



Friends of Wimbledon Park

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

Tuesday 17th January 2023 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.

23/01 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 October 2022.

- i. True record-agreed
- ii. Matters arising-none

e. Selected items from Chair's report.

- 1) Resume on Heritage Wimbledon Park-PowerPoint presentation followed by Q&A and then informal discussion after completing agenda.

f. Chair's Report

- i. To be endorsed.

g. AOB

- i. Water fountains

h. Next Meetings

Anticipated dates, times & location of FOWP Forum Meetings



January 2023



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Type	Date	Time	Location
FOWP AGM	Thursday 16/03/2023	20:00 (*pm)	St Barnabas Church
FOWP Forum	Tuesday 18/04/2023	19:30 (7.30pm)	@ Wimbledon Park Hall
FOWP Forum	Tuesday 18/07/2023	19:30 (7.30pm)	@ Wimbledon Park Hall
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 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

(Red text indicates additions after agenda circulated)

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: 59 (+2)
 - d. **Total: 110 (+2)**

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 £21
- iii. Restricted £1195 (set aside for RR improvement costs).
- iv. Reserves £2407

g. FOWP website

- i. Report from Rob Kennedy.
- ii. Website (friendsofwimbledonpark.org). Analytics for December 2022: 229 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 responsibility for social media to Damaris Albarran who has added Instagram.
 - a. FB 2,227 followers: posting of snowscapes particularly successful with several followers responding with their own photos.
 - b. Twitter 761 followers
 - c. Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/fowp22/?r=nametag>: 70 followersUpdates written for both Grid News and the Wimbledon Park Residents' Association newsletter. Further work needed on getting Twitter working.

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.



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- i. Wednesday 19th October 2022 attended Hearing on Matter 11 (Wimbledon Park and The Wandle Valley Regional Park) on LBM Local Plan.
 - ii. Thursday 20th October 2022 attended Hearing on Matter 5 concerning W13 on LBM Local Plan.
 - iii. Tuesday 25th October met Mathew Frith from London Wildlife Trust (LWT) to discuss WPlay P.
 - iv. Thursday 27th October met Leonie Cooper (AM) to update on Wimbledon Park.
 - v. Thursday 17th November attended Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) AGM in personal capacity, but WP discussed.
- 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
 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.
 - 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 now completed and Inspector's Report expected in spring.
 - 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.
 - d. Request made to LBM & AELTC to cease using car park 10 in 2023. No response from LBM or AELTC.
- 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



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- 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. Volleyball
 - a. Following meeting with volleyball coaches Suzy Levy & Michael Ghelfi Saturday 8th October 2022.
 - b. Proposed relocation of existing beach volleyball courts plus one to make 3 courts into the Old Bowling Green. To upgrade these to match standard.
 - c. Site measuring east west and north south is 43m x 40m.
 - d. Courts aligned east west and centred in area.
 - e. 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.
 - f. Fencing 2.4m high.
 - g. Decking seating to east of courts.
 - h. This is broadly in line with LBM Masterplan 2018.
 - i. The exact FIVB official guidelines are here:
http://www.fivb.org/en/beachvolleyball/rules/bvrb0912_forweb_EN.pdf
- v. Update on:
 - a. Open water swimming-update requested from Cllr Natasha Irons.
 - b. Table tennis. Second table stored under café awaiting decision on location. The installation to be by LBM/idverde.
- 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. One pollution incident took place in Spring 2022 which was picked up by the fishing club bailiffs, namely the contents of a portaloos seemingly being tipped into the storm drains on or near Church Road and these contents entering at the western side of the Lake through a channel sometimes called Bigden Brook. The EA were called in and an assessment made but fortunately no serious harm was done because the Lake was at artificially low levels as part of the dam repair works. No fish or wildlife were affected and no further update has been provided by the EA. The fishing club bailiffs continue to patrol all parts of the Lake but subject to any conditions that might be laid down by AELTC.
 - iv. Eels



