



## FRIENDS OF TRENT COUNTRY PARK Spring 2026 Newsletter

Dear Friends

Twenty years ago the Friends of TCP and Cockfosters' residents set out to deny developers their totally inappropriate ambitions to develop in our Park and wreck our heritage. Walking in the park this month proves how much the continuous and sometimes heated arguments were worth the effort. The campus has emerged from years of careful conservation, paid for by proportionate development. The great display of daffodils now greets the refurbished Mansion, the shoddy university buildings are a fading memory, and the other heritage assets look pristine. Shortly our new Museum will open in the Mansion, an event we all await with keen anticipation. All of which we are happy to report.

On a less positive note, plans to develop one-third of Enfield's Green Belt for a 21,000 home new town are still being considered and our partner organisations are working hard to defeat that unnecessary and permanently damaging idea. More on that below.

And a gentle reminder that local council elections are coming on Thursday, May 7. It promises to be the most interesting election in a long time and we hope for better times ahead.

We will be planning our next public meeting for after the election. We hope to see you there.

Thanks for your continued support.

Peter W. Gibbs  
Chair

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### Park works update



Our Park has survived a very wet winter and shown resilience. The ponds are brimming and wildlife is returning. The kids in the Woodland School are busy probing nature, and Go Ape clients are gathering to wander high amongst the trees.

After 3 years of pressing Enfield Council we are about to see the Cockfosters heritage gate pillars rebuilt, although more conservation work on the great wooden doors is urgently needed; there is always a project or two in hand to engage the Friends and our many supporters.

We are still awaiting news about the proposed clearance work to the north shore of the lakes and the habitat restoration there. A consultation is supposed to be included - but nothing yet .....

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## **The proposed Crews Hill & Chase Park New Town**

The shadow of rampant and senseless development is never far from us. Last September the Government announced that 884 hectares of Enfield's Green Belt, including the entirety of Crews Hill, had been selected as one of the top three sites for a new town. The 21,000 home development would spread from Oakwood to the M25. The proposal came from Enfield Council in response to a Call for Sites from the New Towns Taskforce. It's interesting to note that all the communications about the new town were done in parallel with the local plan examination hearings and behind closed doors. The plan has the backing of the GLA and the Government but there is no democratic mandate for this proposal.

Our campaigning alongside other resident groups remains essential to prevent the imposition of this new town which would be transform life in west Enfield from suburban to urban and engulf us in 20+ years of construction. It will not solve London's affordable housing crisis and there are much better solutions.

We direct you to the [Enfield RoadWatch website](#) for more detailed information and calls to action. We are also attaching the ERW leaflet, which will be distributed widely over the next few weeks. Please share it.

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## Saturday, April 18 10am - 4pm Crews Hill

As part of their campaign, ERW is organising an event on Saturday, April 18, which has been declared the **National Day of Action for nature, parks & green spaces**. ERW will be set up outside Thompson's In Crews Hill from 10am - 4pm to encourage you to enjoy, explore and appreciate two historic aspects of Enfield's character and charm that are threatened by the proposed 21,000 Crews Hill & Chase Park New Town. There will be lots for you to do.

Click the button below for all the information. Please spread the word and bring your friends and family to **Celebrate Crews Hill and our Countryside**.

More information  
about April 18

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### Local Plan Examination update

The Planning Inspector's report on approved development in Enfield should be published shortly. We hope he will find against the scale of development proposed by Enfield Council.

However we must be prepared for a continuing battle to press for plans that address genuine housing need, not developers' pressure for easy corporate profits. Plundering our green assets and degrading our parkland should engage all residents and visitors, so we look forward to your support in the continuing long battle ahead.

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### 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 are currently being 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!
- Please remember to like our Facebook page and to check the website for updates in between our newsletters.

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### 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

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



## Membership renewals

A reminder that we are not collecting dues for 2026. 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 our Website  
[info@friendsoftrentcountrypark.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsoftrentcountrypark.org.uk)



### OUR MAILING LIST

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

### NEWS, EVENTS & MEETINGS

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

[2020 AGM Report and Autumn Newsletter](#)

October 28, 2020

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

[July updates! 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

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.

[Website](#)

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