



Wimbledon And Putney Commons

Chief Executive
Simon Lee BSc (Hons)

18th January 2018

Dear Sir or Madam

WIMBLEDON AND PUTNEY COMMONS CONSERVATORS' ELECTION 2018

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We all have a wonderful heritage in the 1140 acres that make up Wimbledon and Putney Commons. Not only do they contribute to the quality of the environment but also to the quality of our lives and leisure in the local area. Since 1871, the Commons have been governed by an Act of Parliament and were designated a charity in 1972.

Every three years there is a requirement to hold an election for the five elected Conservators who sit alongside the three Conservators appointed by Government Departments. Everyone who lives within the Commons' Levy-paying area is entitled to vote in this election. Turn out at the 2015 election was particularly disappointing and we are determined to improve it in 2018 and I am writing to you now to ask for your help in raising awareness of the election.

Ballot papers will be posted to approximately 66,000 Levy-payers on the 1st February 2018 by the Electoral Reform Services. The Closing time for the election is 5.00pm on the 28th February 2018.

Enclosed is a poster that we would kindly ask you to display on your Notice Board, together with a flier that contains more information about the election. There will be two opportunities for the public to Meet the Candidates and question them:

- The first is being organised by The Putney Society and will be held on Tuesday 30th January 2018, at the Community Church, Werter Road, Putney SW15 2LL, starting at 8.00pm.
- The second is being organised by The Wimbledon Society and will be held on Wednesday 7th February 2018, in the Lower Hall, Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill, SW19 4LU, starting at 7.00pm.

Also enclosed is a Media Release giving the names of the ten electors who have been accepted as Candidates to stand as Conservators for the five elected places to be filled.

For more information, please visit our website www.wpcc.org.uk

You can also create links on your website to these various documents.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

Mr Michael Rappolt
Returning Officer

Wimbledon and Putney Commons

Conservators' Election **2018**



Registered Charity No. 303167

Every three years there is a requirement to hold an election for the five elected Conservators, more commonly known as Trustees.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

Have your say on how this incredibly important resource for local people is managed.

Vote before
5pm on the
28th February 2018

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WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO VOTE

Turn out at the 2015 election was very disappointing and the Returning Officer is determined, with your help, that it should be improved in 2018.

You have an opportunity to have **your** say in who is elected to oversee the management of **your** Commons for the next three years.



HAVE YOUR VOTE

It is incredibly important if you are an eligible voter, that you VOTE by 5.00pm on the 28th February to support the candidates of your choice. Look out for your ballot papers when they arrive in the post early in February 2018. Please take the time to read the Candidates' Statements and use the next election to elect a body of local residents who you feel will best protect the Commons and govern it effectively.

You can vote by returning your completed ballot paper in the prepaid envelope provided, or you can vote on-line; details are on the ballot paper.

Electoral Reform Services (ERS) conduct the election process independently of the Conservators. ERS will post out the ballot papers on the 1st February 2018.



OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET THE CANDIDATES

As part of the election process there will be two opportunities for electors to meet the Candidates.

The first are hustings being organised by The Putney Society and will be held on Tuesday 30th January 2018, at the Community Church, Werter Road, Putney SW15 2LL, starting at 8.00pm.

The second Meet the Candidates is being organised by The Wimbledon Society and will be held on Wednesday 7th February 2018, in the Lower Hall, Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill, SW19 4LU, starting at 7.00pm.



FIND OUT MORE

If you would like to know more about any of the above, please contact the Chief Executive at The Ranger's Office, Windmill Road, Wimbledon Common, London SW19 5NR, Tel: 020 8788 7655 E-mail the rangersoffice@wpcc.org.uk or visit our website www.wpcc.org.uk



MEDIA RELEASE JANUARY 2018

List of Candidates in the Forthcoming Conservators' Election 2018

Ten electors have put their names forward and have been accepted as Candidates to stand as Conservators for the five elected places to be filled. They are:

1. Andrew Bignold
2. Timothy Bowen
3. Jonathan Callaway
4. John Cameron (current Conservator)
5. Shirley Gillbe (current Conservator)
6. David Hince
7. Peter Hirsch
8. Sarah-Jane Holden
9. Diane Neil Mills
10. Brian Rutherford

The election process is managed by Electoral Reform Services and as in 2015, electors have an opportunity to vote on-line as well as by postal ballot. Voting on-line will save the Charity postage that can be spent on the Commons and its management. For example, for every 100 people that vote electronically the money saved will be enough to feed one of our working horses for one week.

Ballot papers will be posted to the circa 66,000 voters on the 1st February 2018 by the Electoral Reform Services. The Closing time for the election is 5.00pm on the 28th February 2018.

Mr Michael Rappolt, the Ministry of Defence Appointed Conservator who is Returning Officer for election stated:

"Turn out at the 2015 election was disappointing and with your help we are determined to improve it this year.

If like me you are passionate about preserving and enhancing the Commons for current and future generations then please don't waste your vote. We need a strong Board of Trustees elected by you to support our Vision and Values and implement the Commons Strategy."

ENDS

NOTES for Editors - Wimbledon and Putney Commons is a charity managed by the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators. It was established under the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Act of 1871. The Commons comprise some 1,140 acres across Wimbledon Common, Putney Heath and Putney Lower Common.

Contact: Mr Michael Rappolt, Returning Officer
Tel: 020 8788 7655, E-mail: rangersoffice@wpcc.org.uk website: www.wpcc.org.uk