



16 April 2019

Dear All,

Friends of Bishops Park Second response to Mitigation

Firstly thank you very much for listening to our concerns as representatives of users of Bishops Park and for extending the period of consultation. We now understand that the Church Commissioners have not “signed off “ as we had thought. Please would you let us know when they have so done and the anticipated timing of the commencement of the works

**Compound Area**

We understand that the felling of the three mature trees is being reconsidered, particularly the multi stemmed Plane. Do save at least this tree if at all possible – the graphics shown at the consultation (FFC 9<sup>th</sup> April ) had left it clearly in place with the arriving lorries being able to avoid it.

May we have a clear and transparent plan for the replacement and reinstatement of each tree and shrub that will need to be removed for the works to take place in the compound area. There is insufficient detail at the moment though the sentiments expressed appear to be in agreement with our concerns.

In relation to this reinstatement consider extending the maintenance period of the new planting for five - two years from one year – trees need at minimum two year span in this climate to establish properly and should they die, the maintenance to commence again from the time of replanting.

As agreed at the consultation we would be happy to help the contractors site the additional gate they agreed to put in at the new north end of the Park Path.

**Outside the Compound in the Park**

Thank you for agreeing to re place the dog water tap so the facility will still be there for the dogs.

We have noticed that the new path in front of the compound linking the existing path is perhaps up to 50% narrower than the existing path. Would you consider widening this? Many people use the path often at the same time eg: the Park Run, multi pushchair walkers especially in the winter when the ground at Fielders Meadow gets particularly muddy due to poor drainage.

We did not see any provision for lighting outside/on the compound wall – will there be some, we think there probably should be.

**Finances**

We remain concerned and would like reassurance:-



- That the payments already agreed between FFC and the Council are a true reflection of market rate.
- That the payments to the Council are governed in such a way that there is transparency to the Friends and other stakeholders of the strategy and planning of how the money is to be spent and then seeing it be utilised into the relevant projects.
- That there will be further consultation with the Council and FFC about the monies and their use in the Park.
- We further understand that there are turnstiles opening into the Park letting fans in and out – there is no lighting provided for in the new landscape plans – whilst we appreciate this is a draft please may this be addressed. A further point here is that the payments are only, at the moment, agreed to take place for 10 years may this be extended to match the time the turnstiles let fans use the Park .

### **Other**

We have learnt that there may be a possible extension of concourse from FFC into the compound. As we understand the position the use of the compound has always been only for the work on the stadium. May we have accurate details if and when this will be used and what for.

We have had the pleasure of meeting the Council employees, Project Manager employed by FFC and the head of the team doing the work employed by Buckingham, thank you for that opportunity. However, they were not able to answer any of the above with the degree of certainty we need.

Melanie Healy and Rowena Vaughan

Co Chair

Friends of Bishop's Park