

WHAT IS THE WANDSWORTH COMMON MAC?

The Wandsworth Common Management Advisory Committee, commonly known as the MAC, was established in 1986 when it was constituted by Wandsworth Council to work with the council and its managing agents (currently Enable) to advise on the management of Wandsworth Common.

MAC members are democratically elected by local residents at the organisation's annual public meeting (APM) which is held in June of each year. Everyone is invited to attend and can take part in the vote to elect residents to the MAC.

The aim of the MAC is to work in partnership with Wandsworth Council, Enable, the Council's contractors, users of the Common and the Friends Group to:

- protect and enhance the biodiversity, wildlife and natural aspects of the Common
- make sure the Common provides a balance between organised activities and free space for individuals and small groups to enjoy
- promote the Common as an essential asset, benefiting local communities
- enable fundraising and encourage volunteering in support of the above
- provide opportunities to increase community use and involvement amongst different age groups
- support and engage with all stakeholder groups
- monitor the management and development of the Common
- hold Wandsworth Council, its Managing Agents and contractors to account and ensure services are delivered in line with the Management Plan
- support users and local residents and communities to achieve their vision for the common

During the past year we have worked closely with the Council and Enable on the new Management and Maintenance Plan for the Common, a plan which will set the agenda for the Common over the next 10 years.

In April 2018 the MAC played a lead role in establishing the Friends of Wandsworth Common. The Friends have been extremely active and successful in engaging directly with users of the Common and currently has a paid-up membership of nearly 300 local residents and a contact list of almost 1,000 people / groups. The MAC and the Friends work in tandem for the betterment of the Common and currently have a number of projects in the pipeline:

- working with the Council to seek a viable solution for the development and use of Neal's Lodge, which has been left vacant for several years and hope it can become a community hub for local residents providing facilities for local groups and community activities
- advising on the equipment for the upgrading of the various playgrounds on the common
- investigating and pursuing funding opportunities for a drinking and refill fountain next to the Skylark Cafe
- working with the Council on the re-tendering of the contract for a managing agent