



A report on the
Warren Avenue Playing Fields
Bromley, Kent.



With Addendum dated 24th March 2014

This report highlights the various shortcomings that have existed in Warren Avenue Playing Fields for some time. The Playing Fields are situated in Bromley on the very edge of the boundary with Lewisham but for historic reasons, the Fields continued to be maintained by Lewisham.

This report looks at various problems existing in the area, including litter and general park maintenance. All the photographs in this document were taken on 20th March, 2014 unless otherwise stated.

Litter

There are two issues to do with litter: first, collection and storage and secondly, maintaining the overall area free of windblown rubbish.

These pictures show how rubbish has been collected. The situation is quite normal with bins overflowing and refuse scattered widely by foxes and the wind:



When the foxes and the wind are allowed to attack this insecure accumulation of rubbish, black bags and debris are spread all over the place: -



As a result, there is a great deal of litter trapped on the boundaries of the Playing Fields, where it remains seemingly forever: -



Fly tipping

Fly tipping is also a problem as the following photographs show: -



and a close up of the shed felt



The mattress shown below has been in situ for some time and mattresses are known to harbour rats :



General park maintenance

Very little general park maintenance seems to be done other than cutting grass. For example, fallen wood is not collected and disposed of or sometimes put in piles and left. (Although we recognise that leaving piles may be a deliberate ecological act to encourage wildlife)



The old tree cage below has been lying on the field for months (possibly years)



Perimeter fencing

In two places, the perimeter fencing has been badly damaged and needs to be maintained



Other

Basic issues such as re-siting the fallen bench (or disposing of it altogether if necessary) have not been done: -



Nor has graffiti been removed



Established trees

Two trees have recently fallen and are still awaiting removal. A third appears to be leaning dangerously and needs attention or confirmation that it is safe.



Other trees need work done on them because they have fallen limbs: -



Replacement trees

Approximately 17 new trees have been planted in recent years. However due to a number of factors including Glendale planting some trees during a heatwave and then failing to water them and then killing some trees by stripping the bark off them, about only four of these trees have survived. This is a shocking waste of money and further these trees now need to be replaced.

As an example of this group of originally six trees, only one is alive, four are dead and still standing and one is lying on the ground some distance away.



Below, a picture of typical strimmer damage which killed the tree, which unfortunately Glendale have not been held accountable for: -



Issues relating to Lewisham (as opposed to the grounds contractor)

On the (relatively new) path that runs alongside the park, there are a number of items that are outstanding and need attention: -

A lamppost overgrown by ivy



Fallen timber needs removal: -



The path needs sweeping once in a while and the right hand picture shows foliage beginning to impede passageway: -



Later the same day

After photographs in this report were taken, a cleaner from the Parks contractor, Fusion, arrived and cleared up the worst of the scattered rubbish. However much rubbish remains around the boundary, bins were not emptied, the mattress remains, and there is still considerable amount of general small scale littering as the following pictures, taken after his visit, show: -





Addendum dated 24 March, 2014

We were previously advised by Fusion that the Fusion employee would be on site on the weekend of 22/23 March and would therefore be available to attend to the littering after the weekend's football matches.

On Monday morning, 24 March, there did not appear to be significant littering around the perimeter of the football pitches (although plenty around the perimeter of the park as a whole) and there was evidence that someone had tried to collect all the waste centrally.

However this is totally inadequate as the following pictures show. Overnight foxes attacked the accumulation of rubbish, which was insecure, and have again left a terrible mess.

All the bins remain full, including the big blue bin, and have not been emptied for over a week. We are concerned that the contractors who empty the big blue bin, Situ, are not to return until Tuesday week (April 1) and we wonder what is going to happen to the rubbish until then.

