

Best wishes for a Happy New Year to all Whitewebbs Park users and supporters

## Headlines and content

### 1. **Where are we now?**

At the time of writing THFC have not yet submitted their planning application for the Park.

The Judicial Review hearing is scheduled for the 6th, 7th and 8th of February

There has been no public feedback from THFC resulting from their November exhibitions

There were over 750 responses to our own survey of park users. The message to the Council was clear and the survey gives a clear general indication of how users want to see the park develop.

### 2. **The Café.** Since the sudden closure of the Café on September 12th there is little evidence of solid achievement by the Council.

The café and storage area behind it have been severely neglected for four months. Rubbish including food, has not been cleared, there was a problem with rats (resolved for the moment) and there seems to have been no sense of urgency about maintaining this important community resource.

Igor has provided hot drinks and pastries three days a week and we are all grateful to him. Conditions are far from ideal for him and his customers.

No firm information has been provided by the Council. There is uncertainty about what will be provided, terms of a lease and who will be providing the service. Every wintry day that goes by adds to the cost of refurbishing what was a thriving business asset. Who would invest the thousands needed unless there is some certainty of tenure?

### 3. **The Survey of users.** The results of the survey have been posted in the park and are summarised in this newsletter.

### 4. **The Enfield Local Plan.** The revised Local Plan was published in Mid December. Many will remember the furore over the earlier publication with its impenetrable language and unreadable maps. This one seems a little easier to read and the maps are more or less legible. It is long, uses a lot of technical terms and is supposed to be the basis for consultation. Ward Councillors have the opportunity over the next two months to consult their constituents. The plan can be found at <https://www.enfield.gov.uk/services/planning/new-enfield-local-plan> The plan is a framework for all development in Enfield for the next 15 years. All Enfield residents will be affected. Open space, Green Belt, Crews Hill, Ridgeway, housing and traffic are all featured.

### 5. **The Legal Action.** Following the success in gaining permission for a Judicial Review the case moves to the Full Judicial Review hearing which will take place on the 6th, 7th and 8th February. There is an urgent appeal for funding and Sean Wilkinson, the named claimant, has provided full details of the current situation in this newsletter.

All funding will go through Crowdjustice.com. The arrangement is the same as before, go to

<https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/whitewebbs-park-help-fund-the> and make your pledge. Once the initial target is reached the money will be collected and transferred to the solicitors. If you cannot make payments online get together with a trusted friend who can, or contact Sean at the café (There every morning at 9.00 attached to a black and tan terrier) or by email at [whitewebbspark@gmail.com](mailto:whitewebbspark@gmail.com). Do not make payments any other way.

This QR code is a link to the Crowdjustice.com page



Which looks like this





**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 and accounted for.
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](mailto:whitewebbspark@gmail.com)

The screenshot shows the CrowdJustice page for 'Whitewebbs Park - help fund the Judicial Review' by Sean Wilkinson. It features a progress bar showing 29 days to go and a current pledge amount of £1,080 towards a target of £12,000. A 'Pledge now' button is visible at the bottom.

**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 before 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 <https://www.pilc.org.uk/>

## Survey of Whitewebbs Park users November 2023

The full report can be found at [www.whitewebbspark.org.uk](http://www.whitewebbspark.org.uk)

At the same time that THFC were holding their “consultations” at the Toby Carvery we asked park users for their views on the main issues affecting the future of the park.

