



Parks for
London

<https://parksforlondon.org.uk>
Charity number 1156063



www.lfgn.org.uk

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London elections on May 6th - Now is the time to speak up for London's parks and green spaces

To all London's Parks Friends/Community Groups

cc. All London Borough Park managers

"Parks are indeed the 'unsung, unclapped heroes' of the Covid era. They are also a chronically under-funded and under-staffed essential public service. We represent the movement of hundreds of thousands of members of local Friends of Parks Groups throughout the UK who care passionately about their local green spaces. They publicise, protect, animate, help maintain, oversee, fundraise and generally champion them. It's time to demand the Government take its responsibilities just as seriously, and ensure parks get the statutory recognition and funding our communities deserve."

[Dave Morris, National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces – letter in Guardian 3.3.2021]

Elections for London Assembly Members and London Mayor will be held on May 6th. We urge you to take this opportunity to contact (letter/email/Twitter) your local candidates and parties standing, to lobby for issues that are important to you regarding your local park or green space.

No one can dispute the vital importance of parks over the past year. The Prime Minister announced publicly that they had to remain open to all. Many green spaces are literally wearing out because they are so popular. Yet we do not see any commitment to protect or increase their funding.

Please remind candidates that parks and green spaces are an essential and unique resource for all our communities, providing numerous benefits and services.* 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.** Yet 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. Poorly resourced spaces are likely to become problem spaces with negative effects on our communities. London's rising population means we need more green space - instead, there's growing threats of inappropriate urban development and commercialism.

Your local parks and green spaces have their own specific issues and needs which ought to be heard and addressed. With over 700 local Friends Groups throughout London, this is a growing and powerful force. And others are speaking out too.* Your group can influence politicians and political parties who will influence funding and other decisions that will impact your local park. Please consider writing to your local newspaper too. Let's make our local parks a priority!**

Thank you for your support.

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

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

* Good Parks for London report: <https://parksforlondon.org.uk/resource/good-parks-for-london/> @ParksforLondon

** Parks Charter: www.parkscharter.org.uk

*** A More Natural Capital Manifesto:

<https://www.wcl.org.uk/docs/A%20More%20Natural%20Capital%20Manifesto%202nd%20Ed%2020pp.pdf> #AMoreNaturalCapital