



FRIENDS OF TRENT COUNTRY PARK

Autumn 2025 Newsletter

Dear Friends

After a wonderful warm summer in the Park, it's time for your committee to report on progress with the numerous items on our improvement agenda. There is some progress to relate but a lot less than we would wish. Details follow below.

Please hold the date for our next public meeting and AGM, which will take place on **Monday, November 10 7:45-9:15pm at Christ the King Catholic Church, 29 Bramely Road, N14**. A call for nominees and an agenda will come to you closer to the date.

Thanks for your continued support.

Peter W. Gibbs
Chair

Cockfosters gate repairs



After interminable meetings and correspondence we have prompted Enfield Council to move on repairing the heritage gate, struck by a delivery truck some 27 months ago! As many will have noted, the gate is now closed to vehicle traffic until November 7. We tried to secure a break but contractors insisted on extended access. Pedestrians and cyclists will retain access throughout the works.

The damaged north pillar and the pedestrian arch will be removed, the oak door taken down for safe keeping, and the urn that fell when the pillar was struck is being sculpted and will be restored on the pillar when the rebuild is complete. It will be worth the wait but we all regret the time taken to get to this position and the extensive repairs necessary.

The above work unfortunately only amounts to a partial repair of damage done over the past few years and is being paid for by the insurance from the most recent incident. The other urn needs restoration and the wooden gates need restoration and preservation that will cost in the region of £35,000. The Council say they have no money for this so the Friends are considering a fundraising effort to pay for it.

The Friends continue to support LBE in its attempts to regulate the size of trucks entering the gate, but reckless truck driving remains an on-going threat, which needs to be curtailed before more expensive repairs are contemplated.

Other work in the park

The Parks department have identified some S106 funds [developer contributions] for a variety of improvements in the park. While this will only scratch the surface of what is needed, we are grateful that Trent Country Park is finally getting some attention. On the list are:

- Feasibility work is currently underway for the installation of a new bridge to the east of the North Lake, to create a circular path around the lake and through the Water Gardens.
- Footpath and access improvements around the Water Gardens are also planned.
- The park's third toad pond [north of the lakes] is under way and planting is scheduled for this autumn. These wetland features take some time to mature so we won't see the full benefit for several months.
- Improvements to the entrance from the new crossing on Ferny Hill are also being planned.

We have also pressed for the deeply broken surface of the café carpark to be repaired and there is a prospect this may be undertaken this autumn.

Local Plan Examination update

The Local Plan Examination continues, with the Stage 3 hearings scheduled to begin on October 21 and to run for 3 weeks. This stage will focus on policies, such as LBE's Rural Enfield and Blue and Green policies. Much effort and time has been dedicated by a range of local interest groups, including the Friends, to restrain LBE's plans for Green Belt dedesignation and development. We will probably not know until next year if our arguments have swayed the Planning Inspector, but he has asked the Council some difficult questions and has been quite critical at times, so we are hopeful of some changes to the plan.

The plan is being examined under the current London Plan, which contains strong Green Belt protections, but the next London Plan, which is imminent, will remove many of those protections in response to new legislation and housing targets from the Government. As a result, even a large section of Trent Park is under threat because of its proximity to Oakwood and Cockfosters stations. TfL are proposing high density, car-free development all along the tube line and along Bramley and Enfield Roads, amounting to 10,000+ units. This would completely alter the character of our area and the park, so we hope this trajectory will change.

Regardless, it seems likely that the Cockfosters Station car park development will proceed as TfL has appointed Barratts to take over planning of the several hundred units. We continue to resist it in conjunction with residents groups..

Other news in brief

- Thanks to everyone who has been using the duck-feeder machine! The Friends receive part of the revenue and we are dedicating that to benefit wildlife. So far, we have purchased several bird and bat boxes, which will be installed in the Water Garden and elsewhere ready for next year. The waterfowl in the pond and the future residents of the boxes say thank you too!
- We hope you took the opportunity to take part in the consultation about Public Spaces Protection Orders, which closed on August 31st. These regulate such things as where dogs must be on leads, the use of alcohol in public spaces, and so on. It's too late to participate but you can still see what is proposed [here](#). We will let you know once the new PSPOs are going into effect.
- Several people and groups have contacted us about volunteering in the park. We are working on a list of suitable projects with the Parks Department and will publicise the opportunities once we have that firmed up. Thank you in advance!
- Please remember to like our Facebook page and to check the website for updates in between our newsletters.

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.Ruby.Sampson@Enfield.gov.uk

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



Membership renewals

A reminder that we are not collecting dues for 2025. We will review the situation for 2026. You can still use PayPal to order a book or map. Thanks for your support.

[Click here to support us](#)

FRIENDS OF TRENT COUNTRY PARK

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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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