

**Wandsworth Common Management Advisory Committee
Annual Public Meeting 2019
Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on 17th June 2019
Naturescope, Wandsworth Common**

Present

George Meakin (Chair) (GM); Simon Ingyon, (SI) Executive Director Parks and Leisure, Enable Leisure and Culture; Simon Jones (SJ), Contracts Manager for idverde; Inspector Stephen Biggs, (SB) Parks and Events Police; Richard Fox (Secretary)

Guest Speakers – Jo Shearer (JS), Leisure & Culture Mutual Contract Manager (Richmond & Wandsworth Council); Ann Davies, Swan Sanctuary volunteer

Other MAC members: Rosemary Birchall, Julia Bott, Harvey Heath, Stuart Hill, Emily Jennings, David Kirk, Susy Lloyd, Chris Metcalfe, Lewis More O’Ferrall, Charles Oppenheim, Tom Pollak, Ben White, Derek Wright. (Justin Harris DNA)

GM introduced himself as Chair of the MAC at this, his third APM. He warmly welcomed everyone (total attendees 50, or 30 excluding those named above), including Councillor Adrian Flook of Wandsworth Common ward, and thanked Naturescope for allowing the APM to once again take place there.

GM reiterated the role of the MAC as a community group set up by Wandsworth Council under a Constitution, copies of which were on the Notice Board and website. The MAC represents all users of the Common and the overriding aim is the continuing welfare and protection of the Common. The MAC monitor and advise on the management of the Common, and work to enhance its natural character through a balance of use. The MAC is also tasked to promote public interest and participation in the protection and appreciation of the Common. To this end the Friends of Wandsworth Common was launched in May 2018.

The two organisations have worked closely together. Broadly speaking the MAC is responsible for assisting and advising on the administrative and constitutional side of running the Common whilst the Friends are more the outreach and engagement arm.

GM stressed that the MAC was always keen to attract more good people and there would be an opportunity for new members to be elected at the end of the meeting.

GM ended his opening remarks by introducing the guest speakers, as above.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Sarah McDermott, John Dawson (Wandsworth Society secretary), Charles and Aviva Walton, Penny Clarke

2. Minutes of the APM held on 18th June 2018 and matter arising

Copies of the minutes were on the joint MAC/Friends website (references to the website from here on are to www.wandsworthcommon.org) and were also available at the meeting. The minutes were approved without comment. GM said that various matters arising would be dealt with during the meeting.

3. Wandsworth Common Management and Maintenance Plan (MMP): Report on final draft – Jo Shearer (JS), Richmond and Wandsworth Councils

Jo Shearer made the following statement and provided copies of the Executive Summary of the MMP:

“WC has had strong local support for its protection dating back some 150 years. Today, the local community highly value our open spaces, recognising the importance of protecting and enhancing the biodiversity of the common and the very positive effect it has on our health and well-being providing the opportunity to visitors for exercise, play, and quiet reflection.

The MMP has been produced by Land Use Consultants over a period of 18 months in partnership with the council and ELC, together with consultation with key stakeholders and users of the common.

It provides a baseline upon which the management aims, and objectives have been developed to ensure that the many demands on this Common for people and wildlife are balanced to ensure it is conserved and enhanced for the future generations.

The strategy is:

For Wandsworth Common to be a place which provides visitors and the local community with the opportunity to engage with nature, quiet recreation and to exercise. And for the common to be protected from the pressures of development and usage, with space for wildlife to flourish.

The strategy is supported by a number of aims and objectives with associated actions.

There are 7 aims:

- 1: To positively welcome people into the common, in terms of both physical and social access whilst balancing the need to provide a sanctuary for wildlife in their natural habitats.
- 2: To ensure a healthy, safe and secure experience for Common users
- 3: To improve the environmental quality and sustainability of management practices carried out in the Common
- 4: To maintain and increase the diverse mosaic of habitats within the Common
- 5: To maintain and restore the built assets and the landscape features of the Common to ensure public appreciation and understanding of the commons character and heritage
- 6: To provide opportunities to increase community use and involvement, particularly through events, education, interpretation and building partnerships

