

Friends of Mill Hill Park

Spring 2014

Circular No: 29

Park Progress

Since our last AGM in 2013 we have kept a watchful eye on the Park, and are pleased to report that it has been as well used as ever. The Playground has been buzzing, the Cafe very popular and the sporting facilities very busy. The tennis and basketball courts were made full use of, and until the recent bad weather, the children's Sunday football took place regularly. The Bowling Club is also a great attraction.

The Litter Clearance Team seem to be working well, and though there were some mornings, especially after warm weekends, when there was a lot of litter about, they soon got on top of the problem. Perhaps Members, when walking in the Park, could pick up stray cans and bottles and put them in the bins, thereby contributing to the pleasant appearance of the park.

We have had some small success with the Toilets. We do check them and report back to the Council, and the problems are rectified very quickly. The contractors are supposed to clean every day and we have been more successful in keeping them up to the mark.

We are still trying to get some attention paid to the flower bed bordering the tennis court. It is in a very bad state and we do not understand why this is neglected while the beds by the Wise Lane Car Park are looked after regularly. The beds by the Cafe have also been planted again. We will keep trying for a result here.

Trees



John Smith, our tree expert, has been successful in getting the Council to finally remove the maple that was impeding the growth of one of the two rare Zelkovas – it took nearly a year to achieve this!

There has been some damage during this very stormy weather. A very large branch came down across the path bordering Wise Lane. Luckily no one was walking there at the time, as this could have caused a nasty injury. There have been some smaller

branches down elsewhere, and there is quite a lot of clearing up still to do. We have informed the Council about this, and also about a broken seat near the tennis court. There has been no action as yet, but we will keep on pressing them to do something.

Secretary

Unfortunately Ariella Lister, who has been our very able Secretary for the past year, has had to give this up because of family commitments, but we are delighted to say that Cathrine Clarke, who lives in Birkbeck Road, has very kindly agreed to take over the role, and we will be voting her in at the AGM, with much relief.

Ariella will stay on the Committee, and we are very grateful for all the work she has done for us during the past year.

Dog Fouling

Although the majority of dog walkers are good citizens and clear up after their pets, we do notice that this remains a problem, especially on the path between the cafe and the bowling green. This is extremely unpleasant, given the proximity

of the catering, and the fact that so many small children are in the area after using the playground. We have approached the Council previously about this matter and will be doing so again unless there is a dramatic improvement. It is quite difficult mentioning it to transgressors, as one can get verbally abused, but if possible we would urge you to do so, perhaps offering a spare poo-bag if you are a dog walker and carry them.

Car Park Charges



We have been told that consultations on the proposed car park charges will take place after the May Council Elections. The charges may be as follows:

First hour - free.

Two hours - £1.00

Long stay - £3.50

All day - £5.00

This would include weekends.

The Council's argument for charging is that the Car Park is used all day by commuters. This obviously does not apply at weekends, so there should not

be a charge then. On walking through one Friday at 3.30pm, there were at least 20 free spaces. Our main argument against these proposals is that they would seriously curtail use of the Park and place an unfair burden on people using it for any length of time, such as Bowling Club members. We will be opposing these proposals.

Leaflets

We hope to have our new recruiting leaflets ready by early Spring. We do want to increase our membership to give us more clout to fight problems in the Park. If you would be able to help us deliver leaflets in your road, please let us know. Contract details at the end of this newsletter.

AGM

The date for the AGM is March 29th, 2014, at 10.30am in the Bowling Club, next door to the Cafe.

We do urge you to attend, as we have important issues to discuss regarding the Car Park Charges.

Please bring along any friends who might be interested and who could join us. We need your help.

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