

Friends Of Wimbledon Park

News update for members, Feb 2013

Come to the official FOWP launch! [FOWP](#)

Please come and join us for the official FOWP launch on Wednesday 20 February from 7-9pm in the athletics stadium clubhouse. The aim of the evening is for members to meet, chat and learn about different aspects of Wimbledon Park. Trees and project work involving trees will be the main theme, with ash disease, oak processionary moth, birds, bats and pests all under discussion. Sport in the park will be a secondary theme and there will also be an update on lake restoration. Refreshments will be provided, and you will have plenty of opportunity to chat to other members. Plans are still afoot for a children's launch, probably in the summer half term, with a possible sports day and school involvement.

Lighting in the park [NEWS](#)

Merton Council is considering the issue of lighting in the park. There could be a substantial change to the style and placement of lamps, with priorities being ease of maintenance and avoiding vandalism. The AELTC is to donate funds to the council towards lighting along 'Stadium Lane'.

Proposed ice rink – have your say [NEWS](#)

Merton Council has been approached by an applicant wishing to set up an ice rink and other attractions in the park during the winter of 2013. Doug Napier, the council's Greenspaces Manager, was not happy with the last such event in the park, in 2011, but he believes the current proposal is of higher quality with a 'real ice' skating rink, changing facilities and a German market. Nick Steiner, FOWP chairman, is circulating the application to members and associates to gauge local people's reaction, so please let us have your thoughts.

Our oldest oak [TREES, NEWS](#)

You may not know that the large oak tree, in the left corner of the green space beside the temporary car park extension, dates from around 1790. The veteran tree project is now underway, and a series of large logs have been installed around the oak to protect it, since if the ground around it gets too compacted the roots will suffer. When the weather improves, volunteers may be needed to help spike the area and improve aeration. A value of £250,000 has been put on the tree – though we are not entirely sure how that sum has been calculated! There may be a future project to name the tree, which could be coupled with the schools project to name the stream.

Lake restoration [PROJECTS, LAKE, FUNDING](#)

FOWP representatives met with Cllr Stephen Alambritis in November, regarding the restoration of the lake, and he gave his verbal support for our proposal. A further meeting with the AELTC took place in January 2013. A feasibility study for the restoration work would cost tens of thousands of pounds. The cost of the work itself – probably amounting to between £4m and £12m – would come from the Lottery Fund, the Heritage Fund, Olympic funding and other sources.

Barbecues [NEWS](#)

The positioning of a BBQ site is still being considered and discussed, particularly with regard to health and safety issues. Any views would be welcome.

Founder members

Southfields Grid Residents Association; Wimbledon Park Residents Association;
Wimbledon House Residents Association

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Fish poaching still a problem LAKE, ANGLING

Although relations between boaters and anglers have improved, there is still a problem with poaching on the lake, with carp being stolen and sold. Angling Club bailiffs are to operate on the public side of the lake to try to prevent this, and the council has agreed to provide them with a key to allow them to get access. Canada geese and cormorants may be causing issues on the lake and golf course that need discussion.

Sports facilities NEWS, ATHLETICS, FUNDING

Wimbledon Hockey Club has agreed to consider moving to the athletics stadium, to make sure it is used more fully. There is also scope to improve access for disabled athletes. The next stage is a meeting between the Hercules Athletics Club, FOWP and the Wimbledon Club, and Merton Sports Development is also going to be contacted. With the lake restoration there may be an opportunity to introduce events like the triathlon. FOWP is currently investigating the types of funding that may be available. The resurfacing of the first five tennis courts is now largely finished, and the second five will be renovated this summer. Some of the landscaping around the beach volleyball courts is still to be completed.

Traffic management during Wimbledon Fortnight NEWS, CHAMPIONSHIPS

Action is under way to determine whether a Traffic Management Order can be issued during the Wimbledon Tennis Championships to stop cars driving into the top end of Revelstoke Road and then turning round because the gates are locked. An alternative might be to put up a sign saying 'Park Gates Closed' to deter motorists from driving into the dead end in the first place.

Access to the gym PAVILION

Youngsters have been getting into the gym. Changing the access code should stop this.

Crime in the park NEWS

There have been anecdotal reports of recent mobile phone thefts in the park after dark. If you do suffer such a robbery, please contact the police. If such crimes go unreported then the police can't take appropriate action, such as increasing foot or bike patrols.

Still no decision on the car park extension NEWS

Planning Application 12/P1181 (Merton) regarding the car park extension is still caught up in the planning process.

A website for FOWP

When we failed to secure funding for our new website from the Capital Community Foundation, various members very generously dug into their own pockets to pay for the design and set-up costs. Work is now well under way and the website should be up and running soon. It will provide a useful way for members to stay up to date with issues, share news and views, and find out more about FOWP.

FOWP AGM FOWP, NEWS

You are warmly invited to attend the first FOWP AGM, which will take place on Thursday 21 March 2013 at 8pm in St. Austen's Hall, (to the rear of Christ the King church). As well as electing officers, there will be a chance for a cup of tea and a chat.

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