7: To ensure all those involved in the management and maintenance of WC effectively use the MMP as a working document

An action plan has been produced to set out how the park will be conserved and enhanced, and how any concerns raised during the consultation will be addressed over the years

Actions include:

- Develop a new north-south mixed-use cycle route to improve access across the Common and to local stations – *the consultation feedback suggested a route through / along Bolingbroke Fields*
- Investigating measures to reduce light spill into sensitive habitats such as woodland, wetlands and wildflower grasslands, *such as replacing older lighting columns with lower lux or more directional lighting, removing lighting altogether, or lowering the height of lighting columns (noting any changes to lighting on the common must consider antisocial behaviour)*
- Undertake a signage audit producing a plan for improved signage
- Undertake an audit of location and quantity of litter bins *linked to litter management and investigating recycling opportunities*
- Explore the path network to avoid conflicts with cyclists and pedestrians
- Restore the drinking fountain and look to install new ones
- Maintain existing network of wildlife corridors across the common and where possible develop new connections *this could be through wildflower grassland creation, tree and shrub planting*
- *Consider options for improving accommodation for the growing tennis club*
- Investigate the development of an interpretation scheme which is sensitively designed and located for visitors to learn about the site's history and wildlife

The MMP will be reviewed annually and re-written after ten years.

It is important to note that included in the action plan is the continued partnership with the MAC and Friends Group, therefore the annual review will include the MAC and the Friends of WC who will act as a conduit for local users to feed into the review process.

The action plan will be evaluated and priorities set and agreed by the 4 organisations WBC/ELC/MAC and Friends.

Steering groups will be set up to progress the actions and before the MAC's APM these priorities will be reviewed and updated and progress reported back to the APM

The full plan will be published through our media and will be accessible on the council's web site on our dedicated parks and open spaces page at [Parks management plans](#) “

Q&A

Had the MMP been costed? No. There was an action plan of short, medium and long term actions with an indication of low, medium and high cost. Not everything would happen immediately. A priority setting exercise would be undertaken with WBC, Enable, MAC & Friends once the plan was published.

New management and maintenance contract. This will not be awarded until the end of the year. The MMP is not the contract but will be a blueprint guiding work over the next 10 years - reviewed annually with the MAC and Friends and monitored at MAC meetings and the APM

The Chair thanked Jo for her contribution and looked forward to her attendance at future APMs

4. Swan update – Ann Davies, Swan Sanctuary

Ann described her role as a 4 day per week volunteer for the swan sanctuary for over 20 years. She was on the alert for all waterfowl problems.

She confirmed that last year's swan death was by 'causes unknown'. The body had been disposed of without a full examination and photographs were inconclusive.

The new male swan had flown in naturally last year. Unfortunately, after six weeks on the nest, this year's eggs had not produced cygnets, for the second year running. Without seeing it she could only speculate as to why - but it was worth noting that the swans used to nest in a different area and it was possible the current nest was more susceptible to rats, although there is some pest control. SI said he would look into giving Ann access to the nest site.

Swans were not aggressive to people but could attack other wildfowl when they had young. The same was true of Canada geese.

The general absence of ducklings was remarked on. Ann said that most Egyptian goslings were lost to dogs. For the rest there were numerous natural predators, notably foxes, crows, the heron and terrapins.

Q&A

The terrapins are former pets, introduced to the lake by their owners. They were now big enough to be a significant predator. **SI said he would look again at what could be done to address the problem.**

SJ said the main lake was topped up from the mains when water levels fell too low. Unfortunately mains water was not good for biodiversity. **SI to take another look at the possibility of sinking a borehole for more natural topping up.**

GM thanked Anne for her contribution. Her contact details are as follows (also on our website). 07984 201854, or if urgent call the Swan Sanctuary – 01932 240790

5. Police Report - Inspector Stephen Biggs (SB) – Wandsworth Parks and Events Police

Insp Biggs summarised the data for reported bylaw breaches on Wandsworth Common for the year ending March 2019. These are posted on the website.

Of a total of 94 written warnings, over two-thirds were for unauthorised cycling; the next largest category was dog control orders – most of these for dogs not being on a lead in a designated area; unauthorised camping and parking were the bulk of the remainder.

