

MAC Annual Public Meeting 19th June 2023

Date: Monday 19th June 2023	Time: 19.00-21:00	Venue: Nature Scope, Off Dorlcote Rd, London SW18 3RT, UK
Minutes to be stored on this page: https://www.wandsworthcommon.org/about-us-wwco		
MAC Members Present	In Attendance	Apologies
Chris Metcalfe (Chair) (CM) Mark Luboff (Vice Chair) (ML) Richard Fox (MAC Communications, Co-Chair Friends of Wandsworth Common) (RF) Julia Bott (Co-Chair Friends of Wandsworth Common) (JB) Elizabeth Jevons (Vice Chair) (LJ) Gwen Rosen (GR) Peter Farrow (PF) Lewis More O'Ferrall (Vice Chair) (LM) Derek Wright (DW) Benoit Laflamme (BL) Peter Dawson (PD) (MAC members 11)	Valter Goncalves, Enable (VG) Neil Blackley, Enable (NB) Stephen Biggs, Parks Police (SB) Sunnee Arhagba, Parks Police (SA) FoWC members 17 Other members of the public 5 A log has been taken to identify all members of the public who attended.	Ian Mitchell (IM) Annabel Osborn (AO) Charlie Oppenheim (CO) Rosemary Birchall (RB) Susy Lloyd (SL)

No.	Item	Speaker	Discussion	Action
1	Introduction, Apologies, Overview of activities	Chris Metcalfe	Apologies above. CM paid tribute to David Kirk, who sadly passed away for his involvement on the MAC. He also reminded the audience about the role of the MAC.	
2	Management Report &	Neil Blackley	NB reminded the audience of the role and mandate of Enable as well as the contractors working on the common. He described the work delivered during the past year and thanked the public for over	

	Management Plan Implementation		<p>500 hours of volunteering. He thanked the Friends of Wandsworth Common for their huge contribution towards the cleaning of litter. VG described the engagement efforts with dog owners to ensure rules were properly understood by park users.</p> <p>Points also touched:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a Tree and Woodland Management Framework, which identifies habitat types and planting principles. Planting of 3,585 whips with volunteers (St Marks and Batt Rise Cemetery, Bellevue and Trinity Road, Spencer Park/Northside), which is the equivalent of 717 linear meters (pollution screening and connective habitats). Predominantly hawthorn, blackthorn, dog-rose, buckthorn and other native plants. In addition, 30 extra standard trees were planted across the common in the last planting season. - Litter and recycling: recycling in place since Aug 2021. Up to Jan 2023, we have removed 62.7 tonnes of recyclables from WC. Still in learning mode for the moment. The next tender will include a recycling provision. - Sports Pitches: The council has released the most recent sports playing pitch strategy and is considering options for the future provision of playing pitches across the whole borough. Increased the amount of end of season renovation works that are carried out, provide 'rest' for the pitches as well. - Interpretation/signage: audit carried out, suggestions to be made to improve how they look - Personal trainers: key focus area. 14 licenses issued during the period to ensure users of PTs have Insurance, Relevant qualifications - REPS Level3, First Aid management plan. Parks police enforcing with proactive information, potential for Fixed Penalty Notices for repeat offenders. 	
3	Cycle Paths & Keeping Wandsworth	Lewis More O'Ferrall, Mark Luboff & Chief	LM updated the audience on a potential North/South cycle path across the Common. For background, this need is recognised in the WC Management Plan, which states:	

