



# Friends of Wimbledon Park

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

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 at 1930 (7.30 pm)

@

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.

### 24/02 Agenda

#### a. Present:

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

#### b. Apologies:

- i.

#### c. Quorum

- i. 5 or more EC members for the meeting to be quorate. If not meeting will continue with notes rather than minutes

#### d. Notes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

- i. To agree true record
- ii. Matters arising.
  - a.

#### e. Selected items from Chair's report. Adjourned.

- i. AELTC WPP
  - a. Now with GLA and decision expected in July or September 2024.
- ii. Delivering Wimbledon Park from Historic England's 'At Risk Register'.
  - a. Revelstoke Road Improvements Phase 1 update. Northern Railway Hedge extension was delayed, now likely in week beginning April 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Waterfall Area consultation.
  - c. Ashen Grove Wood.
- iii. Participation Sports Group (PSG).
  - a. Lighting and bats.
  - b. Table tennis tables.
  - c. Pétanque.
  - d. Wimbledon Park Arena. Rugby.
  - e. Open water swimming.

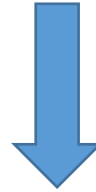
#### f. Chair's Report (**changes highlighted**)



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- i. To endorse.
- g. AOB
- i.
- h. Next Meetings

## Anticipated dates, times & location of FOWP Forum Meetings



Type	Date	Time	Location
FOWP Forum	Tuesday 16/07/2024	19:30 (7.30pm)	@ Wimbledon Park Hall
FOWP Forum	<b>Tuesday 22/10/2024*</b>	19:30 (7.30pm)	@ Wimbledon Park Hall
FOWP Forum	Tuesday 21/01/2025	19:30 (7.30pm)	@ Wimbledon Park Hall
FOWP AGM	Thursday 19/03/2025	20:00 (8pm)	@ St Barnabas Church
FOWP Forum	Tuesday 15/04/2025	19:30 (7.30pm)	@ Wimbledon Park Hall

FOWP Forum 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in relevant month and FOWP AGM 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in March

*\*Date change*

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



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## Chair's Report

### Note:

- **Highlighting indicates changes from last circulation.**
- **Action is with person named in bold if no name then action is with Chair.**

### 1) Membership FOWP

- i. **Rob Kennedy** reports current membership numbers as of
- ii. FOWP members:
- iii. Corporate: 7 (+1)
- iv. Family: 41 (-4)
- v. Individual: 58 (-3)
- ii. **Total: 106 (-6)**

### 2) FOWP AGM

- i. **Next AGM Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 2000 at St Barnabas Church.**

### 3) Forum members

- i. No report

### 4) EC job vacancies (details on website)

- i. Participate with Independent Merton Green Spaces Forum (IMGSF)
- ii. Commercial events monitoring in the public park.
- iii. Team leader for Wimbledon Park Volunteers (WPV).

### 5) Constitution

- i. No report

### 6) Covid-19 and Wellbeing

- i. No update

### 7) Finances

- i. **Damaris Albarran** is treasurer. Rob Kennedy, Nick Steiner, and Martin Sumpton have applied to be signatures to our account, pending action from Barclays Bank.
- ii. In hand £21
- iii. Restricted £1195 (set aside for RR improvement costs).
- iv. Reserves £2407

### 8) FOWP website

- i. **Report from Rob Kennedy.**
- ii. **Website ([friendsofwimbledonpark.org](https://friendsofwimbledonpark.org)). Analytics for March 2024: 494 distinct users, (vs. March 2023: 491 distinct users)**
- iii. Please submit any comments / suggestions via the [contact form](#):
- iv. **Dave Dawson's** blogs are found <https://davegdawsonwp.blogspot.com/> and are posted on FOWP social media.

### 9) Facebook

- i. **Damaris Albarran reports.**
- ii. **Facebook has 2,367 followers (up 129 since 2023), 77% of whom are women.**

### 10) X (Twitter) and Instagram

- i. **'X' (Twitter) has 975 followers (up from 957 last quarter) and the Instagram page has 125 followers (up from 118 last quarter).**

### 11) FOWP & notice boards.

- i. **Rob Kennedy** has keys for updating. No recent updates.

### 12) FOWP Bulletin

- i. FOWP Bulletin 2023-04 City Nature Challenge 03
- ii. FOWP Bulletin 2023-05 RR entrance improvements update 03.

### 13) Signage

- i. No progress on improving signage.

### 14) 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.



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- iii. The damage to both blue plaques was caused by individuals using them to assist in climbing over the gates.
- iv. Repair still in progress. Two sign halves strongly rejoined with a metal plate, pins, and epoxy resin. Some lettering lost and not repairable, but luckily the text still makes sense.
- v. Remaining work to do: paint the back blue to match the sign colour, tidy up the front border.  
Work near completion.

