Parks for London

LFGN London Friends of Green Spaces Network

To all London's Parks Friends / Community Groups

Cc: all London Boroughs Heads of Parks Services

4 April 2022

London elections on May 5th — Now is the time to speak up for London's parks and green spaces

Elections for Local Councils will be held on May 5th. We urge you to take this opportunity to contact (letter / email / Twitter) your local candidates and parties standing, to lobby for issues that are important to you regarding your local parks or green spaces.

No-one can dispute the vital importance of parks over the past two years. Many green spaces are literally wearing out because they are so popular. Yet we do not see any real Government commitment to protect or increase their funding.

Please remind candidates that parks and green spaces are an essential and unique resource for all our communities, providing numerous benefits and services[1]. They should receive the resources they need to ensure they can fulfil their vital functions. We, and many national greenspace organisations strongly support a statutory obligation for these spaces to be managed and resourced effectively[2]. Yet we are entering a local and national greenspace crisis, due to continued cuts to parks budgets—mainly a result of central government cuts to Local Authorities' overall budgets. Poorly resourced spaces are likely to become problem spaces with negative effects on our communities or could be lost to development[3]. London's rising population means we need more green space—instead, there's growing threats of inappropriate urban development and commercialism.

Campaigners across London are calling for public greenspace to be assured of adequate budgets and staffing, Green Flag Award quality standards, community involvement and empowerment, effective long-term protection, and for Party branches and Councils to sign the Parks Charter.

Your local parks and green spaces also have their own specific issues and needs which ought to be heard and addressed. With 900 local Friends Groups throughout London, this is a growing and powerful force. And others are speaking out too[4]. Your group can influence politicians and political parties who will influence funding and other decisions that will impact your local park. Please consider writing to your local newspaper / media too. Let's make our local parks a priority!

Thank you for your support.

Tony Leach – Chief Executive, Parks for London
Dave Morris – Chair, London Friends of Green Spaces Network

Say it in a Tweet

[1] Good Parks for London reports; [2] Parks Charter; [3] CPRE London; [4] A More Natural Capital | *#AMoreNaturalCapital*