Agenda of Quarterly Meeting of Friends of Wimbledon Park (FOWP) Forum

Tuesday 18th July 2023 at 1930 (7.30 pm)

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Wimbledon Park Hall, 170 Arthur Road, SW19 8AQ

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.

23/03 Agenda

- a. Present:
 - i. Executive Committee (EC):
 - ii. Forum members:
 - iii. Guests:
 - iv. Corporate guests:
- b. Apologies:

i.

- c. Quorum
 - i. 5 EC members in attendance to be quorate otherwise meeting will proceed with notes as a record.
- d. Notes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18th April 2023.
 - i. True record-agreed
 - ii. Matters arising-none.
- e. Selected items from Chair's report.
 - 1) Delivering Wimbledon Park from Historic England's 'At Risk Register'.
 - 2) The Merton Heritage Strategy 2021-2025 May23 update
 - 3) Repair & maintenance in the Public Park.
 - 4) Horse Close Wood & Veteran Tree Management Plans
 - 5) Café
 - 6) Events
- f. Chair's Report (changes highlighted)
 - i. To be endorsed.
- g. AOB
 - . X
- h. Next Meetings

Anticipated dates, times & location of FOWP Forum Meetings



Type	Date	Time	Location
FOWP Forum	Tuesday 17/10/2023	19:30 (7.30pm)	@ Wimbledon Park Hall
FOWP Forum	Tuesday 16/01/2024	19:30 (7.30pm)	@ Wimbledon Park Hall
FOWP AGM	Thursday 21/03/2024	20:00 (8 pm)	@ St Barnabas Church
FOWP Forum	Tuesday 16/04/2024	19:30 (7.30pm)	@ Wimbledon Park Hall
FOWP Forum	Tuesday 16/07/2024	19:30 (7.30pm)	@ Wimbledon Park Hall
FOWP Forum	Tuesday 15/10/2024	19:30 (7.30pm)	@ 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

Chair's Report

(Highlighting indicates changes from last circulation)

- 1) Membership FOWP
 - i. Rob Kennedy reports current membership numbers as of
 - ii. FOWP members:
 - iii. Corporate: 7 (no change)
 - iv. Family: 44 (no change)
 - v. Individual: 63 (no change)
 - ii. **Total: 114 (+4)**
- 2) FOWP AGM
 - i. Next AGM Thursday 21st March 2024.
- 3) Forum members
 - i. No report
- 4) Constitution
 - i. No report
- 5) Covid-19 and Wellbeing
 - i. No update
- 6) Finances
 - Damaris Albarran is treasurer. Rob Kennedy, Nick Steiner, and Martin Sumpton have applied to be signatures to our account, pending action from Barclays Bank.
 - i. In hand £21
 - iii. Restricted £1195 (set aside for RR improvement costs).
 - iv. Reserves £2407

7) FOWP website

- i. Report from Rob Kennedy.
- ii. Website (<u>friendsofwimbledonpark.org</u>). Analytics for June 2023: 471 distinct users, (vs. June 2022: 407 distinct users)
- iii. Please submit any comments / suggestions via the contact form:
- v. Dave Dawson's blogs are found https://davegdawsonwp.blogspot.com/ and are posted on FOWP social media.

8) Facebook / Twitter

- i. Damaris Albarran reports.
- ii. FB 2,227 followers: posting of snowscapes particularly successful with several followers responding with their own photos.
- iii. Twitter 852 followers (+58)
- iv. Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/fowp22/?r=nametag: 100 followers (+30)
- v. Updates written for both Grid News and the Wimbledon Park Residents' Association newsletter. Further work needed on getting Twitter working.

9) FOWP & notice boards.

- i. Rob Kennedy has keys for updating. No recent updates.
- 10) FOWP Bulletin
 - i. FOWP Bulletin 2023-04 City Nature Challenge 03
 - ii. FOWP Bulletin 2023-05 RR entrance improvements update 03
- 11) Signage
 - . No progress on improving signage.
- 12) Blue Plaques
 - i. Ulrika Hogberg (AELTC) drew our attention to the damaged blue plaque at Wimbledon Park Road. Offered to pay for a replacement if unable to repair. This is appreciated.
 - ii. A volunteer has taken this for repair. Whilst receiving greater damage than the Revelstoke Road blue plaque it can be repaired, and this is in hand.
 - iii. The damage to both blue plaques was caused by individuals using them to assist in climbing over the gates.
 - iv. Repair in progress.
- 13) Meetings to declare.
 - i. Tuesday 2nd May 2023 Met Ross Garrod (Leader LBM).
 - ii. Saturday 13th May attended Wimbledon Society AGM.
 - iii. Monday 3rd July met Chris Laine (Historic England).



