



Friends of Wimbledon Park

Minutes of Quarterly Meeting of Friends of Wimbledon Park (FOWP) Forum 01

Tuesday 19th October 2021 at 17:00 (5 pm) to 18:30 (6.30pm) online

@

Zoom meeting hosted by Charles Runcie.

Preamble: Minutes are kept to the minimum but sufficient to enable good management of FOWP. If attendee wants a particular wording, then this can be inserted at their request.

21/04 Agenda

a. Present:

- i. Executive Committee (EC): Nick Steiner (chair); Martin Sumpton (vice chair); Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty; Charles Runcie; Beth McKillop; Rob Kennedy; Ian Tattum; Tony Borkowski; Chris Baker;.
- ii. Forum members: Mary-Jane Jeanes; Gerard Sebastian; Dave Dawson; Johnny Perkins; Angela Ireland.
- iii. Guests: Rod Lewington; Linda Murgatroyd; Thelma Frye; Christopher Coombe.
- iv. Corporate guests: Nil

b. Apologies:

- i. Cllr Janice Howard; Bill Wiffen; Ivan Scott; Paul Bishop; Sheila Stirrat; Oonagh Moulton.

c. Quorum

- i. 5 EC members in attendance so meeting is quorate..

d. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20th July 2021.

- i. True record. Agreed
- ii. Matters arising.

e. Action Sheet

No.	Item	Further detail (if any)	Action / Responsibility
1	Petition to open WP at 0700	The petition was handed in with 909 signatures	Idverde have told the council they are opening the park between 7 and 7:30.
2	Playground toilets	Work under way	Nigel Emberton (LBM). This doesn't include the drainage.
3	Dam Safety Project	Planning application	Dave Dawson attended planning meeting and warned of dangerous flooding but to no avail. Likely to start in November. Full details not yet known.
4	AELTC Wimbledon Park Project	Covers AELTC owned land plus lake	Both planning meetings expected in December. FOWP submission sent 29 th September and D. Dawson submission on biodiversity sent.
5	TCBS Vision	Covers whole of 61ha Heritage Park	Chris Baker



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6	Revelstoke Rd entrance improvements	Planning application to LBM & LBW	LBW approved. LBM decision this month.
7	WP Gardening Group		Chair initiative. Paper for discussion available.
8	Walk & Talk		Andy Yates
9	Events	All events now under discussion.	Francis McParland (LBM) and Rob Kennedy lead for FOWP.

This Action Sheet identifies what needs doing and who is actioning and the relevant officer in charge of carrying out the work. The details will be elsewhere as this is effectively a progress check list. Wimbledon Park is intensively used, and this leads to many issues that need resolution. Most require job specifications. These require an attention for details to avoid errors. The Chair's report contains more information. It includes updates and pauses. As such it can be used as a reference. It is a record of where we are. It is on a separate page and attendees are expected to have read this section before attending.

f. Chair's Report

- i. New items and updates in red. Report endorsed.

g. AOB

- i. Glyphosates use. This will be picked up with WP Gardening Group.

h. Next Meetings

- a. The next FOWP Forum meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th January 2022 at 19:30 (7.30 pm) @ Wimbledon Park Hall, 170 Arthur Road, SW19 8AQ or a Zoom meeting at a time to be decided.
- b. Then:

Anticipated dates, times & location of FOWP Forum Meetings

Type	Date	Time	Location
FOWP AGM	Thursday 17/03/2022	20:00 (8 pm)	@ St Barnabas Church
FOWP Forum	Tuesday 19/04/2022	19:30 (7:30 pm)	@ Wimbledon Park Hall
FOWP Forum	Tuesday 19/07/2022	19:30 (7:30 pm)	@ Wimbledon Park Hall
FOWP Forum	Tuesday 18/10/2022	19:30 (7:30 pm)	@ Wimbledon Park Hall

FOWP Forum 3rd Tuesday in relevant month and FOWP AGM 3rd Thursday in March

*Wimbledon Park Hall, 170 Arthur Road, SW19 8AQ
St Barnabas Church in Lavenham Road*



