



**CONSERVATORS' MEETING**  
to be held on  
**Monday 13 December 2021 at 4.30pm**  
in the Wimbledon Common Golf Club, Camp Road  
SW19 4UW

## **AGENDA**

### **PART A(1) PUBLIC**

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|-----------------|---|---------|
| <b>12.21.1</b>  | <b>Confirmation of Attendance and Apologies for Absence</b>   |         |
| <b>12.21.2</b>  | <b>Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests in Respect of Items to be Considered in this Part of the Meeting</b> |         |
| <b>12.21.3</b>  | <b>WPCC Board Meetings</b>  |         |
|                 | i. Resolutions of the Part A(1) Board Meeting of 11 October 2021  | Page 1  |
|                 | ii. Minutes of the Part A(1) Board Meeting of 11 October 2021   | Page 2  |
| <b>12.21.4</b>  | <b>Matters Arising</b>  | Page 10 |
| <b>12.21.5</b>  | <b>WPCC Forum/Group Meetings</b>  |         |
|                 | i. Draft Minutes of the Wildlife & Conservation Forum meeting held on 9 November 2021                                     | Page 11 |
| <b>12.21.6</b>  | <b>Conservation Update</b>  | Page 16 |
| <b>12.21.7</b>  | <b>Project Proposal - Saving Wimbledon's Wetlands</b>   | Page 35 |
| <b>12.21.8</b>  | <b>Chief Executive's Report – Non-Confidential Items</b>  | Page 42 |
| <b>12.21.9</b>  | <b>Approval of the Levy for 2022/23</b>   | Page 62 |
| <b>12.21.10</b> | <b>Update on the Friends of Wimbledon and Putney Commons</b>  | Page 63 |
| <b>12.21.11</b> | <b>Meeting and Events Calendar - updated</b>  | Page 64 |
| <b>12.21.12</b> | <b>Public Questions on Matters Considered in Part A(1) of this Meeting</b>  |         |
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## **Wimbledon and Putney Commons**

### **Recommendations and Resolutions agreed at the Board Meeting held on Monday 11 October 2021**

#### **Part A1**

##### **12.21.7 Conservators' Code of Conduct**

###### **Resolution**

The Board resolved to approve the revised Code of Conduct including the policy on email use as an appendix.

##### **12.21.9 Meeting and Events Calendar**

###### **Resolution**

The Board resolved to approve the draft Calendar of meetings and events for 2022.

#### **Present:**

Conservators: Mrs Diane Neil Mills, Chairman  
Mr Oliver Bennett  
Mrs Sue Bucknall  
Mr David Hince  
Mr Peter Hirsch (for part of Part A2)  
Mr Michael Johnston  
Mr Mike Rappolt  
Mr Nigel Ware

Officers: Mr Stephen Bound, Chief Executive  
Mr Peter Haldane, Conservation and Engagement Officer  
Angela Evans-Hill, EA to the Chief Executive and Communications Officer

**Public Minutes of the Conservators' Meeting held on  
Monday 11 October 2021 at 6.00pm at the Wimbledon Common Golf  
Club, Camp Road, Lonon SW19 4UW**

**Conservators:** Mrs Diane Neil Mills, Chairman (DNM)  
Mrs Sue Bucknall (SB)  
Mr Oliver Bennett MBE (OB)  
Mr David Hince (DH)  
Mr Michael Johnston (MJ)  
Mr Mike Rappolt (MR)  
Mr Nigel Ware (NW)

**Officers:** Mr Steve Bound, Chief Executive (CE)  
Mr Peter Haldane, Conservation and Engagement Officer (CE&O)  
Mrs Angela Evans-Hill, EA to Chief Executive and Communications Officer (PA to CE)

**Apologies:** Ms Paula Graystone, Deputy Clerk and Ranger (DCR), Mr Peter Hirsch

**Members of the public:** Four members of the public attended

ITEM		ACTIONS
10.21.1	<p><b>Confirmation of Attendance and Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Ms P Graystone and Mr Peter Hirsch</p>	
10.21.2	<p><b>Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests in Respect of Items to be Considered in this Part of the Meeting</b></p> <p>DNM – member of the Thames Hare and Hounds</p> <p>The Board agreed this did not prevent DNM taking part in the discussions.</p>	
	<p>The Chairman welcomed the general public to the first open Board meeting and, indeed, to the first in person meeting of this Board.</p> <p>The principles of Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) had been applied in deciding which issues should be included in the confidential part of the meeting. There would be an opportunity for the members of the public who were attending to ask questions at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>Given the ongoing health concerns, the Chairman expressed her gratefulness for those attending to respect the safety measures that had been put in place.</p> <p>The Chairman, on behalf of the Board, expressed sadness at the recent passing of Professor Robin Touquet, a Conservator from 2012 to 2015, and asked to record the Conservators' appreciation for his service to WPC and condolences to the family.</p>	

<p><b>10.21.3</b></p>	<p><b>WPCC Forum/Group Meetings</b></p> <p><b>Wildlife &amp; Conservation Forum</b></p> <p>OB gave a verbal report of the recent meeting of the Wildlife &amp; Conservation Forum which had taken the form of a survey of Farm Bog.</p> <p>The Commons had three important valley mire sites: Farm Bog, Stag Bog and Ravine Bog. They were an important part of the site's ecosystem and Farm Bog was part of the Commons' SSSI designation.</p> <p>OB was developing a monitoring plan for the Commons and this was put to the test at the recent survey of Farm Bog. A full report would be made to the Board in due course but the main issues were, however, that the Bog had contracted by some 50% over the last 50 years and it was drying out in some areas with some rare plants now locally extinct.</p> <p>A survey of Stag and Ravine bogs had shown that both were partly destroyed but the beat base was still intact. Historical drainage in the 1940s had resulted in hydrological changes resulting in some areas drying out and invasive species appearing. Both were restorable as was being demonstrated by the work being carried out by PH at Stag Bog which was resulting in a return of biodiversity.</p> <p>Whilst the dams recently restored in Farm Bog were also starting to reverse the damage, further work would be required to restore drainage and reintroduce plants. Funds would need to be found for this work and he had identified a grant scheme that opened in Spring 2022. OB had also identified partners to work with in the project – London Wildlife Trust (LWT) and the South East Rivers Trust (SERT).</p> <p>Of urgent concern was the need to find funding to remove the invasive plants in Ravine Bog.</p> <p>OB confirmed that the work required on the bogs was being incorporated into the Land Management Plan. It was hoped that the new Fundraising Manager would be able to help with finding suitable funding.</p> <p>The Board supported the continuation of the restoration work and the seeking of grants to fund the work.</p>	
<p><b>10.21.4</b></p>	<p><b>Conservation Report</b></p> <p>PH provided a Conservation update.</p> <p><b>Volunteering</b></p> <p>All pre-Covid volunteer groups on the Commons have been up and running since May 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekend scrub bashers – recently tackled scrub near Green Ride and on The Plain.</li> </ul>	

- Mid-week volunteer Group – recently carried out painting work, scrub clearance around the edge of Stag Bog and heathland restoration work near Tibbet’s Corner.
- Volunteer litter pickers – approximately 30 regulars.
- DofE volunteers – 51 young people involved so far this year.
- Beverley Brook litter pickers – (new group June 2021).
- Wildlife Recorders – well established group.
- Additional volunteer groups have included: Putney High School, Kings College School, Geocache Community and a group from Beyond Autism.
- Farm Bog Volunteers – In addition to volunteers from LWT, we are currently trying to add to the number of visits which this group make to the area each year

**Grassland Management**

Mowing on the Commons is broadly carried out in the following ways:

- Amenity mowing (e.g. REMPF)
- Conservation mowing (3x acid grassland sites on the Commons)
- End of year mow (approximately 6x sites)

The best practice for meadow management involved the cutting, baling and removal of the grass (“arising”) from site. Management by mowing or grazing was essential to the maintenance, structure, balance and diversity in grassland. Without this management, grassland would become coarse and rank, losing diversity and eventually turning into scrub or woodland. This management has been carried out on three sites (in addition to the existing acid grassland sites). These areas have included:

- PLC Oasis Academy
- Telegraph Road meadow
- Parts of the REMPF Memorial Garden
- Wide grass verges along Westside Common.

To further increase the active management of grassland sites on the Commons, we are also looking at costings to better manage five more sites on the Commons

1. West Place (2 acres/0.8 hectares)
2. Wilberforce Field (1.6 acres/0.6 hectares)
3. Putney Heath fairground site (2.2 acres/0.8 hectares)
4. PLC main field (10.9 acres/4.4 hectares)
5. PLC fairground site (3.5 acres/1.4 hectares)
6. Total = approximately 20 acres/ 8 hectares

**London in Bloom 2021**

London in Bloom, the largest horticultural campaign in London, was set up to encourage and recognise the greening of London. The competition is marked under eight categories, including

