

YOUR MORLEY PARK
GUIDED WALK AND EXHIBITION
SUNDAY 29TH APRIL 2012 AT 2.30PM
Meet at the Scout HQ in Cottenham Park Road

The Scout HQ is at 106 Cottenham Park Road (opposite the junction with Oakwood Road).



Programme for the guided walk and exhibition

2.30 – Welcome

2.40 - Guided walk, nature trail for children. Learn what is planned for each area of the park as we walk around the site. Finish back at the Scout HQ.

3.30 – Refreshments, exhibition, options for the management of Morley Park, meet the team, join the team, children's prizes.

Morley Park is being gifted to the Council, together with £360k towards its maintenance, as part of the planning consent for the Atkinson Morley site. The freehold of the park will pass from Berkeley Homes to the Council when the developer has completed works to the open land. These works are due to be completed by September 2013.

Come and see for yourself the site that will become our new local park. It is a very attractive site with far reaching views to the south and will be very different from our two other local parks. It will comprise woodland, an ecology area and playing fields. The site will be accessed by a new public footpath from Copse Hill onto the upper field, and onto the lower fields from Cottenham Park Rd via the existing footpath. The lower fields will be maintained as playing fields and it is expected that the main user of these will be the Ursuline School. There will be a newly built pavilion and a rebuilt cottage which will be rented to help raise revenue to support the park. The top field (nearest to Copse Hill) will have a pond and will be maintained as meadow. We also plan to have a woodland walk giving more level access to the top field. The existing north/south path linking Copse Hill and Cottenham Park Rd has been secured as a public foot and cycle path.

Stout shoes recommended

THE MANAGEMENT OF MORLEY PARK



LUNG was set up by the Residents' Association of West Wimbledon and the North West Wimbledon Residents' Association in 2003 to:

- protect the open lands for the public in perpetuity as a new park area.
- ensure that for new building on the Copse Hill frontage a scheme is provided of high quality design and materials, which respects the character of the area.

LUNG set up Morley Park Trust (MPT), a charity and company limited by guarantee, to take on the ownership or management of the open land if the opportunity arose. It is now clear that the Council will take on the freehold of the open land but MPT remains available as a shell organization that could take on a long term lease to manage Morley Park.

The Council is considering 3 options for the management of the new park.

- management by the council (default position)
- management by a community trust
- management by a 'single sports or educational establishment'

LUNG believes that this new park can only be administered by an organisation that has the breadth of skills to manage all parts of the park (woodland, ecology area, playing fields) and facilities that will be shared by all park users (car park, public paths, boundaries, bins etc). Most importantly this organisation must have the ambition and motivation to balance the needs of all park users and the amenity of local residents. A community trust would be very well placed and LUNG presented the case for this in some detail in our 'Proposal for a Community Trust to Manage Morley Park' which is on the LUNG website. This includes a list of those who have already volunteered their services to the trust if it succeeds in its bid to manage the park. It includes relevant skills to oversee the management of the whole park. Management by a trust would not preclude having subcontracts or leases for the use of specific facilities and we would welcome an agreement with the Ursuline for use of the sports facilities.

The new Localism Act supports the right for community organisations to bid to take over the management of community assets. We now look forward to working with the Council and prospective park users so we can develop our plans to the point where we can make such a bid to manage the park. To be successful we need to know that we have the community supporting us. One of the advantages a Community Trust has over management by the Council is access to volunteers to help with the management. The guided walk and exhibition are part of the process to hear your views and get another measure of the support for a Community Trust which many of you have already expressed.

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