



Wimbledon and Putney Commons

Media Statement October 2022

WPCC Launches a Masterplan and Levy Consultation

In 2017, WPCC developed the first ever strategy for the Commons and the development of a Masterplan is intended to provide the long-term planning for implementation of this strategic framework.

The draft Masterplan that has been prepared is the result of extensive research and consideration of the fragile balance that is necessary to maintain the site for both wildlife and people and in doing so, assesses the investment requirements for both the natural and built environments of the Commons and the way in which these requirements will be met.

The Conservators are now keen to engage visitors to the Commons in a consultation on the proposals for the natural habitats, access and signage that are set out in the draft Masterplan. They are also seeking views from members of the public on the principle of increasing the levy, through which management of this important green space is funded.

The Consultation is being carried out by consultants, Resources for Change, through both face to face sessions on the Commons and via an online survey. This year's General Open Meeting (see below) will also focus on the consultation and will provide an opportunity for the Conservators to answer questions on the proposals.

Details of the draft Masterplan and information on proposed changes to the levy, along with a link to the survey, can be found on the WPCC website: [Masterplan/Levy Consultation](#).

Conservators' General Open Meeting 6.30pm for 7pm on 1 November 2022 - London Scottish Golf Club

This year's Conservators' General Open Meeting will be held at the London Scottish Golf Club on Tuesday 1 November 2022, starting at 7pm.

Following an update from the Chairman and an update on the charity's finances, the meeting will focus on the Masterplan and Levy consultation and will give an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions.

The Windmill Car Park will remain open and refreshments will be available from 6.30pm.

Bridges Across the Beverley Brook

The Conservators are delighted that two bridges across the Beverley Brook have been restored and are back in use. The first, at Putney Lower Common, had become unsafe and was restored following a fundraising appeal asking for help to "Bring Back the Bridge". Members of the local community were incredibly generous and, along with a grant from Wandsworth Council, the £15,000 needed to repair the bridge was raised within two months.

The bridge is now open and once again allows visitors to walk the circular route across the northern section of Putney Lower Common.

The second bridge, across the Brook near the Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields was restored following a fundraising campaign led by the Thames Hare and Hounds running club. The club took on the ambitious task of raising the £42,000 needed to replace the old timber footbridge, seeking private donations and securing grants from grant-funders. The Conservators are grateful to the Thames Hare and Hounds dedication to the cause and also thank the Wimbledon Foundation, Thomas Day School – Putney Vale, RunThrough, London Marathon Charitable Trust and the many other generous individuals who donated.

Those visiting the site to admire the new bridge will notice that there is unfortunately a considerable problem with erosion of the bank close to the eastern end of the bridge which, if left, could lead to the undermining of the bridge abutment. As this is a favourite spot for dogs to access the Brook, our Maintenance Team have installed a fence to prevent access there and we will eventually be carrying out work to restore the bank. We would ask all dog walkers to help us and avoid allowing their dogs to access the Brook at this location.

New Donation Station in Windmill Car Park

The Conservators implemented a voluntary donation scheme in the Windmill Car Park in 2017 as a means of raising funds to be used to support the upkeep and preservation of the Commons.

Whilst successful, the machine only took cash and since Covid, fewer and fewer people now carry cash. The donation machine has therefore been upgraded and visitors can make donations with the simple tap of a credit or debit card, choosing from pre-set amounts between £2 and £30. The new system has been a huge success with donations doubling since installation.

When you next visit, please give it a tap and help maintain and enhance the Commons for everyone to enjoy.

Fundraising Appeal – Relaunching Access for All

WPCC's Fundraising Manager, Maggie May, is now applying to a number of grant funders to enable the restoration of five main footpaths and shared cycleways, along with the addition of new bike racks, to improve accessibility. The cost for restoring these paths is currently estimated at around £120,000.

The aim is to raise 80 percent of this cost via major grants and, as many of the grant funders request that organisations 'match fund', WPCC will need to raise the remaining 20 percent. WPCC will therefore be re-launching its successful Access for All Appeal which previously raised funds for the restoration of the Inner Windmill Road, to help provide the £24,000 that is needed to support the grants.

Governance

- **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy**

An Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy aims to provide a work environment that fosters fairness, equity, and respect for social and cultural diversity, and that is free from unlawful discrimination, bullying, harassment, vilification and victimisation.

The Conservators, at their Board meeting on 10 October 2022, approved WPCC's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, which will apply to trustees, staff and volunteers to ensure that

the Commons are seen as a safe environment for all users. A copy of the policy can be found on the WPCC website here: [\[EDI Policy\]](#)

- **Resolutions**

The Resolutions agreed at the Board of Conservators' meeting held on 10 October 2022 can be found here: [\[Draft Resolutions\]](#)

The Resolutions agreed at the Board of Conservators' meeting held on 17 October 2022 can be found here: [\[Draft Resolutions\]](#)

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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