14) Planning Matters

- i. Merton Heritage Strategy 2021-25: Development Plan
 - i. This development plan has been compiled using information supplied by Merton heritage providers including council departments, historic sites, visitor attractions and community groups. It is intended to be an evolving plan.
 - ii. May 2023 update circulated.
- ii. Revelstoke Road entrance improvements.
 - i. LBW 2021/0432 approved on 11th May 2021 subject to conditions.
 - ii. LBM 21/P2657 granted 25th October 2021 subject to conditions.
 - iii. Having difficult discussions with TfL leading to delays and costs. An invoice of £469.80 without receiving the estimate for wing wall fencing relocation.
 - iv. This has led to invoking the complaints procedure.
 - v. Grant application made to
 - 1. South Western Railways for phase 1. Unfortunately, this application failed.
 - 2. LBM Civic Pride Fund for phase 2.
 - 3. National Grid offered £5000 to extend the Northern Railway Hedge at rear of car park. Waiting for permission from LBM to proceed.
 - vi. Estimates obtained to move this project forward.
- iii. Dam Safety planning application LBM 21/P1930 granted 14th October 2021 subject to conditions.
 - i. The dam promenade is now open, and Wimbledon Park Brook has been daylighted. Landscaping still needed.
 - ii. Revelstoke Road bund is to be landscaped.
 - iii. The dam promenade between the watersports and area is the second spillway in a flood. Spillway design is based on a free passage of water with no obstructions which could disturb the flow or catch debris. Andy Hughes (Dam Inspector) says; 'Therefore I have said no benches are allowed in this area, but I have allowed the trees to remain. Benches can be put in any area outside the spillway'.
- iv. LBM local plan
 - i. Examination Of Merton's Local Plan now completed and Inspector's Report was expected in spring. However:
 - ii. **02** May **2023** On 6 April 2023 the council received an initial post hearings letter from the Inspectors. This can be viewed in the <u>examination library</u> as INSP22. On 20 April 2023 the Council sent the Inspectors a letter seeking clarification on matters in the post-hearing letter INSP22. This can be viewed in the <u>examination library</u> as LBM26. On 28 April 2023 the Inspectors issued clarifications in response to the Council's letter (LBM26). This can be viewed in the <u>examination library</u> s INSP23.
- v. AELTC Wimbledon Park Project.
 - i. LBM 21/P2900 a further 80 documents submitted.
 - ii. LBW 2021/3609 further 80 documents submitted.
 - iii. Car park 10 in the public park numbers have been reduced from 660 to 350 in the application and to cease by 2026. Feedback from Community indicates that this should cease in 2023.
 - iv. Request made to LBM & AELTC to cease using car park 10 in 2023. No response from LBM or AELTC.
 - v. Submission made that the 1993 covenants are material considerations for these planning applications, to be given substantial weight by all decision-makers.
- 15) Neighbourhood Planning Area
 - i. No report
- 16) 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
- 17) Sport Provision in Heritage Wimbledon Park
 - i. Despite Merton Cabinets statement on sport 'The plans were drawn up after extensive consultation with local community groups and individuals' FOWP were not consulted, and the consequence is a repair of structures, but no improvements as described in the following sections. We have asked for an explanation as to why our proposals were ignored.



Friends of Wimbledon Park

- ii. 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.
- iii. Courts 11-15 to be for tennis.
- iv. Wimbledon Park Junior Golf Programme
 - i. Wimbledon Park has an extensive Junior Academy programme with runs throughout the year and has approximately 200 participants. It takes less than 1ha of space. A request to AELTC to be allowed to continue was made and rejected on the grounds 'that this will not be viable'. This is a Community Asset that should be retained.
- v. Volleyball
 - Following meeting with volleyball coaches Suzy Levy & Michael Ghelfi Saturday 8th October 2022.
 - ii. Proposed relocation of existing beach volleyball courts plus one to make 3 courts into the Old Bowling Green. To upgrade these to match standard.
 - iii. Site measuring east west and north south is 43m x 40m.
 - iv. Courts aligned east west and centred in area.
 - v. Each court 8m x 16m with 3m margin. Total area required for each court with margin is 14m x 22m. This means 6m between adjacent courts.
 - vi. Fencing 2.4m high.
 - vii. Decking seating to east of courts.
 - viii. This is broadly in line with LBM Masterplan 2018.
 - ix. The exact FIVB official guidelines are here: http://www.fivb.org/en/beachvolleyball/rules/bvrb0912 forweb EN.pdf
- vi. Update on:
 - i. Open water swimming-update requested from Cllr Natasha Irons.
 - 1. There are still concerns about safety and the need to desilt the lake. Referred to Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah.
 - 2. Our comment: Desilting deepens the lake and isn't a reason for not allowing open water swimming. Desilting needs a cost/benefit analysis as it isn't straightforward. Details of the safety aspects still unspecified although water activity participants swim in the water.
 - ii. Table tennis. Second table stored under café awaiting decision on location. The installation to be by LBM/idverde.

