



***Priorities for the Area Green  
Spaces Strategy for the Horfield  
Common area, including  
Wellington Hill Playing Field and  
the Ardagh***

***Friends of Horfield Common, November 2011***

# Area Green Space Plan – Overview

- *Horfield Common, including the Ardagh*
- *Wellington Hill Playing Field*

# References

## *Bristol City Council Policies:*

- *Parks and Green Spaces Strategy, 2008*
- *Playing Pitch Strategy for Bristol, 2009*
- *Area Green Space Plan Proposals & Consultation, 2010*

# Informed by

## Process:

- *BCC's Ideas and Options Consultation 2010 (events 20/07/10 and 17/07/10, 28/10/10, 10/07/11; AGM 18/05/11 & public meetings 28/07/10, 03/09/10 21/10/10 and 26/05/11)*
- *Assessment of outcomes of consultation and synergy with FOHC proposals (developed through additional committee meetings and informal engagement with wider users of the Horfield Common area) – consultation event 16/12/10*
- *Meetings at Horfield and Lockleaze Neighbourhood Partnership 28/02/11, 29/06/11, 10/08/11 and 02/09/11 plus Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Neighbourhood Partnership 25/07/11, Open Consultation Event at the Ardagh on 29/10/11)*
- *FOHC Membership consultation – final AGSS priorities; November 2011*

# The Ardagh

- *Significant opposition to the proposal for the loss of any of the facilities*
- *Full support for investment in the facilities and improvement to the site as a whole*
- *Widespread frustration at historic and ongoing failure to maintain the facilities*
- *Proposals for improvements to meet demands of wide-range of user groups – holistic rather than divisive approach to redevelopment i.e not a cafe at the expense of the Bowling Green*

# The Ardagh – What Now?

- High Priority Contractual obligations not being met by current BCC contract holders – pursue this
- High Priority Need for the Ardagh to be reintegrated into city-wide strategic planning processes (for sports, parks, children's play, public toilet provision, waste management etc), not treated as a separate 'project' which will then only be funded through money available to this area's NP (through Section 106 money) or local residents (through fundraising)/private investment



**Horfield Common, including the Ardagh (tennis courts, bowling green, pavilion building with meeting rooms etc) and children's play area**



**Wellington Hill Playing Field**

**High Priority**

**Park-keeper provision** to be allocated here by BCC in the same way that it is in other parks and green spaces across the city.

There is currently no clear rationale as to why other areas have staff allocated to look after their parks and green spaces (even if part-time only) and we do not.



### Children's play on Horfield Common near the Ardagh

There is not support to move the children's play area into the Ardagh site as there are concerns re: visibility and antisocial behaviour (see next slides for full details); also there is concern that in order to address these there would need to be tree works, security measures, potential lighting, new paths installed etc which may be possible in the long term, but will simply mean that nothing happens in the short term.

The play facilities on Horfield Common are inadequate in their current form. These urgently need to be improved.

### Land movement, or not within the Ardagh site

BCC have agreed to undertake a survey of the land within the Ardagh site to confirm whether or not there is subsidence at the site or whether movement visible on the tennis courts etc is being caused, for example, by tree roots under the site which can be managed in a different way. This will take a minimum of 12 months from the date that it begins, so will be completed at the earliest for January 2013.

In view of this – waiting for another year before moving the children's play area into the Ardagh site (as was originally proposed) rather than improving it on it's current site is not acceptable.



Map

Aerial >

Bird's Eye

St Leonards

**Play Areas**  
 Younger children  
 Older children and teenagers

**HIGHEST PRIORITY** – refurbish children’s play area on it’s current site – extending size so that a dog-free area for games created and a wildlife area (there is already Cuckoo grass etc that grows along the wall behind the area).

**Opposition to original proposal to relocate children’s play area into the Ardagh site as lacks visibility from the wider area – concerns re: Anti-Social behaviour in the evenings and overnight, in addition to the ongoing delays re: movement or not of the land/site**





**HIGH PRIORITY** – install ‘double gates’ so entrance safer for small children (e.g those at Blaise Castle play area) – they can’t ‘run out’.

