



Friends of Eastfield Park

Chair's Report – 17th February 2014

Activities & Achievements during 2013

Further information about many of these achievements can be found on the news pages of our website. Other information is available in documents that can be accessed through the website (www.foep.eastfieldward.co.uk).

Internal Organisation & Administration:

- FoEP Website updated regularly with monthly news items. Previous news items now available in a news archive. Google analytics added to the site to reveal audience characteristics.
- Separate website about Eastfield Park still under development (www.eastfieldpark.eastfieldward.co.uk) with new pages added about the history of the Park.
- Frequent updates made on Facebook with 90 'likes' and a maximum reach of 139 so far.
- '*Away With Litter*' posters judged by Sally Hanrahan, Northants Branch Development and Education Manager for the Campaign to Protect Rural England, Cllr Elizabeth Gowen (NBC) and Cllr Alan Wright (NCC).
- '*Away With Litter*' posters displayed at Broadmead Baptist Church during afternoon of AGM. Prizes awarded during February, 2013.
- Michael Ellis MP spoke on 'Localism & Planning' at the pre-AGM public lecture.
- Data Protection Policy agreed by FoEP committee and presented at AGM.
- Report on the 2012 Public Consultation produced and circulated.
- FoEP decided not to take part in the 2013 Royal Horticultural Society 'Britain in Bloom' campaign.
- The FoEP noted, with sadness, the passing away of friend and founder member, John Neal.

Park Improvements (NBC):

- Jason Toyne took up post as NBC Park Ranger with responsibility for several of Northampton's parks.
- Widespread support was given to the proposal to create a path across the Park during public consultancy carried out by NBC with the assistance of the FoEP. The work has now been approved and is out for tender.
- Cllr Mike Hallam inspected the Park with Vic Smith and Bernard Kelly and promised two extra litter bins.
- After a period of neglect, *Enterprise* has trimmed back weed growth on the play trail through the Spinney.

Park Improvements (FoEP):

- Approximately 12 students from Northampton College worked in the Park for one hour every Monday throughout March removing litter (8 bags) and trimming bushes.
- A flowering cherry tree was planted by students just outside the Booth Lane entrance to the Park but has unfortunately not survived.
- 'Spring Clean' & 'Autumn Tidy-up' events held as usual. Although the spring event was 'low key' it was pleasing to see flowers planted the previous autumn in bloom.
- Over 300 daffodil bulbs and other flora planted in Park during October & November.

Heritage & Wildlife

- Research continues on Park's history and biodiversity. First video of pond life posted on YouTube.

Events:

- Organised 'Easter@Eastfield' on Easter Sunday, 2013, with help from Phoenix Wheelchair Basketball Club.
- Many local residents objected to NBC giving permission for Evans funfair to be held on the Park during June, complaining that the site was unsuitable. The fair was regularly monitored by the FoEP.
- FoEP helped organise a family Picnic in the Park (with Headlands Children's Centre) on 29th August, 2013.
- FoEP helped organise 'Carols in the Park' (with Broadmead Baptist Church) on 16th December, 2013.

Communication & Education:

- Talk on wildlife and litter to pupils at Cedar Road primary schools (Jnr. Wardens Scheme).
- Public demonstrations of Park pond life on 6th July, 2013, and at family picnic in August.

Vic Smith (Chair, FoEP, February 2014)