

The Friends of Croydon Road Recreation Ground

www.becrec.net

Newsletter No.3- April 2005

View from the Park Bench...

Work started today on the Beckenham 'Hospital' decant village. The fencing went up this morning and poor Jess (our ever so confused 'mutt') has found that the squirrel's can now taunt her from a safe environment!

The council's tree officer, Coral Gibson, has been very involved with the planning for the big crane and the rest of the process to get the temporary decant village into place so it should be fairly painless

The decant village will be there for some time and will make a big visual impact on the park. Again, the size, shape and look of the building has all been agreed with the council planning department and we had an input into the process last year.

We have been talking to the Parks department about getting investment in the park from the rental income from the decant village. We do need the Friends group to be suggesting ideas that will really benefit the park, so please do let me know if you have any ideas we can put forward. Once the amount of money available is known, the council will set up a consultative process with the Friends Group and with other park users. I must stress that it is not 'our' money, but we intend that the Friends group will have a big say in how it is spent.

Finally, doesn't the park look great now? To help keep it that way, you'll see below that the security arrangements have changed. If you see anyone intent on wrecking the joint then please do ring the security team. Mobile operatives will now attend - with their dogs. It's still early in the new contract, but this is already proving quite effective and a great support for the Estates Officers.

You'll also see that we are going to hold the BBQ on Saturday 9th July. We had great fun last year. Please do come along, have some fun and put some names to faces.

See you there, or perhaps on doggy walking/chasing duties!

David B – Chair

Your Committee held its latest meeting on 6th April 2005.

Some of the other items discussed were:

Website: www.becrec.net

Terry is doing a grand job in developing the website. The quality of the website has set a very high standard. Other friends groups around the borough are now inspired to develop their own. Having said that, it can only ever be as good as the information we put on it. A reminder please, that we do need your stories, views etc to put forward. If you need someone to help write/type up your thoughts, then please let us know. I'm sure someone can help put pen/print to paper.

Louise from the Parks Dept. has offered to send us information such as the tree survey and details of the spring time bedding plan to put on the website.

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter or any other updates by email, please let us know. It will also help us to keep costs down. You can email us on friends@becrec.net

Security:

Ward Security now operate the new security contract. During the daytime (weekdays) you can contact Toby Smith at the council on 07904 169360. Otherwise, you can contact Ward directly on 0845 847 6180.

Operational Issues:

A new drinking water fountain will be installed in the next few weeks. It will be sited near the cafe/estates officer's office. We have asked for direction signs to be put in place.

The unsightly anti-climb grease on the railings will be steam cleaned soon by a specialist contractor.

Louise is arranging for a supply of plastic bags that can be issued free to dog owners who forget to bring their own bags.

The council have recently agreed extra funding to support their rapid response service. This will help improve the speed at which graffiti is removed.

Holwood's training session on pruning was very successful. We will pass on dates for future events.

Member activities:

The Friends BBQ will be held in the park on Saturday 9th. July 2005, to start at 6pm.

David Wilde who owns the park cafe (and is a committee member) has generously offered to provide some sponsorship for the evening.

For details please contact Jo Steele, the Secretary of the Friends group on 020 8658 2669. We do need to know numbers to be catered for so please contact Jo before 2nd July at the latest please. We may need to have a first come first served policy for places so please get in touch quickly.

We hope to meet as many members as possible and we will invite representatives from other groups and from other Friends groups in the Borough. Please let us have more ideas or suggestions for member activities during the year.

The next committee meeting will be held on - Wednesday 29th. June 2005.

If you have any questions or issues that you want your committee to consider then please do contact us. The current venue for our meetings is quite small, so we are unable to have an open invite to all members to attend.

However, if you would like to come along to a committee meeting please do let us know a few days in advance of the meeting and we will try our best to accommodate.

Contact us with comments, suggestions or contributions for the next newsletter.'

David or Val on 020 8289 6989 or email: friends@becrec.net

And finally...

Please remember that this is your group, formed to help you enjoy the park. Please do let us know what you think about the park, good or bad. And please do let us have your ideas, stories and recollections.