



# Friends of Wimbledon Park

News update for members, August 2013

## **Council may debate car park extension in September**

The permanent extension of the car park (planning application 12/P1181) looks likely to be considered by Merton councillors at a planning meeting in September, although we don't have a precise date as yet. We are currently considering how best to make FOWP's representation to the meeting.

## **Large groups cause disruption in the park**

Concerns are growing about large groups using the park for parties during the summer months. This is leading to a range of problems including barbecues and fires causing damage to trees; large quantities of litter, especially nappies; and cars being driven onto the grass. Some groups refuse to leave the park at closing time, and on occasion the police have been called because of anti-social behaviour. A multi-pronged approach is needed to tackle these issues, probably involving police and community officer involvement, the restoration of the post at the end of the Revelstoke Road car park, an 'opening times' notice on the gates and the provision of barbecue stations with safe facilities for disposal of coals.

## **Wimbledon Championships 2013: a good result for residents**

For some years, residents living at the top end of the Revelstoke Road cul-de-sac have suffered severe disruption due to traffic mistakenly trying to drive into the park during the Wimbledon Championships. This year, FOWP got involved and was able to make a real difference. We brought together various parties, including councillors from Merton and Wandsworth, highways officers from Wandsworth and police officers, resulting in cones being placed in the road and appropriate signage. Although there were still a few problems, residents felt disruption was much reduced.

## **Wildlife thrives**

A common spotted orchid (*dactylorhiza fuchsia*) has been recorded in the park – an important identification. It has also been a good year for stag beetles, which have been seen in some numbers. The wildflower beds created in 2012 did bloom again this year, although not quite as spectacularly. Those in Durnsford Rec appear to have fared better.

## **Restoring the lake**

Our plans to restore the water quality of the lake, improve wildlife habitats and improve access for all are progressing slowly but surely. Following his pledge of support last November, Cllr Stephen Alambritis has agreed to our proposal for a feasibility study into the required works. Cabinet member Andrew Judge has also become involved. Merton Council will require the revised Conservation Management Plan (CMP) to be tendered out.

## **Sports round-up**

### Athletics stadium

The Hockey Club has made good progress in its negotiations with the Athletics Club for use of the centre of the track, although problems with field events such as javelin are



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still to be resolved. If they go ahead, the plans would lead to improvements in facilities for both athletes and hockey players.

## Beach volleyball

The beach volleyball facility has been very busy over the summer. Silver birch trees, which were part of the agreement, will not be considered in this area yet.

## Football pitches

Football has been relocated elsewhere in the borough while repairs are carried out to the area where cars parked during the Wimbledon Championships and the Olympics. Once this work is completed the football pitches can be reinstated.

## **Dog Control Orders suspended**

Dog control orders have been suspended as Merton Council has no dog wardens for Wimbledon Park and therefore cannot enforce them.

## **Our park should be part of Wandle Valley Regional Park**

We are continuing to pressure for Wimbledon Park to be included within the Wandle Valley Regional Park.

## **Café signs too dominant**

During the Wimbledon Championships a large 'café open' sign was erected next to the bowling green. There have been numerous comments that this is too dominant and should be taken down or reduced in height.

## **FOWP broadens its reach**

Nigel Martin and Paul Bishop from St Cecilia's School have joined our executive committee, helping to widen FOWP's reach still further. Membership has now reached 104, of which seven are corporate memberships. We welcome new members – please visit [www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk) for details of how to join.