## **HIGHEST PRIORITY**

### **Improve Children’s Play Area**

**Extend play area with fence down side of track & extended to wall along existing line**

**This proposal creates minimal impact on Common Land & creates large dog free grass and wildflower planting area**

#### **Lower Priority Aim**

**Plant long grasses and wildflowers to encourage wildlife along bottom and side edge of expanded children’s play area**

- Map
- Aerial >
- Bird's Eye



**High PRIORITY:**

Signage stating **SLOW** and 5mph limit on track next to play area; painted on road as well as road signage

Yellow Paint on speed bumps on track highlighting them for all users

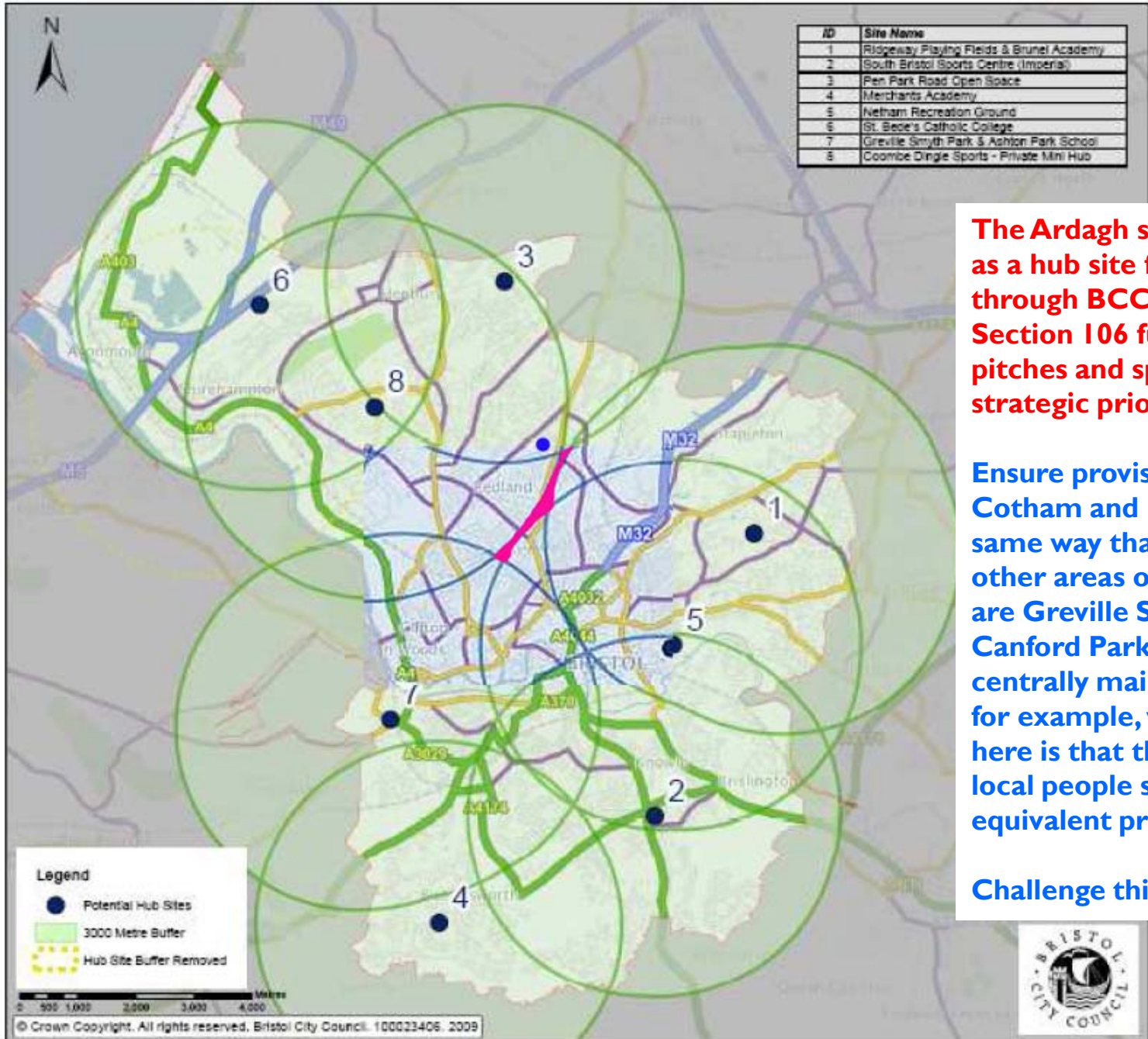
Explore with garage owners (located at bottom of track) whether access can be restricted to back of garages (Maple Road/Longmead Avenue entrances) so that track only used in emergency



