

Over the last few months much misinformation has been in circulation concerning the Model Railway development in Heath Park.

Please read the true facts

- Cardiff Model Engineering Society (CMES) has been established in Cardiff for more than 60 years and has occupied the present site in Heath Park for the last 22 years in harmony, we believe, with local residents and the general public. Any perceived disharmony has been generated by small pressure groups within the last year or two.
- CMES was offered this site by Cardiff City Council (CCC) because the original area at Highfield Road was to be redeveloped into housing. The 'new' site in Heath Park was, at that time, the demolished remains of an old house. It was not pristine parkland as is sometimes claimed. Photographs are available of the original ground.
- CMES maintains this area in considerably better condition than it was 22 years ago.
- There is no cost to the ratepayers of Cardiff - CMES pays rates and rent to CCC for the use of the site.
- CMES has no authority to cut down mature trees on its present site or on the proposed development.
- CMES has applied for a small ribbon of land to run a miniature railway track through a very small area - less than 1% of the existing parkland. This area would be closed off from public use only on train running days for safety reasons - and most of the area will be fully open at all other times. The area enclosed would be left in its natural condition - just maintained in a clean state, free from illegally tipped waste and other rubbish.
- CMES is similar to a cricket club or tennis club or bowls club, which occupies space in a park. It is built and maintained by CMES again at no cost to the ratepayers of Cardiff.
- CMES membership is not exclusive. It is open to anyone over 14 years old with a genuine interest in Model Engineering in all its forms and who would like to join a like-minded and active group.
- CMES is open to the public on selected days throughout the year - as originally required by CCC - at nominal cost. This provides an income, which together with membership fees, is devoted to the maintenance and development of the site and facilities. Members are totally unpaid and the Society is non-profit making.
- CMES is operated solely by the voluntary efforts of members. These include many enthusiastic and talented young people - but the main body consists of parents and grandparents living in and around Cardiff who have a little more time to devote to good works. They give up most Bank Holidays to entertain 10,000 or so annual visitors - and to maintain the site at regular intervals in between. No salary or expenses or rewards in kind are ever paid for these tasks.
- CMES also entertains other groups such as schools, disadvantaged children and terminally ill children's charities on the Heath Park site.
- The 'CMES portable track' is taken off site to support other events in Cardiff as appropriate e.g. Lord Mayor's Charity Day in Roath Park.
- CMES regularly raises funds for other (Children/Disabled) Charities.