

Mr I Hewitt
Chairman
AELTC
Church Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 5AE

July 8th 2021

Dear Mr Hewitt

THE AELTC WIMBLEDON PARK PROJECT

We are most concerned not only about the conduct of the so-called consultation process but also about the assurances previously given by the All England in 1993. The current proposals clearly undermine the sense of trust and goodwill established between the All England and the local communities in recent years.

CONSULTATION?

At the Zoom presentation meeting on 16 June (Consultation 3), convened by Justin Smith, we asked him what if anything had changed in the AELTC plans as a result of the feedback from the first two consultations. The response we got was 'nothing had changed' and that you were pursuing the same plans and simply providing more detail.

While we appreciate the opportunity to learn more about the plans, this is not a consultation. Nor is it a meaningful engagement with the bodies representing all of your neighbours. We and they have sent well-considered and fully argued submissions, some with considerable technical detail and advice, which seem to have been ignored. We would strongly urge you and your colleagues to be more responsive, failing which it is likely that the All England will have the full weight of all local bodies in direct and vocal opposition to your plans.

ASSURANCES MADE IN 1993

We would also like to remind you of the assurances already made by the All England in relation to Wimbledon Park Golf Course. The following statements were published in September 1993 when the freehold of the Golf course was controversially sold to the All England by Merton Council.

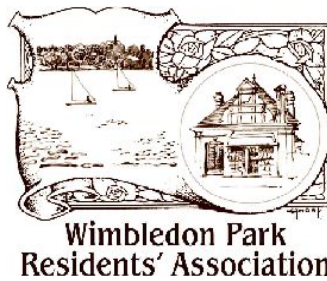
John Currie, All England Chairman: "We completely understand and support everyone's determination to keep the land open and we purchased the land on that basis."

Tony Colman, Merton Council Leader: "Respecting the wishes of local people, this council is resolute that the land will be retained as open space. All England has bought the land knowing this is our policy and is aware that we would not allow development of the site."

In view of the current proposals these assurances were and are clearly worth nothing.

You will also be aware that, on 22 December 1993, you covenanted with Merton to provide a walkway around the lake, another promise which remains to be fulfilled.

From the Chairman, Iain C Simpson
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**Wimbledon Park
Residents' Association**

SUBSTANTIAL HARM TO THE HERITAGE PARK

Your advisers are aware [para 5.20 of EIA Scoping Report] that any development in this, a site designated as an Historic Registered Park & Garden (Grade II*) and Metropolitan Open Land (MOL), and within a conservation area, which will do "substantial harm" should be "wholly exceptional". We do not believe that any of the suggested benefits outweigh the enormous harm that the show court, and extensive development all over the park, will cause, and we remain resolutely opposed to these plans.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Iain C Simpson".

- cc. Johnny Perkins, AELTC
- Ulrika Hogberg, AELTC
- Wimbledon Park Ward Councillors
- The Wimbledon Society
- The Friends of Wimbledon Park
- The Capability Brown Society

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