

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators
Manor Cottage
Wimbledon Common
London SW19 5NR



Chief Executive: Simon Lee

New Board of Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators meets for the first time

- Following the election of five new Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators, the Board consisting of five elected and three appointed Trustees, attended its first Board meeting on 13 April.
- Keith Luck, a Wimbledon resident, was elected as Chairman, with Shirley Gillbe who lives in Putney, as Vice-Chairman. The other Trustees, also known as Conservators, are Sir Ian Andrews*, John Cameron, Nick Evans, Derek Frampton*, Ros Taylor* and Prue Whyte.
- A new policy was agreed to improve openness, communication and regular access to the Trustees and the team, led by CEO Simon Lee, who manage the 1,140 acres of open space at Wimbledon Common, Putney Heath and Putney Common. This is just the first step in a series of initiatives which will include the introduction of a network of 'Stakeholder Advisory Groups' and four open meetings which will be open to all.

Keith Luck, the elected Chairman said after the *meeting* "As a new Board, we are determined to take a much more pro-active approach to engagement with everyone who uses the Commons. The series of public meetings and proposed Stakeholder Group will allow the public far greater opportunity to engage with the Conservators than they have ever had previously and will help everyone gain a better understanding of the challenges facing these unique areas of public open space."



From L to R standing: Derek Frampton, Sir Ian Andrews, Keith Luck, Nicholas Evans, Prue Whyte
From L to R seated: Shirley Gillbe, John Cameron, Dr Ros Taylor

Open Meetings

Along with the current Annual Open Meeting, which is being held on 17 June at 8pm (Conservators available from 7.15pm) there will be three further drop-in open meetings held during the year at Manor Cottage next to the Wimbledon Windmill. Dates will be confirmed shortly. They will be open to anyone who wishes to question a panel that will include Chief Executive, Simon Lee, and some or all the Conservators. These will give the public an opportunity to meet the management team and the Conservators to discuss the running of the Commons and to learn about future works and events, and to also raise any issues that are of concern to them. These meetings will replace the limited access monthly Conservators' meeting at which those attending were prevented from actually participating. The Board also agreed to move from the current monthly open/private format of Board meeting to quarterly meetings and, in order to properly discuss governance issues, these meetings will be held in private.

Stakeholder Advisory Group

Following the success of 'Stakeholder Advisory Groups at other key London open spaces such as Hampstead Heath and Richmond Park, the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators will be establishing a Group supported by a network of user forums which will allow representatives from local community bodies and regular user groups to meet and discuss the specific issues that affect them.

Backing up these meetings will be regular Newsletters and seasonal updates which the public can sign up to receive by e-mail.

Investing in the Future of the Commons

The new Board confirmed that over £500,000 from reserves is being invested in the infrastructure of all the Commons over the coming year to make them better for everyone. There will also be a series on announcements in the coming weeks of other new initiatives, including the introduction of a new website.

ENDS

*Trustee appointed by a Government Department.

NOTES for Editors

Wimbledon and Putney Commons is a charity managed by the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators. It was established under the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Act of 1871. The Commons comprise some 1,140 acres across Wimbledon Common, Putney Heath and Putney Lower Common. The five newly-elected Conservators took up office on 1st April and elected Keith Luck, a senior Director of Serco and currently President of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, as the Board's Chairman. Shirley Gillbe, a Putney resident of some 40 years and daily user of the Commons, was elected Vice-Chairman.

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