



JANUARY 2011 BRIEFING

Notice of the AGM & Proposed Changes to Constitution

The Friends of South Park will hold their next Annual General Meeting on Monday, March 7 at 7.00pm at Thomas's School on Hugon Road, to present the Annual Report and Accounts and conduct elections. Please consider participating in the committee if you could become an active member. Let us know of your interest at info@friendsofsouthpark.org.uk or talk to any of the committee members! Also, we'll be requesting approval of proposed changes to the constitution to comply with several grants for which we've applied. The proposed changes and the full agenda for the meeting can be seen by following the links on the Friends web site www.friendsofsouthpark.org.uk.

Call for Volunteers and Green Thumbs for Market Garden

We are moving ahead, with the consent of the Council, to install a simple heritage market garden in the park this spring. We'll be planting heritage seed varieties unique to London's early market gardens and a demonstration bed with Veitch & Co specimens (the 19th century nurseryman who used to lease the land before Charlotte Sullivan sold it to become open space). To be ready, we would love to have some volunteers to help with the following activities so let us know if you want to help!

- Can you grow a few seeds in a warm windowsill in March so they are ready to plant in May (seeds provided!)?
- Can you help water the garden during school holidays in July and August when the sun is hot and the plants are thirsty?
- Can you tend to the garden whenever you have time—anything from one hour once to a weekly time would be fantastic; and there is a master gardener who will be overseeing the work who can help!

We'll have more ideas as the project progresses, so just let us know if you are interested in being part of this project in some capacity.

Mark your Diaries for a Celebration Sunday, May 15

We're going to celebrate the birthday of South Park on May 15 with a morning of great

family and dog activities, including writing wishes for a new handkerchief “wish” tree that we’re planting, short history walks through the park, and music. We’ll formally open the heritage market garden and invite everyone to bring a picnic lunch! More details will follow in future briefings. If you want to be a part of the great team putting this together, let us know at info@friendsofsouthpark.org.uk.

Update on New Adventure Playground

The public consultation of the play area is now closed and the Council have put the works out for tender, so we are hopeful that the playground will be installed later this spring. During the consultation, members were generous with their comments and concerns. Although most comments we and the Council received were very supportive, some raised valid questions about the work—mainly why the play area is being redeveloped at a time of austerity and cut back? We would be happy to respond in detail but, essentially, the cost is being met by money specifically made available for such work to be done now, including grants obtained by the Friends from non-Council sources.

Settrington Road Rose Walk

Roses need rather careful treatment if they are to grow successfully and we have been advised to postpone the planned planting, probably to the autumn.

New Signage

Late objections to the proposed borough wide design caused a major delay but the final version is now agreed. New signs at all the entrances will hopefully be installed before the AGM.

Core Strategy and the Northwest Corner

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the Council's consultation on its proposed core strategy. Of the 110 submissions, 42 were objections to the removal of the open space status of the north west corner of the park. We await the council's response and have no further information on the proposed sale of the NW corner, We have commissioned a barrister to prepare a formal letter in support of the Charlotte Sullivan covenant.

***** The Friends Committee *****