Only two offences had been reported for prosecution, in line with the policy of educating and informing first and prosecuting only for repeat or serious offenders.

Insp Biggs said that on the basis of reported statistics, safety was improving and there was very little antisocial behaviour. Despite stretched resources (only nine officers for all of Wandsworth's greenspaces, assisted by Enable support officers) there was at least one patrol per day in one of two eight hour shifts: 07.00-15.00 and 14.00 – 22.00. Patrolling had become more targeted, increasing at times when ASB was more likely, eg at weekends.

The introduction of Fixed Penalty Notices on June 10th meant that offences could now be punished immediately, whereas prosecutions could take up to six months. The maximum fine was £80, reduced to £50 if paid within 14 days. There was an appeals procedure. The police could also continue to issue written warnings. Paper work would be reduced considerably, freeing up patrol time. Money raised will go back into the police budget.

Q&A

SB and SI said that new, more robust signs prohibiting dogs from entering the lake would be deployed very soon. A police dog control surgery would be on the Common on the morning of July 25, advising on how dog owners were affected by the bylaws.

Dog control areas near John Archer Way. Dogs were supposed to be on a lead in this area but this was routinely flouted. **SB said that his patrols would be deployed to monitor the problem.**

Dog control orders would be replaced by PSPOs (Public Space Protection Order) next year, after consultation. These would apply to relatively small areas and would be renewable every three years.

SB confirmed there were 27 licensed dogwalkers on the Common, each allowed to have up to six dogs, and in some cases of older licenses up to eight. No new licenses were being issued. They observed a code of conduct. Some suggested the increase in the number of dog walkers might be one reason for the increase in dog mess that several people drew attention to.

The problem of unauthorised vehicles was not huge. If people saw one, eg a motorcyclist, they should not challenge the driver but take a photo and/or take the registration number and report it to the police.

The best number to ring in the case of a problem was the patrolling mobile 07500 959 442. This switched through to the 24/7 WBC operator out of hours.

The landline advertised on notice boards 020 8871 7532 also switched through to the mobile.

If an incident was a serious one, requiring Metropolitan Police involvement, the usual 999/101 numbers were available. However, the Met was generally only involved in incidents bordering, rather than on the Common eg a recent mugging on Bolingbroke Grove.

GM thanked Insp Biggs for his contribution and thanked him and his team for the good work they did in keeping the Common safe, despite very stretched resources.

6. Enable LC Report - Simon Ingyon (SI) - Executive Director Parks and Leisure

SB delivered the following report:

"I wish to offer my sincere thanks to all the members of the Management Advisory Committee for their continued dedication and commitment to the Common over the last 12 months. It is very valuable for Enable Parks along with the Council's other contractors Idverde Limited and City Suburban Tree Surgeons, to have such a wonderful group of common users to work with for the protection and enhancement of Wandsworth Common. I also wish to thank the new Friends of Wandsworth Common on their first successful year of operation with their enthusiasm and passion for the common and the various activities they have organised to promote awareness of the common including litter picks and various walks and the support they have given in the last 12 months. In particular, I would like to thank both groups in what has been a busy year for their support and significant contributions to the Management and Maintenance Plan preparation and also support on the consultation and design of both playground refurbishments. I think it has been a very productive and successful 12 months for the common in general.

As I reminder and for people new to the Annual Public Meeting, I think it would be helpful just to clarify the roles and responsibilities for everyone with regards to Wandsworth Common and who does what:

Wandsworth Council, owns Wandsworth Common and are responsible for all property issues on the common such as the leases for Lady Allen Playground, Tennis courts, NatureScope, Neal's Lodge, Skylark Cafe and Windmill Nursery. They also hold the contracts with Idverde Limited for the ground's maintenance and sports pitch bookings on the common and City Suburban Tree Consultants for tree maintenance works. In addition, there is the contract with Enable Leisure and Culture, a Public Service Mutual, (Not for Profit organisation) which is also a Charity who are responsible for managing and monitoring the two maintenance contracts as well as management and development of the common on behalf of the Council as well as the other 33 parks and green spaces we manage on behalf of the Council. The two maintenance contracts are for eight years each until February 2021 with a possible 4-year extension, whilst Enable has a 4-year contract which has been extended by 6 months until March 2020. Enable LC reports to the Environment and Community Services Directorate of Wandsworth Council. In addition, other services and departments within the Council have responsibilities for elements of Wandsworth Common such as Highways for the cycle track order running through the middle of the common and many of the footpaths and lighting too. I appreciate it's not a simple picture, but the structure has been designed to ensure front line services have been protected as much as possible in recent years. However, for any enquiries about the common, unless it is a police matter please contact Enable in the first instance and I'll give you Enable's contact details at the end of my report.

As ever, all the different technical teams and officers within Enable Parks have been involved in various aspects of the management and maintenance of Wandsworth Common over the past year. Here is a summary of some key actions in the last 12 months:

- The Contract Operations Team continue to manage the work of Idverde Limited who are now into their 7th year of maintaining the common on behalf of the Council to ensure it continues to be clean and well maintained and sports pitches are prepared and available for bookings. In the last 12 months they have over seen £185,000 worth of investment from the Wandsworth Local Fund into improving the sports drainage on the sports pitches on Bolingbroke Grove and refurbishments to the bowling green, marking the centenary of the Bolingbroke Bowling Club and the refurbishment of the path around the stock pond.
- The Trees Team continue to manage the work of City Suburban tree surgeons who carry out cyclical maintenance of trees on the 18 different tree sections of Wandsworth Common covering each area once every three years. Several new trees were planted over the over this past winter, officers have supported the Friends in delivering several tree walks in the last 12 months including a presentation on the management of trees on the common.
- Various works have been carried out over the last year as part of the ecological management programme, including coppicing leggy gorse, cutting bramble at specific locations; cutting back vegetation encroaching footways; the coppicing of woodland species to provide a balanced and layered structure; and the continued removal of invasive species such as Turkey oak and sycamore saplings along with encroaching bramble from areas that border grassland, especially around purple moor grass locations within the Scope. The continued use of Diofix, a lake dye, in the Stock Pond is helping to eliminate the formation of algal growth. The dye blocks the red-light spectrum reducing the algae's ability to photosynthesise, thereby reducing or halting growth. Kevin Freed, the Ecology Officer retired in February this year and his replacement Annabel Osborn started at the beginning of this month and is getting to know all the green spaces in the borough.
- The refurbishment works to Chivalry Road playground were completed earlier this month and now works start on St. Mark Playground following two phases on consultation on both playgrounds over the last year. All the four playgrounds on the common have continued to be inspected regularly and maintained. There will be a second round of consultation on the refurbishment to Windmill playground on Heathfield Road in the autumn and it will be refurbished in Summer 2020. Finally, the Chivalry Road Ball pen, or Multi-Use games area which was refurbished last summer has been well used for informal / casual sport sessions and well used by local schools. During the year the amount of time this was open for general community use was extended after an initial review period.
- All the officers and teams have been involved in the preparation and consultation on the new Management and Maintenance plan which will guide the work of all the contracts, stakeholders and council departments working to ensure Wandsworth Common meets everyone's expectations as far as possible.

Challenges over the last 12 months include:

- The constant need to try and balance everyone's uses of the common for everyone's enjoyment of which the main challenges continue to be elements of antisocial behaviour and the unofficial and unauthorised use of the common for formal / informal sports use and personal training / exercise classes. On several occasions this year several organisations, clubs, schools and individuals have used the common without

seeking authority to do so either through a licence for personal trainers and fitness classes or by those booking the officially marked sports pitches and general sports areas. Idverde Ltd. will continue to work with the Parks and Events Police service to ensure only legitimate users are using the common either for their business or for organised sport matches and training.

Developments in next 12 months:

- Delivering year 1 of the Management and Maintenance plan, identifying the key short-term priorities for all parties to work together on achieving.
- Consulting on what the future holds for the Neal's Lodge buildings complex predominately the Flat and the Cottage.
- The council's contract for Leisure and Culture management will be awarded during the next twelve months as the current contract has been extended and finishes on 31 March 2020.
- A report on whether the existing trees and grounds maintenance contracts will be extended or are retendered will also be discussed by the Council in the next 6 months ready for a new contract to start in 2021."

