

Cllr Stephen Pimblett
Leader of Prescott Town Council
Prescot Town Hall
1 Warrington Road
Prescot
L34 5QX

Dear Councillor Pimblett,

Outcome of Knowsley Parks Review – letter of appreciation

I am writing on behalf of the Friends Group for KGV Prescot (Browns Field) and Carr Lane Woods in relation to the recent KMBC Cabinet decision to abandon the plan to sell 17 parks for development, including KGV Prescot (Browns Field).

The Friends Group would like to express their appreciation for the role played by the Town Council throughout the process, which was consistently supportive of the case to ensure that Prescot did not lose Browns Field as a vital community asset – a huge part of our Town's offer and heritage. I am sure that that our group's appreciation for this is also shared by residents across Prescot.

In challenging political and financial circumstances, the Town Council remained steadfast in its position, and agreed constructive and cordial responses to KMBC at every stage of the process. This was supported across party political lines and was an excellent example of how the Town Council can work as one to protect and advance the interests of the Town and its residents, whilst respecting wider issues across Knowsley.

I would suggest that this form of collaborative local political leadership will become increasingly important given the on-going impact of austerity and also as Prescot develops as a Town. This issue has shown clearly that the Town Council can play an influential and helpful role in such developments on behalf of Prescot residents.

I am sure we all agree that the potential of losing Browns Field and seeing this green space replaced by housing was a shocking prospect, which would have changed the character of Prescot forever. Last Sunday's excellent Carnival, brilliantly delivered by the Town Council and supported by our own efforts, was a fantastic illustration of the value of this space to the Town and how it can bring people together as a community.

Moving forward, now that the immediate threat to Browns Field has been removed, we hope that we can now work together with the Town Council and KMBC to ensure that this prospect never arises again. Key to this will be to maximise it's use and value whilst retaining its character and open access, which we can achieve by our local efforts and by following up on the

suggestions for sports and community health related investment made to KMBC in your last submission in April.

In the shorter term, the Friends Group would like now to make progress with plans we have discussed with Dan Wilson and KMBC to repair and improve the play facilities and to install more bins and benches, supported in part through our own fundraising. We are also keen to explore how we can work more closely with the Friends of Eaton Street Park and Friends of Prescott Cemetary as groups of volunteers with shared interests.

As a closing note, I would like to make a special note of thanks to Dan Wilson who has played an excellent and invaluable role on your behalf in this process, remaining entirely professional, impartial and helpful throughout. He is a credit to the Town.

Yours sincerely

Chris Marsh

Chair
KGV Prescott (Browns Field) & Carr Lane Woods