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NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello to all of our members. Thank you for all your support over the years and your consistent backing of the Committee. We will be contacting everyone over the next few weeks to ask you to attend our next Member's Meeting. I would like to personally thank all of our present Committee for their brilliant work over the last four years. We have two new Committee members, Bev and Tony. We are delighted they have joined us. We look forward to seeing you all soon. All the best, Steve.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A big welcome to our new Committee members. Bev has recently retired and wants to give some of her spare time to the park. She lives locally and frequently uses the park to walk her dog. She is a keen gardener, passionate about the environment and keeping the park litter free. She would like to see the wooded area used for the purpose it was designed for as a nature trail not the current ASB den it is. Tony has lived in the area for forty years. His children have used the hospital and the park. He wants to help the community get back the facilities they deserve.

PARK NEWS

We will be having our monthly Litter Pick on Saturday, 24th June. If you can spare an hour, please meet us by the container at 11:30am. We have purchased litter picker hoops and have also had a donation of hoops from Joanne Kennedy. These hoops will make litter picking easier. The next litter picks will take place on 22nd July and 26th August.

Litter is a problem in the park near the side entrance to the hospital especially Costa debris. We are putting up signs to remind park users and hospital staff that if the bins are full, to put their litter in another bin or take it home.



Our compost boxes are still going strong. Many thanks to our amazing volunteers, Laura and Keith, for all they do so that our compost is the best it can be. A polite request to those who use these boxes, please avoid using compostable bags. Laura has been sieving out bits of compostable plastic so the compost can be used. We really need some more volunteers who can turn the compost over. This needs to be done every five weeks or so. If you can spare a little time and are happy to go on a rota, please let us know.

Miss Schenck from Holly Lodge Secondary School and a group of pupils from Y8 and Y9 have helped us at a couple of our litter picking sessions. The pupils really are full of enthusiasm and ideas for what we can achieve in the park. We hope to develop a youth section to our membership



and get other secondary schools in the area involved. Tony is going to help with this with his many school contacts.

In the last few months our volunteers have been busy. First, thanks to Ange for running the free activities for our local children during the Easter Holidays. Thanks also go to the staff and customers at the Toby Carvery on Queens Drive. They collected Easter Eggs for us, and we had enough to give one each to all the children who attended the activities. The children planted sunflower seeds for a competition to see who could grow the tallest sunflower. They are doing well so far; check them out on your next visit to the park.



Laura and Keith have worked so hard on the flower beds, which are looking splendid. Laura continues to add to her hard work of the last year by adding perennials, annuals and pollinators to the beds and along the railings. Educational information about the plants can be found on the beds. Lots of people have commented on how beautiful the beds are looking and how lovely it is to see some colour in the park.

Ange's 7th Fairfield Scout group regularly visit the park. The children have joined in with the sunflower competition and have also planted vegetables in two of the raised beds.



Keith and volunteers have planted 24 rose bushes in the other two raised beds. These will all look spectacular in the coming months, just in time for our North West in Bloom judging.

Last year we were again awarded a Level 5 Outstanding Certificate by the Royal Horticultural Society and Britain in Bloom. We are expecting the Judges to visit us again in July, wish us luck!

We are looking forward to the rain that has been forecast in the next week. The weather has been brilliant, but our poor plants have suffered. We have asked Alder Hey if we can have a water tap installed in our area. While we are waiting to see if this can be arranged, we would be really grateful if anyone could volunteer to help water the plants when we get more sunny weather (fingers crossed). We are always looking for any green-fingered volunteers to help out with planting and watering. Please get in touch if you can spare some time.

Donna has applied for funding for the summer holidays. We will let you know as soon as we can about our plans for summer holiday activities. Fingers crossed we are successful at getting the funding and our Ange can entertain our community in her inimitable way.

