



Email: friendsofspringfieldpark@gmail.com

Website: friendsofspringfieldpark-liverpool.com

NEWSLETTER

January 2025

Message from our New Chair

I am pleased to take up the Chair of the Friends group for the coming year following confirmation at the recent AGM.

I must begin by thanking my predecessor Steve McNally for his considerable contribution over recent years and my gratitude for the other officers who have agreed to continue in their existing roles.

Much has been achieved in the past year in terms of community activities especially in regard to children's holiday activities. The Friends Group have also been instrumental in ensuring that the Hospital and Council deliver a park that will benefit the community. We have ensured that lighting has been provided on the walkways, that tree planting has been modified to retain open play spaces and visibility to promote safe usage. There was an early spate of vandalism when the fantastic new play area opened but this has reduced greatly thanks to work done by Youth Engagement funded by the Friends group and support from the Police and others. We also insisted that CCTV was retained and monitored in and around the play area.

One disappointing note however is that Alder Hey and the council have not kept to the promises they made regarding community engagement. It is now almost twelve months since they last held a public meeting despite promising to have them on a quarterly basis despite ongoing pressure from the Friends Group and others.

The coming year promises much, the Hospital is due to finally hand the park back to the council and the community. We have exciting plans to further develop amenities in the park, plans are in place to build a large sensory garden and with funding from Lady Dodd install a Story Bench. Hopefully the football pitches will soon be available and in regular use.

The Group are looking to find some permanent accommodation and are in discussion with Councillors about using the Community Centre which will hopefully reopened as a community asset.

Most importantly of all we hope to increase usage of the park. We would love to have more active members in the group and engage other stakeholders to work with collaboratively.

I am looking forward to an exciting year as the park comes back into full usage.

Tony Hegarty
Chair

Anti-Social Behaviour

We are concerned with the ASB currently happening and even more concerning is the drug activity in the play area, bags of cocaine/cannabis, full and empty canisters of laughing gas have been found recently under the slide. We urge you to all report every incident to the Police. Please check out our website for links to report any issues.

<https://www.friendsofspringfieldpark-liverpool.com/anti-social-behaviour>



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North West in Bloom Award

We have received the feedback report from our entry into Neighbourhood in Bloom competition and are keen to speak to any gardeners in the group that can help.

Children's Activities in the Park

Joanne Kennedy our local Labour councillor has said she will help plan some Easter activities with us for the community - we'll update you when we know more.

Community Meeting

The (unwelcome) Sound of Silence!

As a community we are rightly proud of Alder Hey and the pioneering work they do. Indeed, we have all been immensely grateful to them for the treatments they provided for our children in the past and more recently for our grandchildren in the new hospital.

Sadly however the Alder Hey Board have hardly covered themselves in glory! In December 2023, at a joint meeting led by Alder Hey board and the council, the community was promised regular meaningful communication and consultation regarding the development in the park. Over twelve months have passed and despite repeated efforts from the Friends Group and others the promises made have not been delivered on.

In spite of this the Friends Group has continued to seek to work cooperatively with Alder Hey and the Council to develop and improve the facilities in the Park. We are committed to continuing to seek to work collaboratively with all parties involved in the continued development of the park and hope that the Alder Hey Board will honour their promises to communicate and work in partnership with ourselves and the community in general.

Dates for your Diary

Monthly litter picks will recommence in March. We hold them on the last Saturday of the month. In 2025, the dates will be 29th March, 26th April, 31st May, 28th June, 26th July, 30th August, 27th September and 25th October. We will confirm dates each month on our social media.

Finally

As always, 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. We hope all our members had a merry Christmas and wish you all a happy and prosperous new year.

The Friends of Springfield Park Committee

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