



# Wimbledon and Putney Commons

## Media Release December 2023

### Conservators agree to pursue an increase in the levy following a positive consultation response

During the autumn of 2023, the Conservators conducted a formal public consultation exercise on a potential increase in WPCC's levy. The consultation was conducted over a six-week period by means of a consultation document posted to all 44,500 households in the levy-paying area. Recipients were invited to respond to the consultation online or by freepost. The Conservators also invited key stakeholders, including the MPs for Wimbledon, Putney and Richmond Park, the local authorities of Kingston, Merton and Wandsworth, as well as the Wimbledon Society and Putney Society to make representations.

Responses were received from 5,969 levy-paying households. The results indicated that a clear majority of respondents (79%) were in favour of the proposed increase with 21% (1,259 respondents) expressing their opposition. The primary reasons cited by those against the increase were the current cost of living challenges and a lack of utilisation of the Commons.

On 4 December 2023, the Conservators met to consider the results from the consultation and to decide how to proceed in respect of the levy proposal. Given the high level of support and having considered the representations and comments made through the consultation process, the Conservators agreed to pursue a levy increase in line with the proposal in the consultation document and have now contacted the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) about the matter. In reaching their decision, the Conservators were very cognisant of the current cost of living situation and were satisfied that all exemptions and benefits to which residents are entitled for council tax purposes will also apply to the levy.

The Conservators also reviewed a draft version of the consultation report and this was subsequently approved at their Board meeting on 11 December 2023. A copy of the approved consultation report and the Resolutions taken at the meeting can be found on the Conservators' website:

[Consultation Report](#)  
[Resolutions](#)

The decision to move forward with the levy increase reflects the Board's commitment to maintaining the Commons and ensuring its sustainability in the face of evolving ecological and community needs.

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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