

## **THE 2008 PROPOSALS**

### **Reviewed, Updated & Revised – June 2014**

These revised proposals are based on the revised zonation of Eastfield Park (June, 2014) approved at the FoEP Committee Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

The original proposals<sup>1</sup> are in black type; comments and revisions made at the June Committee Meeting are shown in blue.

#### **Section A. Access, Drainage & Antisocial Behaviour:**

**Proposal 1:** Eastfield Park should be provided with signs directing the way to its entrances.

**Largely accomplished.**

Additional signage could be provided from Broadmead Avenue / Grange Road.

**Proposal 2:** The Park should be provided with proper entrances including information boards and maps of the Park, at its main access points from Booth Lane North, Skiddaw Walk, Apple Tree Walk (approaching from Kettering Road), Apple Tree Walk/Greenside (approaching from Greenfield Avenue), Newby Court and Greenside (eastern end).

**Largely accomplished.**

An additional information board could be provided close to the southern end of the cross-park pathway.

**Proposal 3:** Eastfield Park should be provided with a safe and secure car park that does not detract from the natural beauty of the Park.

**FoEP no longer desires an on-site car park!**

Remove from list.

**Proposal 4a:** A new and improved land-drainage system should be installed in the area between the Lake and the Skiddaw Walk entrance, and in other parts of the Park prone to waterlogging.

Still desirable but NBC informally advised the FoEP that such a scheme would not be cost effective.

**Proposal 4b:** A hydrological survey of Eastfield Park and its catchment, including both natural drainage and constructed drains, should be commissioned, primarily to identify possible water sources that could be used to supply the ponds and Lake, but also to comment generally on patterns of water flow and drainage in the area. This survey should also report on whether or not there is any possibility of reinstating the original water supply to the ponds. Outflows from the Lake and ponds should be raised and kept clear of debris and in a good state of repair.

Informed that survey would be expensive.

Consider getting one done 'on the cheap' by expert volunteers.

Work on outflows a priority after other work on lake and ponds.

---

<sup>1</sup> Presented in *Proposals for the Regeneration of Eastfield Park, Northampton*, Friends of Eastfield Park, August 2008

**Proposal 5:** All-weather, wide, wheelchair friendly, footpaths should be constructed in the Park as follows:

- i. A cross-park path
  - ii. A perimeter path
  - iii. A path around the Lake
  - iv. A path forming a circuit through the Wildlife Appreciation Area.
  - v. A short path near the southern end of Apple Tree Walk forming a smooth link with Greenside.
- 
- i. **Achieved (almost)**
  - ii. **Highly desirable (High priority)**
  - iii. Desirable if suitably landscaped (part board walk) – lower priority
  - iv. Probably not necessary – can be done by voluntary effort & walkers tend to make own paths through this area. Low priority.
  - v. Probably not necessary but could be done if funds were available. Lowest priority.

**Proposal 6:** Increased lighting and CCTV should *not* be installed in Eastfield Park without a full consideration and consultation regarding its real (rather than its perceived) benefits. Rather, the Borough Council, FoEP and other agencies, should work closely together to create initiatives that would increase pride in the community and social control by other means, including well-organised events and activities, improved play and sports facilities, and a greater role for everyone, especially young people, in the management of the Park.

FoEP continues to endorse this policy.

Lighting should only be provided in limited areas – e.g. the MUGA (as at present).

## **Section B: Areas within the Park**

**Proposal 7:** The Parkland Zone (now the Heritage Appreciation Zone) should be managed in a sensitive manner to protect its heritage and wildlife values. In particular, a more sensitive mowing regime should be adopted. The area should not be built on or have paved paths crossing its central area but there is no objection to mowing paths through the longer grass or to erecting appropriate statues and other works of art. Information boards, though very desirable, should only be placed around the margins of the area (along the all-weather paths). A botanical survey of the area should be carried out including a full inventory of the trees both native and non-native. Trees should be mapped and labelled with both common and scientific names.

FoEP continues to endorse this policy.

Grass should be mowed more regularly than at present but some areas of long grass could be considered. **Survey of grassland done.**

**Proposal 8:** The Borough Council should approve the concept plan for the Wildlife Appreciation Area (now extended to include the Lake and Spinney) and should assist FoEP in producing detailed scale plans with estimates of the costs involved in implementing the plans. The Council should also support FoEP in seeking grants for the implementation of the plans.

### **Action required.**

**Proposal 8a:** In the meantime, the Council should support the regeneration of the area by removing silt from the ponds under the guidance of a conservationist from FoEP.

Some silt removal done but more required.

**Proposal 9:** The area between the Lake and Greenside should be developed as a public activity area to include such things as play areas for children and a fitness circuit for adults. Ample open space should be left for 'unorganised' spontaneous sport and play. (Now includes the area around the MUGA & monster and termed 'Play and Activities Area').

**Children's play equipment (ages 3 to 8) a high priority for this area – to be located immediately to the east of the cross-park pathway between the Lake & Greenside. Area to be fenced and dog-free.**

**Proposal 10:** The Borough Council should consider developing the area of Eastfield Park between the football pitches and Howard Biley Gardens / St Gregory's Mews to provide changing rooms and indoor sports facilities. Consideration should also be given to including a café within the development plans, to be located between the new sports facilities and the Lake.