# Horfield Common, including the children's play area and the Ardagh



**Map 1.8 Minimum Hub Sites for Maximum Coverage**



**The Ardagh site to be invested in as a hub site funded centrally through BCC Sports, central Section 106 funds for playing pitches and sports facilities and strategic priority funding for sport**

**Ensure provision for all Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Area in the same way that this is provided in other areas of the city – e.g. why are Greville Smyth Park or Canford Park tennis courts centrally maintained/refurbished, for example, when the proposal here is that the local area NP or local people should fundraise for equivalent provision here.**

**Challenge this.**



# Why address the quality of provision for tennis/sports at the Ardagh

- BCC's Playing Pitch Strategy states that there is an *'insufficient supply of accessible Tennis Courts of a usable standard within the city to accommodate the current demand, forcing most users to play in the private sector.'* (Section 5.6, Page 27)
- The PPS also states that *'isolated sites with little or no ancillary facilities are of the poorest quality, and are prone to vandalism,'* (ibid).
- *There is a gap in hub site provision coverage, which maps onto much of the BCR NP area* (see previous diagram – 1.8 in the PPS); in tandem with a MUGA at the site (which the AGSP proposals put forward as lacking in the area) – this would provide facilities of an equivalent standard to those accessible to residents in other areas of the city

# MUGA + tennis courts = success!

*The Ardagh has the potential to supply the courts to meet city-wide demand in a centre which has ancillary facilities and which - with investment - could offer high quality courts which could host clubs, offer coaching and coach education, admin and facilities, changing and social provision, training and conditioning, child protection and club development.*

*These are all of the common elements required for a site to be a hub-site (PPS, page 43) and to become a vital resource for tennis in the city*

# TENNIS COURTS - HIGH PRIORITY:



**Short term** – good quality grass-roots level tennis courts

- > **Resurfaced** so level & bounce true
- > **Lines marked out so visible & replace tennis nets** (both already part of contract – enforce this)
- > **Fix fences** around courts



## Tennis Courts

Invested in so high quality public provision  
'Hub' Site for tennis with ancillary facilities