If you have any comments, suggestions or concerns about the Common throughout the year please contact Enable Parks via email: parks@enablelc.org or telephone **Parks on 020 3959 0060 or Trees on 020 3959 0070**

Q&A

Littering after football matches – SJ said that all booked teams received a bin liner for litter and if significant litter was left, organisations received escalating warnings – yellow then red, and ultimately a fine.

GM noted the long standing and serious problem of unbooked sports use. Littering by these people could not be monitored. Many, if not most, personal trainers are not authorised (only five appear on idverde's website). SI said no new authorisations were being issued. However, it was commented that this did not address the issue of unauthorised use.

GM noted a trend to more problems and less ability to police them. One person raised the idea of Park Rangers or Wardens, currently being tried in Richmond Park, which received some support.

The idea of visible badges for licensed trainers and dogwalkers was raised and met with general approval. GM said this is something the MAC had long pressed for and would continue to do so.

The encroachment of rhododendrons – an invasive species - on the Scope was noted. **SI to follow up**

Quietway update – technically this was a Highways issue. A site inspection with the MAC had identified where signs should be but they had not yet been deployed. It was suggested

that Highways should be asked to attend MAC meetings from time to time. **GM to follow up.**

Benches by the ponds needed bird droppings removing – **SI to follow up**

Toilet facilities behind the bowling green rarely had soap in them – **SI to follow up**

The lack of toilet facilities on Bolingbroke Fields, and especially near the Chivalry Rd playground, was noted with concern. It was suggested that children be allowed free access to the Fledglings Nursery toilets (they currently charge £4). SI said the lease would need to be reviewed by WBC Children's Services.

7. MAC Chair's Report - George Meakin (GM)

GM delivered the following report.

"Having completed my third year, I feel I am nearly getting to grips with understanding the myriad of strands that are involved in the complexities of maintaining and enhancing this wonderful asset that is our Common.

But the more I have got into it, the more I appreciate and am grateful for our Common. Occasionally, when you are on the Common, just stop and look around you and thank your lucky stars at how blessed we are to have such a wonderful space - our little slice of countryside in the midst of an urban sprawl - and appreciate it – it's ours! It's yours and mine.....but it doesn't just look after itself!

As always the MAC with the other organisations involved in the running of the Common must grapple with the diverse requirements on the use of the Common.

On the one hand, trying to satisfy the increasing demands for usage and on the other preserving the quality and biodiversity of the Common from deterioration through overuse.

We must also remind ourselves that we are a Common, not a Park, which is why we can and must preserve the rich diversity of open close mown spaces whilst at the same time nurturing the natural wild unkempt areas as well.

And it is appropriate at this juncture on behalf of the MAC and all Common users to express our appreciation to the fine teams of people who work so hard to keep the Common in such excellent condition in the face of continuing budgetary constraints. With Enable, the organisation who, on behalf of Wandsworth Council manage the running all the open spaces in the borough and the appointed contractors, we are very lucky to have a pool of dedicated, skilled and talented people who really do care for the Common. Many have been involved for years and have accumulated huge amounts of experience and knowledge to the benefit of all of us. We are grateful for their efforts.

Since the last APM we have had 5 regular meetings and a large number of working group and sub-committee meetings. We have also had numerous formal and informal meetings with Enable, Wandsworth Common Councillors, Wandsworth (now Richmond and Wandsworth) Council officers and other interested stakeholders

A few noteworthy matters were as follows:

Neal's Lodge - Recently, at our instigation and with the representatives from our sister organisations, Friends of WC and the Wandsworth Society we have had some very positive dialogue with the Chief Executive of the Council, Paul Martin and some of his team about the future of Neal's Lodge. This entailed a site visit followed by a meeting to see if we could start the ball rolling on plans for the future community use of the property. As a result, through Enable, there is to be a Council funded consultation with the wider community to look into ideas for the property. Please look out for the consultation and send in your ideas.

