



**Wimbledon
and Putney
Commons**

Media Statement February 2025

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Levy Set for 2025/26

The Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators (WPCC) have confirmed the levy for the 2025/26 financial year, reinforcing their ongoing commitment to protecting and enhancing Wimbledon Common, Putney Heath, and Putney Lower Common.

The levy, established under the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Act of 1871, remains the primary source of funding for the maintenance and conservation of the Commons. It is collected as a precept on the Council Tax for properties within three-quarters of a mile of Wimbledon Common (including Putney Heath) or within the historic Parish of Putney, as defined in 1871.

At its meeting on 3 February 2024, the WPCC Board reaffirmed its December 2020 resolution to increase the levy by the maximum permitted amount for the following five years. This increase is equal to the increase in the Retail Price Index (RPI) for the year to September 2024, which stood at 2.6956%. As a result, the maximum levy will rise from £1,622,642 in 2024/25 to £1,666,382 in 2025/26, generating an additional £43,739 to support the charity's work.

For residents, this adjustment will see the annual levy for a Band D property increase from £39.15 to £40.10 – an uplift of £0.95 per year. Importantly, all Council Tax exemptions and benefits also apply to the Commons levy, ensuring that those not liable for Council Tax remain unaffected by the change.

WPCC Chairman, Mauro Mattiuzzo, emphasised the significance of the levy in preserving the Commons:

"The continued support from the levy enables us to sustainably manage and conserve the Commons, and the Conservators are steadfast in their mission to ensure the Commons remain accessible for visitors and as a home for wildlife. However, as with many other organisations, the charity is facing increasing costs on its day-to-day expenses, not least of which is the incoming rise in National Insurance which will cost WPCC an additional £28,000 this year. In addition to the vital increase in the overall levy amount, we are also actively exploring new income streams to support larger infrastructure projects and, to this end, the Board has approved the creation of an additional fundraising role to help drive these efforts forward."

ENDS

NOTES for Editors - Wimbledon and Putney Commons is a charity managed by the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators (WPCC). It was established under the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Act of 1871. The Commons comprise some 1,140 acres across Wimbledon Common, Putney Heath and Putney Lower Common.

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