**The FoEP no longer wish for any buildings to be located on the Park.**

Remove from list.

**Proposal 11:** The Spinney Zone should be developed to provide adventurous activities for young people including a dirt cycle track and an adventure trail. The development should be carried out in a sensitive manner that enhances the wildlife value of the zone. A strip of thick vegetation should be left between the development and the gardens beyond. (Now added to the Wildlife Appreciation Zone.)

**The FoEP no longer wish for these adventurous activities to take place in this area.**

Remove from list.

This area should be managed as woodland with trees and woodland flowers. Diseased conifers should gradually be replaced with broad-leaved species.

**Proposal 12:** The bullring should be conserved for its historical interest with new trees being planted to replace those removed. The area within should be developed as an outdoor entertainment area with only structures that would enhance this use. Information boards should be positioned outside the ring.

**Incorporated into the Heritage Appreciation Area without any particular focus on outdoor entertainment.**

Remove second sentence.

**Proposal 13:** The primary use of Eastfield Park Lake should be angling, followed by conservation and related activities (such as bird watching). Any activities that conflict with these uses should not be allowed. Policy decisions relating to the management of the Lake should be in the hands of FoEP, providing it consults with both the Eastfield Angling Club and the Wildlife Trust. (Now added to Wildlife Appreciation Area.)

The addition of this area to the Wildlife Appreciation Area recognises the importance of the Lake's wildlife to the general public but does not rule it out as a potential venue for angling. It is currently only used for 'unofficial' angling.

## **Section C: Activities within the Park**

**Proposal 14:** An historical research project should be set up to discover as much as possible about the history of Eastfield Park from the earliest times to the present, including its links with Northampton's shoe industry. A second project should focus on recent social history based on the memories of residents.

### **On-going.**

Attempts to set up a formal project failed because of lack of time and interest but FoEP intends to set up an informal project soon (and has already taken some steps in this direction.)

A considerable amount of information about the history of the Park has been collected by FoEP members.

**Proposal 15:** FoEP will continue to collect and collate biodiversity data relating to Eastfield Park. At a later date they will provide details about the more interesting species for inclusion on park information boards.

### **On-going.**

FoEP is building up a data base relating to the Park's biodiversity but much remains to be done.

**Proposal 16:** The Borough Council should support FoEP to work in association with trained teachers to develop information leaflets and educational packs relating to Eastfield Park. In addition to information boards at the Park's entrances and labels on trees, all features of interest should be provided with descriptive boards. Information boards should also be provided throughout the 'Wildlife Appreciation Area' describing some of the more interesting species and their habits. The information should be presented in a manner that is interesting, informative and accessible to children.

### **On-going**

The FoEP has provided some local schools with information about the Park's history and its members have helped with school trips to the Park and have helped with lessons in schools.

**No progress has been made on information boards (apart from those at the Park entrances and this should be a priority).**

**Proposal 17:** Various walking or jogging circuits through the Park should be suggested with the length of each circuit shown on a map. The map could be made available as a leaflet or shown on information boards.

**No progress on this; not a high priority but not that difficult to produce leaflets or on-line recommendations.**

**Proposal 18:** Anti-fouling laws should be strictly enforced in Eastfield Park and dogs should be kept out of children's play areas. The Council's Animal Welfare Officers and FoEP should jointly consider organising events in the Park, and promoting children's activities, that would encourage responsible dog ownership.

### **On-going**

Having a Park Ranger helps but other steps need to be taken to enforce anti-fouling laws.

**Proposal 19:** The Borough Council should recognise the advantages of having a local group (Eastfield Angling Club) overseeing fishing on Eastfield Park Lake and should acknowledge the contribution made by the Club to the overall management of the Park. This recognition should be reflected in the Council's support for the Club by, for example, keeping the fees for fishing rights as low as possible, backing grant applications and providing practical assistance where needed.

Eastfield Angling Club no longer functioning.  
No longer any need for this proposal but review of angling required.

**Proposal 20:** Any new sports facilities on Eastfield Park should be appropriately situated in the eastern half of the Park taking note of the zonation plan. Facilities should be available to the general public, preferably free of charge. (We accept that it would probably be necessary to make a charge if indoor facilities are provided.)

FoEP no longer desire indoor facilities but would welcome outdoor facilities for the general public provided they are vandal-proof. Facilities should be in the S&G or P&A areas as appropriate.

**Proposal 21:** Adventurous play equipment that encourages both the mental and physical development of children should be provided in Eastfield Park. Apparatus for the youngest children should be situated closest to housing. Facilities for older children should be located mainly in the Lake and Spinney Zones with the more robust and adventurous equipment in the latter.

Dealt with above under Proposals 9 and 11.

**Proposal 22:** Adequate seating, and 'rest stops' for wheelchair users, should be available within the Park. They should be carefully located to enable users to get the best use from them. Groups of picnic tables should be placed in suitable locations. All seats and picnic areas should be provided with suitable, frequently emptied, litter bins.

**Highly desirable but must be vandal-proof!**  
If picnic areas are provided, location should be considered very carefully.

**Proposal 23:** The Borough Council and FoEP should work together to promote greater use of Eastfield Park, particularly by encouraging organisations, institutes, etc. to make use of the Park for public events that bring benefit to the local community.

Hopefully this will be achieved through the new Eastfield Park Management Committee being set up by NBC. (First meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2014.)