



Friends of Wimbledon Park

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

Tuesday 18th October 2022 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.

22/03 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.

d. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th July 2022.

- i. True record
- ii. Matters arising

e. Selected items from Chair's report.

- 1) Dam Safety project now complete. Awaiting details of landscaping.
- 2) Stage 2 of Examination of Merton's Local Plan 5th and 19th October.
- 3) Revelstoke Road improvements update.
- 4) AELTC Wimbledon Park Project update.
- 5) Car park 10 in the public park and what is the Community view on camping during Wimbledon Fortnight?
- 6) Events in public park.

f. Chair's Report

- i. To be endorsed.

g. AOB

- i.

h. Next Meetings

- a. The next FOWP Forum meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th January at 19:30 (7.30 pm) @ Wimbledon Park Hall, 170 Arthur Road, SW19 8AQ.
- b. Then:



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Anticipated dates, times & location of FOWP Forum Meetings

Type	Date	Time	Location
FOWP Forum	Tuesday 17/01/2023	19:30 (7:30 pm)	@ Wimbledon Park Hall
FOWP AGM	Thursday 16/03/2023	20:00 (8 pm)	@ St Barnabas Church
FOWP Forum	Tuesday 18/04/2023	19:30 (7:30 pm)	@ Wimbledon Park Hall
FOWP Forum	Tuesday 18/07/2023	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*



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Chair's Report

a. Membership FOWP

- i. Rob Kennedy reports current membership numbers as of
- ii. FOWP members:
 - a. Corporate: 7 (no change)
 - b. Family: 44 (no change)
 - c. Individual: 57 (+8)
 - d. . **Total: 108 (+8)**

b. FOWP AGM

- i. Next AGM Thursday 16th March 2023.

c. Forum members

- i.

d. Constitution

- i.

e. Covid-19 and Wellbeing

- i. No update

f. Finances

- i. Ivan Scott has volunteered to remain as Treasurer. Damaris Albarran will be Assistant Treasurer. Rob Kennedy will become a signature as well to make 4 signatures.
- ii. In hand £4
- iii. Restricted £1195 (set aside for RR improvement costs).
- iv. Reserves £2407

g. FOWP website

- i. Report from Rob Kennedy.
- ii. Website ([friendsofwimbledonpark.org](https://www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org)). Analytics for Sep 2022: 448 distinct users, (vs. April 2022: 305 distinct users)
- iii. Website subcommittee no longer required as it is now “business as usual”.
- iv. Please submit any comments / suggestions via the [contact form](#):
- v. Dave Dawson's blogs are found <https://davegdawsonwp.blogspot.com/> and can be reached via our website: <https://www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org/news> .

h. Facebook / Twitter

- i. Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty has passed Facebook onto Damaris Albarran who has added Instagram.
 - a. FB 2,140 followers
 - b. Twitter 718 followers
 - c. Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/fowp22/?r=nametag>

a. FOWP & notice boards.

- i. Rob Kennedy has keys for updating. Recently updated “Save Wimbledon Park” leaflets.

b. FOWP Bulletin

- i. August and September circulated.

c. Signage

- i. Logo Group. Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty.
- ii. Notices for the vintage oak by the Old Bowling Pavilion and more to be discussed with Andrew Kauffman.

d. 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.

e. Meetings to declare.

- i. Friday 22nd July met Stephen Hammond MP in Wimbledon Park.
- ii. Saturday 23rd July met Cllr Natasha Irons in Wimbledon Park.
- iii. Thursday 28th July met Clive Hilton Chair Wimbledon Union of Residents Associations (WURA).
- iv. Friday 5th August park walk with Cllrs Samantha McArthur, Jil Hall, and Tony Reiss.



