

Parks Commission Report	
15th December 2021	
Report to Wormwood Scrubs Charitable Trust Committee	
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1. Executive Summary and Decisions Sought

This is a covering report accompanying the final report and recommendations of Hammersmith & Fulham's (H&F) resident-led Parks Commission (Appendix A). The commission launched in January 2020, and their recommendations follow a year of extensive research and engagement with council officers, residents, and other park users and stakeholders. Interim recommendations were made in June 2020 to support the re-procurement of the grounds' maintenance contract.

The committee are asked to note, and comment, on the final report and recommendations of H&F's resident-led Parks Commission (Appendix A)

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

[Hammersmith & Fulham Parks Commission – interim report, 1st June 2020](#)

2. Background

In January 2020, the council appointed ten local resident commissioners following an open call for expressions of interest, to review the borough's vision, strategy and management of parks and open spaces, answering three core questions:

- i. What is the vision for our parks, green and open spaces?
- ii. What is the best way to involve local people in the decisions made about our parks?
- iii. What currently works, what could be better, and what doesn't work in the way our parks and open spaces are managed?

The commission researched and engaged widely in developing its recommendations, including:

- i. An open call for evidence from residents during spring 2020
- ii. Online resident survey
- iii. Online consultation with 'friends of' parks groups, tenants' and residents' associations, and park sports and service providers

- iv. Examination of documentary evidence
- v. Discussions with a wide range of residents, council officers, other stakeholders, and external experts.

In June 2020, the commission produced interim recommendations to support the development of the council's procurement strategy for the grounds maintenance of parks, public open spaces and housing estates (Appendix B.3). An update on the council's implementation of these is available at Appendix B.4. Further recommendations beyond the grounds maintenance procurement were held over for inclusion in the commission's final report, which was presented to Cabinet on 6th December 2021.

These final recommendations are the product of enormous dedication, time, diligent research and extensive discussion from each of the commissioners, and the council is greatly indebted to them for their efforts.

3. Recommendations of the Commission's report

The commission's report makes twenty-two practical headline recommendations concerning democracy and decision-making, how parks are maintained and used, how they financed, and how green spaces and biodiversity are enhanced and protected.

Each headline recommendation is accompanied by more detail, and proposed outputs and timelines for implementation.

The findings and recommendations are attached as Appendix A.

4. Reasons for decision

The report represents a thorough analysis and insightful vision for the borough's open spaces.

5. Consultation

The commission was formed to give resident-led proposals to the council on the vision and management of parks. The commission engaged extensively with the community in preparing this report, including through an online resident survey (a summary of responses is included as Appendix B.5) and survey of service providers (Appendix B.8), as well as discussions with individual and group stakeholders.

LIST OF APPENDICES

[Appendix A: Parks Commission final report](#)

[Appendix B: Parks Commission appendices](#)