

Farrow Simon

From: Farrow Simon
Sent: 12 November 2018 12:10
To: 'Paul Todd'
Subject: RE: Mail on Sunday Article

Thanks Paul, much appreciated.

If you would like to chat about this and Green Flag in Haringey in general then the best number to get me on is
~~07700 8489 3639~~

thanks

Simon Farrow
Commissioning Manager - Public Realm

I work flexibly - so whilst it suits me to email now, I do not expect a response or action outside of your own working hours.

T. 020 8489 3639

 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Paul Todd <~~Paul.Todd@haringey.gov.uk~~>
Sent: 12 November 2018 11:49
To: Farrow Simon <Simon.Farrow@haringey.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Mail on Sunday Article

Dear Simon

Thank you for your email, I am out of the office for the next few days, however I will provide you with a response this week

Kind regards

Paul Todd

Sent from my Windows 10 device

From: Farrow Simon <Simon.Farrow@haringey.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, November 9, 2018 5:47:41 PM
To: Paul Todd
Cc: Jones Sarah
Subject: Mail on Sunday Article

Dear Paul

I'm writing in relation to an article that appeared in the Mail on Sunday on 28 October, headlined '*Playpark death traps: Safety expert warns councils must act now as neglected playgrounds across Britain are becoming health and safety danger zones for children*'.

The full article can be viewed here - <https://daily.m.ai/2Skxd9l>

The article ran as part of the Mail on Sunday's campaign to apply pressure on the Government and local authorities to commit to adequate spending on public parks, at a time when funding pressures are being felt in all services across the board.

Both Finsbury Park and Downhills were used as examples where 'graphic examples of dangerous playgrounds' were found. Play equipment was photographed, along with accompanying text describing the 'shards of metal', 'rotten wood' and 'exposed concrete'.

The article was published shortly after Green Flag had requested we take down the flags at both Finsbury and Downhills Parks. Issues highlighted in the article were almost identical to those detailed in the Green Flag mystery shop reports we received for both Parks from you. The industry expert quoted in the article, is the GF judge who assessed both these parks last year. I do not know if this was the same judge who conducted the latest mystery shops, as the name was omitted from the reports. However, he is clearly photographed wearing his Green Flag lapel badge. Whilst the article did not state he was speaking on behalf of Green Flag by the presence of the lapel badge implies a connection back to Keep Britain Tidy.

I understand that the parks and play industry is a small one, and individuals within the industry often wear many hats. However, we are deeply troubled to think that this individual may be using information gained in the course of working in the capacity as a green flag judge to criticise Haringey Council on judgements we can clearly evidence by way of independent expert to be manifestly untrue. Furthermore, if the source of the information is your mystery shop reports then this is of further concern following your recent confirmation that the reports are confidential between the council and Green Flag. We have conducted our own internal review and the source of any information being distributed and it did not come from Haringey Council. Therefore, we can only assume it came from someone outside Haringey who was privy to the information.

We have in good faith and without protest complied with your requests to temporarily take down the Green Flags. We could have spent time debating with you the veracity of some of the remarks made, or disputing the remarks in relation to parks management plans, or independent H&S advice. Instead we have already remedied a significant portion of the things noted and will over the next three weeks be confirming that all issues are now resolved.

Haringey Council has been committed to the Green Flag Scheme for many years, both for the work that you do to highlight the valuable assets that parks are, and also for the valued external assessments that you offer. We would, therefore, very much like to hear back from you on this matter and what you are able to establish as to the source of the information that appeared in the Mail on Sunday. It is of the utmost importance to us that we hear back from you as soon as practically possible.

Yours sincerely

Simon Farrow
Commissioning Manager - Public Realm

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Farrow Simon

From: Farrow Simon
Sent: 10 December 2018 22:20
To: 'Paul Todd'; [REDACTED]
Cc: Jones Sarah; Taylor Lewis; Pyall Tim
Subject: LB Haringey - Finsbury Park and Downhills Park
Attachments: Finsbury and Downhills Summary of Mystery Shop Comments 2018 & Council Responses.xlsx; Green Flag Downhills and Finsbury Photo's 10-12-18.pdf

Dear Paul and Lynsey,

We have today completed our action plans that were derived from the Mystery Shopping visits undertaken in early October.

Please find attached a spreadsheet which details the actions taken against each item and also a PDF containing various photographs that are linked to the answers in questions where this is relevant.

We believe we have addressed all the issues raised in the reports as far as practical. On that basis we will be putting the Green Flags up again tomorrow.

Should you have any questions the please do not hesitate to contact Sarah or myself.

Kind regards

Simon Farrow
Commissioning Manager - Public Realm

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Farrow Simon

From: Farrow Simon
Sent: 27 November 2018 15:53
To: 'Lynsey.Atherton@keepbritaintidy.org'
Cc: Pyall Tim; Jones Sarah; Taylor Lewis
Subject: RE: Green Flag Mystery Shop Reports
Attachments: Second Batch - Red Sites - Final Timings.xlsx

Dear Lynsey,

Thank you for your email of the 9th November.

I apologise for the slight overrun in getting back to you on this.

We wanted to have met with Paul last week and considered the outcome of that meeting before completing our response on the red reports in the most recent batch of mystery shops.

I hope you are satisfied with the attached responses to the items raised by the judges.

As I am sure, you will recognise that items for which we need to engage a contractor or where we have to order parts extends the timeframe in which we are able to rectify these items. Anything we can do with our own internal teams will be completed within the next two weeks.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of our response please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Jones or myself.

Kind regards

Simon Farrow
Commissioning Manager - Public Realm

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From: Lynsey Atherton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 09 November 2018 12:11
To: Jones Sarah <Sarah.Jones@haringey.gov.uk>
Subject: Mystery Shop reports

Hi Sarah

I have just released the latest mystery shop reports.

There are some areas of concern listed for the following sites –

Priory Park
Bruce Castle
Markfield Park
Woodside Park
Albert Road

Please can you review the reports and let us have your response by Friday 23rd November

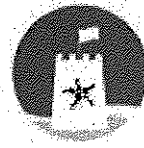
Kind regards

Lynsey

Lynsey Atherton
Accreditation Development Officer
Keep Britain Tidy
T: [REDACTED]
M: [REDACTED]



**Seaside
Award**



Keep Britain Tidy
Elizabeth House
The Pier
Wigan WN3 4EX



Do you really need to print this email? Save paper instead

Farrow Simon

From: Paul Todd [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 December 2018 09:42
To: Farrow Simon; Lynsey Atherton
Cc: Jones Sarah; Taylor Lewis; Pyall Tim
Subject: RE: LB Haringey - Finsbury Park and Downhills Park

Dear Simon

Thanks you for your email and details of the progress you have made.

Regarding the flag we would have preferred if you had waited for us to review the information provided and confirm that the suspension was lifted. We will make this clear to any site in a future situation.

Please could you provide picture/s of the hope picnic area to confirm this area has been made safe or fenced off and signage has been provided explaining the planned restoration.

We would also like to reiterate that the procedure required by the award is that any damaged or broken equipment, including play equipment, should be fenced off or removed prior to repair or replacement, with appropriate signage provided.

Kind regards

Paul Todd
Accreditation Manager

tel: [REDACTED]
mob: [REDACTED]
www.greenflagaward.org

From: Farrow Simon [mailto:Simon.Farrow@haringey.gov.uk]
Sent: 10 December 2018 22:20
To: Paul Todd; Lynsey Atherton
Cc: Jones Sarah; Taylor Lewis; Pyall Tim
Subject: LB Haringey - Finsbury Park and Downhills Park

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Kind regards

Simon Farrow
Commissioning Manager - Public Realm

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