1. Access, signage and visitor information
2. Welfare of visitors

	<p>3. Quality and maintenance of facilities  4. Maintenance (including control of litter, graffiti &amp; vandalism)  5. Maintenance of hard landscape features  6. Environmental sustainability (management of natural resources)  7. Conservation  8. Community involvement</p> <p>PH was delighted to report that Putney Lower Common had been awarded a Gold award, scoring 181 points out of 200 points. Wimbledon Common had also achieved a Gold Award and was also named category winner with a total of 184 out of 200 points.</p> <p>MJ asked if there was any litter management further upstream from WPCC's part of the Beverley Brook by Merton Council. PH was not aware of any. Similarly, he was not aware that they were managing invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam.</p> <p>MJ also asked whether Merton Council might be prepared to carry out mowing on our behalf. PH explained that the Council were more focused on amenity grassland management rather than the more specialised meadow management needed for the Commons.</p> <p>SB asked if it might be possible to work with schools to help with issues around litter, from both litter-picking and educational perspectives. PH explained this was already happening with the Oasis Academy at Putney Lower Common providing volunteers.</p> <p>The Board recorded its appreciation to all volunteers.</p>	
<p><b>10.21.5</b></p>	<p><b>Land Management Plan</b></p> <p>PH reported on the progress of the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Land Management Plan (the Plan).</p> <p>He explained that the aim of the Plan was to provide information about the land management that would be delivered on the Commons over a ten-year period. It would be a document that would provide a transparent link between best practice, legislation and the practical tasks needed to be carried out on the ground.</p> <p>It would be a working document for staff, setting out operational objectives, the value of habitats and how they were being improved. It would also be available to anyone outside the organisation who had an interest in the Commons and how they were managed.</p> <p>The Plan would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental information</li> <li>• Biological information</li> <li>• Landscape. Cultural heritage, access and recreation.</li> </ul> <p>Following on from this there would be a number of operational objectives which would include, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of the Commons main habitats</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management on and around the golf course</li> <li>• Improvements to access</li> <li>• Planning for climate change</li> <li>• Management for key species (Hedgehogs, Stag beetles etc)</li> </ul> <p>A steering group had been established for the Plan, which consisted of two Conservators (Chair and a member of WCF), the Chief Executive and PH. The first meeting had been held in September 2021. So far there had been significant research carried out and the Plan was a work in progress. Completion was forecast to be end-2022.</p> <p>PH confirmed that the Plan would include a list of priorities with costings.</p> <p>MR asked how the Commons' maintenance and conservation work would be managed in the meantime. PH explained that the Land Management Plan would more formally set out the work that was currently carried out by the staff and this work would continue as normal.</p> <p>It would be necessary for the Plan to be signed off by the Board and it was agreed that a meeting to specifically discuss the Plan and to be able to get the views of the Board, would need to be held when it was nearing its final draft form.</p>	
10.21.6	<p><b>Chief Executive's Report – non-confidential items</b></p> <p><b>Contactless Car Park Donation Meters</b> – Given the unreliability of the cash only donation machine in the car park, it had been agreed to replace it with a contactless machine. A survey had been carried out to find the best location for the required wifi connection. Fortunately, the location of the current meter was suitable. The new machine had therefore been ordered and would be fitted in due course.</p> <p><b>Recruitment to New Posts</b> – With the decision not to replace the Chief Operations Manager, three new posts were being created: Fundraising Manager, Maintenance Operative and a part time Office Administrator. The Job Descriptions had been finalised and advertising would begin shortly. The CE confirmed that advice had been taken on the appropriate salary for the Fundraising Manager and that the role was being advertised on specialist websites.</p> <p><b>Christmas Reception 3 December 2021</b> – The Board agreed to proceed with arrangements for the Christmas Drinks Reception at the Royal Wimbledon Golf Club, utilising the larger dining area. A decision would be taken at least three weeks before on whether to go ahead, taking into account the COVID19 situation and the prevailing government advice. MR suggested that criteria be agreed in relation to the decision to proceed with the event.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p><b>The Board received and noted the report.</b></p>	

	<b>The Board agreed to go ahead with preparation for the annual Christmas Reception on 3 December, subject to a review of the COVID19 situation at least three weeks before the event.</b>	
<b>10.21.7</b>	<p><b>Conservators Code of Conduct and policy on email use</b></p> <p>The Board approved the Conservators' Code of Conduct which had been amended to include the new Use of E-mail Policy, and a declaration on personal data which current and future Board members would be required to sign. It was agreed that the policy would be included as an appendix to the Code of Conduct.</p> <p><b>Resolution</b></p> <p><b>The Board resolved to approve the revised Code of Conduct including the policy on email use as an appendix.</b></p>	
<b>10.21.8</b>	<p><b>Update on the Friends of Wimbledon and Putney Commons</b></p> <p>SB updated the Board on the Friends of Wimbledon and Putney Commons.</p> <p>COVID had continued to curtail activities with the cancellation of the Games Day. However, the Afternoon Tea at the AELTC was scheduled to go ahead on 26 February 2022 and the House of Commons Reception would be held on 21 July 2022.</p> <p>Several successful meet and greet sessions had been held which had resulted in the signing up of new members and many expressions of interest in volunteering on the Commons. A Family Day, held in September in conjunction with Wild Learning, had been successful.</p> <p>The first Corporate member had joined this year and it was hoped to be able to encourage more.</p> <p>It was hoped that a major project could be identified to which Friends would be encouraged to donate. Possibilities included the continuation of works to the Beverley Brook path, and the replacement of the bridge near the Playing Fields and repairs to the bridge at Putney Lower Common.</p> <p>A "150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Picture Competition had been launched in August. This would run for 12 months with a new round each month. It was hoped that the winners would feature in an exhibition and a book later in 2022. Local business had been generous in donating prizes.</p> <p>There was a proposal that the Friends would fund a Memorial Drinking Fountain to be situated near Springwell Car Park. The Committee was currently looking into suitable design options.</p> <p>The Chairman thanks SB for her energy and commitment to the Friends.</p>	

<b>10.21.9</b>	<p><b>Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Open Meeting held on Wednesday 30 June 2021</b></p> <p>The Minutes of the Annual Open Meeting held via Zoom on Wednesday 30 June 2021, the draft of which were approved via e-mail and published on the website, were formally approved.</p>	
<b>10.21.10</b>	<p><b>Meeting and Events calendar</b></p> <p>The Board received and noted the draft Meeting and Events Calendar.</p> <p>It was noted that the Constitution Committee meeting dates still needed to be confirmed at the next Committee meeting.</p> <p>It was also noted that the June 2022 Board meeting was scheduled during half term as it was difficult to schedule this meeting due to constraints in relation to the approval of the financial statements. MJ asked that where possible school holidays be avoided for meetings.</p> <p><b>Resolution</b></p> <p><b>The Board resolved to approve the draft Calendar of meetings and events for 2022.</b></p>	
<b>10.21.11</b>	<p><b>Public questions on matters considered in Part A(1) of this meeting</b></p> <p>Mr Asif Malik</p> <p>With regard to the drinking fountain, Mr Malik reported that the Wimbledon Society had been looking into the restoration of the drinking fountain near the junction of Parkside and Cannizaro Road and the possibility of moving it onto the Common. This might be an option for the Friends' memorial suggestion. SB thanked Mr Malik and commented that this would be looked into.</p> <p>With regard to events, Mr Malik asked if the Board were willing to give consideration to going ahead with the Carols at the Windmill this year. It was agreed that this would be discussed outside of the Board meeting.</p> <p>Mr Andrew Harding</p> <p>Mr Harding asked if the Board could confirm that the Land Management Plan would be underpinned by a specific habitat monitoring strategy so that the effect of management could be assessed? PH confirmed this would be the case.</p>	

	There being no further questions, The Chairman stated that in accordance with the policy agreed by the Conservators at the Board meeting of 12 July 2021 in relation to the admission of the public at meetings, the remaining agenda items for the meeting were considered confidential and as such members of the public were thanked for attending and kindly asked to leave.	
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The meeting closed at 7.10pm

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>	<b>Item no.</b>
Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators Meeting	13 December 2021	12.21.4
<b>Subject:</b> Matters Arising	<b>Public</b>	
<b>Report of:</b> Chief Executive of Wimbledon and Putney Commons	<b>For Decision and Information</b>	

# SUMMARY

## 10.21.6 – Chief Executive’s Report

### Contactless Car Parking Donation Meters

The meters have now been ordered but as they are made to order it will take some time for them to arrive.

### Recruitment

1. A new Fundraising Manager has been appointed, subject to references.
2. Interviews for a Part-time Office Assistant are taking place on 15 December 2021. Nearly 80 applications were received for this post.
3. Adverts are currently out for a new Conservation and Maintenance Operative. The closing date is 22 December 2021.

## 10.21.11 – Public Questions

Following discussions, the “Carols on the Commons” event was scheduled for Saturday 11 December.

# **Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators Wildlife & Conservation Forum November 2021**

**Notes of a meeting of the Wildlife & Conservation Forum held  
at 5.00pm on Tuesday 9th November 2021 at the Information Centre, Manor Cottage,  
SW19 5NR**

**Present:**

**Conservators:** Oliver Bennett (OB) (Chairman)  
Michael Johnston (MJ)

**Members:** Les Evans-Hill (LE-H)  
Andrew Harding (AH)  
Adrian Podmore (AP)

**Officers:** Peter Haldane (PH) Conservation & Engagement Officer

## **1 Visit to Stag Bog and Ravine Bog**

The November 2021 meeting of the Wildlife and Conservation Forum was held in two parts. Prior to the meeting held at the Information Centre, a site visit was made to Stag Bog and Ravine Bog to provide Forum members with the opportunity of discovering more about the location of the bogs and how these areas could be restored in the future. In attendance were OB, MJ, PH, AH and AP.

## **2. Apologies**

Angela Evans-Hill (AE-H) EA to Chief Executive

## **3. Declarations of conflicts of interest**

None

## **4. Approval of the draft minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 May 2021**

As the previous meeting of the Wildlife and Conservation Forum, held on Thursday 16 September 2021, involved a site visit to Farm Bog, the draft minutes of the previous meeting which was held on Tuesday 13 July 2021, using Zoom technology, were approved.

## **5. Matters arising, not included in the main agenda.**

There were no matters raised by any members of the Wildlife and Conservation Forum that were not included in the main agenda.

## **6 Wildlife & conservation management activities at Wimbledon and Putney Commons (PH)**

Grassland Management on Wimbledon and Putney Commons:

PH reported that in addition to the annual programme of cut and collect work that is carried out by contractors on three areas of acid grassland (The Plain, Tibbet's Meadow and an area close to the southern end of Centre Path), during September 2021, the Commons' Maintenance Team had also carried out a smaller programme of cut and collect work on five other areas of grassland and two areas of heathland. Although the Commons' machinery is far smaller than the equipment used by the contractors, the compact size of the equipment had allowed for the easy access of small areas of grassland which would otherwise become neglected through a lack of active management.

PH also informed members of the Forum that a meeting had recently been held with the contractor who had been responsible for carrying out the annual cut and collect work on the Commons' three largest areas of acid grassland with the aim of securing a quote for additional cut and collect work on five other areas of the Commons. These areas included grassland at West Place, Wilberforce Meadow and the Putney Heath Fairground site and the Main Field and the Fairground site on Putney Lower Common. In total, these five areas cover approximately 20 hectares of Common land. At the present time, all of these areas are only cut once a year by the Commons' Maintenance Team and all cuttings are left on site which is detrimental to the promotion of a healthy grassland environment.