Clubs

Coaching

Coach Education

Admin and facilities

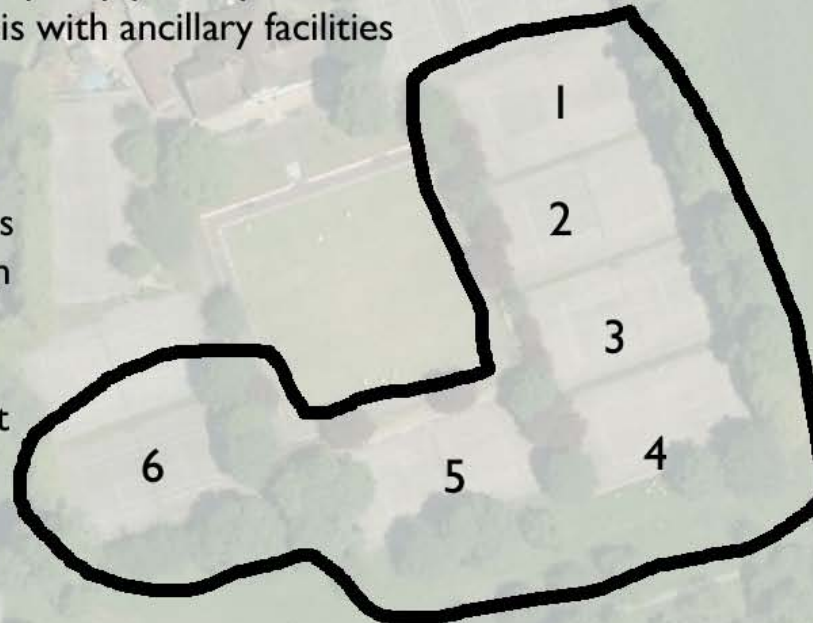
Changing Provision

Social Provision

Training

Club Development

Junior Tennis



# TENNIS COURTS - HIGH PRIORITY:



**Long term** – good quality grass-roots level (or better quality) tennis courts  
**Hub Site provision for tennis**

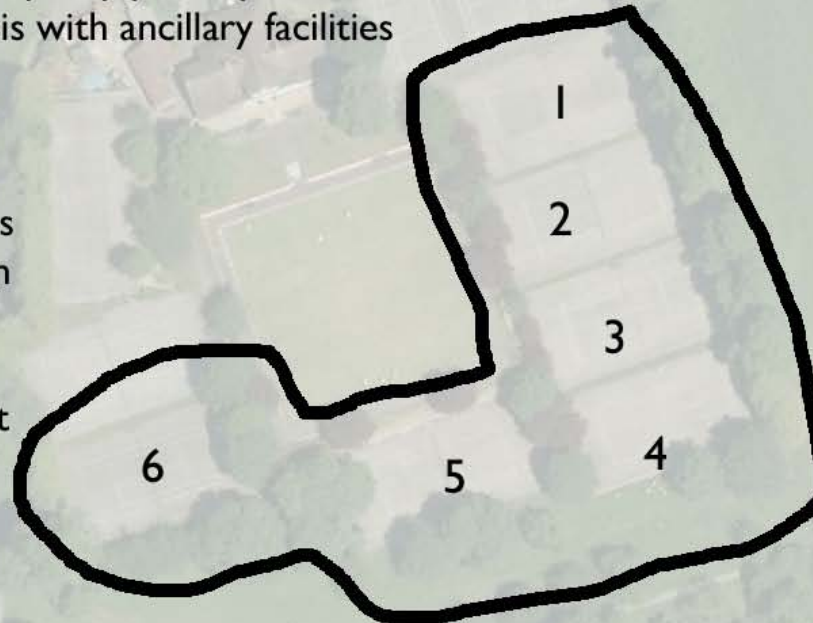
> Coaching provision; support for club tennis on the site with programme for the public



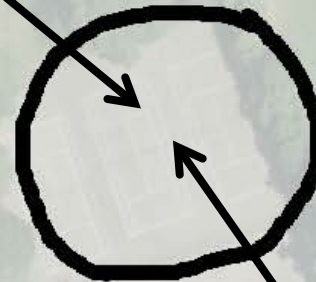
## Tennis Courts

Invested in so high quality public provision  
'Hub' Site for tennis with ancillary facilities

- Clubs
- Coaching
- Coach Education
- Admin and facilities
- Changing Provision
- Social Provision
- Training
- Club Development
- Junior Tennis



**Support for a MUGA at the site to provide broader sports facilities including netball, basketball etc** – clear alignment with BCC strategic planning aims for the area and external funding available (subject to successful application) to achieve this, including lighting etc



## Multi-Purpose Games Area

Tennis  
Netball  
Football  
Hockey  
Basketball

Until BCC confirm how site will be reintegrated into strategic planning processes, leases granted to sports clubs etc it is not possible to fundraise further

