

Troopers Hill & Troopers Hill Field Accessibility Guide



Produced by:

Friends of Troopers Hill

In Affiliation with Your Park Bristol and Bath



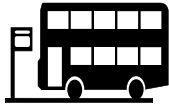
Summary of Park Facilities



On Street-Parking:



Historic Features:



Bus stop:



Play Area:



Hills/Slopes:



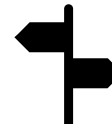
Seating:



Nature Areas:



Nature Areas:



Signage:



Dogs Allowed:



Sports Areas:

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1. Deciding to Visit

- There are fantastic views from the top of the Hill across Bristol.
- Next to the Hill is a flat park area called Troopers Hill Field.

i. **Location:**

- Troopers Hill is in St George, East Bristol between the A431 Air Balloon Road and Crews Hole Road.
- If you have a satellite navigation system, the nearest postcode for Troopers Hill Rd entrances is BS5 8BL.
- The Malvern Road entrance to Troopers Hill Field is at BS5 8JA.

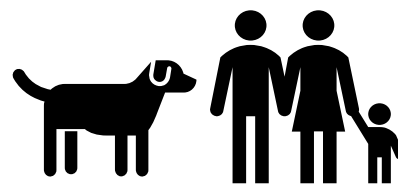


ii. **Personal Tours for First-time Visitors:**

- If it is your first time visiting us and you're not sure what to expect, we can meet you to show you around the park.
- Please contact friends@troopers-hill.org.uk to arrange this service with one of our park volunteers.

iii. Who visits?

- The park is visited by local people and those from further afield to admire the views and nature.
- Many visitors have dogs. There are often dogs running free.
- There is a small play area on Troopers Hill Field which is visited by families and children.



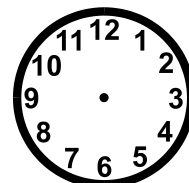
iv. When to Visit?

Opening times:

- Troopers Hill is open 24 hours, 7 days per week.

Busy and Quiet times:

- Troopers Hill is busiest in good weather, when people can sit in the sun and admire the views.
- Many dog-walkers visit in the morning and late afternoon / early evening.



2. Journey and Arrival

i. How to get there:

By Bus:

- There are frequent bus services seven days a week.
- There are buses that go from the centre of Bristol to Summerhill Road bus stop.
- The Summerhill Road bus stop is a 2-minute walk to the Summerhill Terrace entrance to Troopers Hill Field.



- Wheelchair users may need to use the Malvern Rd entrance to enter the park instead, this is a longer distance from the bus stop (10 min walk).
- Wheelchair users may find the kissing gate to Troopers Hill Field from the Summerhill Terrace entrance is too small.
- If this is the case, from Summerhill Terrace (which is quite steep) you will need to turn right into Queens Road, then left into Diamond Road and finally left into Malvern Road.
- There are reasonable footways, at some junctions it may be necessary to use drop kerbs at driveways. See the 'entrance and exits' section for notes about and photographs of the Malvern Road and Summerhill Terrace entrances.

Bus services from Bristol:

44 (City Centre – Cadbury Heath via Hanham Common).

45 (City Centre – Cherry Gardens via Hanham, Longwell Green & Bitton).

1. Get off the bus at “Marling Road” - which is the first stop after the Pied Horse public house (which is on the right, travelling away from Bristol).
2. Walk back towards Bristol, cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and turn left into Summerhill Terrace, where there is a kissing gate into Troopers Hill Field at the end of the road.
3. Cross the grass or follow the surfaced paths around the field to the corner diagonally opposite, where there is an entrance into Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve.



Marling Road Bus Stop – Bus Routes 44 & 45

Bus services from Hanham, Longwell Green & Bitton:

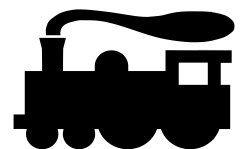
44 (To City Centre from Cadbury Heath via Hanham Common).

45 (To City Centre from Cherry Gardens via Bitton, Longwell Green & Hanham).

Ignore the “Troopers Hill Road” stop and get off at the next stop “Marling Road” to access the top of the Hill. Facing towards Bristol, walk on and turn left into Summerhill Terrace and follow the directions above.

By Train:

- The nearest train station is Lawrence Hill.
- It has local trains which run from Bristol Temple Meads and Bristol Parkway stations
- This station is not accessible for those with limited mobility. Buses provide a better public transport option.



- There is step free access to the platform for trains from Temple Meads (via the Lidl car park) but not from the platform for trains from Bristol Parkway towards Temple Meads, this platform can only be accessed via a flight of stairs.
- It is a 30 minute walk from Troopers Hill, or you can catch the 44 or 45 bus from there (see above).



