



NOVEMBER 2010 BRIEFING

Summary of Open Meeting on 1st November 2010

At the open meeting on Monday evening, Nov 1, local residents and members of the Friends of South Park overwhelmingly voted again to oppose the sale of any land in the park—even if this severely limits public sector investment in the park by the Council in the short- to medium-term. The four main objectives to the sale are that it:

- (1) Breaks a 107-year-old covenant that intends the land for open space and public use
- (2) Realises a permanent loss of open space
- (3) Offers no certainty of any income in park
- (4) Alters the designation of land from open space and conservation areas

Even so, the Friends remain committed to the eventual regeneration of the entire park and have always recognised that this could take up to 10 years to complete. We are particularly grateful to the Council for the tremendous support that they have given to date for South Park's restoration of the heritage perimeter wall, ongoing maintenance, the draft master plan, and active initiatives, such as the planned improvements to the play area, for which they have been immensely supportive.

In the immediate future, we intend to concentrate our efforts on putting Clancarty Lodge and the land currently being used for a depot back into public use. Instead of leaving the area as an eyesore that is inaccessible to park users, the committee suggests a community market garden, an environmental education centre, and a revenue-producing enterprise providing services appropriate to a park, all of which could potentially provide the Council with more than 50,000 pounds of revenue, so that the full intentions of the covenant that protects the park to provide for local people can be honoured. We also plan to continue to pursue possible funding sources for other parts of the park as well.

To remind members, the covenant on South Park was imposed by Charlotte Sullivan when she sold the land (at below its market value for housing) for public recreation use. We have legal advice that the covenant is strong but we do not know if the Council will still continue with their sale proposal, which is largely motivated by debt reduction. Whilst the community understands the financial challenges the Council face to pay down public debt, we feel that the long-term benefits that open space provides to the people in our area – one of the most disadvantaged areas of the borough – far outweigh the very limited impact that a sale of some park land would have in dealing with a short-term problem.

However, the Council is still proposing to change the open land designation for the northwest corner. You can object to this proposal which is part of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy, a planning policy document currently under consultation. The consultation closes on 12th November, so you will need to move quickly if you have a strong opinion either way:

Voice your opinion on the proposed designation change before Nov 12:

- Online: <http://lbhf-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>
- Email: ldf@lbhf.gov.uk
- Fax: 020 8753 3036
- Write to: Development Plans Team, Environment Services, Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, W6 9JU
- Email or write to your local councillors.
- Email the Friends with your thoughts at info@friendsofsouthpark.org.uk.
- Tell your neighbours and other park users about the issue and Friends of South Park, and support us by joining our email list and becoming a member.