

NEWSLETTER

PARK NEWS

September 2024

As in previous years, we have held activities for the local children during the Summer. The activities offered were free for the children thanks to the funding we have been able to obtain. The activities appeared to be very popular and were quickly booked up with a waiting list for places should they become available. Those who attended had a jolly good time and thanks go to Becki for running the activities. Unfortunately, the number of people who booked places and then didn't turn up or let us know they couldn't attend meant that lots of the funding, that could have been used for other projects, was wasted.

Our regular monthly litter picks continued throughout the summer. A great big thank you to the same few people who have attended and helped out. The council have been visiting the park more often more recently as the amount of litter, particularly around the new play area, has been incredible. The council have added extra green bins to help with the problem. We will continue to hold these litter picks on the last Saturday of each month until the end of October. We would love to see you there. We meet by our containers and all resources needed are provided.

We are still in the early stages of planning for the sensory garden that we are trying to organise where the old play park used to be. Watch this space!

Andy continues to oversee the compost bins and Laura and Barbara work hard with the community beds. We have tried to organise a gardening club on Tuesday and Thursday lunch times, but these times don't seem to be the best time as no-one attended. If you would like to join a gardening club, please get in touch. We have also tried to organise a mindfulness walk through the park on Tuesdays at 1:30pm - an opportunity to chat or just enjoy the scenery. Again, this was unsuccessful.



Nothing to report as yet with the progress of the Magic Bench. The joiner is currently working on this but there has been a little delay.

We had a visit from a judge from NWIB, so fingers crossed for the results later on in the year.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The children's play park has been a big hit with the local children. You would probably have to go a long way to find such a brilliant park. When it first opened there was a lot of anti-social behaviour; rubbish being discarded in the park; older youths hanging around the play park at night and inappropriately using the play equipment; dogs being allowed into the play park and extensive damage to the plants. On many



of these incidents, the park has become a popular destination for children and families.



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occasions, the damage to the new plants has been witnessed by members of the community. Youths have been seen physically pulling the plants up and chasing each other with them and deliberately standing on the plants. Officers from Merseyside Police have had a visible presence in the park. We are still waiting for the new permanent CCTV unit to be installed. Hopefully this will be imminent. Please report any instances of anti-social behaviour to Merseyside Police. There are several useful links on our website, or phone 101, or in an emergency, 999.

Youth Empowerment Services (Y.E.S.), our youth outreach team, have been in the park in the evening helping to try to abate the ASB by interacting with the youths and explaining the park is meant to be a safe place for all.

Elsewhere in the park, there have been other incidents of anti-social behaviour and damage. For example, three adult women destroyed one of the benches near our containers by jumping up and down on it until it fell apart.

Please enjoy the new wonderful facilities, but let's work together as a community to report any instances of anti-social behaviour to the police so the park can continue to be enjoyed for generations to come.

Community Meeting

We are still constantly asking Alder Hey and our local councillor for a date for the next Community Meeting. Our emails are often unanswered! We were promised a meeting every THREE MONTHS. The last meeting was held in December, NINE MONTHS AGO now. This is appalling and shows how little the community is thought of. We will continue to pursue this and let you know as soon as we hear anything.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers, partners and other local 'Friends of' park groups for all their hard work, knowledge and support of our group.

The Friends of Springfield Park Committee

P.S. Don't forget monthly litter picks - last Saturday of the month

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