### **HIGH PRIORITY**

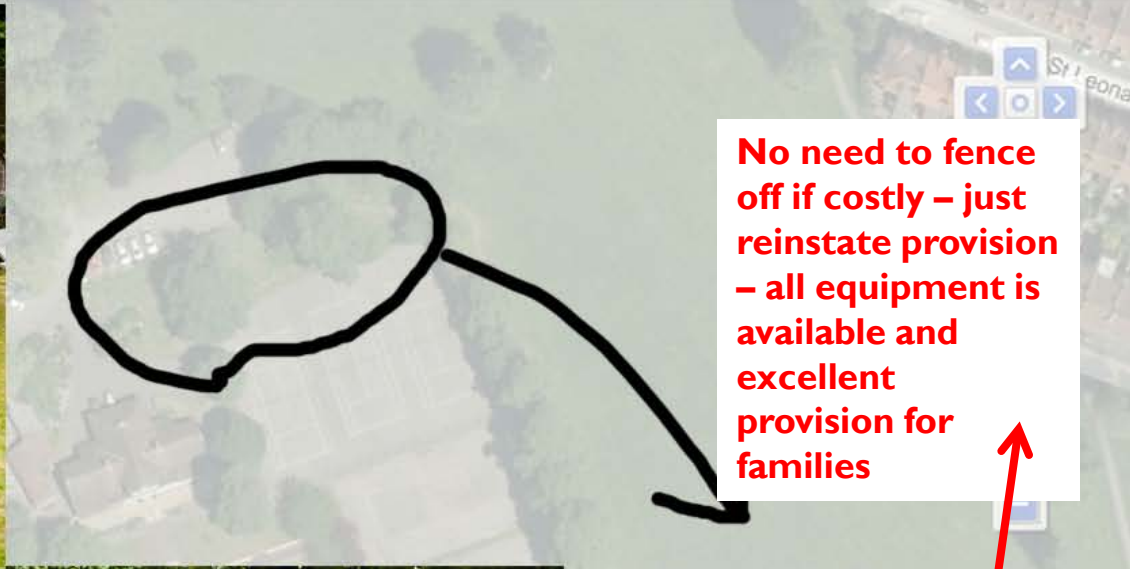
Resolution of this situation is urgent if we are to be able to tap into Olympics funding for improvement of sports facilities, for example.



# MUGA + tennis courts = success!

*Provision of a MUGA at the Ardagh could support the development of sports including Netball, Basketball, hockey, skating, running etc*

*The Ardagh has the potential to become a vital resource for publically accessible sports in this part of the city*



**No need to fence off if costly – just reinstate provision – all equipment is available and excellent provision for families**

~~Reinstate Putting Green  
Fence off with low border  
so dog free area~~



**In tandem with staffing for park – reopen pitch and putt provision (cafe staff to book in & out, or park-keeper advertised at certain times as available)**

