



# FRIENDS OF TRENT COUNTRY PARK

## Report of the Autumn 2025 AGM and Public Meeting

Dear Friends

Thanks to those of you who were able to attend our AGM and public meeting. We had a good turnout and numerous issues were addressed. The Minutes follow.

Thanks as always for your support.

Peter W. Gibbs  
Chair

**Report on Proceedings of AGM & General Meeting, held at 7.30pm on Nov 10th 2025 at Christ the King Catholic Church, 29, Bramley Road. N14. With added explanatory notes.**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** - The Chairman opened the AGM and welcomed 27 members and guests Colin Bull, Chair CLARA, Nollaig Whyte, Chair Trent Park Residents Association, and Alan Perkin, Trustee Trent Park House

Apologies:  
Cllr Alessandro Georgiou  
Cllr Edward Smith  
Cllr. Ruby Sampson

The minutes of the previous meeting, having been distributed, were agreed.

**Annual election of officers:**

The following candidates were presented for approval and voted in to hold office for 2025/6:

Chairman – Peter W Gibbs  
Vice Chair and Treasurer – Carol Fisk  
Membership secretary – Juliet Barnett

The **Friends Committee** was also proposed and approved to serve for another year comprising the above officers plus:

Ronald Cohen, Tony Hillman, Kirsty Johnstone

**Additional Committee members sought: please volunteer whatever time you can and contribute to shaping and conserving our park.**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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BANK ACCOUNT:     **Starting balance at 5-11-24:**                     **£ 4,737.70**

Activity since last AGM report:

<u>Income:</u>	Membership dues:	£ 13.62
	Duck Feeder	£ 903.00
	Tree House Friends donation	£ 25.00
	Book sales	£ 6.00
		<u>£ 947.62</u>

**Total     £ 5,685.32**

<u>Expenses:</u>	Ruth Smith – web hosting	£ 40.00
	RSPB – nest boxes	£ 408.00
	Christ the King hall rental [May]	£ 40.00
	Heart Internet [ domain fee]	£ 71.94

**Total     £ 559.94**

**Balance at 10-11-25                                     £ 5,125.38**

NOTES:

£2,000 Tesco grant encumbered for park improvement project.

Unencumbered funds = **£3,125.38**

CAROL FISK, TREASURER

Discussions are in hand with LBE to promote improvements, and may require disbursements over the year ahead to make schemes viable. A grant application from the Vinehill Trust Foundation is also progressing to fund conservation of the heritage gate. Contributions from the public are very necessary to compensate for a lack of Council funding for improvements. It is Friends' policy not to fund maintenance that must be sustained by LBE.

The report was well received by the meeting and voted for acceptance. Adopted.

The AGM closed and the general meeting commenced.

#### **GENERAL MEETING - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Friends report the need for high levels of input by the committee to maintain LBE's focus on delivering good results throughout the borough's premier Park.

The Friends were promised a detailed plan of works by staff, but despite the passage of months, it is not yet to hand. We have submitted our proposals and, wherever possible, offered volunteer support, and engaged with our helpful councillors to secure results.

The pressure from LBE to accept large commercial events in the Park has not relented, but changes in the leisure entertainment market and a growing realisation at LBE that the damage and costs arising from major events carry away most of the claimed revenue benefits, has resulted in another season of relative peace. Local events have progressed well, and the summer season has seen the Park remain free for the many thousands of families who value unrestricted open space. The Friends remain vigilant.

The planning environment has changed very much for the worse. Closure and development on the Cockfosters station carpark has emerged again as a threat to the Park and neighbourhood. Car parking displaced from the station will impact the park, probably resulting in some form of control or charging. A CPZ zone around the station is almost certain which will affect many hundreds of residents and businesses, all negatively. In conjunction with CLARA the Friends are supporting objections in the hope of delaying or modifying this most damaging and unproductive scheme.

As part of the current Local Development Plan discussions, TfL is now urging a larger development scheme around Oakwood station that will also impact the park. Disregard by the London Mayor for the Green Belt is pure political opportunism in our view, as the Cockfosters scheme if completed would contribute no more than 1% of Enfield's housing target vs disruption for many thousands of travellers. An inspector's report is expected early 2026.

A further blow to the ecology of the whole area is presented by the latest national planning proposals, namely to create a new town of at least 21,000 new homes to completely infill the Green Belt between Oakwood and Crews Hill and up to the M25. This would bring a further 60,000 residents into this area of London with its narrow lanes and fully stretched educational and health amenities. Residents' groups across the area are fully engaged in resisting these totally disproportionate proposals, none of which will

contribute to the standard of living of those stakeholders now living in west Enfield and east Barnet, nor improve the lot of families living in substandard accommodation seeking low cost housing.

[Please see the attached Enfield RoadWatch newsletter for the latest information on the Local Plan and New Town and what you can do to help the campaign against developing the Green Belt]

And a quick note about the closure of the woodland parking next to the cafe. We and the local councillors have objected to this. A concerned resident has put a petition in the cafe that will remain there through this weekend and then be sent to Lisa Smart, Head of Urban Green Spaces. Please sign if you are near the cafe.

### **Events (Colin Bull)**

Negotiations with officers in Barnet and Enfield have moved towards a better understanding of how to control crowds and extra traffic generated by over-sized commercial events. Adequate safety, and preservation of access and amenity are costly and some events promoters have moved their activities to boroughs where sites are less onerous in terms of on-costs.

The whole events market, which went through near collapse during Covid, is recovering but slowly and choosing its operating sites with greater care, having regard to safety and cost management.