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Chair's Report

a. Membership FOWP

- i. Rob Kennedy reports current membership numbers as of 3rd October 2021:
 - Corporate: 6
 - Family: 39
 - Individual: 50
 - **Total: 95**
- ii.

b. FOWP AGM

- i.

c. Forum members

- i.

d. Constitution

- i. No report

e. Covid-19 and Wellbeing

- i. No update

f. Finances

- i. In hand £855
- ii. Restricted £1665.

g. FOWP website

- i. Report from Rob Kennedy.
Website now up and running (friendsofwimbledonpark.org). Please send any comments / suggestions to membership.fowp@gmail.com. New website subcommittee formed to manage the content and any changes going forward,
- ii. Dave Dawson's blogs are found <https://davegdawsonwp.blogspot.com/>

h. Facebook / Twitter

- i. Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty update.
 - FB 1,798 followers
 - Twitter 528 followers

i. FOWP & notice boards.

- i. Rob Kennedy is keeping these up to date.

j. FOWP Bulletin

- i. .

k. Signage

- i. Logo Group. Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty.
- ii. Labelling proposal for the vintage oak by the Old Bowling Pavilion held over for now,

l. LBM consultation on parks

- i. Consultation now closed.
- ii. No update.

m. Meetings to declare.

- i. Thursday August 12th attended meeting with Ed Gretton and Nigel Emberton (LBM) on playground toilets.
- ii. Friday 20th August met Andy Yates on the Walk & Talk initiative.
- iii. Saturday 21st August manned stall at Discovery Day at Civic Centre.
- iv. Monday 6th September walked around park with Francis McParland to discuss events and related matters.
- v. Saturday 18th September manned stall at Putney Clean Air Fair.
- vi. Saturday 25th September manned stall at Southfields Harvest.
- vii. **Friday 15th October met Cllr Natasha Irons (Cabinet member LBM) to discuss plans for Heritage Wimbledon Park. Petition for 0700 opening of Wimbledon Park handed over to her for action.**

n. Planning Matters

- i. Revelstoke Road entrance improvements.
 - a. LBW 2021/0432 approved on 11th May 2021 subject to conditions.
 - b. LBM 21/P2657 recommend grant permission subject to conditions (21/10/2021)
- ii. Dam Safety planning application LBM 21/P1930 recommend grant permission subject to conditions (23/09/2021).
- iii. AELTC Wimbledon Park Project.



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- a. LBM 21/P2900 planning meeting expected in December.
- b. LBW 2021/3609 planning meeting expected in December.
- c. FOWP submission sent to planning.
- d. D. Dawson submission on biodiversity sent to planning.
- iv. TCBS proposals for the Heritage Park. <https://thecapabilitybrownsociety.com/the-synopsis/>
- v. Owner's Memorandum of Understanding. Email to the 3 owner's requesting details of this MOU. No reply yet.
- o. **Neighbourhood Planning Area**
 - i. Update. PlanWimbledon (formerly Wimbledon Neighbourhood Planning Group (WNP)) applied for designation as a neighbourhood forum on the 18th of February they have passed the legal and financial checks and the Borough Plan Advisory Committee (BPAC) unanimously recommended that the Cabinet recommend that a consultation takes place on their application. If successful, the application should be passed at the Full Council Meeting in early July.
 - ii. Heritage Wimbledon Park is not included.
- p. **Conservation Management Plan (CMP)**
 - i. CMP summary v05 released in May 2021.
 - ii. Wimbledon Park and Lake Masterplan December 2018 was quietly placed on LBM website:
 - iii. <https://www.merton.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/parks-and-recreation-grounds/wimbledon/wimbledon-park/wimbledon-park-master-plan>
 - iv. Play area paper prepared based on Masterplan recommendations and other information. This is being held until results of LBM's consultation are released.
- q. **Sport Provision in Heritage Wimbledon Park**
 - i. Steps being taken to obtain estimates for Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) for courts 16-20. This will give the Community the opportunity to discuss options. Relevant to this is the observation that the Great Field was unusable for 3 months or more due to waterlogging.
 - ii. Courts 11-15 to be for tennis.
 - iii. Update on:
 - a. Open water swimming-report delayed by Covid.
 - b. Table tennis. Second table has now arrived and date for installation awaited. Second table and the existing table (relocated) to the hard surface between the tennis courts and railway hedge. The installation to be undertaken jointly by LBM/idverde.
- r. **Capability Brown Society TCBS - <https://thecapabilitybrownsociety.com/>**
 - i. The Capability Brown Society (TCBS) is an independent not for profit organisation with no agenda other than to stimulate debate to get the very best possible imaginative outcome for the future direction and use of the wider Heritage Wimbledon Park landscape. It aims to be proactive and imaginative setting out proposals for the wider parkland, perhaps the most intensively used multi-purpose park in London, at the same time fully providing for the conservation and improvement of the park's natural environment and ecology. This sympathetic and constructive approach will be adopted for other Brownian Landscapes in the British Isles.
 - ii. It is a corporate member of the FOWP Forum.
 - iii. A Vision for Capability Brown's Wimbledon Park has been circulated.
- s. **Lake issues:**
 - i. Technical Advisory Steering Group for the Wimbledon Park Lake Project have now applied for planning permission.
 - a. <https://www.merton.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/parks-and-recreation-grounds/wimbledon/wimbledon-park/wimbledon-park-lake-project>
 - b. If work now approved work expected to commence in October 2021 and finish in March 2022.
 - ii. Pollution
 - a. Update not available.
 - iii. Eels
 - a. https://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/uk-europe/eel-conservation?dm_i=3O4M,15IGM,51XLLT,42ZM5,1
 - b. Plan to investigate reasons why eels are not increasing in our lake still to start.
 - iv. Stocking certificate
 - a. This is currently with the Water sports manager, Erica Bishop. Seeking transfer to the Angling Club.