18) 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.

19) Lake issues:

- i. Eels
- i. https://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/uk-europe/eel-conservation?dm_i=3O4M,15IGM,51XLLT,42ZM5,1
- ii. Plan to investigate reasons why eels are not increasing in our lake still to start.
- ii. Report from Tony Borkowski (EC member and angler)
 - i. London Borough of Merton, AELTC, and the Wimbledon Park Angling Club (WPAC) have recently signed a tri-partite agreement allowing angling to continue on the Lake until March 2025. One of the conditions of the agreement is for WPAC to conduct regular monthly water quality tests as far as it concerns the health and well-being of the wildlife of the Lake. To this end WPAC will sample the Lake water, on a monthly basis, for the following parameters, nitrate levels, phosphate levels, and electrical conductivity. At the request of the EA, WPAC will also sample the levels of dissolved ammonia and dissolved oxygen. This data will be shared with all relevant parties. Note the WPAC will not be sampling the Lake water for levels of E.Coli or



coliforms, which might be necessary to mitigate the health risks for sporting uses of the Lake such as swimming and water-sports activities.

ii. So far this year no fish kills have been reported but obviously the EA and Thames Water would be alerted by WPAC if any such incidents should arise.

20) Special places for nature in Wimbledon Park

- i. Horse Close Wood Management Plan
 - i. Update being drafted by Dave Dawson for consultation.

21) Stalls

. None planned for now.

22) Wandle Valley Forum (http://www.wandlevalleyforum.org.uk/)

- i. Wandle Fortnight is a celebration of the Wandle Valley run by the community for the community. It runs across three weekends in September.
- ii. The Wandle Fortnight is from Saturday 9th to Sunday 24th September 2023.
- iii. Wandle Valley Forum provides support with small Wandle Grants for between £50 and £200. Grants are also available for use outside the period of Wandle Fortnight for projects that will benefit the Wandle Valley and can be celebrated during Wandle Fortnight.

23) Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust (WVRPT)

- $i. \qquad (\underline{https://wandlevalleypark.co.uk/about-us/wandle-valley-regional-park-trust/}\)$
- ii. No report as it is still in abeyance since 2019.

24) Independent Merton Green Spaces Forum (IMGSF)

- i. Rob Kennedy is FOWP representative on this committee.
- ii. Meeting was on Wednesday 28th June at Wimbledon Park Hall.
- iii. Cllr MacArthur: update on what the Council is doing with regard to monitoring Ideverde's performance. The issue was raised at the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny panel in January where the IMGSF report (which expressed concerns with Ideverde's performance) was discussed. A recommendation was made that there should be a return to the quarterly reposting of Ide verde's performance. This will be put forward to Cabinet. There is also going to be a further Ideverde item added to the June 2023 sustainable communities agenda.

25) 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.

26) Public Park Management issues

- Pines & Needles now located in Horse Close Wood car park. Damage caused by them in 2021 remains.
- ii. Green Flag Award
 - i. Intention to discuss with Andrew Kauffman sometime.
- iii. Community Payback Team (CPT)
 - i. The CPT have received more equipment so a wider range of tasks can be accepted.
- iv. Connecting ice cream vans to electrical source
 - i. This would avoid fumes from the van.
- v. Toilets play area.
 - i. Playground toilets are renovated but blockage risk remains as drainage not improved.
 - ii. Considering demolishing toilets and relocating to enlarged café in line with LBM Masterplan.
- vi. Toilets watersports.
 - i. Blockages occurring due to narrow drains.
- vii. Recycling in WP.
 - i. 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'.
- viii. Play areas including water play.
 - i. No action on this yet.
- ix. Lighting
 - i. To raise the question of lighting in the public park.