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- v. Saturday 20th August manned FOWP stall at Merton Heritage Day.
- vi. Monday 5th September walked around the park with Fleur Anderson MP.
- vii. Thursday 15th September attended Wandle Valley Forum AGM.
- viii. Tuesday 20th September attended site visit on AELTC site as observer for site visit by Inspector Fort concerning Wi3 of the Local Plan.
- ix. Saturday 24th September manned FOWP stall at Southfields Harvest.
- x. Monday 26th September attended Independent Green Spaces Forum in Morden Parish Hall.
- xi. Saturday 1st October attended London Wildlife Trust AGM in a personal capacity but also to talk about Wimbledon Park.

f. Planning Matters

- i. Merton Heritage Strategy 2021-25: Development Plan
 - a. 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
 - b. Made submissions to this plan and it is being reviewed in the October update.
- ii. 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.
 - c. Having difficult discussions with TfL leading to delays and costs. An invoice of £469.80 without receiving the estimate for wing wall fencing relocation.
 - d. This has led to invoking the complaints procedure.
 - e. Grant application made to South Western Railways and response expected by end of year.
- iii. Dam Safety planning application LBM 21/P1930 granted 14th October 2021 subject to conditions.
 - a. The dam promenade is now open, and Wimbledon Park Brook has been daylighted. Landscaping still needed.
 - b. Revelstoke Road bund is to be landscaped.
 - c. 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
 - a. Examination Of Merton's Local Plan. Notice Of Independent Examination Hearing. Town And Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Statutory Instrument No.767 Regulation 24.
 - b. The hearings will be divided into two stages:
 - c. Stage 1 of the hearing sessions now completed. On Matter 14 the 1993 covenant, Wi3 area, vistas, blots on landscape around lakeside, biodiversity and assets, sport, wellbeing and community were covered.
 - 1. Statement of Common Ground between Merton Council and Historic England - Addendum Matter 14. 10/06/2022.
 - 2. An extract: *'Secure the production of a landscape management and maintenance plan as part of any development proposals that may come forward, to provide a comprehensive plan for the conservation, enhancement and ongoing management of the entire registered park and garden that takes full account of the site's historic development and significance, acting as a common agreed baseline for all parties to work from'*.
 - 3. *Comment made that the Community should be involved.*
 - d. Stage 2 of the hearing sessions will commence at
 - 1. 1400 Wednesday 5th October 2022 on Wi3
 - 2. 1400 Wednesday 19th October 2022 on Wimbledon Park being included in the Wandle Valley Regional Park.
- v. AELTC Wimbledon Park Project.
 - a. LBM 21/P2900 a further 80 documents submitted.
 - b. LBW 2021/3609 further 80 documents submitted.
 - c. 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.



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- d. Request made to LBM & AELTC to cease using car park 10 in 2023.
- g. **Neighbourhood Planning Area**
 - i. No report
- h. **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>
- i. **Sport Provision in Heritage Wimbledon Park**
 - i. 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. Wimbledon Park Junior Golf Programme
 - a. 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.
 - iv. Update on:
 - a. Open water swimming-report delayed by Covid.
 - b. Table tennis. Second table stored under café awaiting decision on location. The installation to be by LBM/idverde.
 - c. Volleyball.
- j. **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.
- k. **Lake issues:**
 - 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 completed June 2022.
 - ii. Blue/green algae.
 - a. Blue-green algae, or 'cyanobacteria', is completely natural. – it's a type of bacteria that looks like algae when it clumps together.
 - b. As there's no way of telling if blue-green algae is toxic just by looking at it, keep your dog away from lakes and ponds where it may be present.
<https://www.pdsa.org.uk/pet-help-and-advice/looking-after-your-pet/puppies-dogs/blue-green-algae>
 - c. Notices now displayed.
 - iii. Pollution
 - a. Update not available.
 - iv. 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.
 - v. Stocking certificate
 - a. This is currently with the Water sports manager, Erica Bishop. Seeking transfer to the Angling Club.
- l. **Special places for nature in Wimbledon Park**
 - i. Horse Close Wood Management Plan