Over-sized supply vehicles trying to enter the Park from Cockfosters remain a burden and we are pressing LBE to enforce its size limitations on events contractors to preserve the safety of visitors, as well as the heritage assets and roadways, already heavily damaged by heavy trucks.

We remain firm in our support of community activities, organised and sized to the capability of the Park to host them. The summer holidays, a time of heavy demand from families, should be kept free of disruptive events and we expect LBE to enforce a moratorium during these weeks.

### **Raves and security**

We note that LBE has been more effective in clearing illegal raves from the Park, in contrast to earlier years when it was claimed nothing could be done. We urge LBE to maintain its new policy in this regard, and impose barriers to incursion.

### **Berkeley estate**

Good progress was noted with the development nearing completion and the grounds looking very attractive.

Work is proposed to commence shortly to restore the view from the mansion to the obelisk. This will involve several months of vegetation clearance and other work on the north shore of the east lake. The end goal is to turn scrub habitat into a wet meadow, which is an increasingly rare habitat. The work is funded by developer funds and planning permission has already been given, but the public will have the opportunity to comment and suggest how this area could be used in the future. [Benches, fishing platforms, dog ramps, etc.]

Prospects for the new museum sited in the mansion, slated to open early 2026, look exceedingly good. Parking arrangements have still to be resolved for museum visitors, and residents have concerns over charging for use of their bus service and the impact of museum visitors walking around the estate. A further concern remains over apportioning long term costs for maintenance of Snakes Lane.

### **Local Development Plan / ERW (Carol Fisk)**

Enfield RoadWatch was set up 10 years ago to resist unwarranted development of the Green Belt along Enfield Road. Over the past two years it has collaborated with several other local interest groups to put up robust objections to the Council's draft local plan, which would build some 9,000 new homes at Crews Hill and on the Green Belt, both sides of Enfield Road up to Hadley Road. The Local Plan has been going through its statutory examination by the Planning Inspectorate and we await the Inspector's report next Spring.

In addition to the sites proposed by the Council – and developers who have been land-banking Green Belt sites – Transport for London [TfL] announced during the examination that they are looking at intense development along the tube line between Oakwood and Cockfosters, and all down the north side of Bramley Road and Enfield Road. This would include a large area of Trent Country Park, in particular the acid grassland fields, which are a rare habitat in London, and also the golf course. This development would be outside whatever is decided in the Local Plan, so the local groups are monitoring it carefully and pushing back wherever possible.

And, as mentioned above, we are also now campaigning against the massive urban extension proposed by the Government, which would take one third of Enfield's Green Belt [884 hectares]. Again, please refer to the attached ERW newsletter for more information about this and what you can do to help.

Any one of these three threats would change the character of our area completely, from suburban to high-density urban. Building on the Green Belt is not the solution to the affordable housing crisis, as we explain in the attached newsletter.

### **Next Friends meeting**

The next meeting is planned for May 2026. A further newsletter will be issued early next year.

Meeting closed 21.15 hrs.

PWG 16.11.25

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:** Members are requested earnestly to address concerns to us and also make their views known via the following LBE councillors / officers:

- Leader of Enfield Council: [Cllr.ergin.erbil@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.ergin.erbil@enfield.gov.uk)
- Associate Cabinet Member for Enfield West: [cldr.chris.james@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.chris.james@enfield.gov.uk)
- Cockfosters Ward local councillors;  
[Cllr.Alessandro.Georgiou@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Alessandro.Georgiou@enfield.gov.uk)  
[Cllr.Ruby.Sampson@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Ruby.Sampson@enfield.gov.uk)
- Conservative lead for parks; [cldr.Edward.Smith@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.Edward.Smith@enfield.gov.uk)
- Head of Urban Green Spaces: [lisa.smart@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.smart@enfield.gov.uk)
- **Enfield's website** has a "Report it" facility to notify anything untoward seen in the park. LBE promises to scrutinise all reports and take appropriate action.  
<https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/leisure-and-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/parks/>

### Social Media:

Please Like our **Facebook** page and share it with friends and family. This is the first place to look for news of events, alerts or just pretty pictures of the park. We would like to increase our **Twitter** and **Instagram** activity. If anyone can help, please get in touch.

Every email to the Friends is guaranteed a response.



## Supporting the Friends

We are no longer collecting membership fees, but you can still order books and maps or make a donation via PayPal. Thank you!

[Click here to support us](#)

## FRIENDS OF TRENT COUNTRY PARK

[WELCOME](#) [ABOUT US](#) [NEWS, EVENTS & MEETINGS](#) [ABOUT TRENT PARK](#) [LINKS](#) [CONTACT](#)

Welcome to our Website  
[info@friendsoftrentcountrypark.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsoftrentcountrypark.org.uk)



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.

### OUR MAILING LIST

[Sign up to our News Updates here](#)

### NEWS, EVENTS & MEETINGS

[Lookdown – Version 2 November 4, 2020](#)

[2020 AGM Report and Autumn Newsletter](#)

[October 23, 2020](#)

[Summer 2020 Newsletter August 21, 2020](#)

[July update! Trent Park during the](#)

[Coronavirus crisis July 3, 2020](#)

[Spring 2020 Newsletter May 1, 2020](#)

[Please support the Wildlife Rescue](#)

[Ambulance Centre April 9, 2020](#)

## 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.

[Website](#)

Friends of Trent Country Park  
[newsletter@friendsoftrentcountrypark.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@friendsoftrentcountrypark.org.uk)  
<https://friendsoftrentcountrypark.org.uk/>



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