

# The Friends of Croydon Road Recreation Ground

www.becrec.net

## Newsletter - July 2006



### **A View from the Park Bench:**

Despite the dry weather, the Park continues to look very pretty and is kept clean.

It is great to see so many people using the park at this time of the year. The vast majority of visitors behave very responsibly. The one or two people who have other ideas now have to consider the regular visits from the new Safer Neighbourhoods Police team. There is now an 'Alcohol Free Zone' in the centre of Beckenham and this extends into the Park.

The project to extend the children's play area has been very successful and has been well received. The extra area has provided more enclosed dog free space for our younger visitors.

Members of your committee continue to work with Council Officers on a daily basis to improve the park. Recently, we have been in daily communication with the Parks Department about the paddling pool. Along with so many visitors to the Park, we have been very disappointed that the essential repairs have taken so long to complete. We understand that the repairs are now finished and, unless drought restrictions are imposed, we hope that the pool will be used throughout the school holidays. We understand that the water in the pool will be collected at the end of each day and will be used to water the ornamental gardens.

The Tennis Courts are undergoing complete refurbishment and now look tremendous. Do let us have your ideas for continuing to improve the park.

The family fun day this year will be on 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> September.

Jess, the 'wonder-mutt' sleeps for even longer in this hot weather and then meanders around the park in her fur coat in the late evenings. Understandably, there is not too much running about at the moment. The squirrels are also a bit slower in this heat, but they will always have the last laugh at her expense! DB

### **Chair:**

It is with regret that John Josling has had to resign the position of Chairman of the Friends' committee for personal reasons. In his short time leading the committee he kept us in line and ensured that we dealt with our tasks thoroughly and properly. We shall miss his valuable advice.

In the meantime committee members will take it in turns to chair meetings and we can assure members that we shall give our full attention to ongoing matters as well as plans for the future.

– Brian Hermon

### **User Survey:**

We recently carried out a quick survey of park users. The results are shown on the attached pages.

**Police:**

We have spoken to the police about park issues and have invited them to our meetings. You can contact the Kelsey and Eden Park team on mobile 07920 233 846 or office 020 8721 2616 or e-mail Sgt Steve King at [Kelsey.edenpark@met.police.uk](mailto:Kelsey.edenpark@met.police.uk) If you see anything that needs immediate attention then please call Ward Security 0845 847 6180 VB

**Park Gates:**

It is good to see new gates and fencing on the 'sainsburys' side of the park. Hopefully these will improve security. VB

**The Development of the Paddling Pool**

As you have probably seen, the pool is still not in operation at the time of writing – 14<sup>th</sup> July. The pool is in need of replacement and is receiving short term repairs.

We hope the pool will be operational very soon but we were assured it would be up and running for half term in May. I am afraid it is a case of turning up and seeing if there is any water in the pool, as hundreds have been doing.

Next year, we hope to create a state of the art water play area to replace the pool. This would be a welcome new facility for people from all over the borough to come and enjoy.

The basic idea is that water will be pumped from a tank underground, being controlled by a computer system that can sense when someone is using certain equipment. The water is filtered and recycled over a few days.

Plans are being drawn up that will show ideas for a range of pieces of equipment. For example, we could have a dragon and water fountains to walk through! We have asked that plans be made available for our AGM meeting so we can ask for the views of you the members. I have spoken to many Mums and Dads in the park and they all seem very positive. We had over 100 responses from a quick survey we carried out. The majority of respondents asked for improved paddling pool facilities.

During 2006/2007 the council will receive £40,000 to spend in the park, from rental income from the Beckenham Hospital Decant Village. We believe a smaller (but still substantial) sum will be made available in 2007/2008. Some private money may become available. The remainder of the funds could come from a grant that Bromley Council have bid for play areas throughout the borough.

We will still need to make an application for this money to come into Croydon Road and we believe that the Council are very interesting in developing this idea.

Thank you to Council Officers Andy Biggs and Louisa Allen for their support on this project.

I look forward to seeing you in November.  
Wilde.

David

**Contact Us:** Please contact us via our website [www.becrec.net](http://www.becrec.net) or by telephone 020 8289 6989