

Statement to Council – Heritage and the Environment, Eastville Park

- National Planning Policy Framework
- Planning Practise Guidance
- Bristol’s Core Strategy
- Site Allocations and Development Management

All these key planning documents understand the cultural, social and economic value of our natural and historic environment and all these documents are relevant to understanding the value and significance of site under threat from the proposed housing development.

The area concerned has been dismissed by some as peripheral and of no use, but this fundamentally misunderstands its position within an

- Historic park & garden
- The Stapleton & Frome Valley Conservation Area
- A designated Important Open Space
- A wildlife Corridor part of Bristols Green Network
- Adjacent to a Site of Nature Conservation Interest

And CRITICALLY, part of the setting of Eastville Park, a destination park for people across the city.

The 3 storey high luxury housing development encroaches to within 20m of the River Frome as it passes by the public lake at Eastville Park, which is recognised as one the best of its type in the country

Within the park, the designed landscape at this point is remarkable for its immediate sense of space and naturalness. This is what people experience, and this is what is at risk from the housing development imposing itself on such a critical area of one of Bristols most valuable public parks.

The city bought Eastville Park over 120 years ago with the express purpose of providing open green space for

- Recreation
- Amenity
- An escape from urban pressures

Pressures which have certainly not changed.

Bristol does need housing but to keep a cultural, social and economic balance we also need to protect our finite and non-renewable heritage from un-sustainable development such as this.