

## **PROGRESS REPORT – JUNE 2016**

<u>Report of the:</u>	Streetcare Manager – Epsom & Ewell Borough Council
<u>Contact:</u>	Samantha Whitehead
<u>Annexes/Appendices</u> (attached):	<u>Annexe 1</u> – 2016 Quarter 2 Update from the Nonsuch Voles
<u>Other available papers</u> (not attached):	None Stated

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

**A report to update the Joint Management Committee on the progress of matters considered previously and the activities of Volunteer Groups.**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Joint Management Committee notes the progress of the following:**

- **Dementia Friendly Initiative**
- **Update from Volunteer Groups**

*Notes*

## **1 Dementia Friendly Initiative**

- 1.1 Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's Streetcare Manager and Councillor Graham Dudley met with Lauren Merrison and Lynn Graffham of the Alzheimer's Society on 25 April 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways in which Nonsuch Park could be made 'dementia friendly'.
- 1.2 The meeting was incredibly useful and enlightening and although much can be done around the park to make the site more dementia friendly, the general feeling of the group was to start small and create building blocks for the future.
- 1.3 The first step was to agree to hold a Dementia Friends information session for members of the Joint Management Committee, staff, volunteers and stakeholders and representatives from the Alzheimer's Society have been invited to come and make a short presentation to members after the meeting.
- 1.4 The Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friends programme is the UK's biggest ever initiative to change people's perceptions of dementia. It aims to transform the way the nation thinks, acts and talks about the condition.

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- 1.5 Becoming a Dementia Friend and wearing the 'forget-me-not badge', means that those suffering with the condition know that there is someone to help them should they need it.
- 1.6 The next step would be to review the signage around the park and Lauren Merrison has since provided some very useful information which we would certainly look to use when we are ready to embark on new signs as part of the HLF bid.
- 1.7 Other ideas for the future included:
  - 1.7.1 Dedicated parking space: The Park might consider a dedicated dementia friendly parking space, maybe identified with the forget-me-not logo. Alternatively, the Park may wish to consider numbering the car parks and updating the current signs to include this.
  - 1.7.2 Circular walk/path or a sensory/memory garden: We discussed how it might be nice for people living with dementia to have access to a circular walk or a sensory/memory garden space. We talked about how smells and different flowers can evoke memories.
  - 1.7.3 Involving people affected by dementia: We spoke about the importance of involving people affected by dementia in the decision making process, this could be via a small focus group, or questionnaire. The Alzheimer's Society would be happy to help organise this and put Officers in touch with the appropriate people who may like to take part. Involving people who suffer with the condition will help the Park to be inclusive and ensure that people have an enjoyable experience when they visit.
- 1.8 To cement our commitment to making the Park dementia friendly, Nonsuch Park may wish to consider becoming a member of the Dementia Action Alliance. The Dementia Action Alliance is a movement with one simple aim: to bring about a society-wide response to dementia. It encourages and supports communities and organisations across England to take practical actions to enable people to live well with dementia and reduce the risk of costly crisis intervention.
- 1.9 In order to become a member, Nonsuch Park will need to sign the National Dementia Declaration and provide set of actions which outline the positive steps we will take to make the Park dementia friendly.

## **2 Update from Volunteer Groups**

- 2.1 An update from Nonsuch Voles is attached at Annexe 1 to this report. Nonsuch Watch and Friends of Nonsuch may have a verbal update they wish to present to the meeting.