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- a. Update being drafted by Dave Dawson for consultation.
- m. Stalls**
 - i. Merton Heritage Discovery Day Saturday 20 August 2022.
 - ii. Southfields Harvest Saturday 24th September 2022.
- n. Wandle Valley Forum (<http://www.wandlevalleyforum.org.uk/>)**
 - i. Wandle Fortnight was 10th - 25th September this year. We didn't take part due to workload but hope to resume next year.
- o. Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust (WVRPT) (<https://wandlevalleypark.co.uk/about-us/wandle-valley-regional-park-trust/>)**
 - i. No report
- p. Independent Merton Green Spaces Forum (IMGSF)**
 - i. Rob Kennedy is FOWP representative on this committee.
 - ii. Meeting on Monday 26th September.
- q. 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.
- r. Public Park Management issues**
 - i. Restitution of the park after events
 - a. Pines & Needles returned to area caused damage followed by Pub in the Park and the AELTC car park. Told it would be rectified in September?
 - ii. Green Flag Award
 - a. Intention to discuss with Andrew Kauffman soon.
 - iii. Community Payback Team (CPT)
 - a. The CPT have received more equipment so a wider range of tasks can be accepted.
 - iv. Toilets play area.
 - a. Playground toilets are renovated but blockage risk remains as drainage not improved.
 - b. Considering demolishing toilets and relocating to enlarged café in line with LBM Masterplan.
 - v. Toilets watersports.
 - a. Blockages occurring due to narrow drains.
 - vi. 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'.
 - vii. Play areas including water play.
 - a. No action on this yet.
 - viii. 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'.
- s. Wimbledon Park Volunteers**
 - i. Tree planting:
 - a. March 4th and 5th 2022. 160 whips planted and 4 flower beds for hornbeam whips seeded with cornfield annuals. Corn Cockle, Corn Chamomile, Cornflower, corn marigold and field poppy.



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- b. Stone Pine offered by Ian Campbell which we accepted, and a walnut offered by Alina Una which we accepted.
- c. Site to be decided but in the southern section of the park which can be described as a mini arboretum. Probably in November.
- d. Tree planting November 25th and 26th.
- e. Further tree planting being considered February 2023.
- ii. Tasks to be undertaken
 - a. From Simon Woods (idverde)
 - (i) It would make much more sense if you informed us of areas that you feel the friends can take on comfortably and regularly and we would then concentrate our time elsewhere in park.
 - (ii) If you would like to take on the area within bowls green to start that would be ok, rose beds need regular weeding and occasional topping up of mulch.
 - (iii) We have not carried out any glyphosate treatment so the vegetation around park will soon be visible around all the areas mentioned below on email trail so these areas will need hoeing/hand weeding throughout the growing season.
 - (iv) We are happy for friends to plant pavilion bed as mentioned and take ownership of this area with a sign which may encourage others to join your group.
 - b. Implementation delayed due to workload.
- iii. Wimbledon Park Volunteer newsletter being circulated listing tasks to be done.
- t. 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>
- u. 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.
- v. Community Outreach Group**
 - i. Duke of Edinburgh Award with Citizen Science. A pilot scheme completed last year and being reviewed.
 - ii. No progress.
- w. Commercial Events**
 - i. Report by Rob Kennedy
 - ii. Contact Francis McParland (LBM)
 - iii. Events diary from Merton events team as of 8 April 2022 below , except for the following:
 - The “Gin Fest” was cancelled on 1 September 2022 due to “lower than expected ticket sales”, despite flyers being delivered locally that same day and posters remaining up in the park for several days afterwards, resulting in confusion and concern from those that had already bought tickets. They hope to return next year.
 - The “Pumpkin patch” is no longer going ahead
 - LBM Fireworks will be held on Friday 4th November

EVENT NAME	BRIEF	VENUE	EVENT LIVE DATE - 2022
Botton's Funfair	Childrens Funfair	Wimbledon Park	2 - 25 April
Pub in the Park - Brand events	Food and music festival	Wimbledon Park	3rd to 5th June
Capability Brown	Car show	Wimbledon Park track	2-3 June
Wimbledon Tennis fortnight	Car park 10	Wimbledon Park	27 June - 10 July
Botton's funfair	Kids funfair - 12th year	Wimbledon Park	30 July - 4 Sep
Luna Cinema	Open air cinema - returning event	Wimbledon Park	Jul/Aug TBC
Capability Brown	Car Show	Wimbledon Park	27-Aug
Wimbledon Park Gin Fest	Mckenzie associates	Wimbledon Park track	17-Sep
Sarah Moloi	Celebration of SA holiday-Heritage Day	Wimbledon Park	22-Sep
Picking Patch	kids event with pumpkin carving	Wimbledon Park	22 - 31 Oct
LBM Fireworks	Annual show	Wimbledon Park	5th Nov