	Common Safe	Officer Stephen Biggs	<p>“The path network on the Common is either pedestrian or shared use with bicycles. Cycle routes are limited to two paths from west to east across the Cats Back Bridge. There is currently no off-road provision for cyclists to or from Wandsworth Common or Clapham Junction stations. The Cycling Strategy to 2020 graded the roads around Wandsworth Common as Level 3 (requiring an advanced level of cycling). With an increasing proportion of casualties in Wandsworth in recent years, the Strategy noted that action needs to be taken to improve safety for cyclists. The demand for a north to south route is growing and this is something that should be considered for the future. Participants in the stakeholder workshop suggested a route along Bolingbroke Grove, either inside or along the edge of the road.”. In the Management Plan Action Plan 16.1, the objective stated is “To ensure visitors of all abilities can access the Common and use its facilities”</p> <p>As things stand in this early stage of Committee discussions there have been no conclusions drawn nor any vote taken. However, although the MAC agrees a North/South cycle route is needed on Wandsworth Common, the original purpose of which was seen by the Management Plan stakeholders as an opportunity to enhance the transport needs of Common users and facilitate easier access to Common resources which current Common, by-laws prohibit and where cycling is banned on many of the paths providing such access. Many of these paths are currently used by cyclists despite the law and a laissez-faire attitude by authorities has resulted in “relaxed” cycling by Common users, adults and children alike, which very much reflects the MAC’s preferred thinking. Three potential paths have been considered.</p> <p>During discussions, other principles surfaced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New routes should form a “stage” in existing “quiet routes” cycling network. Any such link would require a bound gravel or standard asphalt surface with the addition of lighting - Paths would need widening 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paths would need conversion from common land to public highway, which in turn would be replaced by common land elsewhere (which is a complex legal process) <p>It is these three principles which met most opposition in the MAC committee meeting with no support for any of them. Discussions will continue over the coming months, but it is likely that the approach will change.</p> <p>ML reminded the audience of the concerns that kick-started the Keeping Wandsworth Common Safe action group. They were initiated on the back of the increase in antisocial behaviour and criminal offences observed on the common during the heavily-used period during COVID lockdowns. He indicated there is now a re-energisation of Ward panels (https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/community-safety/safer-neighbourhood-groups/ward-panels/), which were largely inactive back in 2020.</p> <p>Chief Officer Biggs delivered his report titled Wandsworth Parks & Events Police report for the period from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. The Parks Police is coordinating an upcoming road show in collaboration with the MET police. Date to be announced later. Additional patrols will be put in place during summer months. The public is encouraged to respond to the public safety protection order (PSPO) available here: https://haveyoursay.citizenspace.com/wandsworthced/cs-22/ Parks Police promotes responsible cycling by taking an educational approach.</p>	
4	Q&A	<p>A member of the public talked about concerns related to more dogs being seen in the dog-free zone near the cricket pitch. Officer Biggs is aware of this area, will reinforce the need to be aware to his officers and will continue to take an educational approach, especially with new dog owners. CM highlighted the MAC is in</p>	<p>NB to follow-up on why they wouldn't be numbered, but according to him they should.</p>

strong support of continuing to maintain and respect the approx 7% of the common being restricted to dogs.

Another member of the public highlighted lamp posts don't have numbers on them, therefore it's difficult to notify broken ones. NB to follow-up on why they wouldn't be numbered, but according to him they should. He also brought up a need to monitor certain no-cycling paths that are often being used by cyclists. SB recognised these areas and will ask his officers to be vigilant. Finally, he highlighted an area where an additional bin might be required as there is a park bench constantly filled with rubbish. NB to validate location of potential bin missing and follow-up.

A comment was made about signage – too much is sometimes counter-productive. It would be important to find creative stand-out messaging. A suggestion was made to consider a provision for fenced-in dog-only areas. NB mentioned this is part of what may be considered over time.

Another member of the public has noticed more dog fouling. NB said we could consider more signage, which will be part of the review of the signage approach to be completed in the coming months. The contractors working on the common will be asked to share more information with dog owners regarding potential fines if fouling is left behind. The same person highlighted a desire for more lighting on the path along the railway (reinforced by a second member of the public). NB mentioned it would be challenging to increase lighting due to the impact it has on Nature. People are advised to stay on the already-light paths during the night. VG mentioned dog-free areas and the need to pick up after their dog will be highlighted during dog owner engagement sessions. A dog owner commented that responsible owners want to prevent dog fouling as it reflects badly on all of them and she expressed her lack of appetite for a fenced-in dog area as she believes open

NB to validate location of potential bin missing and follow-up.

			<p>spaces are much better and allow interactions with all park users.</p> <p>A question was posed whether electric cycles were allowed on the common and where most of the 12 FPNs were given. SB confirmed e-bikes are allowed, but should adhere to the 12mph speed limit dictated by the byelaws. The FPNs were mostly about dangerous behaviours as Parks Police take an educational approach and mostly use FPNs in cases where there are repeated offences or reckless behaviour.</p> <p>Points were raised about the need to better maintain the bowling green to a satisfactory level of maintenance to preserve the heritage. NB said they are acutely aware of the importance of the bowling green and they are actively monitoring maintenance.</p> <p>A member requested if the MAC, the Friends and Enable could be rallied behind the idea of having a 5sq meters garden to commemorate the Craig Telescope, which was the biggest in the world for 5 years in the 1950's. NB mentioned there could be serious obstacles to do so and CM encouraged the attendee to get involved with the Friend's Heritage group.</p>	
5	MAC Report, Accounts & Committee Elections	Chris Metcalfe	<p>Accounts were presented, with the only expense for planting activities. There is a small residual balance, which will likely be invested in further tree planting next year.</p> <p>Nominations for the MAC were put forward as follows CM and SL will be stepping down. RB, JB, RF, CO, PF, LM, GR, DW & PD will continue as part of their 3 year term. LJ and ML stood for re-election and BL for the first time. All nominations were approved by the meeting.</p> <p>CM thanked SB and his officers for keeping the Common safe</p>	

			despite their stretched resources, the Friends for their strong contribution and Enable for their management of the Common. Special mention was made to Annabel Osborn, who is leaving Enable for her continued efforts.	
6	AOB		ML has shared some words to recognise CM for his involvement on the MAC over the last 4 years.	