


# Minutes and notes from the 2026 AGM and Autumn Public Meeting

Dear Friends

Many thanks to those of you who attended our recent meeting. Please find below my Chairman's report on the proceedings, held at 7.30pm, Nov 17th, 2026 at Southgate Compton Cricket Club, Chalk Lane, Enfield.

## AGM

The Chairman opened the AGM and welcomed 27 members and the following guests:

Cllr Alessandro Georgiou
Cllr Alara Ayyildiz
Colin Bull, Chair CLARA
Martin Jones, LBE

**Minutes -** 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 2026/7:

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 Johnson.

Additional Committee members are always welcome: please volunteer whatever time you can and contribute to shaping and conserving our park. This is valuable and enjoyable work.

**Treasurer's Report** - Carol Fisk presented the report [see below], which was approved by the meeting. She also proposed that the £213 proceeds from the duck feeder should be donated to the Wildlife Rescue Ambulance Service [WRAS]. This was agreed, after which the AGM closed.

**FRIENDS OF TRENT COUNTRY PARK**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**AUTUMN 2026**

BANK ACCOUNT: **Starting balance at 10-11-25:** **£ 5,125.38**

Activity since last AGM report:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Income: | Membership dues: | £ 26.45 |
| | Duck Feeder | £ 213.00 |
| | **Total** | **+ £ 239.45** |
| Expenses: | Ruth Smith – web hosting | £ 40.00 |
| | Christ the King Hall rental [Nov] | £ 50.00 |
| | Southgate Compton CC hall rental [July] | £ 40.00 |
| | **Total** | **- £ 130.00** |
| | **Balance at 10-31-26** | **£ 5,234.83** |

NOTES:

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

Unencumbered funds = **£3,234.83**

CAROL FISK, TREASURER

## General Members 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. At its inception, the Friends group dealt with conservation and amenity issues within the Park. Of late our concerns have extended outside TCP owing to the threat from mass development overwhelming the whole neighbourhood, damaging our heritage open space, and degrading the quality of life in the ward and beyond. The change of administration has favoured parks, but competition for resources is as fierce as ever.

The Friends have sought a plan for **park maintenance** and this is now belatedly to hand (see below).

**Trent Park winter maintenance plan**

| Task | location | carried out betwee | Actioned By | Completed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| cut and collect grass, remove self sets and cut back bramble around perimeters ( HLS WORKS ) | left hand side of drive from Cockfosters Gate | November - March | Tractors | |
| Remove all sucker Growth from Lime Trees | Limes Avenue | November - March | parks operatives and arb staff | |
| recut the field opposite the show field to discourage self set growth | Limes Avenue | November - March | Tractors | |
| remove leaf fall, weed beds, prune shrubs, clear and reshape ditches and edge paths | water garden | November - March | Parks operatives | |
| Bin Replacement/ Remove all open top Bins and replace | Whole Park | November - March | Parks Operatives | |
| cut back all pathways and bridal way | all paths | November - March | tractor/park operatives | |
| clear leaves and clear soak away drains | Limes Avenus | November - March | Parks operatives | |
| clear leaves | cockfosters carpark | November - March | Parks operatives | |
| cut back bramble Growth | main fields | November - March | Tractors | |

The plan does not extend to improvements which we continue to argue for. We have submitted our constructive proposals again in the hope that a more even-handed approach to park funding will yield results proportionate to the heavy usage of the park throughout the year.

**Volunteering** - Wherever possible, volunteer support is offered, and we are engaging with our helpful councillors to secure results. **Please note: There will be a litter-picking event on Saturday, November 28th at 11am. Meet at the cafe in the main car park at 11am. Equipment will be provided. Bring your own gloves.**

The pressure from LBE to accept **large commercial events** in the Park has been in abeyance for the past two years. 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, have resulted in another season of relative peace. Local community-sized 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 of the Cockfosters station carpark has been delayed but remains a threat to the Park, its natural qualities, and our neighbourhood. The Cockfosters station scheme, if completed, would contribute no more than 1% of Enfield's housing target vs disruption for many thousands of travellers. In addition, car parking displaced from the station would 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. (Thanks to Colin Bull)

As part of the current Local Development Plan and the revised London Plan, TfL is now urging a larger development scheme around Oakwood station and Cockfosters station that would develop part of the park. Disregard by the London Mayor for the Green Belt is pure political opportunism in our view.

A Planning Inspector's report earlier this year was in part favourable to the community's quest to preserve as much Green Belt as possible and the new LBE administration is radically opposed to needless development of all Green Belt across the borough.
Next steps on **Enfield's Local Plan** are expected in early 2027.

A further blow to the ecology of the whole area is presented by the national planning proposals to create a **New Town** to completely infill the Green Belt between Oakwood and Crews Hill, bringing 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. Comer, an aggressive landholder, is already destroying green aspects of its estate north of the Bramley Rd, anticipating permission to develop. So much loss of open land must impact the ecology deeply.

**Conservation programmes** It took us over 3 years to press LBE to restore the damaged grade 2 Cockfosters gate following damage by an oversize delivery truck. But the work is not finished because the oak leaves are excessively weakened by weather and need refurbishment. LBE has earmarked funds for restoration of timber and metal work but is dragging its heels to actually start work.

**Raves and security** We note that LBE has had some success in dissuading 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 respond early to intel on planned raves by imposing barriers to incursion.