- ii. 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'.
- x. Water fountains
 - i. to be investigated and requested.
 - ii. Petition being circulated.
- xi. Cafe
- i. Leaseholder signed up on Friday 14th April. Mario's last full day is Monday 17th April and out by Saturday 22nd April. The applicants that won the bid are Cook and Partners www.cooksandpartners.co.uk
- ii. Apparently, the lease hasn't been signed yet and negotiations continue.
- iii. From https://www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org/latest-news.htm 'We understand that the Cooks & Partners' lease for operation of the Holland Park Café has been extended for the summer. We have no further news about which company will hold the lease after that. Nor do we have any news about the very necessary improvements to the interior, which will enable faster service at the till and service area. We have been told that potential leaseholders have understandably proposed interior decoration, and hope the Council will ensure the chosen style is in keeping with the historic site'.
- iv. This suggests café may reopen in September.
- xii. Glyphosate
 - i. Idverde: We are intending to plant Sarah Bouquet seed mix on the bund. Please see below the leaflet for the product.
 - 1. https://www.rigbytaylor.com/wp-content/uploads/Euroflor-2022-Sarah-Bouquet-min.pdf
 - 2. To get the best result for the display we need to use a glyphosate base product to minimalize the competition in the soil.
 - ii. FOWP: As you know there are concerns about using glyphosate base products. This was resolved with Simon on the basis that the necessary hoeing and weeding could be undertaken by the Wimbledon Park Volunteers (WPV). This group is evolving well but we need to get a 'jobs to do list' from Tom on the parts of the park we don't take the lead on.
 - iii. Dave Dawson: It's great to have detail of the seed mix proposed.
 - 1. This is much more like the mix employed on the longstanding plots around the periphery of the park. It's colourful in summer and reasonably attractive to pollinators but is one of the mixes commonly called "Wildflower meadow", This is a misnomer as the species are mainly cultivars at best and exotics at worst and it is not a meadow mix but composed of tall annuals. Be quite clear, it is not what's needed either to help redress the huge losses of natural meadows in lowland UK, nor to reflect the history of the park. That said, such mixes, when successful, add to the delight felt by park users.
 - 2. I return, however, to ask what is the long-term plan for these bunds? The problems with establishing a seed mix this year will not go away, necessitating use of glyphosate each year. Also, my suggestion that annual cultivation will gradually erode the height of the bunds is a serious consideration.
 - 3. We need an agreement on the long-term vegetation of these bunds.
 - iv. Idverde: May I suggest that we proceed with the spraying and the Sarah Bouquet mix that we have already purchased for the bund and agree the long term plan, with LBM, for the bund in the next few months. If the decision is to plant whips on it, to hide the car park, that could be completed in the autumn anyways.
 - v. Dave Dawson: Yes, I agree.
 - vi. FOWP will follow Dave's advice. A note on glyphosates is on our website and comments are welcome.
- 27) Wimbledon Park Volunteers



- i. Tree planting:
 - i. Tree planting November 25th and 26th. The Central Railway Hedge has been created and another 10 hornbeams planted.
 - ii. Dave Dawson advises that we shouldn't apply for free trees as the species mix is wrong. Future plantings will require a volunteer to obtain funding and purchase agreed tree species.
- ii. Wimbledon Park Volunteer newsletter being circulated listing tasks to be done on a regular basis.
 - i. After a short break over winter weekly tasks have resumed with beds dug around the hornbeam standards and pruning of cornus and planting of cuttings underway.
 - ii. Improved dialogue between WPV, idverde and CPT is required.

28) 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

29) Community Activities

- i. 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.
- ii. Walk & Talk. 1030 every Saturday join outside café. Free for everyone and everyone is welcome-all ages, pets, and buggies.
- iii. City Nature Challenge Friday 27th April to Monday 1st May.
 - i. Which city on Earth has the most wildlife and the most nature loving citizens? Naturalists, residents and organisations from three city regions in the UK are looking to show the world how amazing our cities are, for people and nature, by joining an epic contest: to discover and record as much wildlife as possible over 4 days.
 - ii. The contest stems from the United States, where friendly rivalry between BioBlitz veterans at Los Angeles Natural History Museum and California Academy of Science in San Francisco prompted an ambitious leap in scale. Going head to head in 2016, the two partnered up to branch out nationally in 2017 with Dallas, Texas topping the table of 16 city regions across the USA.
 - iii. Unlike a traditional single site BioBlitz, City Nature Challenge encourages participants to record wildlife wherever they are within a predefined city region, connecting with fellow participants online or getting together in the field to explore together. This kind of self-directed activity, without direct facilitation by an expert, has been made possible by developments in mobile recording technology and the communications that guide recording practice, especially for beginners.
 - iv. To take part you'll need the INaturalist app https://www.inaturalist.org/
 - V. Go Parks London a training ink: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwVfRjpher0
 - vi. Wimbledon Park: City Nature Challenge walk. Saturday 29th April 1030-1200: starting from the big Walk and Talk banner near the cafe next to the tennis courts in the park.
 - vii. Sunset survey Monday 1st May 1930 (7.30 pm) to 20:45 (8.45 pm): meet on dam promenade by water sports building.

