

APPENDIX 1

28 Stanley Road
Stourbridge
Norton
West Midlands
DY8 2DN

4th November 2005

Re: Mary Stevens Park

Dear Trustees,

I, **firstly**, on behalf of the friends of Mary Stevens Park, formally request that you allow a bicycle race to take place four times a year on Mary Stevens Park in future years on the grounds that:

- 1) The date and times are arranged with permission of Dudley Events Department.
- 2) The route is agreed by Dudley Events department
- 3) The Dudley Events department is satisfied that the chosen route is fit for purpose (adequate width) and safe for this type of use and safe for park users.
- 4) The Organiser of such an event complies with any safety requirements re marshalling and hazard warnings, roping off route etc.
- 5) Such an event used to take place on this park in ages past.
- 6) By installing cycle sheds on the park for employee use, Dudley MBC have impliedly consented to the riding of bikes on the park and to discriminate against the public might be construed as unlawful.

The reason for such a request, is that the Stourbridge Cycling Club and the Friends of Mary Stevens Park would like to enter negotiations to work together to raise revenue funding. This revenue funding would be used towards the repair cost of the tarmac of the relevant event paths of Mary Stevens Park, ideally match funded with Dudley MBC, to enable such a cycle event to take place in a safe manner.

It is the intention of Stourbridge Cycling Club to use a limited number of paths to create a circuit. The route has not yet been identified, but is likely to run along one section of the lakeside paths at least. The event would be organized in a manner similar to the running club's annual use of the park with adequate stewarding.

However, the paths around the lake are currently a severely high risk to injury for pedestrians and this risk has been identified by Greencare and reported to Dudley MBC without response or action. It is my opinion that the tree roots have made some of the pathways unusable for disabled and elderly people.

I request that DUE & Greencare are encouraged and assisted in their efforts and that accurate figures are compiled to identify the necessary repair funding target.

I understand that new notice boards may be put up in parks as part of the Transforming Your Space Programme. I would like the trustees to recommend that, if this is not already the case, that bye-law notices also be installed on these boards.

Might I also suggest to the trustees that Bye-law 5(iii) which denies the riding of bikes or similar machine without lawful agreement with the council be formally expunged as a derelict statement, since the council formally agreed to the insertion of a cycle rack for public use in this park.

Secondly, I would like to take this opportunity also to bring to the trustees attention on the Friends of Mary Stevens Park master-plan created with the assistance of DUE in 2004 (copies available from Landscape Architects Dept). Please note, it is the intention of Dudley MBC to submit a Heritage Lottery bid in 2006 based upon this master-plan incorporating changes such as a café extension on the pavilion. Please provide your consent to any of the issues identified therein.

Thirdly, I like to take this opportunity also to bring to the trustees attention the Family Fun Day on Mary Stevens Park on Monday May 1st 2006 and to the events which include: It's a Knockout, Tug-Of-War, Musical Fireworks, Pop Music on the bandstand, Funfair, Guinea Pig racing and any other events acceptable to the Dudley Events department. I welcome any personal physical contributions on the day. The aim of the event is to raise much needed capital funding towards the mentioned master-plan bid, where we are obliged to contribute 10% of capital funding up to a total bid of £1 million.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Mike Attwood (Chairman of the Friends of Mary Stevens Park)