# campaigners launch judicial review against Bristol Zoo redevelopment plans



A judicial review is currently underway concerning Bristol City Council's decision to approve plans for the redevelopment of the former Bristol Zoo site in Clifton, which includes the construction of 200 new homes. The legal challenge is spearheaded by the campaign group Save Bristol Gardens Alliance, which is contesting the planning permission granted back in 2023 for a mixed-use development at this historic location.

Bristol Zoo, renowned worldwide, first opened its doors in Clifton in 1836. In a significant move, the Bristol Zoological Society, the charity that operates the zoo, announced its closure in 2022, with intentions to partially redevelop the site. Subsequently, the organisation shifted its focus to a new site near Cribbs Causeway, which it refers to as the Bristol Zoo Project, originally opened to the public in 2013.

Following the zoo's closure, the Society secured planning permission in spring 2023 to build around 200 new homes, mainly in blocks of flats, bordering the gardens. Plans also include the transformation of the zoo’s grounds into a publicly accessible park, with the Society maintaining a ‘visitor hub’ in the former zoo office and entrance building.

Despite these developments, campaigners have persistently fought against the planning decision, raising thousands of pounds through crowd-funding efforts for their legal challenge. The proceedings began in the High Court in Bristol on May 7, with the case expected to extend into May 8. A ruling from the High Court judge is anticipated in the following weeks.

In a statement on their Facebook page, the Alliance expressed confidence ahead of the hearing, stating: “As we face the full hearing next week, we believe we could not have prepared a stronger case.” They also indicated their ongoing commitment to challenging the redevelopment, regardless of the outcome, advocating for alternatives that they believe would be more beneficial for the community.

The Bristol Zoological Society has emphasised the financial necessity of the development to support the expansion of the Bristol Zoo Project, asserting that the millions generated from selling the site to housing developers are crucial for their plans. However, the sale and associated development have been stalled pending the judicial review proceedings.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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