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- t. **Special places for nature in Wimbledon Park**
 - i. Horse Close Wood Management Plan
 - a. **Brambles in the Glade are being removed and the area scythed.**
- u. **Wandle Valley Forum** (<http://www.wandlevalleyforum.org.uk/>)
 - i. Wandle Fortnight were 11/9/21 to 26/9/21. Due to covid concerns FOWP didn't participate this year.
- v. **Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust (WVRPT)** (<https://wandlevalleypark.co.uk/about-us/wandle-valley-regional-park-trust/>)
 - i. No report
- w. **Independent Merton Green Spaces Forum (IMGSF)**
 - i. Greenspace assessment form still due for Wimbledon Park.
 - ii. Volunteer to complete this form would be welcome and it would need to get EC approval before submission.
- x. **Other organisations we could join.**
 - i. London Friends of Greenspaces Network (LFGN) (<http://www.lfgn.org.uk/>) proposed by Charles Runcie. He recommended the site be visited even if we do not join.
 - ii. London National Park City Network (LNPC) <https://www.nationalparkcity.london/> proposed by Charles Runcie. He recommended the site be visited even if we do not join.
 - iii. The London Gardens Trust (<https://londongardenstrust.org/>) proposed by Chris Baker. As he was not in attendance this item left on table for next meeting.
- y. **Public Park Management issues**
 - i. Anti-social behaviour in Horse Close Wood during day and after closing time. Logs have now been relocated nearby and problem should be resolved but area is being monitored.
 - ii. Relocating boat store in stadium.
 - a. The Dam Safety Works Team will be in the stadium area whilst carrying out their work. This completes in January 2022. There is an opportunity to discuss relocating the boat store in the area vacated by the Dam Safety Team.
 - b. Considerations include:
 - 1. The depth of water and pontoon length.
 - 2. Storage layout.
 - 3. Need to keep travel distances down to a minimum.
 - iii. Earlier opening time at 0700 requested, options include:
 - a. Park staff to start work at 0630. Staff will need a contact number to report issues that need to be raised on arrival.
 - b. Time locks. Are there suitable locks available?
 - c. Volunteers to unlock gates. Coordination for three entrances needed. Anecdotal evidence suggests this is likely to be variable.
 - d. Keep pedestrian gates unlocked. Could be tried for a period of say one month and then reviewed.
 - e. **An email (26/04/21) plus follow up sent (19/06/21) to John Bosley and no reply received.**
 - f. **Zsolt Takacs (idverde) responded (3/9/21) to the setting up of our petition by discussing with colleagues and LBM.**
 - g. **A petition requesting opening of WP at 0700 handed to Cllr Natasha Irons on Friday October 15th.**
 - 1. **She replied: I can confirm the Idverde have told the council they are opening the park between 7 and 7:30. They agreed to implement this from 27th September.**
 - iv. Restitution of the park after events
 - a. Pines & Needles and Old Bowling Green have been restored. Request made to relocate Pines & Needles off the Great Field later this year.
 - v. Green Flag Award
 - a. No information received
 - vi. **Community Payback Team (CPT)**
 - a. **The CPT have received more equipment so a wider range of tasks can be accepted.**
 - vii. Toilets play area.
 - a. Sanitary bins reinstated.
 - b. Playground toilets being renovated but blockage risk remains.
 - c. Considering demolishing toilets and relocating to enlarged café in line with LBM Masterplan.



