

COMMUNITIES, PARKS AND LEISURE POLICY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 11th MARCH 2024

QUESTIONS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Name of Questioner	Questions
<p>Rosemary Telfer, Chair, Friends of Norfolk Heritage Park</p>	<p>Q1. A survey was conducted by the FONHP, with the support of Parks & Countryside staff working in the Centre in the Park. 154 were completed & showed that park users are happy with the provision & enjoy using the park. However, there was little engagement from users under the age of 25.</p> <p>What work has been done to encourage the use of our park by young people? What plans are there for working with schools or youth groups to find how best the enormous open spaces can be used for the benefit of young people across the city?</p> <p>Response: Parks and Countryside have confirmed that there are family learning activities in the summer months provided by Children Services who set up a gazebo outside CITP & bring their mobile library van. In addition to this, the Youth Club operates from Centre in the Park weekly. I will ask Officers to contact the appropriate Council Services to highlight the opportunity to bring more young people into our parks for activities. I will also request that a meeting is arranged between the FONHP and officers to see how this work can be accelerated.</p> <p>Q2. The notice boards in Norfolk Park are dilapidated and, in some cases, missing altogether. The FONHP have submitted a bid to the North East Sheffield LAC for funding for new boards, but this was rejected, on the grounds that the costings had been insufficiently researched.</p> <p>Can Parks & Countryside fund the replacement of the notice boards? If not, can a plan be put together with the FONHP for costing & replacement of the boards?</p> <p>Response: Parks and Countryside have confirmed that they plan to gather costings for both painting some of the signage in the park and also replacing signage, where required. There is currently no budget for these works, so Parks will work with the FONHP to come up with a plan and timescales, including reapproaching the</p>

East LAC with accurate costs.

The noticeboards and signage in Norfolk Park are bespoke to the park, therefore specific costings are needed which officers are working on. Once the costings are available, officers will work with the FONHP to secure funding and get the noticeboards replaced as soon as possible.

Q3. The car park leading from Guildford Avenue to the Centre in the Park has been in a state of disrepair for a number of years and continues to deteriorate. The FONHP have brought this to the attention of Parks & Countryside on a number of occasions, as the car park is actually part of the park itself and so not a Highways issue. The surface has worn away and the deep potholes fill with water.

Can the Committee raise this as an urgent issue with Parks & Countryside and assure the FONHP that costings will be undertaken and work for resurfacing planned?

Response:

Parks and Countryside are aware that the car park has deteriorated significantly over the last few months as the park has been used more. Parks and Countryside are going to request quotes for the work to repair and improve the surfacing. Parks will update FONHP once these are received and talk to the Friends about possible funding options for the car park surfacing.

Q4. Both FONHP members and local ward Councillors have been asking that the overgrown trees on Norfolk Park Avenue be cut back. They are trees which are growing in the park and were reported to Parks & Countryside in August 2023.

The problem is the number of self-seeded trees that are growing up in the park, just on the other side of the wall along Norfolk Park Avenue. They are very fast growing - they've grown several feet in the space of a couple of years. If left unchecked they will soon become a serious problem as they are very close to the wall and therefore, close to the houses.

In November 2023, it was reported that part of the park wall had collapsed into the park at the beginning of Norfolk Park Avenue.

As we have received confirmation that the trees are part of the park, can we be assured that the necessary remedial work will be carried out as a matter of urgency, before there is damage to property or the safety of local residents is compromised?

	<p>Response: The tree team within Parks and Countryside survey trees and carry out any necessary remedial works regularly to ensure they are safe. We have asked the team to double check these specific trees and provide an update and reassurance to the FONHP.</p>
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