**Waste bins** are being replaced at our urging to curtail litter overflows.

**The north lake shore restoration project (Martin Jones LBE)**
A presentation by Martin Jones outlined the proposals suggested to secure improvements to the north bank of the larger lake, using S106 monies from the Berkeley development. Debate highlighted two approaches – one requiring more clearance to restore the open view north from the mansion, the other restraining removal of trees and bushes for the benefit of wildlife. It was accepted that working to an ideal of "restoring earlier vistas" was not favoured but the meeting was not opposed to some clearance, retaining most of the more mature trees, while adding some community benefits such as benches, a dog ramp and improved pathway. LBE to advise next steps as discussions progress.

**Berkeley estate**

- Good progress on the campus was reported, the development nearing completion and the grounds looking very attractive. The Mansion was cleared for occupation

and the terrace area cleared to the north.

- The new bridge and other improvements in the Water Garden were noted with approval.
- The new museum and cafe sited in the mansion, opened during the summer and have attracted a large and appreciative public response. Parking arrangements have still to be resolved for museum visitors, and residents have concerns over charging for use of their bus service.
- A further concern remains over apportioning long term costs for maintenance of Snakes Lane, but Berkeley is reported to have agreed to consider repairs to damage caused by construction traffic and summer drought subsidence.

**Local Development Plan** Carol Fisk and Cllr Alessandro Georgiou
The new LBE administration voted in this year has undertaken to stop or curtail as many of the negative aspects of the draft Local Development Plan as possible, now under consideration by the Inspectorate. This plan was 8 years in gestation under the previous administration.

Fundamentally, the housing needs of the borough are some 5000 units, mainly for low income residents. The additional 30,000 units proposed by government are a projection of need which, in the current climate, we cannot see materialising. This is important for TCP because, without moderation, large tracts of land close to [and in] the park will be opened for building. In the current climate this could well be over-height tower accommodation, with severe impact on the environmental and heritage value of much of western Enfield. The loss to Enfield stakeholders would be immeasurable on many fronts. If approved, Enfield would be transformed, its character reduced to inner suburb densities with congestion and loss of amenity, and the quality of life for current residents substantially degraded. The additional 60,000 residents would place an intolerable strain on amenities.

Enfield RoadWatch, a residents action group, was set up 12 years ago to resist unwarranted development of Green Belt along Enfield Road. It has now joined with other groups to deescalate the transformative proposals announced in Enfield Council's draft Local Plan. A large part of the borough's Green Belt is being targeted for development, with the London Mayor switching to unrestricted building for revenue raising purposes. All groups, including Friends, reject gross exploitation of the Green Belt as not called for. Reworking "brownfield" sites across the borough, accelerating the Meridian Water scheme, fulfilling regeneration opportunities in wards with older less efficient properties, many in east Enfield, is the obvious first choice.

A further threat has recently emerged with huge data sheds being aggressively pursued by opportunist developers. Government support allowing Green Belt sites to be classified "Grey" to avoid planning restrictions and adding "infrastructure of national importance" tagging, ensures such sites are difficult for local authorities to resist. Many of the current applications will be switched to other uses, all to the disadvantage of local communities. Enfield RoadWatch continues to fight for the Green Belt, so please check the website for information and actions.

The corruption of planning regulations is proving a national scandal. Sanctuaries such as TCP can only lose character and amenity if developers are allowed unfettered rein.

**Public Communications** - Members are requested earnestly to address concerns or suggestions to us and are guaranteed a response. fotpenfield@gmail.com

In addition anyone can make their views known via the following LBE councillors / officers:

- Leader of Enfield Council: Cllr.Alessandro.Georgiou@enfield.gov.uk
- Cockfosters Ward local councillor: Cllr.Alessandro.Georgiou@enfield.gov.uk
- Cockfosters Ward local councillor: Cllr.Alara.Ayyildiz@enfield.gov.uk
- Conservative cabinet lead for parks: Cllr.Edward.Smith@enfield.gov.uk
- Senior Operations Manager for Parks: 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. Alternatively you can email Cllr Ayyildiz about park problems.

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.

**Our website** has lots of interesting information about the park, council contacts, etc. Do consult our Ecology study of TCP – proof, if needed, of the wide range of flora in our parkland. https://friendsoftrentcountrypark.org.uk/

Every email to the Friends is guaranteed a response. fotpenfield@gmail.com

**Next Friends meeting -** The next meeting is planned for May 2027. A further newsletter will be issued early next year.

Meeting closed 21.25 hrs. PWG 19.11.26




## Contacts

Please 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. Feel free to contact us if you don't get a satisfactory response and we will try to help.

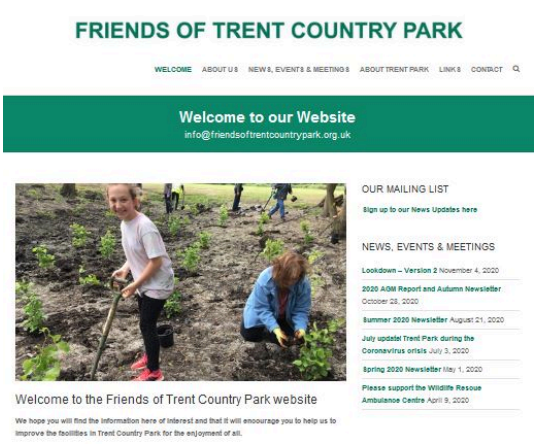
Please like our Facebook page to see regular updates.



## Membership renewals

Thanks to all our members for your support. The moratorium on collecting dues will continue for now.. You can still use the PayPal link on the website to order books and maps.  To become a member, just email us with permission to be added to our newsletter database.

Click here to support us




## 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
https://friendsoftrentcountrypark.org.uk/

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