Map  
Aerial  
Bird's E



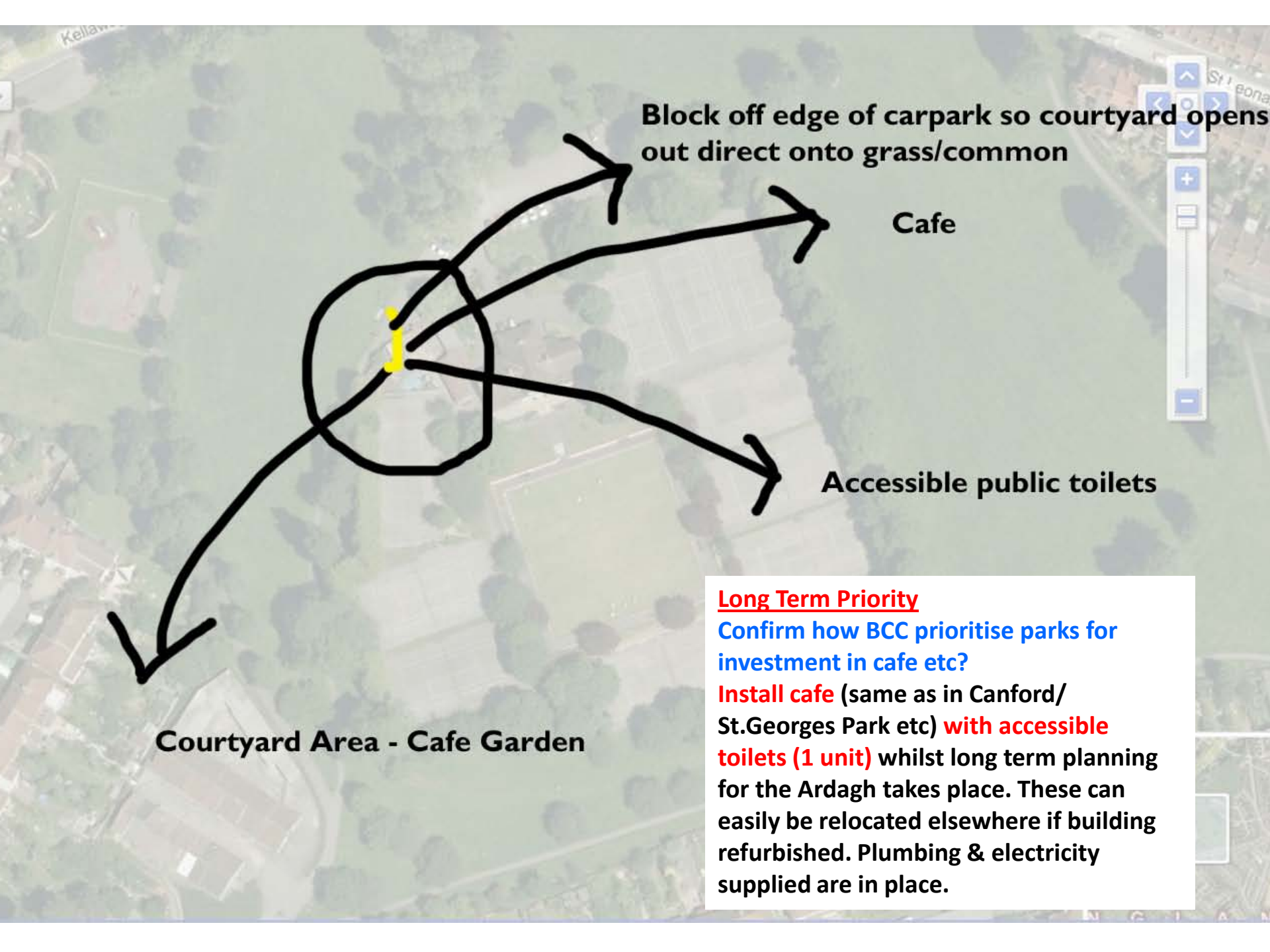
# Bowling Green

Centre of the facility

Needs to be maintained  
~~Low fencing around  
Ardagh Bowling Club~~

**ABSC do not want the green to be fenced off as it will appear as though it is separate from the rest of the site/exclusive – instead - low cost solution – clear signage stating ‘dogs on leads’ & ‘ please do not walk on the green.’**