30) Community Outreach Group

- Duke of Edinburgh Award with Citizen Science. A pilot scheme completed in 2021 and being reviewed.
- ii. No progress.

31) Commercial Events

Report by Rob Kennedy

- i. Contact Francis McParland (LBM) and Andrew Kauffman (LBM)/
- ii. Events diary from Merton events team as of 13 March 2023 below:

"Here are the current list of confirmed events taking place at Wimbledon Park for 2023:



EVENT NAME	BRIEF	EVENT LIVE DATE - 2023
Bottons funfair	returning funfair - easter holidays	<mark>1 - 16 April</mark>
Zippos Circus	Circus shows - new to W.P.	4-9 May (Cancelled)
Brand events	Pub In Park - returning	<mark>12-14 May</mark>
Luna Cinema	returning event	<mark>22-24 Jun</mark>
Bottons funfair	returning funfair - summer holidays	7 Aug - 4 Sep
Taste of Caribbean	New event	<mark>12-Aug</mark>

LBM firework displays and pines and needles to go ahead as usual.

Website- https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/events

- iii. Zippo's Circus was cancelled due to heavy rain and mud which was fortunate, as they had previously just trashed Streatham Common by driving their trucks on it with no vehicle trackway. They have asked to come back later in the summer.
- iv. Pub in the Park went ahead as planned 12-14 May and put their vehicle trackway down earlier, to enable Zippo's Circus to use it (Zippo's was cancelled due to heavy rain and mud). As PitP set up and as they moved out there was significant damage to the field. They said they would repair it quickly in the end that took 3 weeks and was a poor job. Merton kept their deposit and employed a sub-contractor through Idverde, who appeared to do a better job (although note concerns about repairs using soft soil and not excavating the damaged earth). However, this was just 2 weeks before AELTC started setting up and the repairs had not established. With all the rain during the first week of the Wimbledon Championships, there will no doubt be further significant damage.
- v. AELTC car park and queue are in progress. Setup started Wednesday 28 June with the sectioned off car park, wooden posts for queues, followed by toilets and then food vans / stalls. There have been a number of complaints about the AELTC management of the park during this period, some very serious:
 - a) Some people started camping in the park on the Saturday 1st July, ahead of the official start date/time on Sunday 2nd July, 2pm. AELTC said they could do nothing about it why? They took operational control of the field from Idverde on the preceding Wednesday, Theie security could have enforced rules. No doubt they would have done had people camped on their land.
 - b) Insufficient toilets provided in the park for the large number of people queueing estimates range up to 12,000 at one point. Festival industry metrics suggest 100+ toilets plus urinals would have been required AELTC provided 10 toilets in addition to the regular public toilets in the park. The result was long queues at all the toilets normal park users therefore could not access the public toilets. Here were lots of reports of people from the queue using Horse Close Wood and other trees and bushes as open toilets, creating a public health problem and public nuisance for other park users. This was reported to Merton and AELTC as urgent and requesting more toilets be provided. AELTC apologised on Day 1 but no information on remedial action was provided until Day 3-4, when some additional toilets were provided, Horse Close Wood roped off. Additional signage put in place and additional security and Stewards to direct people to the toilets and try to prevent them using public spaces.
 - c) Some AELTC queuers have been camping in other parts of the park away from the official queue. E.g. by the lake. This was reported to AELTC on 6 July.



- d) AELTC staff ripped out FOWP plants from the raised flower bed at the WPR entrance and planted their own plants instead. Following complaints there was an apology.
- e) During AELTC set up on Thursday 28 June, the gate staff allowed unauthorised vehicles (2 school minibuses plus another camper van) to drive down Stadium Land and across the grass where public were walking, narrowly missing a dog on the grass. When this was raised with the gate staff one of them was very rude and combative. This was reported to AELTC, but no written response has been received.
- vi. We (Merton and FOWP) still need to discuss the number and type of events taking place in the park. The loss of available green space (non-fee paying), damage to nature, noise from music etc are all becoming increasing concerns as the number of large commercial events grows. Pub in the Park, Gin Festival, Zippo's Circus are very significant new additions.