## 15) Meetings to declare:

- i. Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March quarterly meeting with Andrew Kauffman.

## 16) 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. October 2023 update completed.
- ii. Revelstoke Road entrance improvements.
  - i. LBW 2021/0432 approved on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 subject to conditions.
  - ii. LBM 21/P2657 granted 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021 subject to conditions.
    1. Agreement with TfL and moving to licence stage.
    2. National Grid offered £5000 to extend the Northern Railway Hedge at rear of car park. LBM have offered match funding so this phase can proceed once funds are received.
- iii. Dam Safety planning application LBM 21/P1930 granted 14<sup>th</sup> 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.
  - ii. As a result of the hearings into LBM's Local Plan the policy in Chapter 9 on Wimbledon Park has been rewritten and is now Chapter 8. It is no longer divided by Wi3 and is whole park again. FOWP sent in amendments including Wimbledon Park in the Wandle Valley Regional Park.
  - iii. WPRRA submitted that LBM should declare:
  - iv. *1.3.1 Wimbledon Park is an important open space, designated MOL, Grade II\*, SINC and others, but it has been on the Heritage at Risk register since 2016. To address this Risk, and to ensure that public access and sporting use is perpetuated, we will secure the production of a Landscape Management Plan and further designate Wimbledon Park as a Local Green Space.*
  - v. FOWP support this submission. It now returns to the Inspectors.
- 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. Request submitted again with a report on the poor management of 2023 arrangements in the public park. Thanked for report but no further response.
  - v. Submission made that the 1993 covenants are material considerations for these planning applications, to be given substantial weight by all decision-makers.
  - vi. LBM Planning Committee approved WPP on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October. Voting 6 Labour For and 2 Liberal Democrats, 1 Conservative, and 1 Independent Against.
  - vii. LBW PAC met Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November and voted to refuse 7 votes to nil.



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- viii. Will now be referred to GLA.
  - ix. AELTC propose four biodiversity enhancements in Wimbledon Park (Dave Dawson). To be raised with LBM.
  - vi. Delivering Wimbledon Park from Historic England's 'At Risk Register'.
    - i. Should concentrate on and clarify what Historic England require to remove Wimbledon Park from the 'At Risk Register'.
    - ii. These are: **The Grade II\* Registered Park and Garden (RPG) has been included in the Heritage at Risk (HAR) Register for London due to the following issues:**
      - 1. *Uncertainty around the future [of the entire historic landscape];*
      - 2. *The impacts of divided ownership on landscape management;*
      - 3. *Obscured designed views; and*
      - 4. *The deterioration of the Lake.*
    - iii. The TCBS Vision needs further discussion and consultation.
    - iv. A start has been made with Phase 1 of the Revelstoke Road entrance improvements.
- 17) **Neighbourhood Planning Area**
- i. No report
- 18) **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>
- 19) **Sport Provision in Heritage Wimbledon Park**
- i. David Gentles has joined LBM and is responsible for sport. Meeting has taken place.
  - ii. Courts 11-20 now overseen by LTA. Netball may continue but only up to 10% of the available time.
  - iii. Now considering courts 1-5 as a MUGA (idverde continue to run courts 1-10).
  - 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
    - i. Following meeting with volleyball coaches Suzy Levy & Michael Ghelfi Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.fivb.org/en/beachvolleyball/rules/bvrb0912_forweb_EN.pdf)
    - x. Existing courts have been repaired and this will delay the improvements outlined above.
  - 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. David Gentles (sport officer) to report back.
      - 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.
  - vii. Lighting for participation sport.
    - i. Tennis courts lights need to be made bat friendly.



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- ii. Bat friendly lighting for the beach volleyball courts to be considered. This could be in use between October to March when the bats are hibernating but not used from April to September.
        - iii. considerations include lower light installation height, modern LEDs with low light pollution, and a timer system which would mean lights are on only when players are present to set the timer, but the default is OFF rather than ON.
- 20) **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. It is not a charity.
  - iii. A Vision for Capability Brown's Wimbledon Park has been circulated.
- 21) **Lake issues:**
  - i. Eels
    - i. [https://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/uk-europe/eel-conservation?dm\\_i=3O4M,15IGM,51XLLT,42ZM5,1](https://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/uk-europe/eel-conservation?dm_i=3O4M,15IGM,51XLLT,42ZM5,1)
    - ii. The Thames European Eel Project Report November 2022.
    - iii. <https://cms.zsl.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/The%20Thames%20European%20Eel%20Project%20Report%202022%20.pdf>
    - iv. Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE)
    - v. In 2022 Merton Abbey Mills had the largest decline in CPUE, closely followed by Molesey Weir.
  - 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.
- 22) **Special places for nature in Wimbledon Park**
  - i. Horse Close Wood Management Plan
    - i. Update being drafted by Dave Dawson for consultation.
- 23) **Stalls**
  - i. **Eco Fair Wandsworth Park 11 May 2024. 12-4pm.**
- 24) **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 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**
- 25) **Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust (WVRPT)**
  - i. (<https://wandlevalleypark.co.uk/about-us/wandle-valley-regional-park-trust/>)
  - ii. No report as it is still in abeyance since 2019.
- 26) **Independent Merton Green Spaces Forum (IMGSF)**
  - i. **A volunteer to attend these meetings would be welcome.**
  - ii. **Last meeting Wednesday 27 March at 7pm-9pm and apologies sent.**
- 27) **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.



