

Annual Assembly for Lowestoft Town Council 2026

Friends of Fen Park Report

The Friends of Fen Park group is dedicated to working with Lowestoft Town Council toward improving Fen Park for the benefit of local residents and wildlife. Fen Park is a much-loved resource and in principle there is a lot of community enthusiasm for getting involved in park centred activities. A small litter picking group already meets each Monday.

We sought advice from Suffolk Wildlife Trust in July 2024 as to how we can better manage the park habitat for the benefit of park users and wildlife. We have worked with SWT to develop a programme of schools, family and young people's nature event and activities with the aim to promote a sense of responsibility and respect for the park environment and a sense of belonging and ownership of the nature surrounding them. In May 2025 we secured funding from Barnes Construction to purchase nature activity equipment.

We have been greatly helped along the way with Grants from Lowestoft Town Council, to help with the initial cost of Public Liability Insurance, publicity and most recently for the purchase of shelving for our container in the park and the cost of enhanced DBS checks for members of our team who work on the nature events with children and families.

The overall aims of our Nature events are to:

- provide fun and engaging activities for families and schools to take part in and help everyone to feel a valued part of their community
- increase the number of people regularly using the park as a place for quiet and relaxation and for observing nature
- foster understanding and empathy amongst young people for the natural environment
- conserve the landscape character of the park and enhance its distinctive natural beauty
- provide opportunities for participation in physical activity, counter-act vandalism and anti-social behaviour

In addition to the nature events, we also provide free Family Fun events e.g. Halloween, picnics etc.

In 2026 we aim to expand our nature events programme to include Science aspects of the National Curriculum for schools and more nature-based art and craft activities for families to enjoy.

We are working in partnership with the newly formed Friends of Kirkley Ham to improve access to The Ham and manage the overgrowth of gorse to support wildlife and plants. We will be creating a joint Fen Park and Kirkley Ham nature trail and will be providing guided walks of the areas.

Alison Stannard

Chair, Friends of Fen Park Management Committee