

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators
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Chief Executive: Simon Lee



MEDIA RELEASE

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators’ Election 2018 Update

Following the results of the Conservators’ Election 2018 that were announced on the 1st March 2018, Electoral Reform Services (ERS) have provided a detailed analysis of the results, both by Borough and also by the number of votes cast for each candidate online and by post. The results are appended to this Media Release.

Prue Whyte, outgoing Chairman of the Board of Conservators stated ‘Firstly I’d like to give my thanks to Appointed Conservator Mr Michael Rappolt, who as Returning Officer has overseen the election process in conjunction with ERS. Turnout was up by 28% from 16.4% to 21% which is very much welcomed and with the voice of the electorate having been received, I wish the new Board every success in moving forward from the turbulence of the past three years, to focus on the future governance of our cherished Commons.’

Another welcome trend in voting patterns was that the percent of those electors voting on-line, at 46% of the total of those voting, was much higher this time than last and this has saved the WPCC in the region of £700 in postage.

In addition, ERS has provided a more detailed analysis of the 365 votes that were invalid. Of these 285 were spoilt papers, the majority where the voter had cast too many votes by writing in their own names into the box intended for candidates who nominated themselves after the ballot papers were printed as allowed by the 1871 Parliamentary Act. These voters effectively cast 6 votes rather than the 5 allowed. Of the rest 8 were duplicates where the voter had cast a vote on-line and also submitted a postal response and 55 were from people on the Electoral Register who are under the age of 18 years of age whose vote had to be discounted.

Note to Editors

Wimbledon and Putney Commons were created by an Act of Parliament in 1871. That Act provided for a Board of eight Conservators.

The principle function of a Conservator is to ensure that the Commons are kept “forever open and unenclosed and unbuilt on...[and preserved] for public and local use for purposes of exercise and recreation...”.

Five Conservators are elected by those who reside in the levy paying area and contribute to the funding of the Commons, now through the payment of a “Levy” collected through their Council Tax.

Three others are appointed by central government departments – currently the Department of Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Home Office and the Ministry of Defence

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Analysis of votes cast for Candidates by Borough and Internet/Postal

Borough	Candidate	Total	Internet	Postal
Kingston	BIGNOLD, Andrew	223	75	148
Merton	BIGNOLD, Andrew	937	469	468
Wandsworth	BIGNOLD, Andrew	2596	1143	1453
Kingston	BOWEN, Timothy	170	65	105
Merton	BOWEN, Timothy	2577	1362	1215
Wandsworth	BOWEN, Timothy	2725	1293	1432
Kingston	CALLAWAY, Jonathan	137	48	89
Merton	CALLAWAY, Jonathan	913	453	460
Wandsworth	CALLAWAY, Jonathan	3290	1563	1727
Kingston	CAMERON, John	164	57	107
Merton	CAMERON, John	1071	486	585
Wandsworth	CAMERON, John	3100	1343	1757
Kingston	GILLBE, Shirley	211	63	148
Merton	GILLBE, Shirley	1254	569	685
Wandsworth	GILLBE, Shirley	4357	1896	2461
Kingston	HINCE, David	193	69	124
Merton	HINCE, David	2720	1433	1287
Wandsworth	HINCE, David	3426	1599	1827
Kingston	HIRSCH, Peter	220	87	133
Merton	HIRSCH, Peter	3147	1639	1508
Wandsworth	HIRSCH, Peter	3769	1760	2009
Kingston	HOLDEN, Sarah-Jane	210	55	155
Merton	HOLDEN, Sarah-Jane	2937	1495	1442
Wandsworth	HOLDEN, Sarah-Jane	3864	1732	2132
Kingston	NEIL MILLS, Diane	171	69	102
Merton	NEIL MILLS, Diane	2820	1497	1323
Wandsworth	NEIL MILLS, Diane	3554	1762	1792
Kingston	RUTHERFORD, Brian	168	61	107
Merton	RUTHERFORD, Brian	1145	528	617
Wandsworth	RUTHERFORD, Brian	3496	1624	1872