

The Fight for



# Whitewebbs Park

## The Judicial Review

### The next round

**Round One—Success !** The Judge at the High Court decided that the claimant “raised arguable grounds which merit consideration at a full hearing.” and gave permission for a Judicial Review.

She also ruled that it was an Aarhus Case which would cap costs if the case was lost.

BUT—Enfield and THFC appealed the cost capping. This hearing on cost capping will be on the 30th January

### Round Two - The Full Hearing at the High Court

The campaign for Whitewebbs now needs your support again as we start round two of the fundraising. This time we need to raise funds for the complete Judicial Review hearing, with an immediate target of £12,000 for legal costs.

The fundraising appeal will remain open as £12,000 represents the absolute minimum we need to proceed, and there could well be further costs .

We need to reach the target of £12,000 as quickly as possible.

**The full hearing is scheduled for February 6th, 7th, and 8th, 2024, at the High Court.**

### How the funding works:

I am using the same fully accountable system as before - Crowdjustice.com

1. Go to <https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/whitewebbs-park-help-fund-the/> and make your pledge, directly or use the QR code—every penny is welcome.
2. When the target is reached (£12000) the money will be collected and paid to the solicitors and then to the barrister. The fund stays open, £12000 is the minimum needed
3. If you cannot pay online, team up with a trusted friend who can. OR pay Sean directly at the café and get a receipt. All payments will go through Crowdjustice
4. Because of the cost capping appeal by LBE and THFC time is tight



The QR code should take you here, if not, do not proceed.

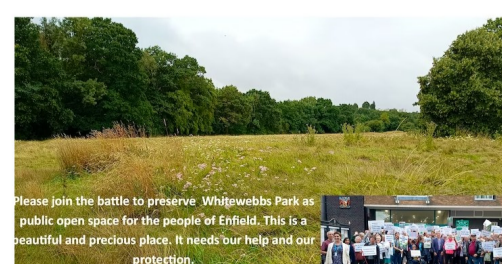
Contact

whitewebbspark@gmail.com

And report the problem

Whitewebbs Park - help fund the Judicial Review ✎ Edit this section

by Sean Wilkinson



30  
days to go

£0

pledged of £12,000 target from 0 pledges  
✎ Edit this section

Pledge now

Environment  
Lawyers: Public Interest Law Centre 244-254 Cambridge Heath Road London E2 9DA  
Enfield, United Kingdom ✎ Edit this section

Sean Wilkinson  
Case Owner



**Round one** of the campaign to preserve Whitewebbs Park as open space for the people of Enfield has been enormously successful. Grateful thanks to all our amazing and dedicated supporters who raised £18,000 for the initial legal action which was achieved within just a few days – fantastic – thank you!

Many of you will be aware that on November 1st, the High Court granted permission for a Judicial Review, acknowledging that "The Claimant has raised arguable grounds which merit consideration at a full hearing."

**The hearing is scheduled for February 6th, 7th, and 8th, 2024, at the High Court.**

We now need your support again as we start round two of our fundraising campaign; this time we need to raise funds for the complete Judicial Review hearing. There is an immediate target to raise £12,000 for legal costs. The fundraising appeal will remain open for funding additional fees.

**We need to reach the target of £12,000 as quickly as possible.**

### Background

For those unfamiliar with the story, in 1931, an enlightened council acquired historic Whitewebbs Park, spanning 240 acres of beautiful ancient woodland and parkland, **for the benefit of all Enfield residents**. Initially part of the ancient royal hunting ground of Enfield Chase and part of London's precious and important Green Belt, the park serves as open space for so many different types of public recreation. Unfortunately, Enfield Council plans to dispose of nearly 60% of this land to Tottenham Hotspur Football Club and its multi-billion-dollar offshore owners!

Enfield Council's proposal involves leasing approximately 60% of the park, including the old public golf course, the lake area, and some woodland, to THFC. This 'arrangement' would mark the end of nearly a century of the park being public trust land. The current plan involves levelling about 40 acres for football pitches, including at least one plastic Astroturf pitch, exclusively for the THFC academy. The remaining 100 acres, which includes entrances and car parks, would be controlled, managed, and developed by THFC. Unfortunately, the specifics of their plans remain unclear, as only vague "indicative proposals" have been shared, and the full terms of the lease and substantive planning application have not been disclosed.

The question arises: if THFC only needs 40 acres for their pitches, why do they require control over an additional 100 acres of public open parkland which is for the benefit of the people of Enfield? THFC lacks a track record or experience in managing public open spaces for the community.

Supporters of Whitewebbs Park, in collaboration with CPRE London, Enfield RoadWatch, and the Friends of Whitewebbs, have been actively opposing Enfield Council's proposal since summer 2021. Despite objections, meaningful consultation has been absent, and petitions, protests, and letters have been disregarded. This is simply unacceptable.

Generous donations from local residents, totalling £2,664, initially enabled the seeking of legal advice.

Subsequently, CPRE London, Enfield RoadWatch, and the Friends of Whitewebbs sent a letter to Enfield Council outlining the unlawfulness of the entire proposal. However, the Council has ignored all objections and is proceeding with the disposal to THFC, despite the club already having an extensive training ground adjacent to the park.

In response to this, I have decided to challenge the decision in court in my capacity as a resident of Enfield and am actively raising funds to pursue a judicial review. I firmly believe it is not lawful for the Council to dispose of a significant portion of Whitewebbs Park to a private company, jeopardizing access to community open space—a crucial element for the environment and the mental and physical well-being of all communities. \*

Your continued and much appreciated support for preserving Whitewebbs Park as an ancient public park and woodland is now essential, so please consider pledging whatever you can.

This case also extends far beyond Whitewebbs Park; it is vital for the preservation of many open spaces currently under threat. Your support is deeply appreciated.

Thank you,

Sean Wilkinson

### Notes

\*For legal and technical reasons the case has to be in the name of a single claimant

The barrister is a KC, very experienced in this area of law. As from November 2023 the Public Interest Law Centre (PILC) has been acting as solicitor for the case