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- 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.

## 28) Public Park Management issues

- i. Access to park leaving pedestrian gates open for example initial discussions only so far.
  - i. Ross Stevens to write a report on parks open 24 hours.
- ii. Cycling in the public park –
  - i. Cllr Tony Reiss reports ‘You requested that we in Greenspaces reviewed the current cycle arrangements through Wimbledon Park. As per the attached which was sent to you back in November 2023 the only permitted cycle route, through Wimbledon Park is from Revelstoke Road up to Wimbledon Park Road entrance (and vice versa), this forms part of the London Cycle Network. As part of this review we commissioned new signage, including two new signs at Wimbledon Park Road entrance and Revelstoke Road entrance as well as paying for new thermoplastic inlays at the points of the park where cycling is not permitted.’
- iii. Cycle parking –
  - i. Cllr Tony Reiss reports ‘We don’t currently have any funds for new cycle storage solutions, but we will look to re-visit this aspect in the new financial year.’
- iv. Benches
  - i. The procedures for obtaining and maintaining memorial benches is being examined by Brain Flasck.
- v. Pines & Needles now located in Horse Close Wood car park.
- vi. Green Flag Award
  - i. Intention to discuss with Andrew Kauffman sometime.
- vii. Community Payback Team (CPT)
  - i. The CPT have received more equipment so a wider range of tasks can be accepted.
- viii. Fumes from stationary vehicles and machines.
  - i. Connecting ice cream vans to electrical source
  - ii. Event machines.
- ix. 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.
- x. Toilets watersports.
  - i. Blockages occurring due to narrow drains.
- xi. 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’.
- xii. Play areas including water play.
  - i. No action on this yet.
- xiii. Lighting
  - i. To raise the question of lighting and bats in the public park.
  - ii. **Lighting for beach volleyball.**
  - iii. 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’.
- xiv. Water fountains
  - i. to be investigated and requested.
- xv. Cafe
  - i. Café closed Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023. The applicants that won the bid are Cook and Partners [www.cooksandpartners.co.uk](http://www.cooksandpartners.co.uk).





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## ii. Should see progress soon?

### xvi. 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 minimize 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.

### 29) Wimbledon Park Volunteers

- i. Wimbledon Park Volunteer newsletter being circulated listing tasks to be done on a regular basis. This can be viewed on our website.
  - i. Small numbers but progressing well.
- ii. Tree planting:
  - i. 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.

### 30) 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>

### 31) Community Activities

- i. Long grass between the tennis courts and tube line. This meadow can grow tall to encourage wildflowers and insects. The appropriate management of long grass is meadow management. It doesn't just involve mowing twice a year, but also raking off the arisings.
- ii. Walk & Talk. 1030 every Saturday join outside café. Free for everyone and everyone is welcome-all ages, pets, and buggies.

### 32) City Nature Challenge.

- i. Participation to be reviewed

### 33) Community Outreach Group

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

### 34) Commercial Events





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- i. Rob has resigned from overseeing events and we thank him for his constructive work. A replacement is needed. Volunteer needed to monitor this important activity.
- ii. Website- <https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/events>
- iii. Layla Rose LBM Interim Event Manager

Event Name	Event Venue	Event Venue Area	Event Live Date
<u>Bottons Family Funfair</u>	Wimbledon Park		24/03/2024
Holi Festival (IDV)	Wimbledon Park	Un marked pitch area	20/04/2024
World of Clowns - Zippo Circus	Wimbledon Park		28/04/2024
<u>Wellnergy</u>	Wimbledon Park		15/06/2024
AELTC CHAMPIONSHIPS	Wimbledon Park	Queue	01/07/2024
<u>Bottons Funfair</u>	Wimbledon Park		11/08/2024
Taste of the Caribbean	Wimbledon Park		14/09/2024
Dragon Boat Race	Wimbledon Park	Wimbledon Park lake	21/09/2024
<u>SA Heritage Day</u>	<u>Wimbledon Park</u>	<u>Bowling Green</u>	<u>28/09/2024</u>
LBM Fireworks	Wimbledon Park		05/11/2024