

Wimbledon and Putney Commons: Election of Conservators 2018



Peter Hirsch

Why do you want to be a Conservator?

I love our beautiful Commons. I want to become a Conservator to support, preserve and enhance them. My family and I moved to Wimbledon 35 years ago to be near this wonderful green space. My wife and I, our children and even young grandchildren all love the Commons. We walk and run there, watch and photograph the fauna and flora, enjoy nature, and just relax.

The Commons are owned and run by the charity WPCC. Its governance has been troubled over recent years. Disputes have led to expensive legal bills, wasting money and management time that would better have been spent on the environment.

Looking to the future, I will focus on the core job; preserving and enhancing our precious Commons. **I promise, if elected, to do all I can to get back to this, our 'REAL JOB'. I will apply Common Sense to run the Commons!**

What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

I am an experienced manager and non-executive director with a background in earth science, management consultancy and academic lecturing. I am expert at understanding organisations and helping them improve. I've helped senior teams strengthen their communication, teamwork and overall performance, to implement their strategy for recovery. I won't apologise for this 'management speak' since the WPCC Board urgently needs these skills.

I have chaired our local Resident's Association, covering eleven roads in Wimbledon village, for the last seven years and am involved with the umbrella organisation Wimbledon Union of Residents' Associations. I am known in the community, and well placed to listen to what residents and users expect of the Commons.

Once we have overcome the present governance difficulties, I will work to ensure that the Commons Management focus on preserving and enhancing this beautiful but fragile natural environment for us and future generations.

How will you support implementation of the Commons' Vision and Strategy?

The board has adopted a new Vision and Strategy. I support them. But just saying this is not enough. Working with numerous clients in the private, public and charity sectors I have often seen strategy statements ignored, gathering dust in the boardroom.

I won't allow that to happen here. I will work with enthusiasm to implement our strategies and plans. This means explaining our actions openly and honestly, listening to the local community and other users, and communicating back to the Board regularly.

Lastly, if elected, I will ensure that the Board lives up to its own values in the way it does its work. I promise to do all I can to ensure that we work together - with openness and transparency.

We can and must make the Commons even better, stronger and healthier.

Please vote for Peter Hirsch: supporting Common Sense for the Future of the Commons

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