



## THE FRIENDS OF TRENT COUNTRY PARK

### Spring 2023 Newsletter

Dear Friends

**The challenges facing the Park** are changing fairly rapidly. February was the driest for 30 years, following a record breaking dry summer. We rather expected to see the grassland turn to savannah again, but the damage has fortunately been less than feared. However, another summer like the last will strike at even deep rooted vegetation. We keep our fingers crossed.

Meanwhile we work to reduce the avoidable load on the Park as much as possible, especially from commercial events. Enfield Council has prevaricated over our request to return events to the park's maximum carrying capacity of 10,000 per day. This was the standard for 2022, and is still in force this year, apparently. However since the council will not commit for the future we can conclude it is trying to make good on its policy of generating income from what it considers "unproductive assets". Friends will recall the sound reasons for our position on events and we will talk more about this at our upcoming public meeting, which will take place on **Tuesday, May 23 at 7pm at the Southgate Compton Cricket Club on Chalk Lane.**

**The historic Cockfosters gate** is still not fully repaired, despite the removal of the fencing. The north pillar, struck by an events truck the year before, has just been re-mortared. The weight of the pillar is part resting on the heritage oak gate which cannot move as a result. For a grade two listed asset, this is shabby treatment but sadly typical. We are pressing the council to ban heavy lorries from using this gate because of the width restriction. It says it does restrict such vehicles, but, as we know, it doesn't enforce its contractual conditions. Friends can draw their own conclusions; this was the third time the gate was struck, by the same vehicle type entering for the same purpose! We are also resisting the suggestion of creating a larger entrance to the park off Cockfosters Road.

**The Berkeley estate** makes further progress and is now home to a significant community. The grounds work is almost completed and the shape of the estate facing the Park is pretty clear to see – a quality job, reflecting again the estate as it was at the end of the Sassoon era in the 30's. The removal of all the post-war ramshackle university buildings is an added benefit. Work on the mansion and its museum feature continue but it would be fair to say this has proven a more complicated project than originally envisaged.

Peter W. Gibbs Chair

### Thames Water project



**Thames Water** has been hard at work increasing fresh water capacity for our area at its facility just north of the café, and works will wind up this summer. Thames have been exemplary operators, keeping us fully informed, and intruding into the Park as little as possible. Water companies may not attract too many friends elsewhere but this one is in good standing with the Friends. The extra capacity is needed now, and will be even more important if Enfield council achieves its objective of increasing housing in the west of the borough in the coming years.

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### Cockfosters Station TfL development

Community groups and the Friends have worked hard for many months to ward off TfL's attempt to portray the Cockfosters station car park as "redundant" so it can move in with an over-dense building project, primarily of small units, rising to 14 stories. Already approved by just one vote by the Enfield Council planning committee, this scheme is in the doldrums, where we want it to remain. If constructed as currently planned, it will dominate the Cockfosters area, and the Park. And of course it will rob the community of a valued transport asset.

Last year, the community persuaded the then Secretary of State for Transport not to permit the loss of the car park, but TfL is challenging this decision. The setting for our park is as important as the park itself. One of its great attributes is that from most internal viewpoints its original landscaping and horizons remain pristine. This is of unique cultural value and would be wrecked if the park were surrounded by intrusive residential towers or housing estates. Within the context of Enfield's housing needs the Friends have joined with others to deflect developers seeking to build high density towers in the Cockfosters neighbourhood.

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### The draft Local Plan

Friends will know that a Local Plan exists to govern use of land across the borough. The current plan was published in 2010 and must be renewed before expiry in 2025. Most of its provisions remain relevant and necessary. It is a template for development so that order is retained and land use managed to meet social and economic requirements.

Some months ago, Enfield council issued and approved a draft plan that represents an aggressive invasion of greenfield land south of Trent Country Park and in North Enfield. In all 25,000 homes, supporting an additional 60,000 residents, are intended across the

borough in the period to 2039, much of it on Green Belt land. Regeneration, a top level need in this borough, especially on brownfield sites, has not yet received the attention it should. The Council's marquis brownfield development at Meridian Water is progressing only glacially. Residents have every reason, fiscal and ecological, to resist the current draft plan as undesirable and damaging. Changes to the NPPF [National Planning Policy Framework] might bring some relief, but the details won't be known until the Council goes to the next phase of consultation [Regulation 19] probably later this year. The Friends, who work in collaboration with other local and national groups on this issue, will keep you informed and let you know when action is again needed.

### Public Communications:

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

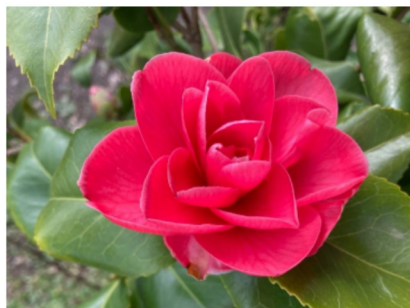
- Leader of Enfield Council: [Cllr.nesil.caliskan@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.nesil.caliskan@enfield.gov.uk)
- Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability:  
[Cllr.Chinelo.Anyanwu@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Chinelo.Anyanwu@enfield.gov.uk)
- Assistant Cabinet Member  
Cllr [Chris.james@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.james@enfield.gov.uk)
- Cockfosters Ward local councillors;  
Cllr.Alessandro.Georgiou@enfield.gov.uk  
Cllr.Ruby.Sampson@enfield.gov.uk
- Conservative lead for parks; [cldr.Edward.Smith@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.Edward.Smith@enfield.gov.uk)
- Senior Operations Manager for Parks: [Marcus.harvey@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:Marcus.harvey@enfield.gov.uk)
- [Enfieldletters@london.newsquest.co.uk](mailto:Enfieldletters@london.newsquest.co.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/>

### Volunteering with The Friends

The Friends have a list of projects that we would like to see done, but we have been reluctant to move forwards with any of them until we have a better commitment from the Parks Department with regard to maintenance. We are hopeful that progress is being made on this issue, and would like to re-start up our projects programme in the near future. If you would like to volunteer, please let us know. Those with **horticultural knowledge, legal experience, sports backgrounds, architectural and planning experience, social media outreach skills, event planning and management, and fund-raising experience**, are especially needed, but we also welcome anyone who can spare a few hours on one-off tasks.

### 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.



### Membership renewals

Thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership for 2023. You can renew or join via PayPal on the website for just £4 a year or £25 for a lifetime membership.

[Click here to support us](#)

### FRIENDS OF TRENT COUNTRY PARK

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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 Newsletters here

#### NEWS, EVENTS & MEETINGS

Lockdown - Version 5 November 4, 2020  
2020 AGM Report and Autumn Newsletter  
October 24, 2020  
Summer 2020 Newsletter August 21, 2020  
Job update Trent Park during the Coronavirus crisis July 5, 2020  
Spring 2020 Newsletter May 1, 2020  
Please support the Wildlife Rescue  
Ambulance Update April 19, 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  
[fotpenfield@gmail.com](mailto:fotpenfield@gmail.com)  
<https://friendsoftrentcountrypark.org.uk/>



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