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

1) Botton's Funfair August-September 2022



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- a. The grass suffered some damage, resulting in some bare patches. Idverde are planning to overseed during October, using specialist seed (superroot) for compacted areas and better drought tolerance.
 - b. We need to consider a different surface for this event space and maybe combine it with a hard wearing sport's surface (suggestions include Petanque, 5 a side football, Padel tennis)? Plan to discuss this further with Merton following completion of the dam safety works and potential relocation of beach volleyball courts.
- 2) Zippo's circus 2023 : <https://www.zippos.co.uk/tickets>
- a. Have asked Merton to come to Wimbledon Park next year. Francis's view is "they are a good and professional outfit, we have dealt with them lots as they normally go to Figges Marsh. I'll ask Emma to get suggested dates from them"
- 3) Pub in the Park 27-29 May, with setup 25,26 May and dismantling 30, 31 May
- a. Appeared to be well run and managed, including proper vehicle trackways to protect the grass, good communication with local residents and stakeholders, leaving space for the park run (which unfortunately decided no to go ahead – not sure why).
 - b. loud music from stage generated some complaints from local residents.
 - c. Setup commenced earlier than expected on Friday 20 May with the vehicle trackway
 - d. Heavy rain just before dismantling the site led to damage to the grass on the same patch as Pines & Needles (which had never recovered anyway and will be trashed again by AELTC car parking in June).
 - e. They intend to return in 2023 and have pencilled in slightly earlier dates
- 4) AELTC 27 June - 12 July (plus setup and dismantling)
- a. Car Parking 325 cars (we would much rather this did not take place at all)
 - b. Queue and/or camping – AELTC appeared to have marked out the whole of the Great Field for this and also installed several food stalls with generators, refrigeration units, tents (!) cars on the grass, etc, all together leaving no room in the Great Field for local residents to play, relax, etc. Bin bags tied to the wooden posts at ground level and level partly open were a hazard for dogs, meaning that dogs could not safely be walked off-lead.
 - c. Very little information from Merton - did not reply to multiple requests for information on car parking and camping.
 - d. Extensive damage to grass still has not yet been repaired. AELTC informed us that Merton / Idverde would do this “during September”. Merton and Idverde now say that it will not be reseeded until after the LBM fireworks (4th November), after which time germination will be limited, so they will just overseed with rye seed in November, then wait until spring to overseed with “superroot”.
- 5) Capability Brown Classic Cars and Music 2-3rd June, 27th August
- a. Athletics track. Chris Baker can provide update
- 6) Luna Cinema: July/August - didn't seem to stay very long. Was it cancelled ?
- 7) Gin Festival - subject to licence for entertainment and alcohol - 17 September 12:00-22:00
<https://www.festicket.com/festivals/london-gin-fest/>
- a. Planned 3,000 tickets, taking a large area of the field alongside the athletics track, opposite the Revelstoke Road car park
 - b. Requested 10,000 tickets for 2023
 - c. See above – cancelled due to “lower than expected ticket sales”.
- 8) Pumpkin Patch?
- a. Merton inform us that this is no longer going ahead.
- 9) Fireworks and funfair: 4th November
- 10) Christmas Tree Stand
- a. new contract awarded....to Pines and Needles
 - b. will be placed in the car park (Wimbledon Park Road entrance) this year. Concern about lighting causing disruption to bats, insects, birds.
- 11) We (Merton and FOWP) still need to discuss the number and type of events taking place in the park.
- a. 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.
 - b. Asked Merton to arrange a zoom meeting or onsite meeting week commencing 18 or 25 April – still no response.