Unauthorised Sport Activities and Trainers - we continue to wrestle with the problem of unauthorised use of the Common by sport groups and personal trainers. This is one of the matters included for considered in the MMP but we recognise it is not easy for the Parks and Events Police with their resources spread across numerous other open spaces in the borough to deal with.

Management and Maintenance Plan for Wandsworth Common - as Jo Shearer has earlier talked about, we are delighted that we are now so close to a final document.

Our constitution lays down that the MAC should be involved, with the Council and it's Management Company:

- in the preparation of the Management and Maintenance Plan
- for the implementation of that Plan
- and for the monitoring of that plan

The last plan was obsolete having been drafted over 40 years ago so we are excited to now have a document we have helped to prepare, and a chance to have a positive influence on both the implementation and monitoring of the plan.

I would especially like to thank all those who were on the MMP working group. They gave up a lot of time and put in a lot of effort in advising on the preparation of a document that has been very well received.

Friends of Wandsworth Common - We are absolutely delighted that the Friends have had such a wonderful first year, as those who were at their first year birthday party and AGM last month will know. The MAC made the decision about

2 years ago to form a Friends Group to satisfy one of the stated aims of our Constitution to "promote public interest and participation in the protection and appreciation of the Common".

It was felt that the MAC on its own, as a committee of 20 odd people, was not the best way to promote public interest. What we needed was a good "mass" of people in an organisation under a community umbrella and setting up a Friends Group seemed the obvious way to achieve this.

The success of the Friends has been thanks to the efforts of a number of very able and committed people, most particularly Julia Bott and Richard Fox (commonly known as the Fox-Botts). They are a brilliant team and we are all incredibly grateful for everything they have achieved.

Julia will be talking to you briefly later.

Website - you can keep abreast of news and events on our excellent joint MAC/Friends website www.wandsworthcommon.org. As we all know a website is only as good as its updated content and we are indebted to Richard Fox for the way he runs it so efficiently on our behalves.

Planning issues - the MAC have submitted objections to several planning applications, with relative success. The Jaggard Way development has been delayed, with revised plans being re-submitted, and the application for a 5G mast just opposite the Common on Burntwood Lane has been withdrawn.

Playgrounds - thanks to the efforts of the MAC we have been able to work closely with Enable in ensuring that the equipment and materials in the new playgrounds are in keeping with a Common setting, with a natural "countryside" look and feel. Those who have seen the newly upgraded Chivalry Road playground will know what I mean and both the refurbishments of the St Mark's and the Windmill playgrounds are being planned in the same manner. This has been a very positive exercise in showing what can be achieved with good communication and co-operation between Enable and the MAC. I must particularly thank Emily Jennings and Aviva Walton - an ex MAC member - for their exceptional efforts on these projects.

New Management Contract - as a body the MAC, with the Friends Group, have been and continue to be consulted on the shape of the new Management Contract for the Wandsworth Borough Parks and Open Spaces. The current contract with Enable is up for renewal and it is a measure of our reputation and growing profile that the Council have sought the views of the MAC and Friends as leading members of an advisory panel with other similar community groups in the borough.

Trinity Road/Burntwood Road/Bellevue Road junction - there are early stage proposals for "improvements" to this junction. Amongst the plans are the possibility that a small portion of the Scope (part of the Common) may well become part of a redesigned junction. I stress this is all at an early stage and before anything can be done there will need to be a full consultation and the MAC will be closely involved. It is worth explaining that the council have a duty to give back to the Common an equivalent portion of land to that it has removed. The preliminary talk is that if common land is used at the junction it may be replaced by giving back a strip of land (ie a lane of Trinity Road) going north from the County Arms. Rest assured that the MAC will keep the users of the common fully informed as and when we hear anything further.

Injunction on unauthorised encampments - the MAC agreed to support an application to the courts by Wandsworth Council applying for an injunction to prevent unauthorised encampments on the Common. This has been a borough wide action to prevent travellers from moving in on Commons, Parks and all open spaces in the borough. You may have seen notices up around the Common explaining the application. The courts have agreed the granting of the injunction.