By Adam Bryant, [via Wikimedia Commons](#)

By Car:

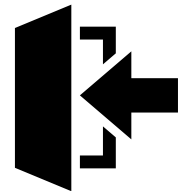
- There is no car park at Troopers Hill.
- Car parking is available on the residential roads surrounding Troopers Hill, including: Summerhill Terrace, Malvern Rd at the top of the Hill and Troopers Hill Road at the bottom of the Hill.
- Malvern Road provides the most accessible entrance to the site for those with limited mobility, more information about this can be found in the 'Entrances & Exits' section below.
- For Sat Navs the nearest postcode for the Malvern Road entrance is BS5 8JA.
- For Troopers Hill Rd entrances the postcode is BS5 8BL.





Car Parking on Malvern Road

ii. Entrances and Exits:



- The site is fenced.
- There are 6 entrances.
- The entrance at Malvern Road is the most accessible entrance to Troopers Hill.
- Access from any of the entrances on Troopers Hill Road requires a steep climb up steps without handrails to reach the top.

Malvern Road Entrance:

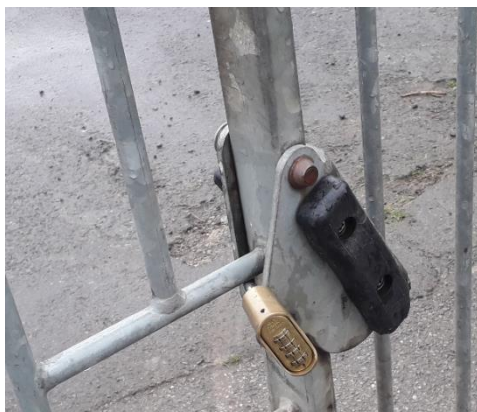
- BS5 8JA
- The entrance at Malvern Road provides the easiest access for those with limited mobility.
- From the gate on Malvern Rd there is a wheelchair accessible track / path to the top of the Hill.
- If you enter from Malvern Rd, you will pass through Troopers Hill field, which gives access to the top of the Hill and the views without the steep climb.



Access to the gate is from the carriageway. There is a drop-kerb (for a driveway) at the end of the left-hand footway. On the right-hand footway the last drop-kerb is three houses from the end.



The gate is a large kissing gate that is accessible for most wheelchair users.



The combination lock can be removed to allow the gate to swing fully open for larger wheelchairs.

If you think you might need to do this email friends@troopers-hill.org.uk or text 07870 110 428 mentioning this guide and we will give you the combination.

The lock can be awkward to open especially from the Malvern Rd side.

Welcome to Troopers Hill Field

This is the only wheelchair accessible route to Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve. Follow the track on the right of this field to join an accessible path to Troopers Hill chimney and wonderful views across Bristol. It is 300 metres from here to the chimney.

A short section of the wheelchair access path has a gradient steeper than 1:12 so some visitors may need assistance. Warning: There are steep gradients, rough terrain and sheer drops away from the accessible path.

For any access issues with this gate please contact Bristol Parks - www.bristol.gov.uk/parks

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Friends of Troopers Hill

Sign beside the gate at Malvern Road Entrance



A surfaced track leads from the gate to Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve.



A short section of the path onto the Nature Reserve at the end of the track is steeper than 1:12.

Summerhill Terrace Entrance:

- This is the closest entrance to the bus stops on Summerhill Road.
- From the pedestrian crossing by the bus stops, walk a short way towards Bristol and turn left into Summerhill Terrace.
- Summerhill Terrace is quite a steep road.
- Summerhill Terrace entrance can be difficult for some wheelchairs.



