

Item 12 Addiscombe Recreation Ground update

Since the last report for the AGM on 27 April, there has been very good progress made by the volunteer gardeners.

On Saturday 3 June, lots of gardeners and many local residents and visitors descended on Bingham Park. It was a gloriously sunny morning and there was a lovely community feeling in this little corner of Addiscombe.

Chairman, Steve White, has devised an innovative method of creating some fencing to surround the two flower beds. A small section has been erected and we await the go ahead from the parks department before finalising the work. It looks impressive and will also add further support to the existing willow fencing.

Local residents were again very generous in donating plants including a large castor oil plant, a rosemary bush, an azalea, mahonia and lots of bedding plants grown from seed. These donations are greatly appreciated and demonstrate how the community supports the aim of improving the park's environment.

In addition, we also received some donations of money and some perennials and a rose bush have been purchased. The latter was a specific request from one of the donors. They have been planted so hope they will continue to thrive.

A real bonus in recent months has been the ability to water the plants more easily. The group now has access to a water supply and can fill the water butt on a regular basis.

The very welcome financial support from local councillors and the funding from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative, will allow the gardening group to purchase trellis and climbing plants for the 'toilet block' wall and additional plants for both flower beds to create all year round interest. Once the planting is established, the volunteers will focus on other areas of the park, including the entrance routes.

This project would not be possible without the many volunteers who contribute in a variety of ways. As well as those who have been doing the digging and the planting, thanks also go to those who have donated plants and money, have made cakes and provided refreshments on planting days, supplied power for making hot drinks and many who take time out in their day to come and water the flower beds during dry periods.

From the many positive comments received from park users, the improvement in the appearance of the flower beds is having a significant impact.

Lyn Simmons