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- viii. Toilets watersports.
 - a. Blockages occurring due to narrow drains.
- ix. Recycling in WP.
 - a. Mario Silva (idverde): 'All the bins in the borough are used as general waste. Dog waste is dumped in all the bins around all the parks, and we take it to the tip where it is incinerated. We have no means to recycle even the twin bins (recycle and landfill) are used to dispose of dog waste'.
- x. Play areas including water play.
 - a. No action on this yet. It would be helpful to look at the options following the deculverting of Wimbledon Park Brook.
- xi. **Portable lighting**
 - a. Emma Carnell (idverde) asks whether there are any issues with the following.
 - b. The request is from an unmarked pitch customer who wishes to use his own rechargeable, portable floodlights.
 - c. The customer has advised that they cover about 25 sq feet, there are 4 of them and they are used for small sided games.
 - d. Dave Dawson advises: 'we have quite enough lights as it is. Apart from the stadium and stadium lane (when in use) and tennis courts, there are also fancy streetlamps along the lakeside promenade and to and from the Revelstoke Road Car Park. Many of the streetlights are left on all night regardless of whether the park is in use. We believe that this has already limited the usage of the lake by Daubenton's bat. The Great Field and Horse Close Wood are free of lighting and it would be good, not only to keep them this way, but also to curtail lights on the lakeside to occasions when the stadium or watersports centre are actually in use'.
- xii. **Use of Glysohates.**
 - a.
- z. Commercial activities**
 - i. Fitness training permits
 - ii. <https://www.merton.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/parks-and-recreation-grounds/training-permits>
- aa. Community Activities**
 - i. City Nature Challenge
 - a. Await dates for next year.
 - ii. Tree planting should resume in February 2022.
 - iii. Wimbledon Park Gardening Group to be established.
 - iv. Long grass between the tennis courts and tube line. This meadow can grow tall to encourage wildflowers and insects. To maintain this diversity, it is mown just twice a year.
 - v. **Walk & Talk. 1030 every Saturday join outside café. Free for everyone and everyone is welcome-all ages, pets and buggies.**
- bb. Community Outreach Group**
 - i. Duke of Edinburgh Award with Citizen Science. A pilot scheme underway.
- cc. Commercial Events**
 - i. Report by Rob Kennedy
 - ii. From Francis McParland:
 - a. **Botton Circus – assuming we are not working on the old bowling green**
 - b. **AELTC queue**
 - c. **Luna Cinema – I assume**
 - d. **Pumpkin Patch have asked to return**
 - e. **Fireworks 5th November**
 - f. **Pines and Needles?**
 - g. **Pub in the Park have expressed an interest in using the Great Field / Athletics Track for a music / food events. FOWP will meet with a representative on 29 November and steer them towards using the Athletics Track instead, as long as the event seems appropriate and disruption / noise can be contained. Dates may clash with Capability Brown events.**
 - iii. **Capability Brown Classic Cars May Bank holiday Sunday and Monday 29th & 30th May**
 - iv. **Capability Brown Classic Cars August Bank Holiday Sunday & Monday 28th & 29th of August**
 - v.
 - vi. Website- <https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/events>