



Friends of Wimbledon Park

Chair's report to Quarterly Meeting of Friends of Wimbledon Park (FOWP) Forum

**Tuesday 18th January 2022 at 17:00 (5 pm) to 18:30 (6.30pm) online
@
Zoom meeting hosted by Charles Runcie.**

Chair's Report

a. Membership FOWP

- i. Rob Kennedy reports current membership numbers as of 10 Jan 2022,
- ii. FOWP members:
 - 1) Corporate: 5 (-1)
 - 2) Family: 38 (-1)
 - 3) Individual: 47 (-3)

Total: 90 (-5)
- iii.

b. FOWP AGM

- i. Thursday 17th March 2022. Hopefully at St Barnabas Church @ 2000.
- ii. Resolutions and any other business to be submitted to the Membership secretary by February 17th so that notice of 21 days can be given to the membership.

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.
- iii. Reserves £3,598

g. FOWP website

- i. Report from Rob Kennedy.
- ii. Website (friendsofwimbledonpark.org).
- iii. Website subcommittee formed to manage the content.
- iv. Please send any comments / suggestions to membership.fowp@gmail.com.
- v. Dave Dawson's blogs are found <https://davegdawsonwp.blogspot.com/> and can be reached via our website.

h. Facebook / Twitter

- i. Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty update.
 - FB 1,875 followers
 - Twitter 570 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. Saturday 23rd October TCBS meeting in TWC Lakeroom to discuss AELTC project.
- ii. Tuesday 26th October met John Golding (LTA) to discuss tennis and Padle tennis.
- iii. Friday 12th November attended Leonie Cooper's Reception at City Hall.
- iv. Friday 19th November met Stephen Alambritis in WP café.



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- v. Wednesday 24th November attended Royal Marines reception in Merton Road.
 - vi. Friday 26th November Team meeting with Leonie Cooper to discuss approach to TfL work at RR entrance.
 - vii. Sunday 28th November attended AELTC Community Open Day.
 - viii. Thursday 2nd December attended reopening of toilet block with Wimbledon Park Cllrs and Nigel Emberton (LBM).
 - ix. Saturday 4th December attended Wimbledon Society Reception.
 - x. Monday 6th December met Sarah-May Clarke from Pub-in-the park events.
 - xi. Thursday 6th January for a walk round the park with Cllr Paul Kohler
 - xii. Thursday 13th January meeting in WP café with Mario (leaseholder) and Mark Hillier (architect) regarding café expansion in line with LBM Master Plan. An initiative by The Capability Brown Society.
 - xiii. Thursday 13th January Teams with Laura deHitaGarcia (TfL) regarding RR bridge improvement works.
 - xiv. Thursday 13th January Zoom meeting organised by Fleur Anderson with AELTC.
- n. Planning Matters**
- i. Revelstoke Road entrance improvements.
 - a. LBW 2021/0432 approved on 11th May 2021 subject to conditions.
 - b. LBM 21/P2657 granted 25th October 2021 subject to conditions.
 - ii. Dam Safety planning application LBM 21/P1930 granted 14th October 2021 subject to conditions.
 - iii. AELTC Wimbledon Park Project.
 - a. LBM 21/P2900 details of planning meeting awaited.
 - b. LBW 2021/3609 details of planning meeting awaited.
- 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-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. **Review in progress.**
 - b. Table tennis. Second table has now arrived and date for installation and further thought needed on location. The installation to be 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:**



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- i. Technical Advisory Steering Group for the Wimbledon Park Lake Project have 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. Work commenced in December 2021. Expected to take 8 weeks.
 - c. The waterfall is affected but not part of this work.
 - d. Rob Kennedy asked about this at the recent “Independent Merton Green Spaces Forum”, which was also attended by Cllr Natasha Irons, John Bosley (Assistant Director) and Idverde representatives.
 - e. John Bosley answered that they were waiting until after the dam safety works before deciding what to do (no commitment given) as otherwise the waterfall paths were currently a “path to nowhere”.
 - f. He also mentioned there was some grey area about what falls within Idverde’s contract for ongoing maintenance and more substantive capital works that need to be funded by Merton.
- 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.
- t. Special places for nature in Wimbledon Park**
 - i. Horse Close Wood Management Plan
 - a. Brambles in the Glade have been 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 FOWP didn’t participate last 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. Rob Kennedy is FOWP representative on this committee.
 - ii. Meeting 14th December 2021
- 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 agreed.
 - 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 but to no avail and grass area damaged again.
 - v. Green Flag Award



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- 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. Playground toilets are renovated but blockage risk remains.
 - b. Considering demolishing toilets and relocating to enlarged café in line with LBM Masterplan.
- 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 25sq 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 Glyphosates.
 - a. A glyphosate based product has been used at Wimbledon Park this year to control the weed growth on hard surface areas. This is the most effective method currently on the market to control weeds and protect the infrastructure of the open spaces. Please see below a link of the product that is being used, supplied to us by an approved national provider.
 - b. <https://www.rigbytaylor.com/knowledge-base/glossary/glyphosate/>
- 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 this year.
 - ii. Tree planting:
 - a. February 26th or 27 and March 5th or 6th 2022.
 - b. Stone Pine offered by Ian Campbell which we accepted. Site to be decided but in the southern section of the park which can be described as a mini arboretum. Probably in November.
 - iii. Wimbledon Park Volunteers 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**



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- i. Report by Rob Kennedy (with details of likely events provided by Merton's Francis McParland):
 - a. Botton Circus – assuming we are not working on the old bowling green at the time
 - b. AELTC queue and parking
 - c. Luna Cinema (assumed)
 - d. Pumpkin Patch have asked to return
 - e. Fireworks 5th November
 - f. Pines and Needles. Significant damage again this year ~1,000 square metres of dead grass - to be repaired by Merton / Idverde (currently awaiting pricing and timescales). Merton inform us that the contract for Christmas trees is up for renewal in 2022 and they will mandate the use of hard standing areas rather than grass in future. FOWP are developing some proposed guidelines for commercial events in the park to avoid this type of damage to nature and other disruption / noise - a draft document will be shared with the Forum at or ahead of this meeting.
 - g. Pub in the Park (PitP) have expressed an interest in using the Great Field for a music / food event on the weekend 27-29 May 2022 (with setup / removal 2 days either side). FOWP met with a representative from PitP on 29 November and tried to steer them towards using the Athletics Track instead, as long as the event seems appropriate, and disruption / noise can be contained. PitP do not feel that the Athletics track would be suitable and are pushing ahead with a request to Merton to use a large section of the Great field. See more details on the [FOWP website](#). (After checking, PitP dates do NOT clash with Capability Brown events below),.
 - h. Capability Brown Classic Cars 2nd & 3rd June (The Queen's Platinum Holiday weekend)
 - i. Capability Brown Classic Cars August Bank Holiday Sunday & Monday 28th & 29th of August
 - a. Website- <https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/events>