

## B.R.A. PRESENTATION – 9 OCTOBER 2018

Most of you were present at the meeting of this Committee in July last year, which set in motion the collaboration with LUC that has led to today's presentation. So you will know how, for the last 7 years, the members of BRA and other Sevenoaks residents have campaigned hard for our Lakes Park to be renovated. We are very pleased, therefore, that at last some positive steps are being taken.

Support for restoration is considerable. This was clearly demonstrated by our 2012 survey, which achieved 175 responses, collectively recording the views of double or treble that number of people, overwhelmingly calling for renovation and a return to regular maintenance.

BRA's Work Parties, to the extent that resources allow, reinforce this view in very practical ways. And this year BRA ran a petition to SDC, "Save Bradbourne Lakes from neglect", which accumulated 1,158 names, possibly more now as the on-line version is still live.

The LUC consultation itself achieved 110 responses, a great achievement considering it was conducted bang in the middle of the family holiday season and also it rained on one of the two days.

We are all very aware how Central Government is starving local authorities of funds while simultaneously bumping up the statutory obligations imposed on them. Nevertheless, when the Lakes area was transferred to Council ownership in the 1930s, it came with a covenant to maintain it as a public park. Surely that too, therefore, is a statutory obligation.

If the Council does not have the financial resources for the necessary renovations, then the proposition recommended in Richard Wilson's paper is a constructive alternative.

We in the BRA therefore appeal to you not only to give it your approval but also to recommend that a degree of pressure be applied to the speed of its execution – it's taken 7 years to get this far and we want to see some results, but if it takes another 7 years we may all be dead.

John Tynan  
9/10/2018

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