

## **STATEMENT ON UPPER TELEGRAPH HILL PARK FROM YOUR WARD COUNCILLORS**

Despite the best efforts of Glendale, Council Officers, the Safer Neighbourhood Team and many public-spirited local volunteers to keep the park clean and safe, regrettably the situation in Telegraph Hill Upper Park continues to escalate.

Your local Councillors Paul Bell, Joan Millbank and Luke Sorba all live in the ward, know the park very well and have engaged with a large number of residents and park users and can confirm evidence of:

- Overcrowding and breaching of social distance rules
- Noise pollution until late into the night
- Littering on a festival scale
- Broken glass
- Widespread human soiling
- Fires
- Damage to trees and shrubs

We unanimously feel that the point has been reached when only radical action will be effective.

We have already received extra refuse services (but temporary toilets have been ruled out as they would be quickly overwhelmed, are vectors of Covid-19 and might attract even more people some of whom are already travelling from long distances).

We have examined requesting the Upper Park be closed daily at 6.00pm as a temporary emergency measure. However, the feedback we received was that clearing the park could potentially put staff at risk, as some users may prove reluctant to leave and it might lead to people simply transferring to the Lower Park.

Consequently, we are unanimously recommending to the leadership of the Council's Covid-19 response team that the Upper Park be closed round the clock and not be re-opened before July 4<sup>th</sup> when bars and pubs and restaurants and other entertainment venues open.

We sincerely regret, should this be implemented, the real inconvenience to countless blameless park users, particularly at this time of year and during a lockdown when public green spaces in Lewisham are so precious, but at present we see no other option.

Cllr Paul Bell  
Cllr Joan Millbank  
Cllr Luke Sorba

[www.facebook.com/thc11rs](http://www.facebook.com/thc11rs)

JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup> 2020