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- 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.
- vi. Report from Tony Borkowski (EC member and angler)
 - a. the variety of fish in the Lake to 8 species, namely;
 1. roach, rudd, bream, tench, perch, common carp, eels and pike, and I have either caught or personally witnessed, this season, 7 of these varieties, the fish missing from this list being pike, but these are certainly present, especially near the public side of the Lake. A final native species which could be introduced could be the crucian carp, and then we would have a set of species completely representative of that found in traditional Georgian estate lakes around the UK of which WP Lake is a prime example.
 - b. Blue-green algae - this has appeared at low levels during the late summer. No fish have been harmed, i.e. there have been no fish kills resulting from blue-green algae but it is right to highlight the risk to dogs and other animals.
 - c. Pollution - I have not received any general members communication from the fishing club so one has to assume that whatever the incident was it was not serious. The fishing club would have picked up any pollution risks at an early stage and would have certainly called the Environment Agency to report such an incident. The EA are normally very responsive to any calls from the anglers at WP Lake and would not hesitate to come out to investigate. So no direct evidence as to how the incident was handled, but no obvious bad news emerging either.
 - d. Eels - Moderate sized eels have started to be caught from the Lake during the month of September. Only 2 in fact but both were caught within a period of 2 weeks (I actually witnessed one such catch). Both eels were unhooked and safely returned to the Lake. Potentially more eels may arrive in the Lake and I will report to FOWP on any such arrivals if I hear of this. The size of the eels caught was about 2lb and 1lb in weight which suggests to my mind that they are new arrivals from the Wandle, but other ideas support the notion that only much smaller eels move up into the Lake. I need to research this a bit more but there has been a general recovery in eels in the Thames and Wandle as far as I understand. Prior to these 2 eels being caught there was a complete absence of eels other than a few which were picked up by electro-fishing some 3 or 4 years earlier.
 - e. Stocking certificate - This is still, inexplicably, with the Water sports manager and not as it was 10 years ago with the angling club. No re-stocking of any description has been completed by Merton even though various surveys, including those completed by AELTC, suggest that re-stocking would prove beneficial, not just for the sake of the anglers, but also for the sake of the fish-feeding birds that reside on the Lake, e.g. herons, grebes, and kingfishers. At the moment the fish population seems to be stable and to have improved from last year but we await to see what destruction the annual winter influx of cormorants will bring.
- l. Special places for nature in Wimbledon Park**
 - i. Horse Close Wood Management Plan
 - a. Update being drafted by Dave Dawson for consultation.
- m. Stalls**
 - i. None planned for now.
- n. Wandle Valley Forum (<http://www.wandlevalleyforum.org.uk/>)**
 - i. We await Wandle Fortnight dates and hope to participate this year.
- o. Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust (WVRPT) (<https://wandlevalleypark.co.uk/about-us/wandle-valley-regional-park-trust/>)**
 - i. No report as it is still in abeyance since 2019.
- p. Independent Merton Green Spaces Forum (IMGSF)**
 - i. Rob Kennedy is FOWP representative on this committee.
 - ii. Meeting on Tuesday 10th January.
- 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.



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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.
- r. Public Park Management issues**
- i. Pines & Needles now located in Horse Close Wood car park. Damage caused by them in 2021 still remains.
 - ii. Green Flag Award
 - a. Intention to discuss with Andrew Kauffman sometime.
 - iii. Community Payback Team (CPT)
 - a. The CPT have received more equipment so a wider range of tasks can be accepted.
 - iv. Connecting ice cream vans to electrical source
 - a. This would avoid fumes from the van.
 - v. 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.
 - vi. Toilets watersports.
 - a. Blockages occurring due to narrow drains.
 - vii. 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'.
 - viii. Play areas including water play.
 - a. No action on this yet.
 - ix. 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'.
 - x. Water fountains
 - a. to be investigated and requested.
- s. Wimbledon Park Volunteers**
- i. Tree planting:
 - a. Tree planting November 25th and 26th. The Central Railway Hedge has been created and another 10 hornbeams planted.
 - b. 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. 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.



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- (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. Progress has been achieved.
- iii. Wimbledon Park Volunteer newsletter being circulated listing tasks to be done on a regular basis.
- 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 in 2021 and being reviewed.
 - ii. No progress.
- w. Commercial Events**
 - i. Report by Rob Kennedy
 - ii. Contact Francis McParland (LBM) and Andrew Kauffman (LBM)/
 - iii. Events diary from Merton events team as of 8 April 2022 below (update has been requested 7/1/23) , 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” did not go ahead
 - LBM Fireworks was 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
 - a. The grass suffered some damage, resulting in some bare patches. Idverde overseeded during October.
 - 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 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"
 - b. 7 Jan 2023: requested updated from LBM and meeting to discuss minimising disruption and damage
- 3) Pub in the Park 27-29 May 2023: 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



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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 was not repaired until December...just before it snowed ! AELTC informed us that Merton / Idverde would do this “during September”. Merton and Idverde then said 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) Luna Cinema: July/August - didn't seem to stay very long. Was it cancelled ?
- 6) 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”.
- 7) Pumpkin Patch
- a. Merton informed us that this is no longer going ahead.
- 8) Fireworks and funfair: 4th November
- resulted in damage to the grass (see above – reseeded far too late in December/ Also resulted in damage to the tactile paving near the Wimbledon Park Road entrance. Merton have said that this will be repaired – chasing update.
- 9) Christmas Tree Stand
- a. new contract awarded....to Pines and Needles
 - b. was placed in the car park (Wimbledon Park Road entrance) this year. Concern about lighting causing disruption to bats, insects, birds. Otherwise appeared to work well and was all cleared away by New Year. Idverde say there were some complaints about reduced parking spaces.
- 10) 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.