

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators
Manor Cottage
Wimbledon Common
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Chief Executive: Simon Lee



MEDIA RELEASE

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

December 2016 Update

Update on the Retrospective Valuation Report

On Monday 28th November 2016 a Special Board meeting was held to consider the Retrospective Valuation Report (RVR) undertaken by Daniel Watney LLP. This concerns the possible financial loss to the Charity arising from the Easement that WPCC entered into with the London Borough of Wandsworth for access rights over Putney Lower Common. Representatives from Daniel Watney and charity lawyers Charles Russell Speechlys who are guiding and advising the Board in this matter were in attendance.

Having considered the initial advice of our lawyers the Board resolved to instruct Charles Russell Speechlys to prepare a proposal plus fee estimate for the implementation of the next steps in the Charity Commission's Formal Action Plan for consideration at the next scheduled Board meeting on the 12th December 2016. It will be early in the New Year that the Board will meet to decide how to proceed.

Statutory Inquiry

The Statutory Inquiry into the Charity, opened in August 2016, continues. There is nothing further to report on this matter at this time.

New Landscaping Underway at the New Development

The Easement entered into with the London Borough of Wandsworth for access rights over Putney Lower Common, placed requirements by the Conservators on the Council to reinstate areas of Common land that previously served as accessways to and a car park for the former hospital and nurses' accommodation. An area of Common land that was re-conveyed to the Conservators by Wandsworth Primary Care Trust, to the rear of the new apartments, was also required to be landscaped. These reinstatement works are now nearing completion.

The accessways that ran along the western boundary of the former hospital site have been excavated and the spoil removed. These areas have been topsoiled and seeded with a mixture of wild flower and grass seed. These new meadows will be protected by fencing until at least the Spring of 2017, so the sward has a chance to grow, before allowing the public to access these restored areas of Common land.

Protective earth bunds have been installed along the front edge of the Common at its interface with the Lower Richmond Road and alongside the accessway serving the New Development. Planting areas are currently being prepared and these will be protected by temporary wooden fencing, similar to that used to protect the new plantings adjacent to the woodland buffer on the main part of Putney Lower Common. These planting works, which will include a range of native shrub and trees species, are due to commence early in December 2016.

Carols by the Windmill

On the 17th December 2017 the Windmill Museum Trustees are hosting a carol concert outside the Windmill from 3.00 to 4.30pm as a celebration to mark the restoration of the sails. A local concert band will be leading the carols and hot drinks and mince pies will be provided. All are invited to join what is expected to be a fitting festive event.

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.

The Conservators (Trustees) were formally notified by the Charity Commission on the 15th September 2016 that it had opened a Statutory Inquiry. See www.gov.uk/government/news/new-charity-investigation-Wimbledon-and-Putney-Commons-conservators for further details.

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