#### Heathland Management:

PH reported that over the past two months, heathland restoration work on the Commons had been carried out around two main areas. These areas included heathland adjacent to Tibbet's Meadow and heathland adjacent to the northern section of Green Ride. So far during 2021, there have been 14 volunteer scrub bashing sessions carried out in these areas and the removal of cut saplings and larger invasive tree has been carried out by the Commons' Maintenance Team.

#### Bare Ground Creation:

PH reported that during the course of November and December 2021, a programme of bare ground creation would be carried out by the Commons' Maintenance Team on three areas of ground located around the edge of the Wimbledon Common Golf Course. These areas are located close to Caesar's Well, Queen's Butt and close to the upper section of Gravelly Ride. The creation of bare ground on the Commons is an important method of restoring areas of degraded heathland and it also provides a valuable breeding and hunting ground for a wide range of invertebrate and vertebrate species. Permission for this work to be carried out was provided by Natural England on 1 October 2021, information relating to the work has been made available on the WPCC website and the Wimbledon Common Golf Club and the London Scottish Golf Club have been emailed details of the work and provided with the opportunity to raise any concerns which they may have about this work taking place.

#### Woodland Management:

PH reported that work would begin on this year's section of the Commons' Countryside Stewardship agreement with the Forestry Commission during the third week of November 2021. This work would involve a small team of contractors working along Robin Hood Ride with the aim of thinning Holly from six hectares of woodland. In addition to this work, the Commons' Maintenance Team would be involved with ride thinning work along Upper Gravelly Ride and Lower Gravelly Ride and volunteers would be involved with Hazel coppicing along the lower section of Lower Gravelly Ride.

Farm Bog Volunteers:

PH informed members of the Forum that following recent discussions concerning the management of Farm Bog, public notices had been put on display on 13 October 2021 on 22 notice boards around the Commons. PH reported that over the past few weeks five potential volunteers had made contact with him and with their permission their contact details had been forwarded to Andrew Harding who would act as the volunteer leader for this group.

London In Bloom 2021

PH reported that the Commons' two entries, Wimbledon Common and Putney Lower Common had both performed very well in this year's London in Bloom competition. Putney Lower Common had been presented with a Gold Award and Wimbledon Common had also been presented with a Gold Award and category winner for the Commons section of the campaign.

## **7 Valley Mires Bog Restoration Project**

OB reported that following the site visit that had been made to Farm Bog by members of the Forum on 16 September 2021 and subsequent visits that he had made to the area since that date, it was evident that the bog is significantly drying out and some species that were previously present on this area of the Commons have now become locally extinct. OB continued that while the three bogs or valley mires that are located on the Commons had not been specifically mentioned in the Commons original SSSI citation, he considered that as the land owners and managers of the Commons, it was our duty to protect and restore these sites to a far better condition than currently exists today.

OB reported that he and AH had met with Edwin Malins (EM), who is the Head of Conservation at the London Wildlife Trust (LWT) to find out whether his organisation would be interested in forming a partnership with WPCC in order to move forward with any future plans to help restore the Commons three remaining valley mires. Another organisation that had also been approached was South East Rivers Trust (SERT) as it was considered that their knowledge of hydrology and their experience in providing other similar projects on other sites could be very useful in any partner led operation which involved the Commons waterways.

OB discussed with members of the Forum that EM had suggested that a project to restore the three valley mires on the Commons would likely need to be carried out over a three- year period and this work may cost approximately £150,000 to complete which would also include the salary of a Project Officer who OB suggested would be required to ensure that the work is carried out to the correct requirements.

OB informed members of the Forum that a further online meeting had been arranged with representatives from LWT and SERT and this would take place at 9am on Thursday 11 November 2021. In attendance from WPCC would be OB, MJ and PH.

Although Simon Riley (SR) who is a long-term member of the Wildlife and Conservation Forum, was not able to attend the November meeting of this group, OB outlined a few points that had been raised by SB via email. While generally supportive of the plan that had been produced by OB to restore the Commons' three valley mires, SR was interested to find out where the restoration of the valley mires sits in the context of the SSSI and the Land Management Plan as a whole. SR had also commented via email that in the context of the management of the valley mires, he would like some further dialogue about how the current management of the golf course may impact of these areas and whether grazing may be considered in any future planning.

PH reported that the issue of grazing would be addressed in the Land Management Plan under the management of heathland and the golf course would also form another chapter in the report. OB reported that he would provide members of the Forum with various links to where grazing had successfully taken place on other similar sites and that it would be a good idea if the subject of grazing could be discussed again so that once and for all, the question of whether grazing could happen on the Commons could be decided.

Addressing the overall subject of restoring the Commons' valley mires, OB suggested to the Forum that as work had already been started on this particular area of the Commons' Land Management Plan, it would seem beneficial that we continued to explore how this part of the plan could be achieved in the future.

## **8 Land Management Plan – Update**

PH reported that a steering group for the Commons' Land Management Plan had been set up which included PH, OB, MJ and SB and meetings would be held on a quarterly basis. It was agreed that an additional member of the steering group would include Jack Rowland who is the Maintenance Manager for Wimbledon and Putney Commons.

PH informed the members of the Forum that he was currently able to provide approximately one day a week to writing the Land Management Plan. In addition to the main body of the research that had been involved in preparing for the plan, PH had completed work on the introduction, how the document was produced, an introduction to the Commons, a brief history of the Commons and he was currently working on information about the Commons' landscape which included woodland, heathland, grassland, aquatic and built environments. In addition to the work that had been carried out by PH, OB had also carried out a great deal of work on the management of the Commons' valley mires.

AH asked what the end date of the Land Management Plan would be and he was informed by PH that it was anticipated that the plan would be completed by the end of 2022.

## **9 Review of Monitoring 2021 – update from Recorders.**

AP (Bird Recording)

AP reported that it had been a remarkable autumn for waterbirds which had been helped by the high water levels that had remained in the Commons ponds throughout the year. There had however been a worrying decline in the smaller passerines that should be recorded on the Commons at this time of the year. In particular, these had included flycatchers, pipits and Wheatear. AP concluded however that while this was not a desirable situation, it did appear to coincide with national trends.

LE-H (Birds Moths and other invertebrate recording)

LE-H reported that a public attended bird walk had recently been held on the Commons which had been very successful. Encouragingly, a Dartford Warbler had been recorded during this event. The Dartford Warbler is a winter visitor to the Commons where it had commonly been reported in the dense stands of Gorse which are located along Ladies Mile on Putney Heath.

With regards to interesting butterfly sightings, LE-H reported that there had been sightings of White Admiral and Purple Emperors on Putney Heath around the area of Gravel Pit Cottage. Although moth trapping had been carried out by LE-H during the summer, he suggested that when the current situation with Covid-19 has been relaxed, he would like to arrange more public events on the Commons. LE-H suggested that in addition to raising the level of public

interest in moths, better attended events would also add to the security of those involved with setting up the moth trapping events on the Commons.

## **10 2022 planning**

A Winter Talk (TBC) 15 February 2022

AE-H had recently been in contact with Edward Mayer about whether he would be willing to provide a presentation at the Commons' 2022 Winter Talk. Edward Mayer is a Swift and urban conservationist who has had a lifelong interest in Swifts and had set up "Swift Conservation", a web-based advice service which celebrates Swifts and Swift conservation. There was strong support amongst those in attendance at the November meeting of the Wildlife and Conservation Forum and PH agreed to pass on this decision to AE-H.

B To confirm other events dates for 2022

Members of the Forum were happy with the dates that had been proposed for 2022 and it was agreed that 5pm would still be a suitable time for any future meetings to start.

## **11 Open Forum**

MJ asked members of the Forum if they were happy for the Minutes of the Wildlife and Conservation Forum to be published on the WPCC website. There were no objections to this request.

**12 Date of next meeting – Tuesday 11 January 2022**

## WPCC Board Meeting - December 2021:

### Conservation Notes

#### Grassland Management on Wimbledon and Putney Commons

In addition to the annual cut and collect work that is carried out by contractors on three areas of acid grassland on the Commons (The Plain, Tibbet's Meadow and Centre Path), towards the end of summer 2021, the Commons' Maintenance Team also carried out a smaller programme of cut and collect work on five other areas of grassland and two areas of heathland.

The five areas of grassland included the following sites: Oasis Academy, Cross Roads Meadow, various sections of the REMPF Memorial Ring, grassland at the Southern Pound and selected verges along Westside Common.



*Maintenance Team carrying out cut and collect work near the Southern Pound in September 2021.*

In addition to this work, it is also planned that five of the larger areas of grassland on the Commons will be incorporated into a wider programme of cut and collect from 2022 onwards. These areas will include grassland at West Place, Wilberforce Meadow, Putney Heath Fairground site, the Main Field on Putney Lower Common and the Fairground site on Putney Lower Common.

## West Place, Wimbledon Common (2 acres)



Wilberforce Field: (Wimbledon Common) 1.6 acres



## Putney Heath Fairground Site (Wildcroft Road) 2.2 acres



Putney Lower Common - Main Field: 10.9 acres



## Putney Lower Common - Fairground site: 3.5 acres



At the current time, all five of the aforementioned areas only receive one end of year cut which is carried out by the Commons' Maintenance Team. Unfortunately, while the current regime provides a neatly cut field, the fact that vegetation is left on the ground to naturally decompose has resulted in a situation where all five areas of grassland are species poor with very little wild-flower coverage.

If a programme of cut and collect is introduced to these areas, this will be carried out by a contractor using baling equipment which, in time, should result in a significant improvement to the condition of the Commons grassland communities.

