



The Friends of Withdean Park - PETITION

Hereby petition Brighton and Hove City Council (City Parks) to provide Withdean Park with a regular gardener to help protect our former National Lilac Collection which has been sadly neglected by the council for many, many years.

The beds need regular weeding to keep the shrubs at their best. The Friends of Withdean Park volunteers can only do so much. In some of the older lilac beds, sycamore saplings, brambles and ivy have been allowed to grow and hence spoil the beautiful lilacs.

Withdean Park is more beautiful than any other Brighton park, with 35 acres, with a large green space, woodland and a pond garden which brings pleasure to many different people and children and should be protected.

“We want a gardener”



A brief bit on the history

- 1960: the park was redesigned and lilacs were collected from all over Europe
- 1982: designated as a **National Lilac Collection**
– by the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens
- 1985: Chelsea Flower Show display was awarded a Banksian Silver Gilt Medal
- 1986: acknowledged by the International Lilac Society and Brighton Council was presented with the President's Award
- 1993: warnings of National status being at risk
- 2009: **National status finally lost**



The state in 2011
Weeds
weeds
and more weeds
No edging either!
No pride in our park or
our earlier
National Lilac Collection





What should it look like?

No weeds

tidy edges

and

cared for lilacs

AND

redesignation as our

National Lilac Collection

for us all to be proud of



What do we do?

- Care for the Park including its woods
- Fund seats
- Construct benches
- Fund new trees
- Maintain the ponds
- New Wildflower Meadow
- “Lilac Lark” community event in May





What do we want?

We will continue to do our bit and
all we are asking for is a

GARDENER!

Not an unfulfilled promise of one
Not a full time gardener

Just a share of one for perhaps two or three days a month



**Let's have pride in our park and work together
to restore our**

National Lilac Collection