



## How Friends of Heathfield Recreation Ground and Environs (FoHRGE) Committee(s) operate.

### **Who we are and what we do**

We are an independent voluntary local user group with the purpose of being the principle forum for discussing views about the park and promoting more effective, beneficial usage of the park to the wider community.

We are a formally constituted volunteer group, working in close partnership with the Council and other local organisations such as Habitats and Heritage, TCV, and Sport Richmond.

### **Our success so far**

We have been able to unlock a number of improvements including additional play equipment, trees, benches and bins. There are also a number of longer-term goals in progress including building a replacement pavilion, new café, toilets, renewal of the gated playground and multi-use games court (MUGA).

We have conducted a park users survey which has helped us understand the views of different user groups and has provided an invaluable tool for securing extra resources to fill identified gaps.

### **What we are looking for**

We are looking for people who want to help us push forward improvements and make our area an even better place to live.

We particularly keen to recruit new committee members to help us be more representative and ensure that we have a strong future – many hands make light and enjoyable work.

### **What you get out of it**

There is a great satisfaction as you see improvements delivered to your local area and you also get to improve a range of skills that you can transfer to other areas of your life. Best of all you get to know lots of new people and have the satisfaction of helping your local community.

### **What is the workload like?**

We aim to keep things fun and enjoyable so it shouldn't feel too much like work.

The Committee itself meets around six times a year for a formal meeting which lasts for around one to two hours, whilst Subcommittees meet on a more ad hoc basis, push the ball forward by agreeing plans and actions, and making proposals to the full committee. Subcommittees do also use email to discuss, plan actions and organise meetups.

### **The Committee**

The Committee has the following officers; Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and Committee members.

### **Chair**

Provide strategic Leadership.

### **Vice Chair**

Co-ordinate committee members and support the individual sub committees

### **Treasurer**

Deals with banking, maintaining financial records, payments and producing the accounts.

### **Secretary**

Keeper of the constitution helping to define and improve how we work, organises full committee meetings and takes the minutes, maintains the official records.

### **Sub-Committees**

Sub committees look after the following areas and committee members often join one of more of the subcommittees depending on your own interests. Each sub-committee has a chair who also produces the update and proposal report provided to the main committee.

### **Pavilion Sub-Committee**

We are working on a Pavilion fit for the twenty first century. This work includes design, research, grant applications, public consultations. Our aims are to secure a pavilion which is much more than just the current changing rooms. We want to include a café, public toilets, community meeting space, so creating a community resource that everyone can enjoy.

### **Environment and Environs Sub-Committee**

Focusing on how to both improve the ecology and the appearance of the park and local area. We have lots of exciting plans to plant new hedges, trees, flowers and other improvements for the wildlife we share the park with.

This committee helps to shape these plans, organises volunteer days and works in close liaison with the Parks Department.

### **Sport, and Play Sub-Committee**

This group focuses on the improving the play and sport opportunities in the park for all users.

The objective is to increase participation and encourage more summer sports use such as the possible reintroduction of cricket, tennis and a running track.

We have secured a new trim trail by Heathfield School and there will be further tree planting this winter to provide more shade. A particular focus next year is seeking improvements to the gated playground to address the lack of toddlers play equipment, provide some shading and eventually a complete overhaul of the area.

**If you would like to discuss joining the committee please email [friendsofheathfieldrec@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofheathfieldrec@gmail.com)**

**During the Covid Pandemic all meetings take place online.**