Summerhill Terrace on the left





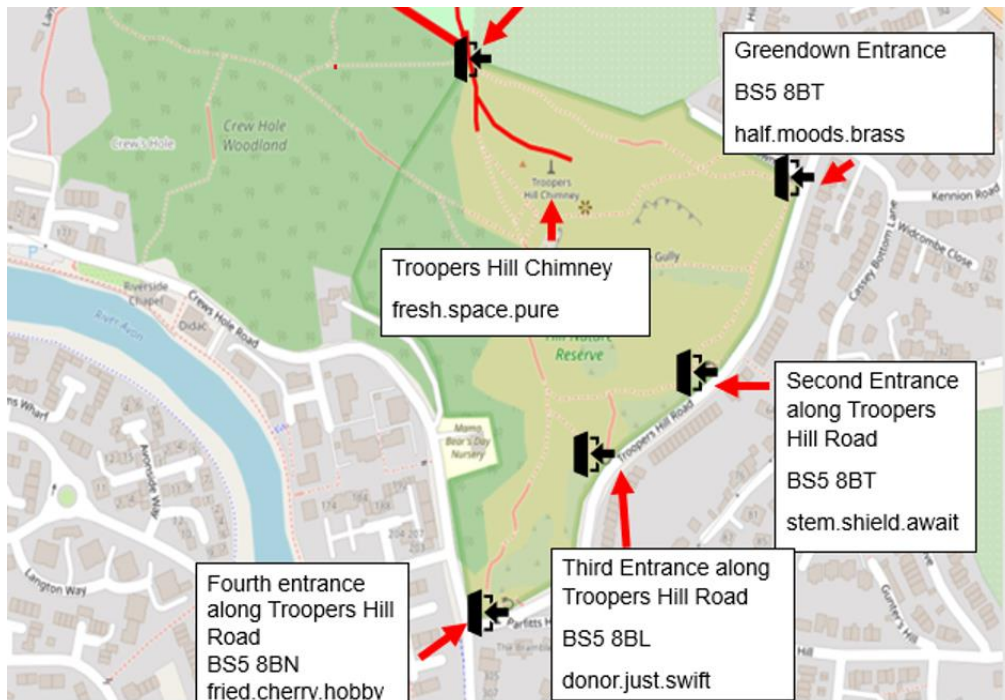
Views down Summerhill Terrace





Surfaced paths (completed in 2020) run from here to the Nature Reserve across Troopers Hill Field.

Troopers Hill Road Entrances:



- There are 4 entrances off Troopers Hill Road. All have kissing gates.
- For the location of these entrances please see the map.
- The paths from all these entrances are uneven, sometimes muddy and have flights of wooden steps leading up the Hill.

1. Greendown Entrance

- The Greendown entrance, which is the furthest up Troopers Hill Road at corner of Troopers Hill Road and Greendown has the least number of steps to reach the top of the Hill.



Greendown Entrance



Steps up from Greendown Entrance

2. Second Entrance from Troopers Hill Road

- There is also a path parallel to Troopers Hill Road. There are also steps on this path between the Greendown entrance and the next entrance down.
- From this second entrance there is a level (but uneven and sometimes muddy) path leading to the top of the flights of steps up from the lower entrances and to the bottom of a further flight of wooden steps up the Hill, but this does give access to some views.