### **Heathland Management:**

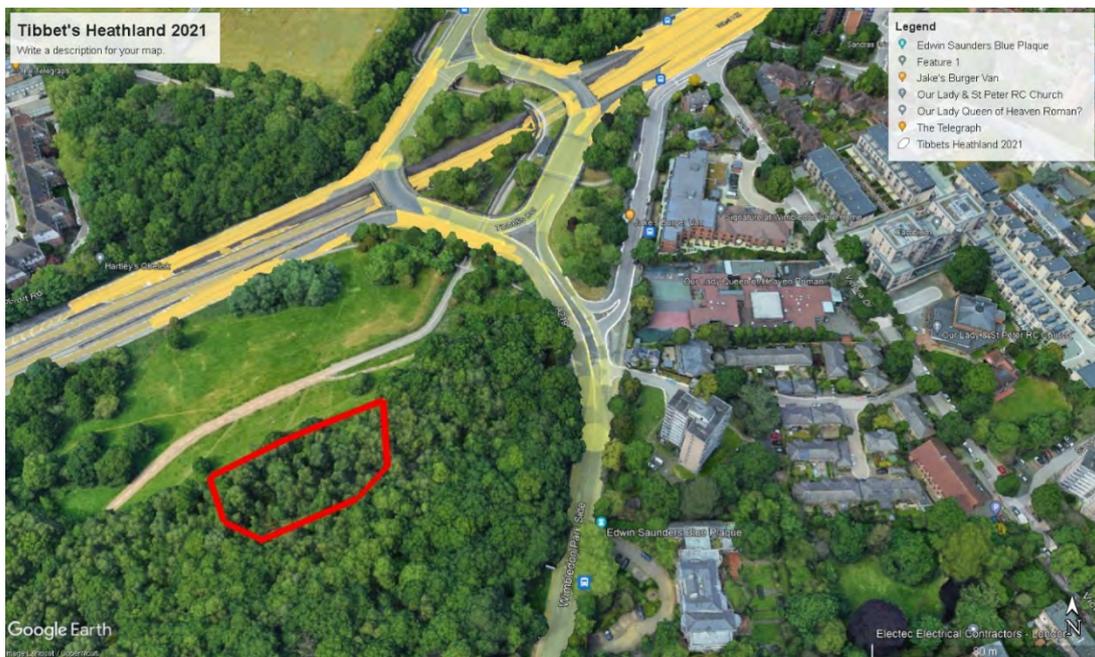
Over the past few months, heathland restoration work has been carried out on two main areas of the Commons. These areas have included heathland adjacent to Tibbet's Meadow and heathland close to the northern section of Green Ride. There have been 14 volunteer scrub bashing sessions carried out in these areas and the removal of cut saplings and larger invasive trees has been carried out by the Commons' Maintenance Team.



*Volunteers near Green Ride: November 2021*



*Heathland adjacent to Tippet's Meadow: previously obscured from view by a thick belt of trees, just over 0.5 hectares of heathland has been reclaimed by volunteers and staff during autumn 2021.*



*(above) aerial view of Tippet's Meadow and the adjoining heathland restoration area.*

### **Bare Ground Creation:**

During November 2021, a programme of bare ground creation work was carried out by the Commons' Maintenance Team around three areas of ground which are located close to the edge of the Wimbledon Common Golf Course. These areas are located close to Caesar's Well, the upper section of Gravelly Ride and the Birches Fairway.

The creation of bare ground on the Commons is an important method of restoring areas of degraded heathland and it also provides a valuable breeding and hunting ground for a wide range of invertebrate and vertebrate species. Permission for this work to be carried out was provided by Natural England on 1 October 2021, information relating to the work has been made available on the WPC website and the Wimbledon Common Golf Club and the London Scottish Golf Club have been emailed details of the work and provided with the opportunity to raise any concerns which they may have about this project taking place.

#### **Caesar's Well bare ground creation site:**



## Upper section of Gravelly Ride ground creation



## Birches Fairway bare ground creation site:



Although small fragments of heather were found on all three of the areas where bare ground was created, to help improve the coverage of this plant on these sites, heather was cut from other areas of the Commons' heathland and spread on the newly created bare ground.

The machinery that was used for the heather cutting was kindly loaned to the Commons by the Royal Wimbledon Golf Club and as soon as time allows, all three areas of bare ground will be surrounded by temporary fencing to help minimise any damage which may occur to heather seedlings.



*Heather cutting on an area of mature heather located close to Ladies Mile.*

## Woodland Management

Starting on the 17 November 2021, this year's woodland management programme commenced with the arrival of a small team of foresters who have been tasked with thinning holly in the woodland adjacent to the upper section of Robin Hood Ride.

In total, the foresters will be on site until the end of February 2022 and it is anticipated that during this time, six hectares of woodland will be thinned of holly. This work forms an important part of the Commons involvement with a Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship agreement with the Forestry Commission and Natural England.

Unfortunately, in the areas of woodland where holly has become the dominant woodland species, the result has been that very low levels of light have restricted the development of a well-structured woodland. As holly is nevertheless an important woodland species for wildlife, approximately 10% of the existing holly coverage will be retained across the entire site.

A burning license for this area was obtained from the Environment Agency on 26 October 2021. Public notices for this work were put on display on 13 October and additional A3 sized notices were put on display on 1 November 2021. Information about this year's woodland management work on the Commons was made available on the WPCC website on 28 September 2021. The London Fire Brigade has also been contacted about the controlled fires that are necessary for this work to be carried out.

# Holly thinning work on the Commons November - December 2021



*Stag Ride photographed prior to the start of thinning work in November 2021*



*(Above) before and after holly thing work was carried out during November/December 2021*

## **Hazel Coppicing:**

Coppicing is a form of woodland management that has been carried out for thousands of years. In practice, it involves cutting a tree down to the stump where it will then produce new growth. In a well-managed woodland, coppice provides a dense shrub layer at various stages of growth which provides an important habitat for a wide range of wildlife and helps to increase invertebrate mass and diversity. Far from being destructive, coppicing rejuvenates the tree which results in some coppice stumps or 'stools' continuing to grow for hundreds of years.

Managed on a rotational basis, hazel coppicing forms an important part of the Commons' existing Hier Tier Countryside Stewardship Agreement with the Forestry Commission. During November and early December 2021, hazel was coppiced by volunteers on a site that is located towards the bottom section of Lower Gravelly Ride. All cut materials were used to create a dead hedge which will provide cover for wildlife and hopefully create a temporary barrier to help prevent people from walking over the area. As hand tools were used to carry out the work, a chainsaw operative from the Commons' Maintenance Team will be required to clean up the remaining stumps before the end of the winter period.



## **Volunteering on the Commons:**

### **Farm Bog volunteers:**

Following recent discussions about the ongoing management of Farm Bog, public notices were positioned on 22 notice boards around the Commons on 13 October 2021 asking for potential volunteers to contact the Rangers Office. As a result, ten new volunteers contacted the Rangers Office and the latest news is that five of these people have already started volunteering with us. The notices have now been removed from around the Commons but clearly this particular recruitment campaign has been very successful.

### **Sunday morning scrub bashers:**

As previously mentioned, over the past few months, the Commons' Sunday morning scrub bashers have been actively engaged in cutting back scrub on areas of heathland located near to Green Ride. As a result of COVID-19 and the restrictions that were imposed on volunteering during much of 2020 and the beginning of 2021, saplings could be seen to emerge all over the Commons' heathland. While this was an unfortunate situation, the return of the Commons' regular scrub bashing sessions has resulted in a huge improvement to the appearance of the Commons heathland and this particular activity will hopefully continue on the Commons throughout 2022.



*Sunday morning scrub bashers photographed on 5 November 2021*

### **Mid-week volunteer group:**

From helping to paint the Commons' stable yard and garages during the summer to their involvement with the Commons' heathland and woodland activities, this group of volunteers have remained extremely versatile over the past few months. The most recent tasks that the mid-week volunteers have been involved with have included scrub bashing near Tibbet's Meadow and Hazel coppicing along Lower Gravelly Ride.



*Mid-week volunteers helping with our 2021 Heathland restoration project.*

### **Beverley Brook volunteer litter pickers:**

Meeting every three weeks, this group of volunteers are actively involved in helping to clear litter from the Wimbledon Common section of the Beverley Brook. Operating throughout the year, the only thing that may prevent a volunteer session from being held is the possibility of high water levels. With the group steadily building in number, during the last session that was held on 24 November 2021, eight large black bags full of litter were removed from the brook as well as the usual wide range of assorted objects that are simply too big to fit inside of our bags.

### **Volunteer litter pickers:**

While volunteers involved with litter picking on the Commons tend to carry out this activity unsupervised and at a time of their own choosing, volunteer litter pickers account for the highest number of hours provided by any one group on the Commons. The contribution which this group provide to the Commons throughout the year is immense and the site simply wouldn't look anywhere close to how 'tidy' it appears without their help.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award:**

The majority of volunteers who are also involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme help on the Commons by litter picking. Having been involved with this scheme since 2015, the number of young people who have assisted on the Commons as part of their DofE programme has increased year in, year out. At the current time, there are 50 volunteers involved with various levels of the DofE programme who have assisted on the Commons during 2021.

### **Volunteer Wildlife Recorders:**

Although autumn is not always the best time of year to record wildlife on the Commons, there are still plenty of interesting things to see. From fungi to migratory birds, recent reports have included a Peregrine falcon actually diving at a crow on The Plain, cormorants at Kingsmere and 108 different species of fungi.



*Blackening waxcap photographed on The Plain by Debbie Chapman*



# Saving Wimbledon and Putney Common's Wetlands

A local community inspired to fight climate change and save endangered species and habitats

## DRAFT PROJECT PROPOSAL

This document describes a project proposal for the permanent restoration of the rare valley mires found on the Commons.

*Oliver Bennett MBE, DEFRA-Appointed Conservator, WPCC*

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## Draft Recommendations

### That the Board:

- **Supports the restoration of the Commons' rare wetland habitats and their related species and peatlands.**
- **Notes that the project will help to meet WPCC's statutory environmental duties.**
- **Also notes that the project will secure additional climate change, biodiversity, volunteering, educational and flood risk management benefits for the local community.**
- **Agrees that WPCC should enter into a formal agreement with partner organisations to pursue funding for the project, and to deliver it.**
- **Also agrees that the Board should be kept informed of progress to achieving the project.**

## Project description

This project is a partnership between WPCCC and other local environmental charities. One of the local charities will lead on delivering the project.

A 2021 assessment of the rare valley mire wetland habitats on the Commons has revealed that they have faced a dramatic decline over the past 30 or so years. There are two key problems:

- ditches that were dug in these areas have led to these wetlands drying out.
- the areas have been colonised by invasive species, leading to further decline.

As a result, large parts of the peat bogs have been lost, and the remaining areas are in decline, releasing carbon into the atmosphere. Farm bog, once one of the largest peat bogs found in London, has shrunk by over 60% in size since the 1950s. A number of the rare wetland species have become extinct on the site.