Unfortunately, there has been a lot of anti-social behaviour in the nature trail. Hours after the latest litter pick, one of our community sent us photos showing some very unpleasant litter. Joanne Kennedy (local councillor for the park's ward) is arranging a meeting for us with Merseyside Police to discuss the problem. The police have asked that if any ASB is witnessed, it



should be reported to them so they can build up a profile, flag the area as a hotspot and target resources to deal with it.

Our thanks go to Everton in the Community, who recently donated lots of free brand new training kit from previous seasons. Much to the delight of Everton supporters, the kit was distributed to members of the community.

Recently, the playground was closed temporarily. We were unaware of who closed it or why. It transpired that there was some fire damage to part of the floor and the playground was locked up for safety reasons. Thankfully, the damage was repaired quickly and the playground reopened. We have asked that should anything like this happen again, we be informed so that we can let the community know.

Keep an eye out to see what's happening with our new container in the near future!

MEETING WITH ALDER HEY AND LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL

Recently we requested and chaired a meeting with members of the Alder Hey Board, two local Councillors and a Parks Representative from the LCC. We found the meeting to be very positive. The meeting started with a discussion about the history, how FoSP felt hurt, angry and upset by the way we have been treated. We discussed the situation in the park and how the community has suffered immensely from the delay in restoring it. The Deputy CEO, John Grinnell was grateful for the Committee's passion and gave his personal assurance that he is committed to return the park to the community ASAP. The discussion included: lack of communication; a request to be informed and consulted when plans are changed; a request to keep the existing playground as well as the new planned one; replacement of the Forest School areas that were destroyed when new paths were laid down; lighting in the park; the MUGA, when it was going to be opened and how it would be managed; the drug den in the nature trail and a request for CCTV cameras to be installed; re-installation of dead-man posts at the East Prescott Road entrance near Sainsburys; anti-social behaviour as a result of the new entrance in Alder Road; how the park car-park has been used in a way that park visitors have little chance of finding a space and the plan for the area in the park which we use for our activities. We also discussed the proposed swale which will be located in the park; how problems would impact the area near to the standard sized football pitches such as mosquitoes and standing water. We advised that we did not want swales in the park and that they should be on the builder's own land. We discussed the planning permission the Hospital had for installing a heating pipe line under the park. We had a discussion about the football pitches and stated that the community wanted the two standard 11-a-side sized pitches that were promised to replace the ones lost in the building of the Hospital. Alder Hey is planning to install two 9-a-side pitches and we stressed that this was not acceptable under any circumstances. We asked if the Histopathology Building could be retained as the building could be useful as changing rooms for any teams using the football pitches and further community use. We discussed the appalling situation with the grass in Phase 1. Alder Hey agreed that this was a problem and promised the ground wouldn't be left that way. We discussed the tree situation and the local petition to save the trees along Alder Road and how we didn't want any more trees being destroyed because of the paths. We discussed how as a Committee we were looking into how we could ensure that the park was a safe space for girls, not putting shrubbery along the railings on East Prescott Road; the possibility of a rose garden in the area Alder Hey has bought back. LCC's Park's representative stated there is a possibility of Council Rangers working in the park. We met one of the two Community Liaison Officers appointed to the Alder Hey park



project. We are waiting for potential dates for our next meeting, which will be a working session to progress all the ideas/actions put forward.

Alder Hey agreed to fix the fence in the nature trail and replace the missing green bench, both of which have been done we're glad to report.

If you have any other suggestions about what we need to discuss with Alder Hey and the Council please let us know. We are attending the Alder Hey Open Day on 2nd July to continue to be a visible presence and hold both Alder Hey and LCC accountable.

THANK YOU

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers, partners and other local Friends of Park groups for all their hard work, knowledge and support of our group.

The Friends of Springfield Park Committee

....and finally, if you fancy a bit of fun! A member recently told us that she had been Pokémon hunting in the park with her grandson. Apparently there is an abundance of PokéMon and PokésStops in the park, our very own Lambanana being one of them.



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