



THE FRIENDS OF TRENT COUNTRY PARK

Minutes of the Friends July 15th, 2026 Public Meeting

Dear Friends

The Chairman and Committee welcomed 16 members and guests, especially Cllr Alex Georgiou, Leader of Enfield Council, and Cllr Alara Ayyildiz, both ward councillors for Cockfosters.

The minutes of the preceding meeting in November 2025 were taken as read and approved.

Chairman's introduction

The ambitions of the Friends of TCP and supporters now enjoy a substantially improved outlook following the change of administration in May. Over several years we have represented a programme of desirable improvements to the Parks Dept and received little encouragement or support. The new administration has issued a much more positive commitment in its May manifesto to the value of parks.

Councillors presentation and questions

Parks Strategy (Cllrs Alex Georgiou and Alara Ayyildiz)

- The new council administration recognises the importance of the 124 parks and green spaces across the borough and seeks to secure their future for the enduring value they represent to all 1/3 million residents in Enfield.
- **Friends grants** - An allocation to support the work of Friends groups has already been announced and can be applied flexibly depending on the priorities of each Friends group
- **Cockfosters entrance** - Funds have now been secured for the restoration of the two failing heritage wooden gates at the Cockfosters entrance. A precise programme is being worked up. This follows recent restoration of the N pillar complete with a newly carved topmark. Friends are adamant that no more over-large vehicles will be permitted through this entrance, the source of no less than 4 damaging collisions with the gates of late. Enforcement of vehicle size limits is down to LBE and has full support from the Friends.
- **Security in TCP**, especially protection from popup raves, depends on early detection and blocking action by LBE. This has been effectively secured in recent times but the Friends observe is not consistent, and LBE is requested to strengthen its procedures against this threat.
- **Berkeley**: the Mansion is almost complete after many months of intense rebuilding and the museum opened last week. Some parking provision is being set up outside the campus, which would include use of a shuttle bus down Snakes Lane, but this is not yet finalised. The café is now open and represents a most attractive venue with terrace and fine ambience.
- **North shore restoration proposal**: questioned over LBE's plans for reworking of the north bank of the lake, Cllr Georgiou stated the administration had no prescriptive view, and would align with local views and preferences. The Friends

committee will continue discussions with officers to secure clearance of overgrowth whilst having regard to natural habitat. The Friends agreed to convene a public meeting with the relevant officers on site at the north shore to discuss options. This will probably take place in September.

- **Major events:** it is the council's stance that no more destructive over-large events will be permitted in council parks, since earlier claims that events generate revenue for the council have been decisively shown to be without substance when all costs are taken into account.
- **Park issues:** The Councillors are happy to facilitate the solving of any park issues, and are currently working on the cleanliness of the toilets, construction debris in the lakes and the much-delayed installation of nesting boxes purchased by the Friends a year ago.

Planning Strategy (Cllr Georgiou)

Recently revealed development proposals for western Enfield, and on-going negotiations with the government inspector over the draft Local Plan, have thrown a long shadow over the park and the community it serves. The new administration remains firm on its commitment to protecting the borough's green spaces.

If TfL builds 4 high towers on Cockfosters station car park, it will displace many commuter drivers, who will inevitably spill over into TCP's parking facilities as local roads are closed to commuter parking. Parking charges / restrictions in the park are highly likely to follow to keep space open for park visitors.

Cllr Georgiou has withdrawn LBE's support for the Crews Hill & Chase Park New Town proposal, which would cover all or part of more than 2,000 hectares from Oakwood to the M25, including the Crews Hill settlement. Friends are well aware that, if there is no moderation to these proposals, the whole area will become a construction site for 20-30 years, and the open setting of the park will be diminished substantially, degrading a heritage asset otherwise benefiting the whole of Enfield and beyond.

The borough needs at least 5,000 affordable or social-rent homes for currently-listed needy families, which can be accommodated from already identified brownfield sites, including Meridian Water. Build targets of an additional 29,000 dwellings over the next 15 years, proposed by the previous administration and reflected in the draft local plan, which is currently going through the last phases of its examination, are without objective justification and highly prejudicial to current stakeholders. The Friends are working in close cooperation with Enfield RoadWatch and CLARA to resist these destructive and opportunistic proposals.

The recent publication of the draft London Plan proposes yet another housing target and development scenario for the borough. **The London Plan consultation will run until October 15 and the Friends will post advice and guidance on how to submit objections in due course.**

Other matters (Carol Fisk)

- **Ecology:** the Friends secured a dozen bird nesting boxes using revenue from the sale of seeds from the bird feed dispenser. The Parks Dept is being chased to install this feature.
- **Park Planning:** the committee is pressing for its development plan to be reviewed by Parks Staff. Items include fencing work, road surfacing, tree management, water garden curation, wildflower meadow management, pedestrian pathway to the Cockfosters café, adult gym, kids play area repair.
- **Entertainment:** now the mansion is almost complete the committee is looking to arrange suitably sized musical events on the north lawn, as used to be the case, possibly starting in 2027, and arranged in cooperation with campus residents.
- **Volunteer activities:** With a more collaborative administration in place, the Friends are hoping to resume activities, such as litter-picks and work on the Water Garden.

Thank you for your continued support

Peter W Gibbs
Chair

Contacts

Please feel free to contact us if you have any concerns about the park or would like to join or help the committee. You are guaranteed a response from the committee.

You may also want to share your concerns with the Cockfosters Ward Councillors.

Cllr.Alessandro.Georgiou@Enfield.gov.uk
Cllr.Alara.Ayyildiz@enfield.gov.uk

Park issues can also be reported via the [Council website](#).



Membership renewals

Thanks to all our members. We are not taking dues for 2026, so no need to renew for this year. If you're new to us and would like to be added to our mailing list, please email and we'll add you.

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Welcome to the Friends of Trent Country Park website

We hope you will find the information here of interest and that it will encourage you to help us to improve the facilities in Trent Country Park for the enjoyment of all.

Visit the website

The Friends website is packed with useful and fun information. You can learn about the history and ecology of the park and much more.

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