

Friends of Barnard Park response

Dear Deputy Mayor for Policing,

The Friends of Barnard Park are concerned about changes to the structure of the Safer Neighbourhood Team in the Mayor's plan presented at the recent Islington Town Hall meeting. Barnard Park is a 9-acre green space in Islington, one of the borough's largest parks. The Friends work closely with the Council and the SNT on greater security in the park.

The SNT has made significant reductions in crime and trouble in the park. Park users see the work of the current team, which is specifically dedicated to the ward, as very valuable. Its officers are familiar with the people and problems of the area, a knowledge which is used in excellent policing. The SNT have significantly reduced drug dealing in the park through arrests, surveillance and additional patrols.

Under the new plan, we are concerned that a reorganisation would eliminate our ward-based team for a force which operates in large borough clusters. We oppose this change which would disband a successful local team for a less accountable model lacking the community presence of the current system. The ward system has worked very well for the park and it should be strengthened, not dismantled.

Sincerely,

Dianne Browning

John Scholes

Friends of Barnard Park