

## **Environment Commission Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

Notes of the public meeting held in the Platt Centre, Felsham Road. Approximately 20 attendees.

Fleur Anderson MP introduced the meeting by explaining the history of the Commission set up in 2020 for people in Putney, Southfields and Roehampton who want to take action on the environment locally, nationally and/or internationally. The Commission held a meeting before COVID and organised the Putney Clean Air Fair in 2021. Everyone is welcome to join, and they have an active Whats App group for sharing news and actions.

Fleur first talked about the decline of nature and our country being one of the most nature depleted countries in the world. Fleur then talked about Wandsworth Council's citizens assembly on air quality, the Peoples Plan for Nature, and the recent news about the Government stepping back from their climate pledge.

Attendees then were organised into three groups and discussed issues we are concerned about and actions they can take together. Below were the key ideas and themes from the discussions:

### ***Improving Nature and increasing local biodiversity***

- There was large support for No Mow May and there was support for a continuation of this – why do we allow wildflowers to grow for only one month?
- There should be more wildflower meadows on our green spaces, parks etc.
- More swift boxes and bricks should be installed
- There was appetite for rewilding areas – there was mention of “Rewild London”, the London Mayor's project
- There should be more flowers and vegetation in our streets. More planter boxes would slow/calm traffic and cyclists too
- A potential idea of ownership of street trees was raised so that more people are encouraged to look after them and water them

### ***Improving Access to Nature***

- There should be financial incentives to encourage local children from less wealthy families to visit wildlife areas e.g. Barnes Common
- There was appetite for more community gardens on Council estates
- Putney Heath and Richmond Park should be more widely and strongly promoted as a resource for people's health and wellbeing

### ***Improving Public Transport and Safer Active Travel/Decreasing Individual Car Use***

- There was appetite for more car clubs and Zip car incentives
- It was agreed that Putney needs more joined-up cycling lanes and localised cycle lanes too. The local area also needs better cycling infrastructure in general, as well as measures to improve cycle lane safety e.g. more bollards
- There was support for Lime Bikes but it was agreed there needs to be better provisions in place for parking safely and not riding on pavements
- There was some support for reducing on-street parking and increasing wildflower bays

***This is the report from the public meeting Fleur organised on walking, cycling and wheeling in Putney and beyond: <https://www.fleuranderson.co.uk/2023/07/31/improving-walking-wheeling-and-cycling-in-putney/>***

### ***Litter and Waste***

- There were concerns about flytipping – it would be good if there were more mega skip days
- There were also concerns about dog fouling
- There should be more organised residents litter picking events
- There should be more education about recycling – possible idea: the Council creating a video of recycling in Smugglers Way and showing this short film to all primary and high school children in the borough
- There was a strong appetite for food waste collections and support for the pilot schemes in Southfields and Balham

### ***Air Quality***

- It was agreed that more planted trees would reduce air pollution
- There could be live smiley face signs attached to the extra air quality monitors that have been installed on Putney High Street with 😊 if air pollution low and 😞 if air pollution high

### **Possible Actions**

**A meeting about saving nature locally, featuring Green the Grid** – with Nina from Green the Grid and the Putney Society (to be invited). They could explain how Southfields has greened their local streets and now Putney has followed on. Possibly also a representative from London Wildlife Trusts and Rewild London and National Park City could be invited to speak too.

**A tour of community gardens** – with Rowan from Putney Community Gardens (to be invited). There are several community gardens groups locally and we could facilitate sharing their good ideas and encouraging more.

**Clean Air Fair Event** – in Wandsworth Park – Maria and Tahira volunteered to talk with the Friends of Wandsworth Park about possibly holding this in September on car free day.

**“Good COP” Festival** – Dec 1-12 while COP happens. Maria and Tahira have said that they wanted to help organise this.

**Next steps:** work out via the Commission’s Whatsapp Group who is interested in these ideas and then the Commission can work together to organise these events

Several people asked to join the Putney Environment Commission What’s App group and have been added – do email Fleur if you would like to join too: [fleur.anderson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:fleur.anderson.mp@parliament.uk)