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Cabinet Member for Culture,
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17th May 2021

Dear Cllr Khaireh,

RE: Removal of bins from Royal Borough of Greenwich Parks and Woodlands

I write to express my concern over the implementation of the Council's plans to remove dog waste bins from parks, woods and other open spaces. This matter has come to my attention following the removal of the dog waste bin on the green space between Castlewood Drive and Heatherbank in my ward.

The decision (C&E7) to remove dog waste bins from parks was made in February 2020 and at the time I expressed concern about the impact this might have on the level of faeces in our open spaces. I was reassured at an Overview and Scrutiny meeting that "dog waste bins in parks would only be removed when there was already a normal park bin in the vicinity as dog waste could be disposed of in the general waste bins." (From the minutes). However, the dog waste bin mentioned above was a lone bin and the only one in the vicinity of the entrance to Castle Woods from Castlewood Drive.

I have asked Officers to reassure me again by providing a list of the sites where (a) bins have already been removed and (b) bins are going to be removed. I look forward to receiving these lists.

However, I feel I should point out that the removal of the bins has been delayed by the pandemic and it seems to me with the increased number of people using our parks (many of whom seem to have puppies), retaining the present number or increasing the number of general waste bins might be a better approach. The Council's twitter account regularly tweets requests for park users to take their rubbish home with them next to pictures of overflowing bins, so maybe replacing dog waste bins with general waste ones might be a better way forward. The total saving from this proposal was only £12,000 and with the substantial funds the Council has received to encourage walking, surely reviewing the decision about where and whether to remove bins would be sensible at this stage.

I do hope that this letter leads to a review of the policy of bin removal as with so many people now using our parks, woods and open spaces since the pandemic struck, I consider more rather than less bins might be a better way forward.

Yours sincerely,



Spencer Drury