

# St John's Recreation Ground



**Update**

April 2006

## Improvement project going ahead

The Council's Cabinet recently agreed that the refurbishment project at St John's Recreation Ground is to go ahead. Councillors acknowledged that play facilities serving the St John's and Culverden areas are poor and approved the latest design for the project (copy inside this newsletter). The new plan takes account of many residents' comments and has been drawn up to achieve the greatest possible level of satisfaction for the majority of residents.

St John's is the only local park for a large number of households and Councillors are keen to see the park upgraded with challenging play opportunities for children and young people. The new design includes an exciting play area with old favourites like swings and a roundabout, as well as an aerial cableway and sandpit. For older children and young people there will be a multi-ball games court and a landscaped area designed for wheeled play. Since the consultation process started in 2003, the estimated project cost has risen to £291,000. This is partly due to costs associated with design changes arising from the consultation, but also as a result of inflation and additional design fees.

### To find out more

The revised plan for St John's Recreation Ground can be seen:

- ◆ in the park, on the window of the bowls pavilion
- ◆ on the Council's website: [www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk](http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk)
- ◆ at the Town Hall

### Target Timetable

Detailed design and specification	..... May 2006
Tender process	..... June-August 2006
Start on site	..... October 2006
Completion	..... May 2007

### Fountain

Sections of the fountain are currently in store for safekeeping. The fountain is a historic feature of the park and there may be a future opportunity to seek grant funding to restore it. When the refurbishment project is complete and the park is once again a vibrant space, this could be a potential project for the Friends group!

### Park toilets

Local residents who asked when the park toilets are due to be refurbished will be pleased to hear that this work will be carried out to coincide with the main project.

## Bowls Club

Thinking about taking up a new pastime?  
How about bowls?

Tunbridge Wells Bowls Club, based at St John's Recreation Ground, is a friendly club that is always keen to welcome new members, whether experienced or newcomers to the sport.

To find out more contact:  
Sandy on 01892 740586 or Bill on 522565.

Visit the Council's website [www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk](http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk) for the latest information...

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# Friends group

As the project gets under way, this is an excellent time to look at ways of developing an effective Friends' group for the park in the future – a group that represents park users of all ages and interests from across the different residential areas that the park serves. An active Friends' group would form a vital link between local community, the park staff and the Council and could become involved in any of the following:

- ◆ Volunteer activities, such as bulb planting or environmental projects.
- ◆ Organising community events and activities.
- ◆ Fund-raising (a Friends' group would have access to external funds that are available to community groups rather than the Council).
- ◆ Research about the park.
- ◆ Contributing and discussing ideas and views about the management of the park – essential to the development of the park's Management Plan over the next 18 months.

Friends could volunteer as little or as much time as they wish. Whilst it is envisaged that the Friends will be an independent group, the Council would be happy to help the group get established.

**Watch for further information in a future Update newsletter, or get in touch now if you are keen to be involved or have ideas.**

Marian Williams 01892 554029,  
marian.williams@tunbridgewells.gov.uk.

## Bench donation scheme

Would you like to mark a special family event, anniversary or celebration?

Remember someone special?

Contribute to improving your local park?

Then this would be the perfect time to donate a bench in St John's Recreation Ground. Donated benches can carry an inscription and a special message can be included in the Register of Donations displayed in the Town Hall. Donations can be made by individuals, local groups or organisations.

To find out more visit the Council's website (go to Parks and Open Spaces and look for the Bench Donation Scheme button on the right hand menu), or contact Peter Every on 01892 526121 or e-mail [peter.every@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:peter.every@tunbridgewells.gov.uk).



## Help us save paper and postal costs!

Simply e-mail [sarah.bird@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.bird@tunbridgewells.gov.uk) and ask to be put on the St John's Recreation Ground Update e-mail list. The next issue will then be sent to you via e-mail as an Adobe Acrobat PDF file. Please send us your name and postal address so we can remove you from our snail-mail list at the same time!

If you have any questions about the project or any information contained in this newsletter, please call:

**Jeff Kempster**, Parks Manager, or **Marian Williams**, Strategy & Projects Officer  
who are both based in Leisure Services at the Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS  
tel: 01892 526121 e-mail: [parks@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:parks@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

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