

South Park Gardens

Newsletter • Issue 1
May 2007

Welcome to our first newsletter

What's been happening

Many of you will remember that we made a bid for funding to the Heritage Lottery Fund under their Parks for People scheme and, in November 2006, we were awarded just over £100,000 to put together a bid for the complete restoration of the Gardens. Since then we have been putting together a team to make sure that the bid we make will convince the members of the HLF grants committee to give us the funds for the final stage.

The team

The Executive Group

This group will be led by Councillor Tariq Ahmad, the Cabinet member for Environment and Traffic Management. Councillor Ahmad will be supported by the Councillors from Trinity Ward, Councillors David Dean, Krystal Miller and Simon Withey. This group will lead the wider community support.

Friends of South Park Gardens

We have the very able help of a number of members of the Friends group and the Secretary, Helen Fuller has agreed to represent the Friends on the new project Team.

Landscape Architects Land Use Consultants

We employed LUC to carry out the first survey of the Gardens to create the Restoration Plan. Following a review of the options open to us we have reemployed them to prepare the new bid for the Stage 2 application.

Project Manager: Chris Mountford

Chris has been appointed by Merton Council to manage the project. Chris will also oversee the landscape architects and other consultants working on the project.



LOTTERY FUNDED

Putting You First



Work on site

There will not be a lot to see at this stage but you may see surveyors around as we need to have a full survey of plants, benches and other features such as the drains and water supplies. There will be a temporary office in the gardeners' yard.

Public consultation

This is where you can help

The scheme has a number of targets to achieve following the physical restoration work and these are:

- An audience development plan: this plan will show how the Council and the Friends group will work to achieve a greater use of the Gardens by a wider cross section of the community. It will list a series of aims and objectives backed up by practical programmes.
- An Education Plan: This will target the value of the Gardens as a centre for learning and the Gardens will be used as an outdoor classroom by local schools and other community groups.
- We will also be developing a local history of the Gardens and plan to develop this into a variety of different medias such as oral collections, photographs etc.

There will be people in the Gardens at various times carrying out surveys so please help wherever you can. We are keen to get views from people who do not use the Gardens and we will be sending out a survey form to each house.

Timetable

Over the next three months we will be drawing up the plans for the Restoration Project in detail, developing the Audience, Education and History programmes and putting everything together to form the bid that we will be submitting to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The bid will be made in September and then we will wait for the committee at the Heritage Lottery Fund to consider it and hopefully agree to our application. If they agree we will start work in 2008 and be finished by early 2009. A long wait but we are all certain that it will make the Gardens a better place to visit and provide a much-improved local environment.