

Barford Road Pocket Park Quarterly Newsletter

August 2011

Pathways and Bridges

As many of you will have noticed, the Willow footbridge is now nearing completion. Over the past few weeks the workmen have been very busy constructing a number of paths from the Eynesbury end of the bridge in different directions. There is a path towards the caravan site, towards the school and most importantly, towards the park. Work has then continued through the park towards the A428 by-pass.

At the start of the work in the park I was a bit worried about the quality of the path being laid down, but I held my breath and in the end the contractors have done a fantastic job. The main path through the park (alongside the marina), is now suitable for walking on, pushing buggies and wheelchairs on, and cycling on. The new improved surface SHOULD also solve the annual issue of wet and muddy paths! I hope this will now provide a good surface for years to come.

I would like to thank Sustrans (a national cycling charity) and Cambridgeshire County Council for making this major improvement to the park and the whole area.



Recent Fires In The Park

During the past few weeks there have been a number of fires in the park. Most of these have been lit by campers just looking to keep warm. However, I have to remind everyone that FIRES (and camping) ARE NOT PERMITTED in the park. The cause quite a bit of damage to the area and have the capability to really get out of control which would have devastating effects.

PLEASE DO NOT LIGHT OPEN FIRES IN THE PARK!!!!

Fires can cause irreparable damage to open spaces!



Abbotsley Women's Institute

On Wednesday the 10th of August, Abbotsley WI joined me for a guided walk to have a look around the park. Luckily the weather held out for us and we had a great stroll. Along the way we looked at the new development and how it will effect the park, saw Reed Warblers and Green Woodpeckers and much, much more. Most of the members of the group hadn't been to the park before as they are from a different area, so it was great to show off the park to them. When the group arrived back at the starting point (the Rivermill pub), they were picked up by some boats and then taken on a short boat trip for tea and cake. Unfortunately I wasn't able to join them for this part of the journey, but I hope they all enjoyed the evening!



The walk took in some of the many different aspects of the park!



Dog Problems

It has been brought to my attention that the problem of dog fouling is becoming a serious problem at the park. A huge majority of the people I see out and about with their canine friends are very responsible and pick up after their pet. However, there does seem to be a few people that aren't quite as responsible. There is no excuse as Barford Road Pocket Park has more dog and litter bins than any other Hunts DC green space. It doesn't take a lot of effort or time to clear up, and it makes the park a much nicer place to be if you do so. Dog mess can be dangerous to health and is generally very unpleasant.

Over the coming month I will be running a bit of an "anti-fouling" campaign and will be making the problem more obvious! I will be walking around and spraying any dog mess I find bright PINK! I am hoping this will highlight the problem of dog fouling in the park and will encourage people to be more responsible for their dogs.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE
YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE
AND BAG IT AND
BIN IT!**



Facebook Update...

In order to increase awareness of the park, I have recently added the park to Facebook. This is the worlds most famous social network website and is a great way for the park to advertise news, events and work parties. So far it is going well, the park has nearly 20 followers. There must be more people out there that visit the park often! Come on and join us on Facebook!

You can search "Barford Road Pocket Park" on your Facebook search box and "Like" us for the latest news, pictures and events. Also please feel free to leave your comments and questions on the wall, but please remember that Facebook is a public place and you should always protect private information when online.



You can also find the friends group website at www.barford-pocket-park.btck.co.uk

OR

Phone me on **01480 406 795**

Or email me on paxtonpits@btconnect.com

Winter Work Parties.

Last winter saw the most successful work parties the park has ever seen. We planted about 450 hedging plants, cleared big areas of invasive reeds and had many cups of tea!

If this sounds interesting to you, why not come and join me this year for some more winter work! Below are some dates for your diaries! With the help of the friends of Barford Road Pocket Park, I would like to increase work party numbers a lot this year.

The more people that attend, the more work we do and therefore the bigger positive impact we will have on the park.

Here are some dates up to Christmas 2011:

Sunday 16th October

Sunday 13th November

Sunday 11th December

All work parties will be at 10am and we will meet at the main entrance to the park (nearest the school). Please wear suitable boots and clothing, I'll bring the tea and biscuits!