

BARFORD ROAD POCKET PARK NEWSLETTER

Volunteering at the park.

My more regular work parties are starting to become a success with local people. I am now getting a good average of 7 people coming along to them which is benefiting the park no end. I could still use more volunteers though, the more volunteers I have, the more improvements we can make to the park. To help explain a few of the benefits of volunteering with me, I asked regular volunteer Jason to write a few words about why he enjoys volunteering. This is what he said.....

“Hi, my name’s Jason. When Matt asked me to write a couple of paragraphs on why I volunteer at Barford Road Pocket Park (BRPP) I thought of a couple of reasons. Like a lot of people in St Neots & the surrounding area I commute to London 5 days a week. That’s about 15hrs a week sat on a train & crammed into the London Underground. I then spend hours sat at my desk trying to meet deadlines & achieve company driven objectives. So by the time I get home, I’m tired, drained & just sit in front of the television. Ring any bells with anyone?

Come the weekend I want to be out of the house getting a breath of fresh air, stretching my limbs & relaxing the brain. I could go to the gym, but that’s back indoors & expensive. So I joined the BRPP volunteers. Once or twice a month I don my tatty clothes, wellingtons & stroll across to BRPP. There’s no pressure, no expectations & past experience is definitely not required. Instead, it’s healthy, free, rewarding & you can do as much or as little as you please. You’ll also get to learn about the wildlife and why you do certain tasks at particular times of the year.

For me, I always feel much healthier & more human after a morning of conservation. I get a feeling of pride when I stand back and see what’s been achieved. My bonus is a healthy heart and a happy mind.”

So then, why not come out and join us on our next work party? Or maybe you’d like to get involved in other ways? Could you fill out funding applications on behalf of the friends of the park? Or maybe organise events in the park? Together, the possibilities are endless. All you need to do is get in touch with the contact details on the last page.



Jason, after a morning helping me re-line a pond.

Upcoming work.....

Over the next few months, I plan to begin fencing off the play area and making it an exclusively 'dog free' zone. The reason for this is as follows.....

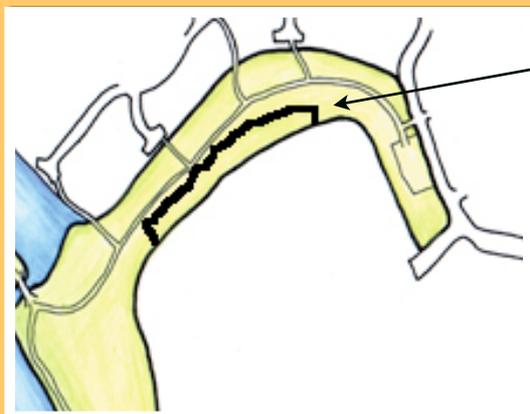
For months now, we have been monitoring the dog mess situation in the park as a whole, but have specifically identified that the play area is especially bad. This is quite worrying as the area is used a lot by families with small children, so the health issues could be really quite bad. I have taken the decision to fence the area off using a nice style of fencing (see pictures below). I will put numerous access gates in the fence and will also add "dog tie up points" all along so you can tie up your pooch in safety while your children play.

This will be an enormous job for the parks volunteers, possibly the biggest job undertaken to date. If you would like to come along and help, please contact me for details of when the project will start.

If you would like to talk to me about this project or have any concerns about it, please feel free to talk to me about it using the contact details on the last page of this newsletter.



The fence will hopefully look something like this. It's a little bit more 'twee' than what the park is usually used to, but is a common style of fencing around play areas.



The fence will follow a line similar to the one shown on this map. The area to the right of the map is the Tesco's entrance to the park. The fence will incorporate all the play area, all the benches and all the bins too.

Got any comments about this idea? Just give me a call or email.....

Next work party....

Sunday 15th April at 10am.

We always meet at the entrance to the park nearest the school. Just turn up, no need to book at all.

Wellington boots or sturdy walking boots are advised for all work parties.

We are always looking for new volunteers on our ever more popular work parties. If you would like to come out and help please feel free, your help will be more than welcome.

I normally bring hot tea and coffee for willing volunteers and if I remember, some biscuits too!



Contact Details.....

For details about work parties, upcoming events, or want to know about the park or have any queries or comments at all, below are my contact details.

Mobile: 07747 456 150

Landline: 01480 406 795

E-mail: paxtonpits@btconnect.com

The Friends of Barford Road Pocket Park website always has news of latest happenings. You can find this at www.barford-pocket-park.btck.co.uk

You can also find the park on Facebook. Search "Barford Road Pocket Park" in the Facebook search bar and Like us.



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