



# NORBURY Friends of PARK

# Action Plan

9th October 2023

## Introduction

The Friends of Norbury Park Committee have created this action plan at the request of the Mayor of Croydon, Jason Perry.

The action plan sets out the goals of the Friends of Norbury Park ('Friends'), which they believe will make Norbury Park a safer and more attractive amenity for the local community.

The document only pertains to goals that require input or collaboration with Croydon Council. ('Council').

# Summary of Goals

## **Goal 1:**

Reduce antisocial behaviour in the park.

## **Goal 2:**

Reduce the amount of litter and rubbish in the park.

## **Goal 3:**

Provide more interest in the park, and relieve flood risk.

## **Goal 4:**

Resolve ongoing issues with entrance and exit to the park, and the location of large events

## **Goal 5:**

Ensure the grass fields can be used by visitors.

## **Goal 6:**

Provide safe and dry paths across the park.

## **Goal 7:**

Improved communication between the Council and the Friends.

# Goal 1

## Reduce antisocial behaviour in the park

The current level of antisocial behaviour is unacceptable. Groups gather in the park on a daily basis to drink and consume drugs. They leave behind a large amount of litter (including beer cans, bottles, and drug paraphernalia) and human waste. Their presence is off-putting for families and visitors to the park. The Friends spend a large amount of time cleaning up their mess.

## Actions

1. Council, Police and Friends to work together to put a PSPO in place for the park.
2. Council to cut down undergrowth in the hotspots. The antisocial groups do not like being visible. The current hotspots are the Multi-Use Games Area and the Nature Trail.
3. Council to improve lighting near the Multi-Use Games Area.

# Goal 2

## Reduce the amount of litter and rubbish in the park

The amount of litter and rubbish in the park is unacceptable. The Friends pick up litter on a near-daily basis, particularly in summer. The bins are inadequate, particularly the small dog waste bins. There is little signage for litter prevention.



## Actions

1. Council to swap the three small dog waste bins for larger bins.
2. Council to work with the Friends to provide better signage.

# Goal 3

To provide more interest in the park, and relieve flood risk

In 2019, the Environment Agency developed a flood relief plan which opened up Norbury Brook and redeveloped the northern end of the park. The plan included wildlife habitats and bridges. In addition to providing flood relief for the surrounding area, the plan would have created a beautiful landscape for visitors. The plan is currently on hold.

## Actions

1. Council to assist the Friends by lobbying the Environment Agency to further develop this plan.

# Goal 4

## Resolve ongoing issues with entrance and exit to the park, and the location of large events

Until recently, the Council have been granting access to the park for event organisers via Harefield Road. This is an unmade private cul-de-sac with a padlocked barrier to the park at the far end. The Boxing Club staff and users still access the park this way and have had numerous padlock keys cut.

Not only is access via Harefield Road against the wishes of the residents, vehicles driving into the park without supervision or clearance pose a safety risk to users of the park.

Recently the Council have instructed event organisers to use the entrance to the park which is opposite Christian Fields. This is also unsuitable as vehicles using this entrance have to drive across the cricket pitch.

# Goal 4

Resolve ongoing issues with entrance and exit to the park, and the location of large events

## Actions

1. Council to stop all vehicle access via Harefield Road, with the exception of emergency vehicles.
2. Council to develop an entrance to the park which is fit for purpose. The Friends believe that this should be the entrance which is at the junction of London Road and Norbury Avenue. This is the closest to the car park and does not interfere with the cricket pitch.
3. Once this entrance is accessible, Council to site events in the field closest to the A23 and Norbury Station to minimise disturbance to the neighbours.
4. Friends to liaise with the residents of Harefield Road to install “Private Road” and “No Parking” signs.

# Goal 5

## Ensure the grass fields can be used by visitors

In recent years the grass in the park has been cut an average of twice a year. This is insufficient, and means that the public often can't use the grass areas for picnics or leisure.

## Actions

1. Council to cut grass a minimum of four times a year.
2. The Friends to keep a log of grass cutting for the Council.
3. Council to avoid cutting the field designated as a no-mow area (adjacent to Norbury High School for Girls).



# Goal 6

Provide safe and dry paths across the park

The paths in the park are much too narrow. There are frequent collisions between pedestrians and cyclists. The paths are also frequently flooded, preventing the public from crossing them.



## Actions

1. Council to widen and level the paths.

# Goal 7

## Improved communication between the Council and the Friends

The Friends appreciate that the park is Council land. However, as daily users of the park, we are familiar with the issues that arise when events are held in the park. We therefore would like to be consulted before events licenses are granted: not to prevent events, but to ensure they are safe for the public and cause no harm to the park or surrounding roads.

## Actions

1. Council to agree to consult with the Friends before granting events licenses.