



# Friends of Wimbledon Park

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

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 16:00 (4 pm) to 17:30 (5.30pm) online

@

Zoom meeting hosted by Iain Simpson.

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

### 21/02 Agenda

#### a. Present:

- i. Executive Committee (EC): Nick Steiner (chair); Iain Simpson; Chris Baker; Charles Runcie; Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty; Tony Borkowski.
- ii. FOWP Officers: Cllr Janice Howard; Cllr Ed Gretton; Cllr Oonagh Moulton; Ulrika Hogberg; Johnny Perkins.
- iii. Park Officers: Nil
- iv. Guests: Mike Leigh; Rob Whitaker; Rob Kennedy.
- v. Corporate guests: Sophia Browning; Sheila White.

#### b. Apologies:

- i. Martin Sumpton; Karen Gregory; David Dean.

#### c. Quorum

- i. There being more than 5 EC members present the meeting was quorate.

#### d. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

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

#### e. Action Sheet

No.	Item	Further detail? (if any)	Action / Responsibility
1	Event: StreetEats / Underbelly	Licence application withdrawn	Ed & Janice have discussed with John Bosley period & location. (Ed/Janice)
2	Re-grassing	Damage from events	Pines & Needles & Old Bowling Green now from 4 <sup>th</sup> May (Ed/Nick)
		Bottoms current funfair	Setup April 11 <sup>th</sup> end date not fixed.
		Great field post flood & holes	To chase up (Nick/Ed/Jackie)
		Xmas Big Top.	Almost completed.
3	Other Events / pipeline	Eid in the Park?	Application made.



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		Cinema	Likely
		August food festival II.	Likely
		Bottons Summer funfair.	Likely
		Pumpkin Patch.	Likely
		Bonfire Night & format	Under discussion (Ed)
4	Park opening times		To seek opening at 0700 hours. (Nick/Ed)
5	Courts 11-20	3 options	To ask for assessments and cost estimates. (Ed/Nick)
6	Main toilet block refurb & drains	Blockages frequent.	Meeting Nigel Emberton on 23/04/21 (Ed/Nick)
7	Water sports toilets drains.	Blockages frequent.	To chase up (Ed/Nick)
8	Waterplay / paddling pool	Tender for full replacement likely.	June reopening likely (Ed/Nick)
9	Junior Parkrun	Restarting soon	Route disrupted by Great Field events (Nick/Ed)
10	BBQs		None during Covid19 and then reviewed (Ed/Nick)
11	Kingdom Enforcement.	They cover more than greenspaces.	Nick/Ed
12	Table Tennis base	Matting under cafe	To chase up (Nick/Lucy/Iain)
13	Angling Club restocking	Stocking certificate	To seek transfer to Angling Club. (Ed/Tony/Nick)
14	Retirement of Doug Napier		Doug now retired
15	Dam Safety Project	Outfall remains in Ashen Grove Wood	Planning application soon as work to commence in August (Nick/Dave/Tony)
16	AELTC proposals	Covers AELTC owned land	Consultation ends April 30 <sup>th</sup> (Nick/Chris/Martin/Amelia/Tony)
17	CB Vision	Covers whole of Heritage park	Consultation ongoing (Nick/Chris/Martin/Amelia/Tony)
18	Moving the boat storage to stadium	Co-ordinating with Dam Safety Team	To be considered (Nick/Dave/Tony)
19	Revelstoke Rd car park	Planning application with LBW	(Nick)
20	City Nature Challenge	Led by Natural History Museum	Due to Covid just a flyer to circulate (Nick/Amelia/Gerard).

*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. Endorsed.

**g. AOB**

- i. A red van parked on grass verge east of Old Bowling Green where Kidz fair operates. To raise with idverde.
- ii. Personal trainers are tending to use the same area of greenspace daily thus causing damage. To raise with Richard Kelly.



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- iii. Iain Simpson offered funding source for a second table tennis table. Received with thanks. Lead volunteer to be found.
- iv. Anti-social behaviour in Horse Close Wood during day and after closing time. To be raised with West Hill Safer Neighbourhood Team.

## **h. Next Meetings**

- a.** The next FOWP Forum meeting will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 19:30 (7.30 pm) @ Wimbledon Park Hall, 170 Arthur Road, SW19 8AQ or a Zoom meeting at a time to be decided.



