

## Chairman's Report - September 2016

### Summary

Since our last AGM work has continued in the park with regular action days maintaining the two flower beds and the general tidiness and well being of the park. The Green Spaces team prepared a new wild flower meadow (adjacent to the children's playground) which has proved very successful, with the local Brownie group from Ruislip Manor Baptist Church sowing the seeds. The Friends will continue to maintain the new bed on a regular basis. We still await a decision on what is to be done with the old flower meadow.

The Friends also held their first Community Day celebrating the Queens 90th year in the park, which we believe was successful despite the inclement weather.

### Litter collections

Frequency of rubbish collections in the park still seems to be a problem particularly during the Summer holiday, with some waste bins in need of replacement. The group have for asked for clarification of collection times and have pressed for replacement bins.

### Community Day

The Friends first community day celebrating the Queens 90th birthday was organised in Shenley Park and took place on Saturday 18th June of this year. The emphasis was on community and as such community groups were invited to participate in the day activities. Despite the poor weather we had a fair attendance and feedback received was positive. We were particularly indebted to Ruislip Manor Baptist Church and Ruislip Lions club for their support on that day. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Councillors for their support for this event and the grant from ward funds, without which the event would not have taken place.

### Andy Boeckstean

Those who came to last year's AGM will recall the sad passing of Andy Boeckstean who was our Green Spaces liaison officer. Whilst the Council planted two new trees in the park in recognition of his services to the council and the Friends of Shenley Park, we are still seeking permission for the addition of a small plaque in his memory which could be attached to one of the new seats in the flower bed area.

### Other matters

The Friends continue to seek solutions for a permanent water supply adjacent to the flower beds ensuring the ongoing wellbeing of plants there.

Discussions are ongoing regarding the unsafe sub-station wall of which we have made several representations to LBH. Although this matter has been taken up by them with relevant electricity company there is little evidence of any progress.

### Possible new projects

The Friends are exploring several projects which will be beneficial to the park. They include new pathways, seating and the possibility of replacing the missing gym equipment which was installed some ten years ago.

All the above issues are documented on our 'Action Items' document which was circulated with the invitation to our AGM meeting.

## Website

Our website is a continued source of conveying information to park users and I am looking at way to improve the site over the coming month. Equally we would welcome any sponsorship from local companies to cover the website's running costs. We are indebted to Busbys Carpets would made a contribution last year and helped finance the site.

## General Comments

The group continues to enjoy good working relationships with Cllr's Markham, Mills and O'Brien who have been instrumental in promoting the group's activities throughout the park. Likewise we continue to benefit from the support and co-operation given by the Green Spaces team under the leadership of Neil O'Conner.

The committee continues to engage with local residents to further discover new ideas which will enhance the overall experience of the visiting the park. We continually seek to encourage residents to feel a sense of ownership and to be the group's eyes and ears to try and minimise anti-social behaviour within the park, which we believe has reduced due to the presence of the CCTV cameral.

Like most voluntary organisations, our existence is solely dependent on help from the surrounding community. We are always looking for new volunteers to help with our regular action days and future projects in the park. Recruitment of new volunteers is essential for the group's survival as we cannot achieve the new projects we hope to undertake. The group is indebted to our small team of volunteers who have helped us throughout last year. We obviously continue to encourage new recruits, but it's not easy!

Finally I would like to thank the members of my Executive Committee; Louise Speke, Pat Grisdale and Monica Shamdas who have worked tirelessly to achieve our objectives for a very satisfactory year.

Geoff Brown  
Chair