



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 8 November 2007

NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL – VICTORIA PARK EXHIBITION

Do You Care About the Future of Victoria Park?

Newbury Town Council is holding an exhibition of its plans for the future of Victoria Park at the Town Hall from Friday 16 November to Monday 19 November 2007.

The Council's Victoria Park Working Group has been working on these plans for a number of years, and undertaken several public consultations, by newsletter, postal survey and by Councillors speaking to the public at events in the park such as Crafty Craft and the Fringe Festival. Additionally consultants Scott Wilson have commissioned surveys of the park's trees, buildings, ecology and accessibility, and researched the history of the park.

All of this information has now been brought together and an outline plan prepared for public consultation. Six large panels will be on display at the Town Hall, which set out the history of the park, the way the park is currently used, and the plans for the possible future use of the park. Five character zones have been identified – for sport and recreation, a sculpture garden, an ecology area, activities and the historic core. A more detailed plan explains how some new features would be incorporated with improvements to existing features.

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Following this exhibition, the Town Council will be using all of the collated information to form the basis of a bid to the “Parks for People” lottery fund for the money to create a park that respects its history and provides facilities fit for the 21st century.

The members of the Victoria Park Working Group are hoping to see large numbers of the public at the exhibition, and will be available to answer questions. Those attending will be encouraged to complete a brief questionnaire.

The exhibition will be manned during the following hours:

Friday 16th November noon to 8pm

Saturday 17th November 10am to 4pm

Sunday 18th November 10am to 4pm

Monday 19th November 9am to noon

Additionally, the exhibition and questionnaires will be available at the Town Hall on Saturday 10 November during the Mayor’s charity coffee morning from 10am till noon, and during the following week, subject to other Town Hall bookings. Just call in at reception.

For those unable to visit the Town Hall, the exhibition and questionnaire, as well as the supporting more detailed proposals, will also be posted on the Town Council web site www.newbury.gov.uk from Wednesday 14 November 2007.

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Finally, anyone who is interested in becoming a part of a new, independent “Friends of Victoria Park” group is asked to contact Caroline Parkinson or Joanne Lempriere at the Town Hall on 01635 35486 or by email at servicesofficer1@newbury.gov.uk for details of the inaugural meeting in early December.

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For more details contact:

Cllr Gabrielle McGarvey – Chair of Victoria Park Working Group (gabrielle.mcgarvey@btinternet.com
01635 550824 / 07968 121711)

Graham Hunt – Chief Executive Officer (chiefexec@newbury.gov.uk 01635 35486)

Attached are JPGs of the 6 separate display boards. A 2Mb PDF of the whole exhibition is available on request.

For more background information on the lottery bid please see the press release as issued on 25 September 2007 at www.newbury.gov.uk/News/victoriaparkupdate.htm