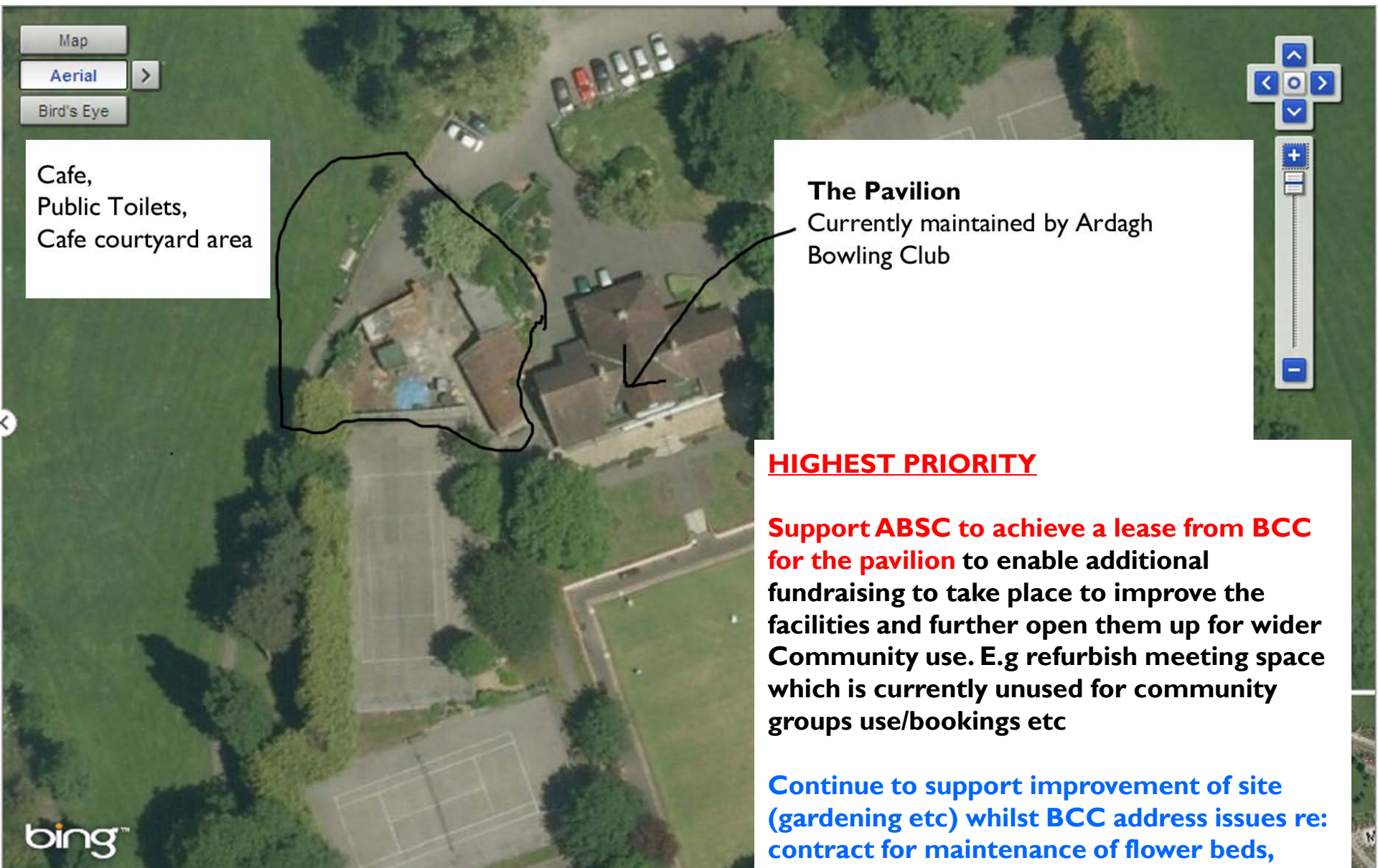
Block off edge of carpark so courtyard opens out direct onto grass/common

Cafe

Accessible public toilets

Courtyard Area - Cafe Garden

Long Term Priority  
Confirm how BCC prioritise parks for investment in cafe etc?  
Install cafe (same as in Canford/ St.Georges Park etc) with accessible toilets (1 unit) whilst long term planning for the Ardagh takes place. These can easily be relocated elsewhere if building refurbished. Plumbing & electricity supplied are in place.



