**Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee**

**Meeting of Wednesday 17 May 2018, 7 pm at the id verde Staff Room, Dr Johnson Avenue**

**Committee Members present:**

Bruno Boulanger  
Gilliam Brightwell  
David Chambers (Deputy Chair)  
Wandsworth Cllr Leonie Cooper (and Member of the London Assembly)  
Jeremy Clyne  
Anthony Gilmour  
Richard Glassborow (Chair)  
Charlotte Grezo  
Michael Langdon  
Mike Morley-Fletcher  
Colm O’Flynn  
Elisabeth Powell  
Andrew Sharp (Secretary)  
Mark Shotton (rep. Parkrun and member)  
Jonathan Wilson

**In attendance:**  
Cllr Clare Fraser and Inspector Steve Biggs

**Apologies tendered and accepted:**  
Cllr Fleur Anderson, Joyce Bellamy, Sally Fleming, Cllr Judi Gasser, Simon Ingyon, Duncan MacDonald, Jo Mundie, Peter Ramell, Adam Smith, Jenny Thewlis, Cllr Hector Wakefield

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<th>Agenda Items</th>
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<td>1. The apologies listed above were accepted</td>
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<td>2. There were no declarations of interest.</td>
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<td>3. Minutes of the meeting of 14 March 2018:</td>
<td>The circulated and tabled minutes were adopted.</td>
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<td>4. Park Police Statistics:</td>
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Inspector Biggs spoke to the statistics. He observed that crime was low on the Commons but drew attention to parking problems (especially on West Drive, and on other places exacerbated by gates being left open), to sleepers, to litter and barbecues. He explained the distinct but overlapping roles of the MET and the Parks Police, pointing out that the Parks Police could provide service only during the working day, and advising that email was a good way to contact the Parks Police about ongoing problems.  
He was asked to consider championing toilet notices on the Commons (bearing in mind the undesirability of too many notices) and to urge importance of keeping gates locked and of the installation of bollards to keep drivers off grass. |
| Noted the following phone numbers: |  
Graffiti hotline 0208 8717049  
Metropolitan Police Emergencies 999  
Metropolitan Police non-emergency incidents 101  
Parks Police Patrolling mobile 07500 959442  
Parks Police General enquiries 0208 871 7532 |
| 5. Matters arising from Parks Report and relevant to management of the | |
Tooting Commons

The report was tabled and noted and matters relevant to Enable’s activity were discussed.
i. The chair gave details on the escalating Thames Water works.

ii. Concern was expressed at the high wall at the back of 60 Culverden Road because of its intrusiveness on the Common, and question were asked as to whether planning permission had been granted to that aspect of the development or whether the approved plan had been ignored by the contractor. The meeting informed that Cllr Anderson was making enquiries.

iii. The damage caused to the Common by machinery upgrading the tennis courts was noted en route from the Dr Johnson Avenue car park to the courts. Continued use of the route by id Verde machinery was regarded with the greatest disquiet. Resolved: that the secretary should, in the first instance, approach Enable with a view to halting the damage.

iv. Bearing in mind iii above and a good deal of evidence already collected, it was Resolved: that TCMAC members collect photographic evidence of the vehicles causing damage at the edges of pathways and on grassed areas of the Commons with a view to mitigating the damage. The question was raised of whether certain paths should be widened to enable contractor use with present machinery or whether the upcoming contract for care of parks might specify an axle track compatible with the existing paths.

v. Colm O’Flynn suggested a plan for refuges for smaller birds from swan and dog attacks be considered as an addition to the amenity of the lake.

vi Anthony Gilmour asked members of TCMAC to reconsider the wisdom of LBW’s decision not to adopt the Department for Communities and Local Government model byelaws governing Open Spaces, but rather to retain the older Greater London Council byelaws. He felt the latter left less room for countervailing considerations regarding (for instance) climbing trees or railings. Resolved: that Anthony circulate members with the relevant parts of paper 17-72 presented to LBW’s Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February 2017 and comment on it.

vii. It was noted that the refurbished water fountain near the Dr Johnson car park did not supply enough water pressure to make for easy drinking, that the controls were too hard to operate, and that the dog bowls at the foot of the fountain were not receiving water. Resolved: that the secretary should write to the Tooting Common Heritage Project about the problem.

viii. Elisabeth expressed concern that TCMAC’s internal processes did not seem to allow for plans before Wandsworth Planning to be discussed in good time if they were submitted at times too distant from the next TCMAC meeting. No conclusion was reached as to a remedy for that defect but it was suggested that some though be given to the idea that LBW might be asked to think of more formal consultations on planning applications that impinged on the fringes of commons and open spaces.

ix. Simon Ingyon had provided the secretary with the latest plan of changes proposed to Dr Johnson Avenue, but they could not be tabled. The Secretary said he would send them with the minutes.
### 6. Enable and id Verde contracts
It was noted that on 15 June the Chairs of TCMAC, FOTC Wandsworth Common MAC and of the Wandsworth Common Friends would attend a meeting with LBW officers of Environment and Community Services to consult on the contracts for id Verde and Enable. For the contracts, see: [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/downloads/200095/tenders_and_contracts](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/downloads/200095/tenders_and_contracts). The chair stressed the importance of community groups being consulted before the content of the contracts had been decided upon, so that their input might not be in vain.

