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# Newsletter

Hello Members,

October 2022

## SUMMER OF FUN!

What a fantastic summer of events we have had in the park. We had four weeks of events for our younger children, including visits from the Police and Fire Officers. The summer activities ended with a trip to the Albert Dock Watersports and Aqua Park and a beach party on the final day, which was attended by two special visitors, Lady Anne Dodd and Chief Superintendent Zoe Thornton. The older children also had a fabulous summer thanks to Y.E.S. (Youth Empowering Services). There are lots of photos of the events on Facebook and the website. All the events were FREE for the children due to committee members' hard work to find funding. Y.E.S. came on board to try to engage older youths and reduce anti-social behaviour.

## LITTER PICKING

Thank you to all those who have helped us with litter picking events in the park. These have taken place on the last Saturday of the month. Please note that group litter picks are now suspended from November until the end of March.

## THANK YOU

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers, partners and other local Parks Friends mentors for all their hard work, knowledge and support.

## CHILDREN'S PLAY PARK

We are very excited to announce that Lady Anne Dodd is donating more play equipment for our children's play park from the Ken Dodd charity. More information to come.



## PARK RE-INSTATEMENT

We are still awaiting the long-anticipated restoration and return of our treasured park. It has now been 7 years since the New Alder Hey Hospital opened, which is when we were led to believe the reinstatement of the park would commence. However, further medical buildings have been built and only Phase 1 of the parkland has returned. Dates for the completion and handover of Phase 2 and Phase 3 has been postponed several times.

This newsletter will give you an insight into the reasons why we feel, as a group, concerned, frustrated, angered and even betrayed by the events of the past 7 years. We believe the community has been misled about planned developments on site. Certainly, housing was not envisaged when Alder Hey came to the Community with their plans for a 'Hospital in the park'.

The Friends group have NOT been party to these future plans for some time, despite requests for better communication and community liaison. We have many concerns. These include the length of time it is taking to start/complete the work; the quality of Phase 1; the manipulation of planning to move the MUGA to where the developer wants as the original location was too close for them; the park is being built back around accommodating the houses yet to be built; rubble buried under what will hopefully be our 'world class' football pitches; lack of drainage; no transparency and the size and use of the car park. A member has told us that *"On phase 1, the car park wasn't dug up and only holes were drilled for drainage. Then rubble and soils were placed on top."* Another member was told by Alder Hey that *"Phase 1 will have new drainage after consulting United Utilities and the soil would be rotovated and re-seeded."* This didn't happen! The land was just re-seeded.

Perhaps you could join us and contact the Trust Board. Let them know your concerns, ask questions, drive home your expectations and help The Friends of Springfield Park in developing a park that is right for you!

## GET INVOLVED!

We would love you to come on board and become part of our volunteer team. Currently, our volunteers take part in activities such as litter picking, helping to run year-round community activities and events with both children and adults, plant and maintain flower and vegetable beds and look after our community composting bins. When possible we also undertake minor damage repairs and cleaning of signage and other structures. We realise that not everyone has the time or energy to do physical work but there are also ways to get involved behind the scenes such as



fundraising, sourcing grants and donations, communications such as updating our social media channels and our membership and recruitment hub. Perhaps you have ideas about future community events in the park, keeping the park look good and improving it for the future.

### CYCLING CLUB

Are you a cyclist? We are looking for volunteers to organise and run cycling events in the park, and cycle path.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Keep an eye on our website and social media for the date of our next AGM. We hope to see you there.

### BONFIRE NIGHT

We have had a lot of problems in the park around Bonfire Night. Last year, several wheelie bins and their contents were stolen and burnt out in the park, around the monument and in Phase 1. Volunteers tried their best to remove the melted bins, but the surface by the monument has been badly damaged and will need replacing at some point. If you live locally please help us by keeping your wheelie bins safe behind your back gate.

## The Friends of Springfield Park Committee

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