The WPCCC Wildlife and Conservation Forum wants to reverse this by restoring the four valley mire sites on the Common. Restoration will involve:

- Infilling of the ditches and the restoration of natural water flows through the valleys;
- Removal of invasive species that have colonised the sites;
- Reintroduction of locally extinct plants, with the involvement of local schools and community groups; and
- Training of volunteers to support the long term management of the restored sites.

This project will have multiple benefits to the local community:

- **reducing flood risk** – blocking ditches and restoring the valley mire streams will slow the runoff from the Common into the Beverley Brook. This will reduce flood risk for properties downstream.
- **it will help us take action to mitigate climate change, while adapting to reduce its impact.** The project will lead to a greater retention of water in peat deposits and soils. This means that these areas and the associated mires and wet woodland will have a greater resilience to climate impacts such as droughts as well as storing carbon.
- **it will reintroduce lost native species** – a number of rare plant species have been lost from the Commons, and the remaining iconic species, such as our carnivorous plants, are very restricted in distribution and could easily be lost. Working with volunteers, we will follow scientific guidelines to reintroduce plants that have been lost and to restore our remaining rare plants to their former ranges.
- **It will give local people the chance to deliver lasting conservation** – Local people will be key in the delivery of this project:
  - The project has been developed and is supported by the Commons Wildlife and Conservation Forum, which enables local volunteers to have a say in the management of the Commons. The Forum will help to provide oversight of the project.
  - Volunteers will be recruited, including from the deprived communities immediately adjacent to the Commons, and given a structured programme to develop their skills and knowledge whilst delivering conservation activities. This will also help support their onward career progression.
- **local children will be enthused by the project** – Local schools will help us grow locally-extinct plant species, and then help us to reintroduce them to the Common. In that way they

will learn about the environment, take part in meaningful environmental social action and inspire pride in their local nature. We would aim to reach young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

- **minimising the risk of chemical contamination in our water** – by restoring the streams and mires, more pollution from further up in the catchment from land use or air pollution will be intercepted and prevented from entering the Beverley Brook, and ultimately the Thames.
- **tackling invasive non-native species.** These sites have been colonised by a number of invasive non-native species. For example, Turkey Oak has overtaken a large part of the mires and the Commons more widely. These trees grow faster than our native oak species, killing them off. They only support about four species<sup>1</sup>, compared to the 2300 species that live on and around the English oak.<sup>2</sup> Any non-native trees removed will be used to help block the ditches. They will also become important habitat for deadwood-loving species such as stag beetles, which are a rare protected species and the UK's largest beetle.

### ***Wimbledon and Putney Common valley mire sites***



Start date / end date

May 2022 / May 2025

<sup>1</sup> [Turkey oak tree felling at Bookham Commons | National Trust](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Thousands of species at risk from oak decline - Countryfile.com](#)

## Why does the project need to happen now?

A comprehensive ecological assessment of the valley mires on the Common in 2021 has shown that the mires, which have statutory protection, have faced significant declines over the past 30 years. They have been partly destroyed through drainage and colonisation by Turkey Oaks, a non-native invasive species. The deep peat deposits are drying and being lost, and are therefore contributing to climate change. They are also contributing to flood risk as the ditches that have been dug speed the flow of water into the Beverley Brook, a tributary of the River Thames. The risk this poses for flooding in the surrounding area will increase with predicted changes to rainfall as a result of climate change.

A number of locally rare plant species formerly found on these sites have become extinct. These include cotton grass, marsh marigold, water mint, cuckooflower, water horsetail and bog asphodel.

The rare species that remain (such as bog bean and the carnivorous plants sundew and butterwort), are now very restricted in distribution and could easily be lost if some kind of disturbance happened such as a tree fall or land slip.

Bog bean, a pretty and rare wetland flower, has been reduced to a few remaining plants.

**Unless urgent action is taken to reverse this situation the rare remaining species and habitats will continue to be lost – and it will become ever harder, or impossible, to restore these sites to their former condition.**

These declines are a local reflection of a national and international problem. Peatland habitats such as these are now very vulnerable in England – 94% have been lost in the last century due to factors such as drainage, development and inappropriate management.<sup>3</sup> The plants and animals that live on these sites are also now very rare.

These habitats are also crucial in the fight against climate change – a 30cm peat layer stores as much carbon as tropical rainforest over a similar area.<sup>4</sup>

The peats on the Commons are as much as 2 metres deep in places and up to 6000 years old – 1000 years older than Stonehenge – making them an important carbon store that might be lost without urgent action.

### Government policy

The importance of this work is recognised in the UK Government's [25 Year Environment Plan](#). The Plan set out the Government's ambitions to help the natural world to "regain and retain good health... deliver cleaner air and water in our cities and rural landscapes, protect threatened species and provide richer wildlife habitats." This project helps to deliver multiple objectives in the Plan, including:

- **restoring and protecting peatlands by 2030** – deep peat deposits are currently being lost on the Common due to drainage. The project would block these drainage ditches and reverse the loss of the peat, protecting them in the future and turning them back into a carbon sink.
- **reducing risks of flooding by expanding the use of natural flood management solutions and putting in place more sustainable drainage systems** – blocking ditches and returning

<sup>3</sup> [Climate crisis: Targets to cut peat use in gardening have been missed | Climate News | Sky News](#)

<sup>4</sup> England Peat Action Plan 2021

the valley mire streams to 'stage 0' by re-connecting them to their floodplains will slow the runoff from the Common into the Beverley Brook, a tributary of the River Thames. This will reduce flood risk for properties downstream.

- **take all possible action to mitigate climate change, while adapting to reduce its impact.** The project will lead to a greater retention of water in peat deposits and soils. This means that these areas and the associated mires and wet woodland will have a greater resilience to climate impacts such as droughts.
- **reintroducing lost native species** – a number of rare plant species have been lost from the Commons, and the remaining iconic species, such as our carnivorous plants, are very restricted in distribution and could easily be lost. Working with volunteers, we will follow scientific guidelines to reintroduce plants that have been lost and to restore our remaining rare plants to their former ranges.
- **giving individuals the chance to deliver lasting conservation / helping people improve their health and wellbeing by using green spaces** – Local people will be key in the delivery of this project:
  - The project has been developed and is supported by the Commons Wildlife and Conservation Forum, which enables local volunteers to have a say in the management of the Commons. The Forum will help to provide oversight of the project.
  - Volunteers will be recruited, including from the deprived communities immediately adjacent to the Commons, and given a structured programme to develop their skills and knowledge whilst delivering conservation activities. This will also help support their onward career progression.
- **supporting more pupil contact with local natural spaces** – Local schools will help us grow locally-extinct plant species, and then help us to reintroduce them to the Common. In that way they will learn about the environment, take part in meaningful environmental social action and inspire pride in their local nature. We would aim to reach young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- **minimising the risk of chemical contamination in our water** – by restoring the streams and mires, more pollution from further up in the catchment from land use or air pollution will be intercepted and prevented from entering the Beverley Brook, and ultimately the Thames.
- **managing and reducing the impact of existing plant and animal diseases... and tackling invasive non-native species.** These sites have been colonised by a number of invasive non-native species, which need to be removed. For example, Turkey Oak has overtaken a large part of the mires. These trees grow faster than our native species, killing them off. They only support about four species<sup>5</sup>, compared to the 2300 species that live on and around the English oak.<sup>6</sup> Any non-native trees removed will be used to help block the ditches. They will also become important habitat for deadwood-loving species such as stag beetles, which are a rare protected species and the UK's largest beetle.

### Advice received on this project

This project has been developed in consultation with:

- The Wildlife and Conservation Forum
- South East Rivers Trust

<sup>5</sup> [Turkey oak tree felling at Bookham Commons | National Trust](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Thousands of species at risk from oak decline - Countryfile.com](#)

- London Wildlife Trust

### Those who will benefit from the project

Given the strong focus on reversing biodiversity loss and mitigating climate change, there are benefits to the population of the UK in terms of helping us to meet:

- Our national targets for achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050, as required under the Climate Change Act, and our international climate change targets under the Paris Climate Agreement;
- England's [Biodiversity indicators](#), which seek, amongst other things, to get SSSIs into favourable or unfavourable recovering condition and our international biodiversity commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The project will also benefit the users of the Commons. For example, immediately surrounding the Commons, there are a number of areas that fall within the top 20-30% of most deprived neighbourhoods in England.<sup>7</sup> This project will engage with educational and community bodies in these areas in order to reach out to these communities, involve them in this inspirational project and create opportunities to develop new skills and knowledge.

### Managing the project

#### The partnership

The delivery of the project will be managed and delivered by a project board comprised of representatives from WPCC and other local charities. WPCC will be in a supporting role.

#### How will the project be managed?

The project will be led by a project officer, funded by the project, who will be line managed on a day-to-day basis by one of the partner organisations.

The overall project will be managed by a board comprised of representatives from WPCC and other local charities. Community oversight of the project will be provided by the WCF.

#### Jobs created to deliver the project

A project officer will be employed for the duration of the project.

#### Problems we may experience

The primary difficulty this project may encounter is in connection with explaining the land and tree works that will be required in the early stages. The reprofiling of the streams and felling of non-native tree species may appear to be environmentally damaging to the casual observer. This issue will be managed through:

- The development of the project with the WCF. As the WCF has been instrumental in the development of this project, they will be able to help us to explain the importance of the project in terms of its biodiversity and climate outcomes.
- Excellent communication materials, both onsite and online, will be used to explain the benefits of the project.
- The project officer will conduct media work to explain the benefits of the project and will also handle enquiries from the public.

<sup>7</sup> [http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/iod\\_index.html](http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/iod_index.html)  
<https://www.datawand.info/population/report/view/dab4efe64b2746ac821c16ad6b9e1f21/E01004574/>

- Engagement with local community groups and volunteers, and involving them in the delivery of the project, will provide additional opportunities to explain and inspire local people.
- Getting a clear endorsement for the work from Natural England, to provide confidence in the environmental outcomes from the work.

It is also possible that some of the works could be delayed by poor weather as the majority of the work will be done over the winter months. Spreading the delivery of the project over two winters will ensure that all the works can be completed in the time allocated.