Second Entrance down Troopers Hill Road



Path parallel to Troopers Hill Rd

3. Third Entrance from Troopers Hill Road



Third Entrance going down Troopers Hill Road

4. Fourth (lowest) Entrance from Troopers Hill Road

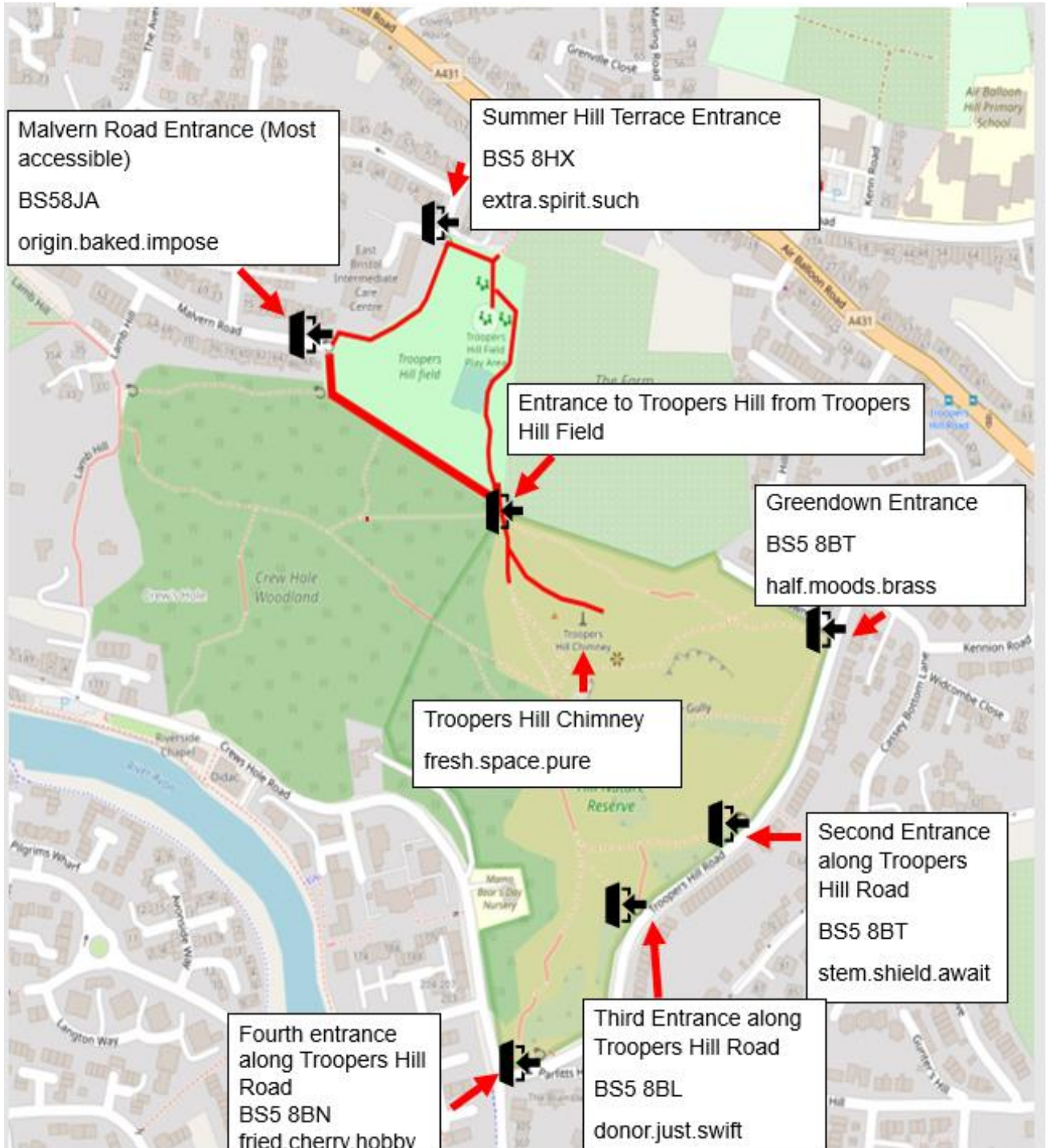


Lowest Entrance from Troopers Hill Road (near junction with Crews Hole Rd)



Steps up from lowest entrance

iii. Map of Troopers Hill



Surfaced paths are marked in red ([OpenStreet Map](#))

3. On-site Experience

i. Facilities

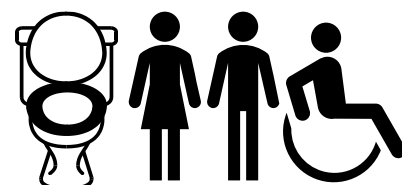
Toilets:

Onsite:

- There are NO toilets at Troopers Hill.

Nearby toilets:

- Accessible toilets are available at Air Balloon Surgery, Kenn Road, St George, BS5 7PD during their opening hours as part of the Council's Community Toilet Scheme.
- The Surgery is a 5 minute-walk from the Malvern Rd Bus Stop (10 minutes from the Summerhill Terrace entrance) via Summerhill Road (A431) and Hillside Road.
- There is a car park at the Surgery with two disabled parking spaces.
- For more information about the Community Toilet Scheme click on the link <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/public-toilets>
- There are also public toilets in St George Park (near the play area) or at Conham next to the riverside car park on Conham Rd.



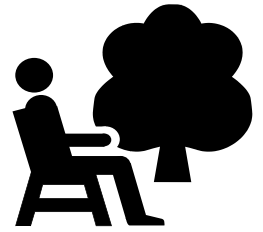
Café/refreshments:

- There is no café at Troopers Hill.
- 'Bristol Born & Bread' bakery on Summerhill Road supplies takeaway coffee. There are various cafés on Church Road in St George.



Seating:

- There are three seats (with back rests and arms) on the paths around Troopers Hill Field and three seats on the surfaced paths on the top of Troopers Hill. A further seat is a short distance off the path.



Seat on Troopers Hill Field



Seats by the path at the top of Troopers Hill



Seat at the top of the Hill with a view over Bristol

Bins:

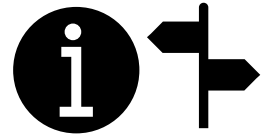
- There are four waste bins on Troopers Hill Field next to the paths, including one near the entrance to Troopers Hill Nature Reserve.
- All these bins can also be used for bagged dog poo.
- There are dog poo bins at each entrance to the Nature Reserve.



Bin at entrance from Troopers Hill Field to the Nature Reserve

Signage:

- There are signs welcoming you to Troopers Hill at each entrance which also display posters with details of upcoming events.