Map  
Aerial  
Bird's Eye

Cafe,  
Public Toilets,  
Cafe courtyard area

**The Pavilion**  
Currently maintained by Ardagh  
Bowling Club

**HIGHEST PRIORITY**

**Support ABSC to achieve a lease from BCC for the pavilion** to enable additional fundraising to take place to improve the facilities and further open them up for wider Community use. E.g refurbish meeting space which is currently unused for community groups use/bookings etc

Continue to support improvement of site (gardening etc) whilst BCC address issues re: contract for maintenance of flower beds, grounds, public toilets, tennis courts etc

Map  
Aerial  
Bird's Eye



**Wider aerial view of area and proposed pathway**



**Long Term Priority**

**Proposed footpath across common to join car park with Horfield Lodge side**

**Proposed to enable full circuit route around the common for disabled users without needing to go up to the road**

**Would be subject to application for planning approval as on common land**



# Ardagh Pavilion

- *Home to Ardagh Bowling and Sports Club – (season May to November), hosts 3 skittles teams during winter season (November to May), although they have no formal lease for the building therefore cannot apply for funding to improve etc*
- *Currently maintained by volunteers.*
- *Could host ancillary facilities for Tennis Club, 'Hub Site' & 'MUGA'*
- *Could be developed to provide flexible space for community use (e.g Yoga classes, Community Choir, Generic Meeting Spaces, Toddler Group, Reading Group, Sewing Course, Postnatal classes)*
- *Needs to be DDA compliant to be income generating*
- *Support ABSC to achieve lease for building in order to open this up more widely for community use.*

# Wellington Hill Playing Field

- *Significant opposition to this proposal*
- *Incorrect information in the AGSP documents re: usage of the field; Assessment of usage documents not produced by BCC using stated criteria/process (AGSP Ideas and Options)*
- *Site fails to meet Council's own stated criteria for disposal of open space (BCC Policies PPS & PGSS)*
- *Village Green Application submitted Sept 2010*
- *WHPF withdrawn by BCC from sites for disposal Dec 2010*
- *Full support for VGA from H&L NP AGSS group*

# WHPF – What now?

- Following AGSP/SADMomod consultations - *how will WHPF be reintegrated into city-wide strategic planning processes?*
- **HIGH PRIORITY** – put goal posts back up in field and mark out football pitch for use again – see next slide for proposals/questions
- *There is a high level of demand for this provision on this site, (requests to use by several local junior teams as soon as the ‘temporary road’ removed); PPS states that there is a lack of provision in North Bristol (H&L areas) for junior football pitches; Muller Road Parks Group happy to have less pitches marked out there to free up space for other uses*



**High Priority** – reinstate football pitch and goalposts for 2012 football season

Reintegrate field back into city-wide strategic planning processes; confirm if this will be supported by BCC or if there need to be 2 pitches for re-inclusion in the PPS

Consider how this could be achieved with junior pitch dimensions

Age	Pitch dimensions in Yards				Players	Suggested Size of Goal posts	
	Length		Width			Height	Width
	Max	Min	Max	Min			
<b>5-a-side</b>	45		25		5 v 5	6ft	8ft
<b>Futsal</b>	45	24	34	18	5 v 5	6ft 6"	10ft
<b>U7/8</b>	50	30	30	20	7 v 7	6ft	12ft
<b>U9/10</b>	60	50	40	30	7 v 7	6ft	12ft
<b>U11/12</b>	90	75	55	45	11 v 11	7ft	7yds
<b>U11/12</b>	85	70	55	45	9 v 9	7ft	16ft
<b>U13/14</b>	100	80	60	50	11 v 11	7ft	7yds
<b>U15/16</b>	110	90	70	50	11 v 11	8ft	8yds
<b>Adult</b>	130	100	100	50	11 v 11	8ft	8yds



# *WHPF – What now?*

- *Achieve Village Green Status for Wellington Hill Playing Field so that this is preserved as an open green space/playing field for future residents*
- *Continue to support legal process/responses from volunteers working on behalf of FOHC/local residents' groups*

[www.friendsofhorfieldcommon.com](http://www.friendsofhorfieldcommon.com)