The project officer will be supported by the partnership to ensure that the project is well-planned and delivered on time.

#### What will happen at the end of the project?

WPCC will deliver the long-term management of the sites after the project is completed. WPCC is implementing a Land Management Plan (LMP), which puts in place the policies and plans needed to move the whole Commons into good ecological condition, and to prevent future damaging impacts on the site.

The chapter of the LMP that covers these valley mires, has created a clear set of objectives and a monitoring framework to ensure that the restoration work is successful and that gains are protected into the long-term.

Oversight of the LMP is also provided by the Board of WPCC, and by the Wildlife and Conservation Forum (WCF). The WCF is comprised of WPCC Board members and volunteers with an interest in or knowledge of the environment of the Commons. Details of the LMP will also be made available on our website to ensure transparency and public accountability.

While the restoration of the valley mires described in the LMP can only be delivered through this funding application due to the scale of restoration required, WPCC will have the resources to deliver the long-term ongoing management of these habitats through:

- local volunteers, who though this project will have been given the skills and knowledge needed to support the maintenance of the mires in the long-term;
- the long-term relationship between LWT and WPCC, whereby LWT supports important management of the Commons through the provision of volunteer groups;
- WPCC's local levy, established in an 1871 Act of Parliament and based on the rateable value of each property in a defined area around the Commons, helps to pay for the maintenance of the Commons; and
- land management grants available to important nature conservations sites such as the Commons.

A formal evaluation will be conducted to assess the delivery of the outcomes. The report will be used to inform the management of the site and flag any wider lessons learned for the partnership.

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>	<b>Item no.</b>
Board of Conservators	13 December 2021	12.21.7
<b>Subject:</b> Chief Executives Report: Non-confidential	<b>Non-Public</b>	
<b>Report of:</b> Chief Executive, Wimbledon and Putney Commons	<b>For Decision</b>	
<b>NOT FOR PUBLICATION</b>		
<b>Summary</b>		
<p>This report updates the Board on a number of strategic and more operational matters affecting the management of the Commons.</p> <p><b>Draft recommendations:</b></p> <p>That the Board notes the report and agrees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The timescale for reviewing safeguarding policy and procedures</li> <li>(b) The procedure for agreeing the notes of the General Open Meeting held on 29 November 2021 via email.</li> </ul>		

## 1. Safeguarding – updated advice

The Charity Commission has updated the Safeguarding guidance that it provides to charities on 17 November 2021 (attached as Appendix 1). This will necessitate a review of WPCC’s safeguarding policy and procedures. It is proposed that this will be undertaken by the Chief Executive to be reviewed by ARC at their March 2022 meeting and then brought to the April 2022 Board meeting.

## 2. Encroachments – Vale Crescent

During winter 2020/21, extensive tree safety work was undertaken in the belt of trees on the area of the Commons backing onto residential properties on Vale Crescent. In order to access the trees, some thinning work to this strip of woodland was required. Opening up the woodland revealed that the fence line between the Common and the residential properties, whilst shown as a relatively uniform line on the Land Registry map was, on the ground extremely erratic. This raised concerns that neighbouring householders had enclosed areas of the Common in order to extend their gardens. Surveyors, Sumo Ltd, were commissioned to undertake a survey of the area and to plot the fence line against the Land Registry boundary. The resulting maps are attached as Appendix 2. As can be seen, there are discrepancies. In some instances, householders have fenced inside their boundary (probably due to the location of trees on the actual boundary). However, there are instances where gardens extend onto the

Commons. The Chief Executive will be writing to the owners of these properties to inform them that the fence must be moved to match the boundary.

### **3. Finance Update**

The summary, attached as Appendix 3 shows the results for the half year ended 30 September 2021 and the estimated outcome for the full year.

### **4. Staff Christmas Party**

The staff Christmas dinner, scheduled for 17 December 2021, has been cancelled. This is due to the new self-isolation guidance issued by the government on 2 December 2021. Any contact with a person who has been identified as a confirmed or suspected case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 must self-isolate for 10 days, regardless of their vaccination status. Therefore, the worst-case scenario would be that the entire staff team is required to self-isolate for 10 days, leaving no one to manage the Commons over one of the busiest periods of the year. We will look to hold a staff party in the spring, COVID regulations allowing.

### **5. Street Lighting – Putney Heath**

For as long as anyone can recall, there have been streetlights along the footpath which follows the course of the old Portsmouth Road on Putney Heath. It is believed that when the road was closed and the route was transformed into a footpath, the lighting was retained for public safety. The lights have, as far as staff are aware, always been maintained by Wandsworth Council. This is also the understanding of David Devons, a former long-standing member of the Board and at least one local resident.

Recently, we received a complaint, forwarded by Wandsworth Council, from a member of the public who was complaining that some of the lights were no longer working. The Council had responded to the complainant to say that the lights were not their responsibility but the responsibility of WPCC. The Council claims it has no record of ever having maintained the lights.

Our understanding had been that, when the streetlights were retained following the road closure an agreement had been made for the Council to take responsibility for maintenance. However, both the Chief Executive and David Devons have been through the archives and can find no record of such an agreement.

The lights have now been repaired. We understand that Fleur Anderson MP contacted Wandsworth Council and asked them to undertake the repairs at their earliest convenience for reasons of public safety. However, we still have no indication that the Council are accepting future responsibility for the lights – and they have emailed to make us aware that the lights are nearing the end of their life and will need to be replaced in the not too distant future.

Our position remains that the lights do not belong to and are not the responsibility of WPCC. Furthermore, if Wandsworth Council wish to install new lighting, we should work with them to ensure that the lighting is selected to minimise light pollution and impacts on wildlife.

## **6. General Open Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the General Open Meeting held on Monday 29 November 2021 are not yet drafted. In order that these may be finalised and placed on the website as soon as possible, it is proposed that the minutes are circulated via email for comment and agreement. They will then be formally approved at the February 2022 meeting.

## Safeguarding and protecting people for charities and trustees

- English
- [Cymraeg](#)

What to do to protect people who come into contact with your charity through its work from abuse or mistreatment of any kind.

From:

[The Charity Commission](#)

Published

6 December 2017

Last updated

17 November 2021 — [See all updates](#)

### Applies to England and Wales

Contents

1. [Manage the risks](#)
2. [Policies, procedures and practices you need to have](#)
3. [Checking your charity's policies, procedures and practice](#)
4. [Protect volunteers and staff](#)
5. [Safeguarding children or adults at risk](#)
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### Manage the risks

Protecting people and safeguarding responsibilities should be a governance priority for all charities. It is a fundamental part of operating as a charity for the public benefit.

As part of fulfilling your trustee duties, whether working online or in person, you must take reasonable steps to protect from harm people who come into contact with your charity.

This includes:

- people who benefit from your charity's work
- staff
- volunteers
- other people who come into contact with your charity through its work

The Charity Commission will hold trustees to account if things go wrong and will check that trustees followed this guidance and the law. Trustees are expected to take responsibility for putting things right.

The Commission will refer concerns to relevant safeguarding agencies where needed to take further action as it is not a nominated body with the power to implement safeguarding legislation.

Trustees should promote an open and positive culture and ensure all involved feel able to report concerns, confident that they will be heard and responded to.

We expect all trustees to make sure their charity:

- has appropriate policies and procedures in place, which are followed by all trustees, volunteers and beneficiaries
- checks that people are suitable to act in their roles
- knows how to spot and handle concerns in a full and open manner
- has a clear system of referring or reporting to relevant agencies as soon as concerns are suspected or identified
- sets out risks and how they will be managed in a risk register which is regularly reviewed
- follows statutory guidance, good practice guidance and legislation relevant to their charity: this guidance links to the main sources of information
- is quick to respond to concerns and carry out appropriate investigations
- does not ignore harm or downplays failures
- has a balanced trustee board and does not let one trustee dominate its work – trustees should work together
- makes sure protecting people from harm is central to its culture
- has enough resources, including trained staff/volunteers/trustees for safeguarding and protecting people
- conducts periodic reviews of safeguarding policies, procedures and practice

Read [NCVO's safeguarding resource](#) for advice on how to get started with safeguarding.

Read the [Charity Governance Code](#) for best practice advice including on safeguarding.

Read [Bond's 'Good governance for safeguarding'](#) for support on developing good practice on governance.

[If you work with children or adults at risk](#) there are more safeguarding legal requirements. You must check whether these requirements apply to your charity. If they do, you must work within them.

## **Types of Risks and Harm**

Harm and risks you must be alert to, whether online or in person, include:

- sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation
- criminal exploitation
- a charity's culture, which may allow poor behaviour and poor accountability
- people abusing a position of trust they hold within a charity
- bullying or harassment
- health and safety
- commercial exploitation
- cyber abuse
- discrimination on any of the grounds in the Equality Act 2010
- people targeting your charity
- data breaches, including those under General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
- negligent treatment
- domestic abuse
- self-neglect
- physical or emotional abuse
- extremism and radicalisation
- forced marriage
- modern slavery
- human trafficking
- female genital mutilation

## **Policies, procedures and practices you need to have**

Your charity's policies and procedures for protecting people and safeguarding should be:

- put into practice
- responsive to change
- reviewed as necessary, always following a serious incident and at least once a year
- available to the public
- compliant with all relevant legislation, noting this can vary depending on who you work with

Make all trustees, staff, volunteers, partners and beneficiaries aware of your policies. They all need to know how to apply them.

In your policies make clear how you will:

- protect people from harm
- make sure people can raise safeguarding concerns
- handle allegations or incidents
- respond, including reporting to the relevant authorities

The amount of detail in your policies depends on what your charity does, where it works, whether it operates in person or online and the level of risk.

Use guidance to help with your policies and procedures, including the links to specific sources of support on this page. Take expert or professional advice if you need it.

### **Code of conduct**

If you have staff or volunteers you must have a clear code of conduct which sets out:

- your charity's culture and values
- how people in your charity should behave

[Read the Charity Governance Code.](#)

[Read the example code of conduct produced by the Small Charities Coalition.](#)

Read NCVO's [Charity Ethical Principles](#) for help with policies on recognising and resolving ethical issues when considering your code of conduct.