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## Chair's Report

- a. Membership FOWP**
  - i. Gerard Sebastian is to stand down once a replacement is found.
  - ii.
- b. FOWP AGM**
  - i. Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 1600 was online with 28 attendees.
  - ii. Crime figures showed an increase in anti-social behaviour from 4 (2019) to 31 (2020). Violence & sexual offences went from 0 (2019) to 6 (2020).
- c. Forum members**
  - i. No report
- d. Constitution**
  - i. No report
- e. Covid-19 and Wellbeing**
  - i. Lockdown is being eased. Update
- f. Finances**
  - i. Update
  - ii. To set up a subcommittee to simplify subscriptions.
- g. FOWP website**
  - i. Progress stalled.
  - ii. Dave Dawson's blogs not yet transferred but are found <https://davegdawsonwp.blogspot.com/>
  - iii. Content to be updated by Gerard Sebastian, Nick Steiner & Martin Sumpton.
- h. Facebook**
  - i. Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty update.
  - ii.
- i. FOWP notice board.**
  - i. To consider location and content.
  - ii. Located outside café and at Revelstoke Road entrance were suggested. The latter was preferred. It might need planning permission. Content held over.
- j. FOWP Bulletin**
  - i. Next issue might be April.
- k. Signage**
  - i. Logo Group. Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty still waiting for an update from the designer.
  - 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. Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February Teams with Dam Safety Team.
  - ii. Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March AELTC consultation.
  - iii. Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March walk round the Public Park with Doug Napier (Greenspaces Manager LBM) who is retiring at Easter.
  - iv. Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March online Wimbledon Foundation Reception and Annual Review 2020.
  - v. Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March walk round the Public Park with Leonie Cooper AM.
  - vi. **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April walk round the public park with Stephen Hammond MP**
  - vii. **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April walk round the public park with Fleur Anderson MP.**
  - viii. **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April walk round the park with Cllr Ed Gretton.**
- n. Planning Matters**
  - i. Revelstoke Road entrance improvements. Improved application 2021/0432 on <https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/search-planning-applications/>
  - ii. Dam Safety planning application expected soon.
  - iii. AELTC proposals.
  - iv. <[https://www.wimbledon.com/en\\_GB/virtualExhibitRoom/index.html](https://www.wimbledon.com/en_GB/virtualExhibitRoom/index.html)>
  - v. TCBS proposals for the Heritage Park.
  - vi. <<https://thecapabilitybrownsociety.com/>>
- o. Neighbourhood Planning Area**
  - i. Update. PlanWimbledon (formerly Wimbledon Neighbourhood Planning Group (WNPG)) 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)



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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. Good progress being made on CMP revision 06.
  - 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 11-20. 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. Update on:
    - a. Open water swimming-report delayed by Covid.
    - b. Table tennis:
      - 1. Matting still to be fitted
- 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 updated their website to include 18<sup>th</sup> February Position Statement on reservoir safety.
    - 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. A dam works group has been established and consultations are underway with first meeting with FOWP held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January.
  - 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](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. No update.
- u. Wandle Valley Forum (<http://www.wandlevalleyforum.org.uk/>)**
  - i. Wandle Fortnight dates to follow.
- 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.



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## 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. 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.
  - ii. 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.
  - iii. Restitution of the park after events
    - a. Pines & Needles and Old Bowling Green areas to be restored from 4<sup>th</sup> May.
  - iv. Green Flag Award
    1. Application for the 2021 not carried out. An update has been requested to see whether this is on schedule or delayed.
  - v. CRC Probation
    - a. The CRC Team are still helping with wood chipping and watering.
  - vi. Toilets play area.
    - a. Sanitary bins reinstated.
    - b. LBM funds set aside to improve playground toilets. Drains need to be sorted out first.
    - c. Considering demolishing toilets and relocating to enlarged café in line with LBM Masterplan.
- z. Toilets watersports.
- a. Blockages occurring due to narrow drains.
  - ii. Play areas including water play.
    - a. No action on this yet.
- aa. Community Activities
- i. City Nature Challenge
    - a. Runs from Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021. Poster provided by Natural History Museum for us.
  - ii. Tree planting prevented by Covid19.
  - iii. 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.
  - iv. Junior parkrun. This should restart soon and discussions to prevent events disrupting their route needed.
- bb. Community Outreach Group
- i. Duke of Edinburgh Award with Citizen Science. Habitats & Heritage (<https://habitatsandheritage.org.uk/>) contacted to see whether their DoE Award team could help. No reply yet.
- cc. Commercial Events
- i. In 2021
  - ii. Kidz pop up fair April 11<sup>th</sup> to
  - iii. StreetEat from 19<sup>th</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> July. Applying for a sale of alcohol, live music and recorded music licence. Closing time 2200. The Chair had objected to the Premises Licence so the matter could be considered further.
  - iv. TCBS Auto Legends 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September.



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

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

Type	Date	Time	Location
FOWP Forum	Tuesday 20/04/2021	19:30 (7:30 pm)	@ Wimbledon Park Hall
FOWP Forum	Tuesday 20/07/2021	19:30 (7:30 pm)	@ Wimbledon Park Hall
FOWP Forum	Tuesday 19/10/2021	19:30 (7:30 pm)	@ Wimbledon Park Hall
FOWP Forum	Tuesday 18/01/2022	19:30 (7:30 pm)	@ Wimbledon Park Hall
<b>FOWP AGM</b>	<b>Thursday 17/03/2022</b>	<b>20:00 (8 pm)</b>	<b>@ St Barnabas Church</b>

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

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