Drinking and bottle refilling fountain on the Common. The MAC, in conjunction with the Friends, are in the early stages of investigating with the Council the possibilities of installing a drinking fountain, with bottle refill facility on the Common. This is one of the matters we sought to have included in the MMP and options are now beginning to be discussed.

Finances - the Receipts and Payments account pinned to the Notice board shows the accumulated funds of the MAC at 31st December 2018 as £3,377. Most of this has been accumulated from the Swan and Duck food sales. BUT...since May 2018, the Friends have taken on responsibility for Swan and Duck food operations so the MAC funds are unlikely to change significantly in the future.

However, it is likely that the funds will at some stage be applied to future projects, such as the drinking fountain, which the MAC are satisfied will be in the best interests of the Common.

AND last but absolutely NOT least, I thank all the members of the Management Advisory Committee for their dedication, efforts and support over the last year.

All members have agreed to be re-nominated and the nominations will be voted on at the end of the meeting.

And...I reiterate that if there is anyone present here tonight who would like to join the Committee, please make your presence known and we will give you a nomination form.

I should also say that I have decided to stand down as Chair. The MAC is in a good space at the moment and we have achieved a lot over the last few years. As was pointed out to me rather dramatically, I will shortly be moving into my 8th decade and I think it is time to move on. If re-elected, I intend to remain on the Committee for as long as necessary to ensure a smooth hand over.

The officers of the Committee are not appointed until the next meeting of the MAC in a couple of months time when we know the makeup of the new committee appointees, so my successor will not be officially appointed until then."

A vote of thanks to George Meakin was moved.

There were no questions

8. Friends Report - Julia Bott (JB) - Co-chair FoWC

JB reported that membership stands at around 350, and that FoWC works closely with the MAC, Enable, WBC, Parks Police and Naturescope to achieve the aims of its Constitution. She clarified that the main role of FoWC is to be outward facing, engaging users in the protection and preservation of the Common and it's valuable biodiversity.

She thanked the FoWC committee and other volunteers who help with, for example, swan & duck food bagging, litter picking, and events.

She reported that there had been regular successful, mainly nature-focused events, throughout the first year; also that FoWC is focusing, alongside the MAC and other key bodies, on important projects to improve the Common and improve sustainability, such as the water fountain for drinking and bottle filling, and nature interpretation boards.

She reminded the meeting of the combined MAC/FoWC website for information and relevant news on the Common, and FoWC activities, and if interested to join FoWC:

www.wandsworthcommon.org

She reminded the meeting that it would be helpful also to use the website and FoWC email to write in good time prior to the MAC APM with ideas and concerns to raise for possible discussion, which could be given to the Chair or relevant body to allow time to gather information and formulate a useful response.

9. Open Forum

The following further issues were raised:

Jaggard Way – the planning application would be heard on July 26. Attendees were encouraged to familiarise themselves with the issues and make their views known. GM said a joint MAC/Friends objection had been submitted already.

Park Run: Tom Worsley described Park Run and his interest in promoting it on Wandsworth Common. There was a discussion of the pros and cons. GM noted this had been raised

before and neither Enable nor the MAC had been 'overseen'. Tom was encouraged to talk to Enable.

A residents group was trying to impose residents only parking in **Heathfield Gardens**. **SB said he would investigate.**

The issue of oak processionary moth was raised. A number of people had sent sightings info to Enable who were dealing with the problem as required.

Susy Lloyd – Wandsworth Tree Warden Network – reminded the meeting of the effort to get WBC to adopt their "21st Century Tree strategy" into WBC planning and other policies. A meeting with council officers was scheduled in July.

10. Election of MAC Members

GM said that, as usual, all members of the MAC had stood down prior to the APM.

All 16 had nominated themselves for re-election:

George Meakin, Julia Bott, Richard Fox, Chris Metcalfe, Lewis More O'Ferrall, Charlie Oppenheim, Ben White, Tom Pollack, Susy Lloyd, David Kirk, Stuart Hill, Harvey Heath, Justin Harris, Emily Jennings, Rosemary Birchall, Derek Wright

They were duly re-elected by show of hands.

Two new members were nominated, proposed and seconded and duly elected:
Gwen Rosen and Christina Potts.

11. Any other business

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm