

THE FRIENDS OF SHADBOLT PARK

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Summer Report 2017

By Doreen Bennett

We're opening! Summer 2017
THE FRIENDS OF SHADBOLT PARK INVITE YOU TO
The Daylily Garden
Shadbolt Park House, Salisbury Road, Worcester Park KT4 7BX

Refreshments available during
our **WEDNESDAY** openings!
PLEASE JOIN US
2 - 4pm ON 5th, 12th & 19th JULY

Weekend open days
from 2 - 4pm during July
Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd, Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th,
Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th, Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd
cuddingtonra.org/shadbolt.html

The summer and its events are almost upon us and we are looking forward to welcoming visitors to the Day Lily Garden during the Big Day Out and also in July when the daylilies are at their best.

Open afternoons are on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 2-4pm until 23 July, please do come along. When you see the results of our efforts we hope you'll feel inspired to join our regular Saturday morning sessions (10-12

noon) for our own brand of ecotherapy. I have been asked to draw your attention to 'A leafy Future', which follows below.

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A LEAFY FUTURE?

For more than 22 years the Epsom & Ewell Tree Advisory Board [TAB] has worked in close partnership with the Borough Council to maintain and enhance the rich treescape that makes our locality so special. That mission has become even more important following the recent announcement that the Borough's street tree planting budget was effectively scrapped in April. It has long been accepted by the Council

itself that more than 100 street trees need to be planted each year simply to replace those lost to old age and disease and, up to now, our Borough has had a proud record of at least meeting that target.

Given the devastating cumulative impact that a permanent cessation of new planting would have on our leafy environment, TAB is currently striving, alongside sympathetic councillors of all colours, to avoid

what has developed in neighbouring Reigate & Banstead.

Chairman Mike Ford explains "You only have to drive through Tattenham Corner or parts of Banstead to see the medium-to-long term effect of a decision not to replace street trees when they are lost for whatever reason. TAB is determined to ensure a similar fate does not await Epsom & Ewell, but we need public support and urgently need to hear from anyone who agrees that street trees are important".

While the situation is potentially bleak, TAB believes that it could independently secure sufficient funding to allow a certain level of planting of street trees, but a problem exists because SCC will only deal with statutory organisations, not voluntary groups like the TAB. At present TAB is collating responses to a letter it sent to all the EEBC councillors in January asking whether they support the idea of the Council at least providing the administrative interface with the County to allow for TAB-funded planting.

Although sympathetic responses have been received, TAB still awaits a formal response from the RA group while it checks any cost implications.

Mike Ford concludes. "The stakes are high and I'd appreciate feedback from anyone who doesn't want our Borough to enter irreversible environmental decline. We are not looking for money from the Council, just its support to help TAB self-fund at least a certain level of street tree planting. Is that really too much to ask?"

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