



Safeguarding our green spaces

Charity number 1156063

Parks for London

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In conjunction with the London Friends of Green Spaces Network

30th October 2019

General election on December 12th: Now is the time to speak out for London's parks and green spaces

To all London's Parks Friends/Community Groups

cc. All London Borough Park managers

Elections for London MPs will be held on December 12th. **We urge you to take this opportunity to contact (by letter or e-mail) your local candidates and parties standing for election, to lobby for issues that are important to you in relation to your local park or green space.**

Please remind them that parks and green spaces are an essential resource for all our communities, providing numerous benefits and services: health, sports, leisure, education, play, social cohesion, attractive travel routes, local economy and biodiversity, to name just a few*. They are used by virtually everyone and as such they should receive the resources they need to ensure they can fulfil their vital functions. We, and many national greenspace organisations**, strongly support a statutory obligation for these spaces to be managed and resourced effectively.

Despite the essential role London's parks and green spaces play we are entering a local and national greenspace crisis, due to continued cuts to parks budgets – mainly a result of central government cuts to Local Authorities' overall budgets. **Park lovers need to speak out now.** Past experience of revenue cuts has shown that if local spaces are poorly resourced they are very likely to become problem spaces with negative effects on our communities. Furthermore, with London's rising population and space shortages for housing and schools, this means we need more green space. Instead, on top of cuts there is a growing pressure on greenspace in every Borough, which could lead to inappropriate urban development and commercialism.

Your local parks/green spaces have their own specific issues and needs which ought to be heard and addressed. With over 700 local Friends Groups in London, this is a growing and powerful force and we encourage you to publicly raise the profile of your local parks and the benefits that they afford your local communities. Your group can influence future MPs and political parties who will make national funding and other decisions that will impact your local park. Please consider writing to your local newspaper too. This is a chance to make our local parks a priority.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Tony Leach - CEO, Parks for London www.parksforlondon.org.uk

Dave Morris - Chair, London Friends of Green Spaces Network www.lfgn.org.uk

* See Good Parks for London report https://parksforlondon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Good-Parks-for-London-2019_FINAL.pdf ** See Parks Charter www.parkscharter.org.uk