### **Other policies you need to have**

You also need to make sure your charity has:

- suitable health and safety arrangements in place
- first aid, fire safety and digital safety policies that everyone understands
- welfare, discipline and whistleblowing policies for staff if you have them
- a complaints process for users and others with concerns

### **Checking your charity's policies, procedures and practice**

Trustees must be assured that all policies, procedures and practice are checked and challenged to ensure they're fit for purpose. You must make sure your charity:

- works within all relevant statutory guidance
- keeps accurate records

- stays aware of current affairs, trends and themes and how these can influence your policies and practices
- complies with its policies and procedures, as well as with good practice and legislation
- updates policies and procedures to reflect changes to statutory requirements, good practice and current issues

Every trustee should have clear oversight of how safeguarding and protecting people from harm are managed within their charity. This means you need to monitor your performance, not just using statistics, but with supporting information, such as qualitative reports. This will help you to understand common themes, identify risks and gaps so you can ensure they are addressed.

If you change the way you work, such as working in a new area or in a different way, you should:

- review your current policies and make sure they're suitable
- consider whether any extra policies are needed to cover any new situations or risks
- record these discussions and decisions as part of your risk management procedures

Trustees can use a number of things to help with their checking and assurance, including:

- recording the risks faced by your charity and how these are managed
- speaking to people in your charity and beneficiaries to make sure they understand how to raise concerns and get feedback on past experiences
- carrying out checks on any sites your charity may work in and seeing any necessary paperwork
- working with statutory agencies and partners
- setting training plans for trustees, staff and volunteers on safeguarding and protecting people from harm
- recording any potential conflicts of interest at any level
- having a standing agenda item on safeguarding and protecting people from harm at meetings
- reviewing a sample of past concerns to identify any lessons to be learnt and make sure they were handled appropriately
- organising external reviews or inspections

### **Get checks on trustees, staff and volunteers**

You must make sure that trustees, staff and volunteers are suitable and legally able to act in their positions. This includes people from or working overseas.

You may need to get:

- criminal records checks
- references and checks on gaps in work history
- confirmation that staff can work in the UK
- health checks

### **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) – criminal records checks**

You should consider whether to use DBS checks as part of your wide range of checks on trustees, staff and volunteers. They should be used alongside references and interviews to give you a broad and informed view to manage the risk of abuse or harm. You should review what checks are needed as your charity evolves or individual roles change.

Many posts are eligible for standard or enhanced level DBS checks, such as those working:

- with children or adults at risk in certain circumstances
- in accountancy/finance
- in the legal profession
- with animals, although in limited circumstances

Trustees should risk assess all roles taking into account the working environment to determine if they are eligible for a check and if so, at what level.

Always get a standard, enhanced or enhanced with barred list check from the DBS when a role is eligible for one. Not all roles working with children or adults at risk are eligible for a standard or enhanced check. You should get a basic check if your risk assessment determines it's appropriate.

Find out what checks are available from the [Disclosure and Barring Service \(DBS\)](#).

Use the DBS [eligibility checker](#) and [guidance leaflets](#) to decide what checks to make.

If you ask about criminal records you must have a policy in place that sets out a lawful basis and condition of processing this information, to comply with the [General Data Protection Regulations \(GDPR\)](#).

A charity that uses information from the DBS must also have a policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders, in order to comply with the DBS Code of Practice. The [DBS has guidance](#) on this.

Consider asking DBS applicants to register with the Update Service or consider carrying out further DBS checks on a regular basis.

[NACRO](#) has guidance on dealing with DBS checks and criminal record risk assessments.

### **People from overseas**

It's a different process to get checks for trustees, staff or volunteers from overseas.

[Read guidance on getting checks for people from overseas.](#)

You can join the [Misconduct Disclosure Scheme](#) to get extra checks on international staff.

### **Sending workers overseas**

Where you cannot get a DBS check for someone going to work overseas, they may be able to [get an International Child Protection certificate](#).

### **Automatic disqualification**

Do not appoint anyone who is disqualified as a trustee or to a senior manager position (at chief executive or finance director level).

[Guidance on disqualification and checks to make.](#)

### **Protect volunteers and staff**

If your charity has volunteers or staff, you need to protect them from harm.

Have clear policies and procedures on:

- bullying and harassment
- whistleblowing

Read [ACEVO's report on workplace bullying in charities](#). Section 7 of the report explores how a bullying culture can be created and gives six recommendations to create safer systems to combat this.

You need to have adequate insurance which covers the individuals and the activities involved.

[Charities and insurance.](#)

### **Safeguarding children or adults at risk**

If your charity works with children or adults at risk, either online or in person, you should:

- establish appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures that all trustees, staff and volunteers follow, which fit with the policies and procedures of your local authority safeguarding partnership or safeguarding children or adults board
- make sure all staff and volunteers receive regular training on child protection or working with adults at risk
- appoint a safeguarding lead to work with your local authority safeguarding partnerships or boards and/or create a plan for responding to concerns overseas
- manage concerns, complaints, whistleblowing and allegations relating to child protection or adults at risk effectively
- have clear policies when DBS checks are required, how you assess the level of check needed and how you handle the information

You must follow relevant legislation and guidance.

Identify your local authority safeguarding children or adults partnership or board.

They:

- coordinate safeguarding and promote the welfare of children or adults at risk in the area
- publish policies and procedures for safeguarding which you must follow

You can find your local authority partnership or board online.

## **Safeguarding children**

Safeguarding children duties apply to any charity working with, or coming into contact with, anyone under the age of 18.

[Use resources](#) and [follow standards](#) from the NSPCC for safeguarding children. Safeguarding children means to:

- protect children from abuse and maltreatment
- prevent harm to children's health or development
- ensure children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- take action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes

In England [follow Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)

In Wales [follow All Wales Child Protection Procedures](#)

## Safeguarding adults at risk

Safeguarding adults at risk means protecting their right to live in safety and free from abuse and neglect. Your charity may have trustees, staff, volunteers, beneficiaries or other connections who are classed as adults at risk.

Safeguarding duties for adults at risk apply to any charity working with anyone aged 18 or over who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect and
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect

An adult at risk of abuse may:

- have an illness affecting their mental or physical health
- have a learning disability
- suffer from drug or alcohol problems
- be frail

In England [follow guidance on the Care Act 2014](#)

In Wales [follow guidance on The Social Services and Well-Being \(Wales\) Act 2014 and Social Care Wales](#)

## Operating online

Operating online carries specific safeguarding risks connected to protecting people from abuse and protecting sensitive information. You must make sure these are managed and reflected in your policies and practices.

- **Content:** does your charity have adequate control over its website and social media accounts? Who can post information and is all content suitable for your charity?
- **Contact:** how do people talk to each other when using your online services and how do you keep users safe? Do people need passwords to access services?
- **Conduct:** how do you monitor what people do, say and share when using your services?

You must be satisfied that your charity identifies and manages risks:

- be confident volunteers, staff and trustees understand how to keep themselves safe online. You could use high privacy settings and password access to meetings to support this

- be sure the online services you provide are suitable for your users. For example, use age restrictions and offer password protection to help keep people safe
- know the services your charity uses and provides are safe and in line with your charity's code of conduct
- protect people's personal data and follow [GDPR legislation](#)
- make sure you have permission to display any images on your website or social media accounts. You may need individual or parental permission
- clearly explain how users can report online concerns

There are further resources charities can use for support when working online, such as [Internet Matters](#), [Get Safe Online](#) and [NSPCC](#).

## Working overseas

You must:

- be aware of different risks for staff, volunteers and beneficiaries who are overseas
- have suitable reporting and monitoring processes in place for any work overseas
- monitor where you work for any changes or new safety systems which are needed

Challenges of working overseas include:

- different cultures, practices or legal systems
- an unstable environment, like a conflict zone
- working with many partners

You should apply the same practices as in England and Wales and make sure you comply with any extra requirements of the other country.

[Follow The Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability](#) for overseas humanitarian work and the [Inter-Agency Standing Committee Minimum Operating Standards for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse](#) if relevant.

You must know when:

- to [report issues](#) to law enforcement in the country you are working in
- you also need to report to police in the UK

You can find resources online to help with working overseas. These include:

- [The International Committee of the Red Cross's code of conduct](#) for NGOs in disaster relief
- [Safeguarding against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment \(SEAH\) in the aid sector](#)
- [BOND](#), the UK network for organisations working in international development
- the outcomes of the [18 October 2018 international summit on tackling sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment in the aid sector](#)

Only use templates that are appropriate for your charity.

## Handle and report incidents and concerns

If you have an incident or allegation of abuse you should:

- handle and record it in a secure and responsible way
- follow your protecting people and safeguarding policies and procedures
- act quickly, ensuring you stop or minimise any further harm or damage
- report it to all relevant agencies and regulators in full
- plan what to say to those involved with your charity and the media if appropriate
- be open and transparent so that you build the charity's reputation for acting with integrity
- review what happened to understand how to stop it from happening again

Use [guidance on handling safeguarding allegations in a charity](#) for help on handling incidents and concerns.

You should report to the police if the incident or concern involves criminal behaviour.

[Guidance on reporting to the police](#) (ODT, 33.7KB)

[There are other regulators that you may need to report or refer to](#) depending on what your charity does.

In some cases, you should [send a serious incident report to the Charity Commission](#).

If you work or volunteer for a charity you can also report it to us using our [whistleblowing procedure](#).

## If you work with children or adults at risk

Refer all safeguarding concerns with children or adults at risk to your local safeguarding children (LADO) or adult team.

You can also refer concerns to the DBS and you must refer to DBS if you:

- [provide a regulated activity](#), and
- stop someone working with children or adults at risk, and
- [certain criteria are met](#)

## **Working with or making grants to other organisations**

Carry out proper due diligence when you work with, or make grants to, any other bodies, including:

- delivery partners
- trading subsidiaries of the charity, including charity shops
- organisations you fund
- connected charities

You must make sure that any grant recipient or partner body is suitable. They must have appropriate safeguarding procedures in place. Make sure there are clear lines of responsibility and reporting between all bodies involved.

### [How to carry out due diligence checks](#)

### [Department for International Development's enhanced due diligence: safeguarding for external partners](#)

You should have a written agreement or contract that sets out:

- your relationship
- the role of each organisation
- monitoring and reporting arrangements [Grant funding an organisation that isn't a charity](#)

## **Terrorism and the Prevent duty**

All charities must prevent abuse for extremist purposes.

