



The Friends of Springfield Mill Park Newsletter Two - June 2006



Progress at last

News, News, News

Clean-up Day

During the first weekend in May, about 50 local residents from the "Friends" group gave the Park a thorough spring clean. A full sized skip was filled with all manner of rubbish including general litter, old road signs, logs, an armchair and a bike (from the pond!) The park looks better than it has for years and we hope we can keep it this way. The Greenbelt Group is also committed to keeping the park in a better condition.

Meetings

The last friends meeting in the Arkle in early May was well attended and planned several initiatives for the immediate future (see opposite). A site meeting with the Greenbelt Group shortly after was also very positive and they are committed to working with us to improve the appearance of the park.

Funding

A funding bid has been submitted to a local south Leeds charity to secure about £1000 for various environmental improvements. We are in discussions with the council about possible larger funding opportunities with various national organisations including the lottery fund.

We are also looking to obtain some smaller amounts of money from both Morley Town Council and Leeds City Council. And finally.... The Greenbelt Group themselves have agreed to make a donation of £300 to our funds (which may be repeated annually!)



Some of the 50 residents after a satisfying morning's work cleaning up the park- and a full skip!!

Future Events

- Family Fun Day (see below)
- Tree Planting in the woodland
- Bulb Planting in the Autumn – both around the park and in the woodland
- We are hoping to ask the local schools if they wish to participate in the planting events

Family Fun Day - on Springfield Mill Park

Saturday 8th July 2006 at 1:00pm

5-a-side football tournament

Games and races for children and young people

Pony Rides

Face Painting

Bouncy Castle

Tombola

Any volunteers for help or for stalls please see back of newsletter for phone or e-mail address

For more info about the football contact Nigel on 2525737 or text 07703 121267

If you want to play but don't have a team, just let us know and we will find you a team. If you have formed a team contact us to register for the games. We are hoping to have teams of all ages and abilities. It's nice to win but the main thing is enjoying the game. Volunteers for refereeing also needed.



"We will actively campaign for the promotion of and the positive engagement of, all residents living in the vicinity of Springfield Mill Park to facilitate the aesthetic development of the facilities of the park and thereby enhance the quality of life for the mutual long term benefit of the community."





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...and the less positive news!
But still progress nonetheless

Anti Social Behaviour and Damage

There have been significant problems of damage caused by a minority of youths who frequent the park and underage drinking has also been a persistent issue.

We are working with the Police and other authorities to try to deal with anti-social behaviour and have met with the local community policing team, neighbourhood watch coordinator and council anti-social behaviour unit to look at ways to deal with the many problems associated with the park.

We have set up a local "Park Watch" involving many residents surrounding the area of the park, with links into the police. The message to young people is clear. We welcome young people who want a place to play, meet and socialise. We also want to know their views about what they may want from the park.

However, immediately the first can or bottle is opened the police will be called. The police have attended on several occasions in the past month and they have confiscated any drink held by those underage and poured it away – you have been warned. Equally, at the first sign of any damage the police will be called.

All residents can help by spreading the word and particularly by:

- **Joining our group, details on this leaflet**
- **Calling the police if you witness any anti-social behaviour, first try the local neighbourhood Police team on 2382035. If the office is not staffed then call West Yorkshire Police on 0845 6060606.**

Dog Fouling

The situation does seem to be improving but there are still a minority of irresponsible people, mainly adults, who refuse to clean up after their dogs. The majority of dog owners are responsible but it only takes a relatively small number to cause a significant problem. However, we would particularly ask everyone to help by:

- **Speak to anyone you see not clearing up after their dog and ask them to do so.**
- **Dog owners to please refrain from exercising dogs on the area designated for recreation purposes.**
- **Please, please remove dog fouling off site and not leave it in the bins – this has been a constant target for the vandals.**

We are particularly keen to keep the grassed areas clean in order to encourage legitimate recreational use by young people.

Fly Tipping

Fly tipping is also a persistent problem and again this is by a thoughtless minority. We have already had one success on this front when someone was identified tipping garden waste in the wood. They were approached and easily agreed to stop the practice and also cleaned up all the tipping which they had done.

There is evidence of fly tipping of garden waste in the hedgerow towards the bottom of Rooms Lane. There is also some at the entrance into the wood by the pond. If you see anyone tipping garden refuse or other items here or on other parts of the park, please report the incident.

An Ambition – Our first news letter seemed to be mainly about anti-social behaviour. This newsletter is down to less than half on the subject – and some of this is positive news. Our ambition is to not have to mention it at all in editions to come. We all need to work together to make this a reality.

Next "Friends" meeting Tuesday 18th July at 8:00pm in the Arkle, please come along
Would you like to know more or be added to our mailing list? Please either telephone 2539007 or
Email: springfieldpark@beeb.net



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