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25/01/10

Public Meeting : Norwood School Field

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to remind you that the public meeting regarding the will be held at
7pm tonight in Norwood School hall at 7pm.

I understand that there is still some opposition from areas of the community, however ultimately it is the safety of your children that is currently compromised. This meeting is an opportunity for us to raise concerns for the health, safety and well being of your child and publically support the plans to ensure a safe environment for our children.

I have listed below a number of incidents that have occurred on our school field to ensure that you are aware of the significant negative impact that inappropriate use of the school field has on our school community.

- Horses left on the school field on a number of occasions. Deposits left by the horses mean that the children are unable to use the field even after the horses are removed.
- Many incidents of vandalism, including damage to signs and damage to the fence.
- Dogs walked on our school field by their owners and stray dogs roaming the field.
- Dog faeces, cans, bottles, dirty nappies, used condoms, general litter being left on field. It is worth noting that the incident of the soiled nappy coincided with 2 children from Norwood contracting Shigella (both children used the field for Feeder Soccer in the timescale that would match with the incubation period).
www.amm.co.uk/files/factsabout/fa_shig.htm
- Homeless adult found sleeping on school field.
- Copulating couple on the Norwood school hill.
- Significant vandalism to the school garden.
- Adults cutting through the school field whilst children are on the field during P.E. sessions, playtimes and lunches. On occasions, adults cycling at high speeds through children playing have been an issue.
- Beer drinking youths found on field and rear of school – appeared to be using school property as a cut through. When approached the youths were abusive and rude.
- When students at secondary schools finish early for GCSEs, consultation days, varied holiday dates etc they regularly congregate on the field. Norwood School children are then unable to use our own facilities.
- Smashed water pistols and water balloons left on school field.
- Tree damaged via vandalism. PCC have had to remove down to a stump. A second tree has now being damaged.

This list is by no means exhaustive and due to the risk assessment carried on the use of the school field we have had to stop using the field for the majority of our school based activities. As the field is officially a school field, NOT a community field, the charges for the upkeep and grass cutting falls to school.

We do not know how many people to expect at this meeting and due the small size of our school hall we are concerned that we will not be able to accommodate everyone. With this in mind we are opening our school doors from 6.30pm. Members of our school staff and governing body will be available to clarify any issues you may have a parents/carers prior to the public meeting.

Refreshments will also be available from 6.30pm onwards.

I hope to see you at the meeting this evening and look forward to working together to ensure a safe environment for all of our children.

Yours faithfully

Mrs D Reynolds

