

Letter from the Chairman of the Friends of Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

To User Groups in Hinchingsbrooke Country Park Organisations



Working Together for the Country Park

As a group of regular users of Hinchingsbrooke Country Park you will share our determination to help maintain and where possible improve our valued Park despite continuing pressures on the District Council's budget. The Friends assist by tapping into funds not available to the Council, such as donations and grants from charitable bodies. While hundreds of people use the Country Park each week only 160 households are members of the Friends at present. We need more members in order to raise more funds for Park projects and to represent a wider cross section of Park users.

We would appreciate your help. There are a number of ways in which your group can assist us and the Park, for example by:

- encouraging your members to join the Friends. Household membership costs £6 per annum Forms are available in the cafe.
- donating towards Park projects via the Friends' collection box in the cafe
- supporting Friend' stalls at events eg by giving draw or tombola prizes
- directly raising funds for Park projects
- helping the Rangers with events in the park or on specific projects
- funding specific items for the Park such as picnic benches or cafe furniture
- contributing to our regular newsletter

In addition, your members may be able to offer help and advice/particular expertise/knowledge which the Friends could draw on such as help in applying for grants. They may also have contacts with companies which may be willing to help e.g. by contributing money or volunteer time or sponsoring specific projects. If so please let us know at friendshcp@yahoo.com.

The Friends Committee is also keen to increase and broaden its membership to make it more representative This will help ensure that the views of a wider range of users are taken into account in determining priorities for spending and fundraising. In particular we would like to recruit a representative of the Park runners, someone to represent parents and children and representatives from other user groups. If you or any of your members who are also members of the Friends are interested in joining us please let us know by e-mailing friendshcp@yahoo.com. Our AGM is on 24 May 2017.

Thanks

David Thorogood

Chairman of the Friends of Hinchingsbrooke Country Park