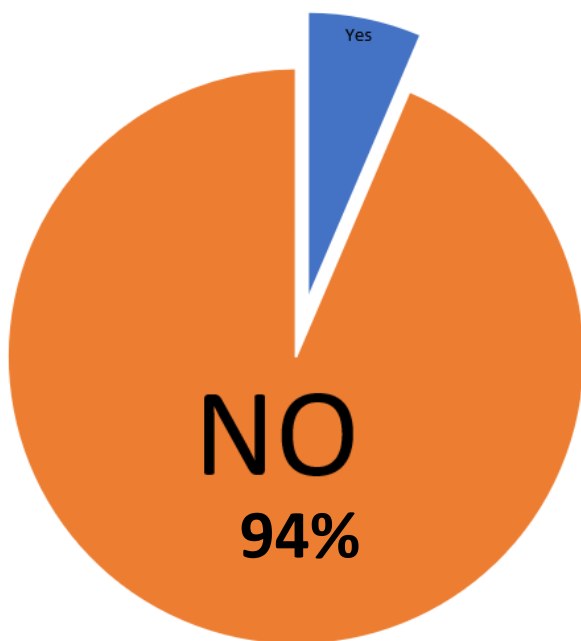
There were 750 responses with no evidence of fraudulent activity. We used paper forms and online Google Forms to collect data. 316 paper forms were returned and 434 used Google Forms. The questions were the same on both. The average age was lower for users of Google Forms (53) than for paper (61). The oldest user was 90.

The responses were anonymous. We asked for the first part of responders’ postcode, their age and gender. If people gave their email address for the FOWW mailing list this was cut from the data and stored separately. It is not possible to link responses to identities.

While the park is used by all ages the greatest use is by those in the 40+ groups. Some 63% of users are female. In the 40+ age range females represent about 54% of the North Enfield Constituency. Use of the park is weighted towards female users by a significant margin of 8 to 10 %

Only 5 out of the 750 expressed concern about the methodology / fairness of the survey.

### I would be happy for THFC to own and manage Whitewebbs Park



	Agree	Disagree	Agree%	Disagree%	Responses
Public open space should be legally protected	710	17	97.66	2.34	727
Public open space is best protected by public bodies - Council, Charitable Trusts	696	33	95.47	4.53	729
Whitewebbs should run as a country park with open access to all parts	721	16	97.83	2.17	737
Whitewebbs should be allowed to gradually rewild naturally with minimum interference	663	67	90.82	9.18	730
There should be a mix of landscapes for different activities and habitats	710	23	96.86	3.14	733
Paths should be maintained and improved but kept as natural as possible	741	1	99.87	0.13	742
Riding and cycling routes should be kept separate from walking areas	649	80	89.03	10.97	729
All routes through the park should be rights of way	700	30	95.89	4.11	730
A café, toilets and community facilities are important for the park	716	24	96.76	3.24	740
Any income from the park should be reinvested in the park	731	10	98.65	1.35	741
The golf course should be fully restored, principally for use by golfers.	261	449	36.76	63.24	710
Public open space will be <u>best protected</u> by private commercial corporations	60	667	8.25	91.75	727
I would be happy for THFC to own and manage Whitewebbs Park	47	685	6.42	93.58	732

Some did not respond to all question or were unsure - Average no. of responses /750

# The Fight for Whitewebbs Park



## Round 2

Following success in Round 1

we move to

## The Full Judicial Review Hearing at The High Court

### 6th, 7th and 8th February

Please support the fight to protect our beautiful park.

We need to raise a minimum of £12,000 asap

To make your pledge go to:

<https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/whitewebbs-park-help-fund-the>

Or use this QR code



The screenshot shows the Crowdfunder page for 'Whitewebbs Park - help fund the Judicial Review'. The page header includes the Crowdfunder logo and navigation links: 'How it works', 'Explore cases', 'Success stories', and 'Search'. There are buttons for 'Start a new case' and 'My case'. The main title is 'Whitewebbs Park - help fund the Judicial Review' by Sean Wilkinson. A progress bar shows '29 days to go' and a current pledge of '£1,080' towards a target of '£12,000' from 7 pledges. A large orange 'Pledge now' button is visible. Below the main image, there is a description: 'Please join the battle to preserve Whitewebbs Park as public open space for the people of Enfield. This is a beautiful and precious place. It needs our help and our protection.' The page also lists the category 'Environment', the lawyer 'Public Interest Law Centre', and the location 'Enfield, United Kingdom'. At the bottom, there is a profile for Sean Wilkinson, Case Owner, with a note: 'Your card will only be charged if the case meets its target of £12,000 by Feb. 04, 2024, 5 p.m.'

Please print this page, pass it on and display it