There are five interpretation boards on the hill with more information:

- There is one at the entrance to the field from Summerhill Terrace which has on it general information and the history of the field.
 - There are two by the Chimney at the top of the hill which has on it general information & geology.
 - There is a sign by the lower chimney on the corner of Crews Hole Rd & Troopers Hill Rd which has on it information about the history of Troopers Hill.
 - There is a sign at the second entrance up Troopers Hill Rd – which has on it information about fungi.
-
- The signs at the top of the Hill and in Troopers Hill Field are next to the paths and at a height where wheelchair users should be able to read them.
 - They are minimum size 14 font and include photographs and illustrations.
 - Images of the boards can be seen at <http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/sundry/board.htm>
 - There are also waymarking posts marking the unsurfaced paths through the woods for those who wish to explore.

Pathways:

- All the Paths on Troopers Hill Field and from there to the chimney at the top of the hill are surfaced.
- Other paths on the Nature Reserve are unsurfaced and uneven, they can also be muddy at times, many have wooden steps which can be slippery in wet weather.
- There are level areas of grass at the top of the hill next to the paths, but away from the paths there are steep drops.
- There are also waymarked paths through Troopers Hill woodland. These are non-surfaced, they are uneven and often muddy and slippery.



Path leading from Troopers Hill Field to the Top of the Hill



Paths on Troopers Hill Field at the Play Area



Path at the top of Troopers Hill

Quiet/dog free zones:

- There are NO designated quiet zones.
- Dogs are allowed to run free off lead in ALL areas of Troopers Hill except the under 5s play area.
- Late morning or early afternoon are the quietest times to visit.



ii. Sights and Activities:

Volunteer opportunities:

- There are regular conservation work parties organized by Friends of Troopers Hill. To find out more about this see <http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/workp.htm>

Guided Walks and Events:

- Friends of Troopers Hill also arrange public guided walks and events. See www.troopers-hill.org.uk/events for more information.

Natural features:

- **Views:**
- From the top of the hill you can see across Bristol. The seats by the path at the Top of the Hill provide the best view.



Path at the top of Troopers Hill taken in summer 2022 when the path had just been resurfaced, with views over Bristol.

i. **Wildlife:**

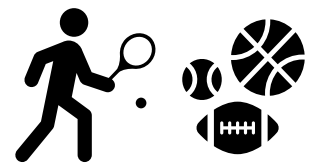
- Troopers Hill is a designated Nature Reserve.
- There are 85 different species of bees at the reserve.
- Buzzards are often seen over the site, and you may catch sight of a green woodpecker.
- Magpies can be seen building their nests in the trees in spring and many other birds will be heard singing.
- In the summer you can hear grasshoppers & crickets in the grassland.
- There are large areas of Heather on the steep south-facing slopes. These are away from the paths at the top of the Hill, but some can be seen from these paths.
- More information about the Wildlife on the Hill can be found here - <http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/wildlife.htm>



Historic features:

- The stone chimney at the top of the Hill near the path is an example of the Hill's industrial history.
- There is a lot of information about the history of the Hill on the Friends Group's website at <http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/history.htm>
- You can download PDF versions of their informational leaflets at <http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/leaflets/index.htm>

Sports Areas:



- There are 'five-a-side' football goal posts on Troopers Hill Field.

Play areas:

- There is a play area split into two sections on Troopers Hill Field.
- The play area is particularly busy when children are on their way home from local schools.



1. Younger Childrens Play Area:



- The play area for under 5's is surrounded by a yellow circular fence. It is accessed through a yellow gate.
- Dogs are not allowed in the fenced area.
- All the under 5s play equipment, the climbing equipment and the slide all have tarmac.
- There are also grassed areas within the fence.

Play equipment list:

- a climbing structure with a small slide,
- a spinner
- a rocker,
- a wooden train
- two swings,
- a 'memory swing' that allows parents or carers to sit opposite their child while swinging.

2. Older Childres Play Area:



Play equipment:

- Slide
- Small climbing wall
- Activity trail which includes: Ropes to climb or swing on, a wobble board and rotating log. The activity trail is on grass.

This Guide was Produced in line with the findings from the report, 'Not just a check box', by Your Park Bristol and Bath to understand the barriers experienced by Disabled people and unpaid carers when trying to use local parks.

Click on the link to read the full report.

<https://yourpark.org.uk/not-just-a-checkbox>



Feedback

We would love to hear your feedback on how you found our guide!

Please let us know whether you found this information helpful or if any further information needs to be added.

Email: info@yourpark.org.uk

Friends of Troopers Hill would also like to hear about your visit to the Hill and any suggestions for improvements that would have made your visit easier or more enjoyable.

The Group have raised funds in the past for access improvements and are keen to do more to help everyone enjoy the space.

Email: friends@troopers-hill.org.uk

**YOUR
PARK**



**Friends of
Troopers Hill**