

The background of the slide is a photograph of a natural landscape. In the foreground, there are various green plants and weeds. In the middle ground, a wooden fence runs across the frame. Behind the fence is a grassy field, and in the background, there is a dense line of trees under a bright sky.

VISION PLAN FOR PALEWELL COMMON

Prepared by the Friends of Palewell Common
February 2017

Background

In 2016 the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (LBRuT) asked all Friends groups to prepare long term vision plans for improvements to their areas.

The plans were intended to be prepared in consultation with local residents and include short, medium and long term goals.

The Friends of Palewell Common (FoPC) are grateful for this opportunity and have used the past 12 months to prepare a draft and consult with local residents.

Consultations

In May 2016 at the annual AGM FoPC presented the initial draft outlining the overall aims and containing short, medium and long term objectives. AGM attendees were asked for their feedback.

Subsequently, members of the FoPC committee have directly spoken to local residents in the streets surrounding the Common, users of Pistachios cafe, and local businesses using the Common to collect and collate views.

This Vision Plan represents the conclusions of those consultations.

Vision Plan: Aims and Objectives

Overall Objective:

To work with LBRuT to ensure a sustainable future for Palewell Common and Fields as a key assets for the local community.

Subsidiary Aims:

- *Preserving the Common as an open space for a wide variety of users who can each enjoy it without damaging the interests of others*
- *Ensuring that any development of the Common is in the interests of those living in the immediate area, the wider East Sheen community and those from further afield who use the facilities*
- *Ensuring the health of the ecology and biodiversity of the Common and woodlands as a green space*
- *Encourage involvement of local groups (conservation, education, disability etc) through partnership and events*
- *Support the local businesses who contribute so greatly to the life of the Common*

Feedback from consultations

Maintenance:

- Rubbish (see sports clubs under Users) and dog waste (particularly in the woodland area) is a major concern for Common users
- Winter flooding issue needs resolution.
- Football pitches and sports facilities should be maintained to a high standard
- Woodland paths need to be maintained

Users:

- Greater control over number of professional dog walkers seen as desirable
- Cafe is an asset and should be encouraged and supported
- Sports clubs often leave pitches very littered and should be encouraged/ made to clean up after themselves

Facilities:

- Back tennis courts are in poor shape and need improvements so they can be used. Cost of use is high (£8 per use) considering state of courts
- Fit point should be replaced with more up to date equipment (n.b. this has since been done and feedback received has been positive)
- Playground equipment needs replacing/upgrading
- Maintenance of pitch and putt is important to encourage usage
- Improve the cricket wicket

Development:

- Those consulted would like the Common kept as natural as possible with no further buildings
- Opportunities to improve biodiversity of woodland should be encouraged

Vision Plan: Short term objectives (One Year)

- Maintain the pitches, sports and recreational facilities to a high standard.
- Maintain woodland and Common to a high standard
- Encourage volunteer participation through regular conservation volunteer days



Short term projects:

- Resolution of winter flooding problem
- Planting of native plants at woodland frog pond
- Planting of wild flowers and native plants in orchard
- Volunteer activity to clear woodland paths
- Upgrade of playground equipment
- Replacement of keep fit equipment (DONE)
- Consult with LBRuT re dog walkers and rubbish

Vision Plan: Medium term objectives (Five Years)

- Maintain condition of playing fields, tennis courts, cricket wicket, boules and pitch and putt to attract larger numbers of users
- Look for ways to engage greater numbers of the community in the life of the Common through creation of new areas, community events and partnership with other local organisations
- Pursue opportunities to improve biodiversity and ecological condition of the woodland and Common



Medium term projects:

- Obtain funding to improve back two tennis courts
- Establish greater number of community events including with local partners (e.g. Age UK)
- Establish frog and other life at the woodland pond
- Addition of sensory garden or sculpture for visually impaired
- Improvements to the condition of the cricket wicket

Vision Plan: Longer Term (10 years +)

- Palewell Common is still the beautiful open space it is today!
- Playing fields and other sports facilities continue to be used by a wide range of users from across the LBRuT and beyond
- Palewell Common is a hub for community events and activity, with a thriving cafe and sports clubs
- Woodland and other areas are maintained in a safe way for the use of the community as an example of biodiversity and ecology



Any questions or follow up?

Please contact the Friends of Palewell Common:

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