



Registered charity 1211838
Wimbledon Fortnight (WF) 2026

The note on 'HOW IT WAS FOR US: LOCAL RESIDENTS' EXPERIENCE - WIMBLEDON FORTNIGHT 2026' covers most of the issues.

A key finding is:

- *'However, the sheer size of this year's queue was a problem. Feedback from many neighbours and regular park users is that the queue has outgrown the Great Field and needs to be significantly reconfigured or located elsewhere'.*

We understand that the agreement with AELTC and LBM runs until 2030. However, more room for guests and improved atmosphere can be obtained if car parking was relocated as suggested before & again last year:

- *'As this is a long term need suggest this is set up on AELTC land with provision for LBM to use it for Pines & Needles (better location for those shopping) and other events and car parking for visitors to the public park. Cars and people are separated during Wimbledon Fortnight. This will also enable the closure of the Horse Close Wood car park which can then be returned to woodland enhancing biodiversity and visitor wellbeing. This is in line with the Horse Close Wood Management Plan and advice from official documents on wood management'.*
- Ebike parking could also be relocated to AELTC land, freeing up more space as well as solving other ebike problems.

Further Notes:

- 1) AELTC hired the Great Field, they took over control of Wimbledon Park Road (WPR), Home Park Road (HPR) & Revelstoke Road (RR) entrances and Revelstoke Road and Horse Close Wood (HCW) car parks.
- 2) By agreement Horse Close Wood, the Northern Railway Hedge and the Ashen Grove Wood extension on the Dam Promenade were fenced off to prevent unsocial behaviour. This was effective.
- 3) Preparation for WF starts a few days earlier with queueing markings and posts etc being setup. This appears to be carried out by idverde.
- 4) The Queue opened officially on Sunday 28 June 2026 at 1400. However, people started to arrive from Saturday 27th June. These would be responsibility of LBM, but WF is an AELTC event which suggests a joint approach is better. If the camping is allowed, then there is a duty of care to ensure there are facilities, especially toilets, available for those early arrivals.
- 5) Camping also occurred on Lakeside and on the Southern Meadow. Bye Laws aren't displayed in Wimbledon Park but the alternative of individual signs like 'No BBQs' could be considered. The most important would be 'No overnight Camping'. This is supported by Bye Law:
 - a. *Section 3 On any day on which a pleasure ground is open to the public, provided that the pleasure ground is fenced and has lockable gates, no person shall enter it before the time or enter or remain in it after the time appointed.*
- 6) LBM closed the playground toilets from 0700-1000 meaning no toilet facilities for visitors. The reason appears to be due to guests arriving via Home Park Road Gate and causing a long toilet queue at this location. The following observation showed they still get used by guests:
 - a. *'At 10:00 today there was a queue some 50 person long for the female toilet by the children's play area and some 15 long for the male one. I asked people in the queue why they were there, rather than using the AELTC temporary facilities, to be told that the queue for the temporary facility was some 45 minutes long'.*
 - b. A solution could be for the gate staff to direct guests east towards the Perimeter Path with signage which said that toilets for guests are available in the Great Field.

Dr N R Steiner
Chair Friends of Wimbledon Park

Note: Event spaces on next page



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Event spaces

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-culture/outdoor-venues-event-hire/wimbledon-park-event-hire>

Event space 1 Athletics stadium (7973m² or 0.8ha)

Event space 2 Courts 11-20 (5477m² or 0.55ha)

Event space 3 Old Bowling Green area (1713m² or 0.17ha)

Event space 4 Great Field (72085m² or 7.2ha)

Event space 5 Lakeside (2457m² or 0.25ha)



In relation to this our approach should be:

- Community consultation should be an accepted process.
- No damage to biodiversity (including soil biodiversity)
- Grass and other spoliation to be returned to good condition on completion of event.
- Vistas should not be obscured.
- Wimbledon Park café shouldn't be disadvantaged.
- We should agree the number of events each year. Currently 8 but more are suddenly appearing without consultation.
- Cost benefit analysis should be standard assessment of event value.