**Richard**

### 7. Muir v Smart Preschools.
Leonie reported on Muir v Smart Pre-Schools (2018) see [http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2018/EWCA/1035.html](http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2018/EWCA/1035.html) If that doesn’t quite get you there, push ‘Multidatabase Search’ then ‘Muir Smart’, outlining the limits it placed on LBW’s power to use or delegate use of buildings on common land.

The question was raised as to whether the tennis court operator had a contractual right close the tennis courts to the public when he was not in attendance, but gad rather been bound to keep some open at all times. **Resolved:** That Michael Langdon research the rights of the tennis court operator regarding totally excluding the public from use of the courts.

Enquiries were made about the status of the future use of the triangle complex of buildings. No definitive answer seemed possible.

**Richard**

### 8. Tooting Junior Park Run
Consideration deferred until the next TCMAC meeting in July 2018.

**Richard and other volunteers for organisation and publicity.**

### 9. APM 2018
**Resolved:** that Chair’s Report followed by discussion be the first substantive part of the proceedings.

Leaflets advertising the meeting were reported available.

Richard announced that he would not be available to chair TCMAC in future and was thanked by the meeting for his service. David announced that he would no longer be available as vice-chair and was also thanked for his service.

**Richard and other volunteers for organisation and publicity.**

### 10. Other business:

- i. Leonie invited TCMAC members to her spring reception on 22 May at City Hall 5.30-8pm
- ii. Anthony reported on a tree walk with Pat Langley to decide on planting of further trees.

A number of events are being held (all except iv below) under the aegis of the Tooting Commons Heritage Project: as part of the Wandsworth Heritage Festival 2018.

- **iii. Saturday 26th May – 10am-2pm**
  
  *Drop in session: Tooting Common Maps,* organised by TCHP. View a collection of historical maps and drawings relating to parks and green open spaces in Wandsworth. The focus is Tooting Common but a selection of maps from other green open spaces in the borough will also be made available. Free and no booking required, at Tooting Bec Lido Pavilion, Tooting Bec Road SW16 1RU

- **iv. Saturday 26 May. 4.30am-7**
  
  *Dawn chorus followed by a bird walk,* organized by the Friends of Tooting Common, and led by Colm O’Flynn. Meet at the café at 4.30 (just before sunrise).
v. Monday 28th May – 2.30pm
Guided walk: Bedford Hill and Tooting Bec Common, organised by the Balham Society
John Rattray will lead this walk covering the Bedford Hill area’s history from its early farms to the present day. Also covering the parts of Tooting Bec Common which were once colloquially known as Balham Common. Meet outside Tooting Bec Common café, off Bedford Hill, SW12 9HJ. No booking. A collection will be taken (proceeds to the Balham Society).

vi. Wednesday 30th May – 2pm
Talk: Tooting Commons: from private to public ownership, organised by the Tooting History Group. Tooting Commons went from private to public ownership in the 1870s. Hear about the demonstrations, court cases and public disobedience which resulted in the commons coming into the ownership of the Metropolitan Board of Works. No booking required. Free at Furzedown Project, 93 Moyser Rd, SW16 6SJ.

vii. Saturday 2nd June – 10am
Guided walk: Woodfield Plants: natives, guests, and invaders, organised by the Woodfield Project. Roy Vickery of the South London Botanic Institute will lead the walk. He will identify plants on the Woodfield Ground and the neighbouring fringe of Tooting Bec Common, and discuss their history and lore. Meet at Woodfield Pavilion (accessed via Tooting Bec Common or footpath at 16A Abbotswood Road, SW16 1AP). No booking required. Free. For more information email thewoodfieldproject@gmail.com.

viii. Wednesday 6th June – 10.30am-2.30pm
Drop in session: Scything Taster Session, organised by TCHP
Organised by the Tooting Common Heritage Project in partnership with idverde UK. Come along for a taster session in the art of scything, a traditional grassland management technique used for centuries in England and with origins dating back to 500 B.C. Wear clothing and footwear suitable for the outdoors and weather. Meet on Tooting Common next to the Staff Yard at the junction of Dr Johnson Avenue and Hillbury Road. Free. No booking required. For further information contact: TCHP@Wandsworth.gov.uk

ix. Thursday 7th June – 2pm
Guided walk: Wildlife Walk on the Common. Organised by TCHP. A wildlife walk focusing on habitat restoration on Tooting Common. Please wear clothing and footwear suitable for the outdoors and weather. The event will involve walking on uneven surfaces and crossing roads and cycle paths. Free. No booking. Meet at Tooting Bec Common Café, SW12 9HJ. For further information contact: TCHP@Wandsworth.gov.uk

tax. Saturday 9th June – 2.30-4.30pm
Guided Walk: the Tooting Common Story, organised by the Tooting History Group. A leisurely walk exploring some of the extraordinary events and people that have created the Common we know and love today. Cost £6 including refreshments. Meet at the drinking fountain, corner of Tooting Bec Road/Dr Johnson Avenue. Please book via Eventbrite: https://tcwalk.eventbrite.co.uk