



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER GARDENERS

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Volunteers who aim to enhance the local area by creating and maintaining community gardens

Sandwell MBC
Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury

7th February 2015

Dear Sirs

I write on behalf of a group of volunteers who have developed and maintain a sensory garden in Dartmouth Park for three years. Throughout this time we have received considerable support from the project manager John Satchwell jnr and John Satchwell snr. We are all very proud of the garden which has added a lovely feature to our Victorian park.

We have followed closely the issue of the Canadian geese. We understand there has been a petition signed by several thousand people. But not all of these people are park users – in fact some of them do not even live in this country. When working in the park often get comments from visitors to the park who love the results of the restoration work. However they do not like having to pick their way along paths covered in goose 'poo'

The problem with the geese is an historical one. When the pool was a boating pool – the geese numbers were kept down by the staff who ensured the breeding did not get out of hand. For the decades since the boats and the staff went, the numbers had been allowed to get out of control.

The cull was needed to bring the numbers back to a controllable number for the size of the park. Since the numbers have been reduced the variety of birds on the pool has increased. Only this week a number of new swans have come onto the pool. We fully agree with the decision to reduce the number of geese with a humane cull.

Yours sincerely
Annette Welch
Treasurer for Community Volunteer Gardeners