



Sunnybank Park Newsletter: Issue 2

Keeping the 'sunny' in Sunnybank



Hello to all you supporters of Sunnybank Park!

So much has happened since the last news in March! The biggest news is that we have now formed an official Management Group for the Park, and the Council has agreed to lease the Park to us, the local community. The lease process has begun, but it will probably not be signed until towards the end of the year. In the mean time, the Council are still responsible for the Park and you may have seen the mowing and willow coppicing they have done.



Some members of the Management Committee and partner organisations

This situation does not mean that we can't do anything in the Park itself - as you have probably seen there have been a few litter picks and the odd bit of pruning, as well as some great community picnics!

We have been overwhelmed with the offers of support. We have agreed (in principle) £60,000 funding from Aberdeen Greenspace Trust for the path work, signage, etc. and also £35,000 from the Climate Challenge Fund for the creation of the allotments.

The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers is keen to support us and hope to start a regular Green Gym in the Park; Stephen Bly, our local ranger, will be running a Forest School for P6 & 7's from Sunnybank School; and Aberdeen University eco-groups are interested in supporting work in the park.... so over the next year we should all see lots of progress!

Enjoying Sunnybank Park

I started to use the park regularly about six years ago and I love to lie beside the pampas grass on a hot day. It sounds like you are in the middle of the countryside – it is so peaceful and relaxing.

Suzy Hunter

Thank you to all of you who completed the surveys, the response was tremendous! All your ideas are all being looked at, along with funding for them. We will feed back with developments as things progress.

An allotments group has been set up. It is looking at where they will go, and organising the build. We plan to have half the site, with raised beds on one part of the former bowling green. The other half will go over the hedge on part of the former putting green, with dug beds on the rich soil. We decided this was priority as our funding is time limited, and to encourage more positive behaviour in the Park on a daily basis.

We are also in the process of contacting each of you who expressed an interest to help out one way or another. Please be patient with us, we are very busy trying to co-ordinate a huge amount of tasks, and all in our spare time.

Dates for your diary:

Besides all our hard work behind the scenes, we are planning a series of events in the Park. And when the lease is signed, we will have an official celebratory opening!

Volunteer mornings - Sundays 25th July and 15th August

From 11am to 12pm we will be hosting volunteer sessions, litter picking and shrub pruning, for all those interested in helping out in the Park. Please bring any tools and gloves you have and we will try to supply some too.

Sunny Day Picnics - Sundays 25th July and 15th August

From 12pm onwards, following the volunteer sessions, we will be making space for the regular fun Sunny Day Picnics. Please bring some snacks, games and a friendly face. It's a great chance to get to know your new friends and neighbours.

Fruit Forage - Saturday 14th August

With Emma, our resident foraging guru. Meet at Powis Community Centre Café from 2-5pm – optional lunch at 1pm.

We hope to see you in the Park soon. It will be nice to meet and let you know what's progressing! In the mean time, please keep using it in the way you enjoy best, and in a way that leaves a positive mark for others. Maybe each time you leave you could take a piece of litter with you!...

Further info & contacts

To keep up to date with the latest information, visit us at www.sunnybankpark.org.uk, or join our facebook page – Sunnybank Park.

To contact us for information, suggestions, or offers of assistance, please call Grace on 0779029828, or email us at sun@sunnybankpark.org.uk

