

Victor & Shirley Knight

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Letter to the editor
Swaffham Newsletter
Swaffham Community Centre
The Campingland
Swaffham
PE37 7RB

SWAFFHAM
TOWN COUNCIL

5 - MAR 2019

RECEIVED

01/03/2019

Dear Sir

Reference:- Dog Walkers March issue

It was with great surprise to read the councils short sighted views on the dog walkers in the park it is as you say open spaces a community Rec for all people with or without children or dogs paid for by council tax payers.

I am a council tax payer 73 years old and walk my dogs on the park daily as my right like many others, my 2 westie dogs run free the walk is a means of exercise for me and social contact with other likeminded people and for some of the older people it is the only contact they have with other they have been using the park for years and years, it's very common among the dog walks to give help to others in many ways and respects should it be needed and would be very short sighted by the council to take that away.

I am not aware of when you the council last took a walk around the park but we the dog walkers use it daily and always pick up our dog poo and place it in the bins provided and should the odd poo be missed by someone the regular park dog walkers pick it up as we respect and very much enjoy the park facility so it is nonsense to imply we do not take our responsibilities seriously or fulfil them in fact we pick up empty bottle, sweet rappers, takeaway cartons and unfinished food which has been discarded or thrown away by others.

For your information areas for children are fenced off and gated in order to keep out animals including dogs but it is not uncommon for families with young children to go for walks and for the child to have a go on the enclosed equipment as most of the adults demonstrate care for the children they escort them inside the fenced area taking the dog with them sometimes even tying the dog to the fence on the inside this is known as having a great time with the kids it's a "family thing" and dose not harm anybody what are you to do? With your present short sightedness possibly ban children from using the equipment or in the real world leave it it's not broken.

With regards to dogs fouling the outdoor gym surely as councillors you consider the facts and risks when planning to install the equipment knowing male dogs pee up things, without doubt it would not cost much to add a fence around the equipment or ask if the equipment is needed I've seen the equipment used more by young school children with loud radios and using dreadful language we older ones don't like it but what are you to do about it? Do nothing leave it it's called growing up.

Posters what poster the only thing I have seen in the past 2 years resembling posters are something liken to an afternoon tea poster which has been photocopied and put inside a plastic sheath and zip tied to railings or pinned to post just waiting for the rain to wash it down and become another mess for others to pick up.

Flat 40 Valentine Barker Court, Greenhoe Place, Swaffham, Norfolk, PE37 7EZ
Tel. 01760 721975 Email victormknight@icloud.com

Victor & Shirley Knight

Whilst you are carrying out your investigation why don't you consider it as a public place with diversity different people come together for different reasons to enjoy the park and other people because it's there right, give people the choice, they have done the risk assessments they know if it's a park there is people with dogs, there's children, there's children on scooter and bikes with friends or family young and not so young that's as it should be different people learning about different things.

My opinion you don't have enough important things to do the park is a great place now doesn't need a protection order, you should stop idealising it as you will not win its too diverse just let people enjoy the facility there is enough keep fit stuff to keep London heathy all you need to do is your job insure the grass is mowed make sure the trees are safe empty the bins put up proper official signages where they can be seen keep up with the maintenance and the majority of people will have a lovely time.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V Knight', with a small flourish at the end.

Victor Knight

C.C. Council office