

Newsletter - 4th March 2011

Hi everyone,

Just a quick note to keep you up to date about our events and activities in the park.

- Planned events. This year we are planning two events, with a fundraising and fun context. The first is participation in the Yarm Gala as we did last year. The second is a much bigger Picnic in the Park, with a lot of input from Park management. More details to follow.
- BMX / Skateboard Tracks – A proposal has been put forward for the development of a BMX bike dirt track adjacent to Quarry Wood and a Skate board track behind Butterfly World. On your behalf we are vigorously opposing the BMX track and hope that this idea will go no further. Alternative proposals for the replacement of the Crazy Golf with a Skateboard facility are being considered. We have requested that any proposal has a high degree of softening through planting and landscaping with screening from passersby. This has been given limited and conditional support. We await the council officers report.
- Play Equipment – Work on the new “Play Jungle” will begin in May as per the presentation made by Tony Raine at our last meeting. Covering the site of the former Animal enclosure the new facility will be complete in time for the summer holidays. The existing Treescapes will be retained (except for one diseased Horse Chestnut which is in a dangerous condition) and form an integral part of the wide range of Ropewalks, tree huts and climbing structures.
- Café – The café in the park will be closed during March for essential kitchen refurbishment. A Victorian style tea room is available in the Hall during this time.
- Walled garden – We are expecting the funding of the Walled Garden to be awarded by the HLF in the middle of March. Works should start very soon thereafter on this exciting development. To get the project moving we are invited to assist in the Volunteers Working Day on Saturday 2nd April, between 11am and 3pm. This will involve ongoing clearance of the site and discussions on the future kitchen garden planting and varieties. Please do attend and get involved. Lunch will be provided. Ensure that you wear suitable outdoor (waterproof) clothing and footwear.
- Joint Museums proposal - the Joint museums proposal to join the Museums of the 5 Tees Valley Boroughs is due to be sent to the Chief Executives of SBC. We await developments as this could lead to significant changes in the way the park and Museum are managed. We are watching this issue very closely, as we particularly do not want to see any split in responsibilities that diminishes the good work seen recently.
- Sculptors – Following on from the great meeting we had with the THP team to discuss the “Sculpture Gateway” for the Park you will be able to see the next Phase of the program. The Exhibition will be in the Wellington Square in Stockton from the 30th March until the 20th April, with the sculptors on site on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 11.00 and 3.30, for discussions. You are invited to attend the open evening on the 22nd March – Please find attached invite from THP. There will also be displays in Thornaby and Yarm of artwork specific to their areas on the 14 -16 April and 20-21 April respectively.

David Winship.