*** FRIENDS OF SUNNY BANK VALE***

 ***NEWSLETTER NO. 12 – SPRING 2016***

The Friends Group have been very busy on the Vale over the past weeks and this newsletter is an update on recent and forthcoming planned activities. You may have noticed that the new wildflower area has been completed and seeds have been sown, we await with interest to see how successful this has been.

The very wet weather this winter has, unfortunately, eroded some of the paths and at a recent work party a number of drainage gullies were dug out and filled with pipe gravel, we hope that this will help resolve this drainage problem. Our thanks must go to the extra help we had from a group of Tameside Volunteers who gave up their Sunday to help us out. The good network of easily walkable paths are very important to local residents and we were delighted when Sean Vickers at Active Tameside decided to include the Vale in their recent “Walk and Talk” health walks. We hope that this continues and that local people make use of this activity.

Over recent months we have been successful in obtaining funding from two groups, namely Community Voluntary Action Tameside and Bradley Park Community Fund. This will enable us to undertake the creation of a pond and also to form an outdoor learning area as well as again buying some professional maintenance for the Vale in general. This is important as we are again entering the RHS “It's Your Neighbourhood” Britain in Bloom Competition and would also like to retain our Green Flag status from Keep Britain Tidy, both of whom have high standards to meet.

Special thanks must also go to Sue Roberts our Greenspace Development Officer at Tameside MBC for her help over the past year. The attractive noticeboard at the main entrance to the Vale on Greenside Lane is entirely due to her efforts as are many other small, but important improvements on the site.

Dates for scheduled work parties over the coming months:

 **SUNDAY 5th June SUNDAY 2nd October**

 **SUNDAY 3rd July SUNDAY 6th November**

 **SUNDAY 7th August SUNDAY 4th December**

We meet on the field at Peakdale Road Road at 11.00 a.m. (weather permitting).

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