



Wimbledon and Putney Commons

Media Release September 2022

Ministry of Defence Appointed Conservator

The Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators (WPCC) are pleased to announce that The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP, Secretary of State for Defence, has confirmed the appointment of Mr Peter Shortt to the position of Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservator for a three-year term in accordance with the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Act 1871. Mr Shortt took up his position from 1 September 2022, taking over from Mr Mike Rappolt who retired at the end of August following over five distinguished years in the role.

Mr Shortt brings with him a wide range of expertise, particularly in the area of sustainability. He is an experienced venture capitalist and corporate financier with considerable experience of working at the public/private interface, including 14 years working in and with the MoD. He is currently Chief Investment Officer of Sustainable Accelerator, which invests in and provides support to companies in the clean tech and sustainability sectors. Prior to this, Peter was a founding director of the Carbon Trust, one of the UK's leading organisations promoting the transition to a sustainable low carbon economy.

In taking up his position Mr Shortt commented: "I am excited and honoured to be appointed a Conservator by the Secretary of State for Defence. The Common has been a huge part of my life since I first lived in the area in 1982 and remains so to this day. The recent experience of lockdown only underscored that. I hope that my experience of working both with large public sector bodies and small start ups in the sustainability field will enable me to serve the interests of the WPCC and all who use the Commons"

Mr Shortt's appointment follows a recruitment process carried out by a selection committee of the WPCC which adhered to the spirit of the Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies.

ENDS

NOTES for Editors - Wimbledon and Putney Commons is a charity managed by the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators (WPCC). 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.

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