

If you would like to be involved in a Friends group please complete your details here and return the form to the address on the back of this leaflet

Name:
Address:
Postcode:
Telephone number:
Email:
Please tell us the site you are interested in:
Please give details of any special interests, skills or experience:



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**Newark & Sherwood
District Council**



FRIENDS GROUPS



What is a Friends group?

Friends Groups are people who use, or have an interest in, parks, nature areas, woodlands and other public spaces. They care about their environment and want to have a say about how it is looked after.

Newark & Sherwood District Council is keen to encourage more Friends groups and welcomes enquiries from anyone interested in joining an existing group, or in forming a new one.



Installing a new bench at Queen's Sconce

Why are public spaces special?

Open spaces, parks, gardens and woodlands greatly contribute to the local quality of life. They help give a neighbourhood its own distinct character and provide facilities for sport, play, recreation and relaxation. Every public open space has to meet a range of needs and interests in the community, and the Council has to try and ensure that these different uses do not cause conflicts of interest between different user groups.

The involvement of the local community in a Friends group can play a valuable role in helping to minimise potential problems.

Planting day at Newark Castle



What can a Friend group do?

All parks, gardens, recreation grounds, woodlands and nature areas are important social spaces, which are used to meet a variety of local uses. For example:

- Children's play
- Young people's meeting places and facilities such as skate parks
- Places to relax, sit, walk and enjoy the green environment
- Sports and recreation.
- Use by schools for nature studies
- Havens for wildlife



Fishing at Vicar Water Country Park

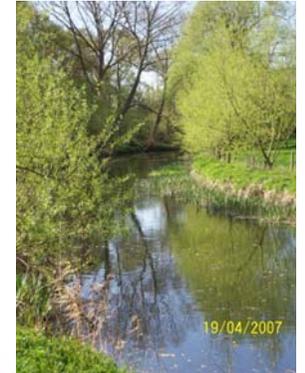
Friends Groups represent different users of open spaces and can advise the Council on how to meet their diverse needs. They can also help with the maintenance of sites and become involved in the planning and design of new open space improvement schemes.

Friends Groups often result from public meetings or residents and users. These meetings provide and opportunity for people to exchange ideas and views. A steering group of volunteers is formed, which, with the assistance of the Council, helps to get the group of the ground. Once the group is established it can work with the Council to ensure that users get the best from their local space.

There are currently three Friends Groups in Newark and Sherwood:

- Friends of Newark Castle & Gardens
- Friends of Vicar Water Country Park
- Friends of Sconce and Devon Parks

These groups are highly valued by the District Council and have contributed extensively to the management and maintenance of these sites.



With the help of the Friends Groups, Newark and Sherwood District Council has been awarded the prestigious Green Flag award. Newark Castle and Gardens received its seventh successive award and Vicar Water Country Park its eighth.

If you would like to be involved in one of these groups, or to help with the formation of a new group please complete the form overleaf and return it to the District Council.

Thank you for showing an interest and taking the time to read this leaflet.