Some charities, like educational charities, are 'specified authorities'. They must [follow guidance on the Prevent duty](#).

Where appropriate you should also follow:

- [Advice for schools and childcare providers](#)
- [How higher education bodies' compliance with the Prevent duty is monitored](#) This must be part of your charity's risk assessments, policies and procedures.

## Download infographic

This document is a one-page summary of safeguarding actions for trustees.

[10 safeguarding actions for charity trustees \(infographic\)](#) (PDF, 122KB, 1 page)

## Text version of infographic

10 actions trustee boards need to take to ensure good safeguarding governance

Safeguarding should be a key governance priority for all charities.

Ensure your charity has an adequate safeguarding policy, code of conduct and any other safeguarding procedures. Regularly review and update the policy and procedures to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Identify possible risks, including risks to your beneficiaries or to anyone else connected to your charity and any emerging risks on the horizon.

Consider how to improve the safeguarding culture within your charity.

Ensure that everyone involved with the charity knows how to recognise, respond to, report and record a safeguarding concern.

Ensure people know how to raise a safeguarding concern.

Regularly evaluate any safeguarding training provided, ensuring it is current and relevant.

Review which posts within the charity can and must have a DBS check from the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Have a risk assessment process in place for posts which do not qualify for a DBS check, but which still have contact with children or adults at risk.

Periodically review your safeguarding policy and procedures, learning from any serious incident or 'near miss'.

If you work overseas, find out what different checks and due diligence you need to carry out in different geographical areas of operation.

In this guidance:

- 'must' means something is a legal or regulatory requirement or duty that trustees must comply with
- 'should' means something is good practice that the Commission expects trustees to follow and apply to their charity







## WPCC UN-AUDITED MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

	30.09.21 Year to date £,000	Expected outcome for year to 31.03.22 £,000
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Levy	631	1,262
Sports and recreation	148	309
Donations and grants	53	89
Rents and wayleaves	61	140
Other income	19	21
Investment income	24	50
	<u>935</u>	<u>1,871</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Employment costs	550	1,169
Overhead expenditure	365	777
Non-recurring costs	29	74
	<u>944</u>	<u>2,020</u>
<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>(150)</b>
<b>RESTRICTED</b>		
Income	32	24
Expenditure	35	69
Surplus/deficit)	<u>(3)</u>	<u>(45)</u>
<b>SUMMARY</b>		
Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	<b>(9)</b>	<b>(150)</b>
Gain/(loss) on investments	138	(150)
	129	(45)
Restricted surplus/(deficit)	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(45)</b>
	<u>126</u>	<u>(195)</u>

### Notes:

1. The above figures do not include any year-end non-cash adjustments in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

2. It is always assumed during the year, for the sake of prudence, that there will be no gain nor loss on investments for the full year.

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>	<b>Item no.</b>
Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators Board Meeting	13 December 2021	12.21.9
<b>Subject: WPCC Special Levy 2022/23</b>		<b>Non-Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Chief Executive		<b>For Decision</b>
<h2>Summary</h2>		
This report sets out the proposed 2022-2023 WPCC Special Levy.		
<b>Draft Resolution:</b>		
<b>That the Board RESOLVE:</b>		
<p>(a) In line with the Board resolution of 14 December 2020 under which it was agreed that WPCC would raise the Levy to its maximum for the five-year period 2022/23 to 2026/27, and in accordance with the Statutory Instruments, the Levy be increased for the financial year 2022/23 by RPI to £1,323,328.</p>		

## 1. WPCC Special Levy 2022/23

1.1 At the Board meeting held on 14 December 2020, the Board resolved the following:

*Given the continued pressure on operational budgets, the policy of setting the Levy at the maximum sum available, will continue for a further five-year period 2022-23 to 2026-27, to be reviewed if changes to the levy base are secured.*

1.2 The September RPI figure is 4.8590%. This represents an increase in the levy from £1,262,008 in 2021/22 to £1,323,328 in 2022/23. This will generate an additional £61,320 to support the work of the Charity.

1.3 The Council Tax base for each of the Boroughs is not normally known until at least mid-January each year and therefore we are not able to calculate the impact of this change on the cost per household. Under the Statutory Instrument WPCC must notify the three relevant Councils (Wandsworth, Merton and Kingston) of the proposed Special Levy before the 15 February in the preceding financial year. It has however been custom and practice to notify the three Councils by mid-January at the very latest of the new Levy, providing them with sufficient time to consider and prepare their Council Tax statements.

## **Friends Report to the Board December 2021**

Below is a summary of events currently planned for next year. The Chair will be pleased to take and questions.

Saturday, February 26th

We will finally be holding our 150 year celebratory event at AELTC with a Champagne Afternoon Tea in the Debentures' lounge together with an optional museum tour. The event will run from 3pm until 6pm. Friends have been able to buy priority tickets at £30 each since December 1<sup>st</sup> and the rest will be available soon.

On May 22nd we will hold our postponed 150<sup>th</sup> year historical Games Day and our House of Commons Terrace reception and tour will now take place on July 26<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. More details next year.

For those Friends who enjoyed the virtual tour of the 9 Ponds with Alan Blower last winter. You will be pleased to hear that he will be offering another one for Friends entitled 'The Grand Houses of Rushmere'. As usual, all walks are free for Friends.

For those who prefer a real walk, our environment special Conservator is offering a walk for Friends of some of the areas of special scientific interest on the Commons.

Finally, our Art of the Commons competition is now in full swing. Since our launch on August 15<sup>th</sup> we have had over 300 excellent entries. There are excellent prizes to be won each month, as well as an art exhibition, an overall winner and, hopefully, a WPCC 150 years on book.

Full details of the competition and all other matters are available on the WPCC website which is worth looking at on a regular basis.

The current membership numbers are:

Benefactor – 53  
Household – 303  
Individual – 202  
Corporate – 1

Sue Bucknall  
Chairman, Friends Committee

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>	<b>Item no.</b>
Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators Meeting	13 December 2021	12.21.9
<b>Subject:</b> Meeting/Event Dates	<b>Public</b>	
<b>Report of:</b> Chief Executive of Wimbledon and Putney Commons	<b>For Decision and Information</b>	
<h1>SUMMARY</h1>		
<b>Resolution</b>		
The Board are asked to approve the amended Calendar of Meetings and Events		

The 2022 Calendar of Meetings/Events has been updated (See Appendix 1) to include the now confirmed dates for the Constitution Committee and the amended date of the 2022 Winter Talk.

The talk will be given by Edward Mayer, an expert on Swifts. It has not yet been decided if the talk will be held face to face or by Zoom.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December												
Monday																								
Tuesday		1	1	3.00pm ARC																				
Wednesday		2	2			1	4.30pm Board Meeting																	
Thursday		3	3			2	BH																	
Friday		4	4		1	3	BH	1				Christmas Reception												
Saturday	1	5	5		2	4		2																
Sunday	2	6	6		3	5		3																
Monday	3	BH	7		4	2	BH	6																
Tuesday	4		8		8	10.00am FIC	5	3	10.00am FIC	7		5	9	6	10.00am FIC	4	8	10.00am FIC	6					
Wednesday	5		9		9		6	Spring Walk	4		8		6		10		7		5	Autumn Walk	9		7	
Thursday	6		10		10		7		5		9		7		11		8		6		10		8	
Friday	7		11		11		8		6		10		8		12		9		7		11		9	
Saturday	8		12		12		9		7		11		9		13		10		8		12		10	Carols at the Windmill
Sunday	9		13		13		10		8	Bird Song Walk	12		10		14		11	Open Day	9		13		11	
Monday	10		14	4.30pm Board Meeting	14	2.30pm Constitution	11	4.30pm Board Meeting	9		13		11	4.30pm Board Meeting	15		12		10	4.30pm Board Meeting	14		12	4.30pm Board Meeting
Tuesday	11	5.00pm Wildlife & C'vation	15	7.00pm Winter Talk TBC	15	5.00pm Wildlife & C'vation	12		10	5.00pm Wildlife & C'vation	14	2.30pm Constitution	12	5.00pm Wildlife & C'vation	16		13	5.00pm Wildlife & C'vation	11		15	5.00pm Wildlife & C'vation	13	
Wednesday	12		16		16		13		11		15		13		17		14		12		16		14	8.30am Stakeholder
Thursday	13		17		17		14		12		16		14		18		15		13		17		15	
Friday	14		18		18		15	BH	13		17		15		19		16		14		18		16	
Saturday	15		19		19		16		14		18		16		20		17		15		19		17	
Sunday	16		20		20		17		15		19		17		21		18	Bird Walk	16		20		18	
Monday	17		21		21		18	BH	16		20		18		22		19		17		21		19	
Tuesday	18	10.00am FIC	22		22		19		17	10.00am Joint ARC/FIC and ARC	21		19		23		20		18	3.00pm ARC	22		20	
Wednesday	19		23		23	8.30am Stakeholder	20		18		22	8.30am Stakeholder	20		24		21	8.30am Stakeholder	19		23		21	
Thursday	20		24		24		21		19		23		21	Reception House of Commons	25		22		20		24		22	
Friday	21		25		25		22		20		24	BioBlitz	22		26		23		21		25		23	
Saturday	22		26	Afternoon Tea at AELTC	26		23	Bird Song Course?	21		25	BioBlitz	23		27		24		22		26		24	
Sunday	23		27		27		24	Bird Song Course?	22	Games Day	26	BioBlitz	24		28		25		23	Bird Walk	27		25	
Monday	24		28		28		25		23		27		25		29	BH	26	2.30pm Constitution	24		28	2.30pm Constitution	26	BH
Tuesday	25				29		26		24		28		26	3.00pm ARC	30		27		25		29		27	BH
Wednesday	26				30		27		25		29	AOM	27	7.00pm Conservators Walk	31		28		26		30	7.00pm GOM	28	
Thursday	27	3.30pm Friends Committee			31		28	3.30pm Friends Committee	26		30		28	3.30pm Friends Committee			29		27	3.30pm Friends Committee			29	
Friday	28						29		27				29				30		28				30	
Saturday	29						30		28				30						29				31	
Sunday	30								29				31											
Monday	31								30															
Tuesday									31															