.

The criteria for “Local Green Space” are recreational value, historic significance, richness of wildlife, beauty and tranquillity. The space also has to be shown to be special to the community and be unique and irreplaceable for that local community. The Friends will be stating that the Field and Woodland are irreplaceable as they offer a gateway to Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve, which is unique to the area as a 20-acre site of acid grassland and heathland providing habitats for nationally

rare species while also providing, for human visitors, outstanding views, listed structures providing a reminder of our industrial heritage, quiet and tranquil places for reflection and immense recreational value for people of all ages and backgrounds, from dog walkers to family groups, throughout the year.

The consultation closes on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May. The Friends would not only appreciate support for the planning designation but also volunteers to provide physical protection for Troopers Hill by carrying out conservation work.

**There is a conservation work party on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month, starting promptly at 10am and finishing at noon. The volunteers meet by the red slide on Troopers Hill Field.**