

Consultation Questionnaire cycling in Wanstead Park

Background

The Epping Forest and Commons Committee approved the Epping Forest Cycling Management Strategy at its meeting on 8 March 2021. Within the strategy, confusion over cycling restrictions in Wanstead Park was identified as an issue. The strategy proposed a review of the current position with an aim to increase permissive cycle access in the wider Park.

You can see the cycling management strategy here:

https://democracy.cityoflondon.gov.uk/documents/s141077/SEF%2025-20%20Appendix%20%20-%20Cycling%20Strategy%20Final%20V1%206_10_2020.pdf

Park Designations and Byelaws

There are several designations that apply to the Wanstead Park site:

- *Grade II* on English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest* in England - This is a statutory designation of national importance, with Grade II* being the second highest ranking.
- *Listed Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest* – statutory designations of national importance for The Temple (Grade II) and The Boathouse Grotto (Grade II).
- *Archaeological Priority Zone* designated by London Borough of Redbridge.
- *Wanstead Park Conservation Area* statutory designation by London Borough of Redbridge.

Wanstead Park also has its own byelaws and regulations in addition to the Epping Forest Act. The opening and closing of the park (8am until sunset) is no longer in practice, but as the byelaws were written when this was daily practice, they only pertain to the enclosed area of the park, shown in orange shading on the map.

The western side of Wanstead Park (blue shaded area on map) is covered by Epping Forest land byelaws.

Please see the attached map which outlines the current rules covering Wanstead Park. To view [click here](#).

History of Cycling in Wanstead Park

Cycling has been prohibited in the enclosed area of Wanstead Park (shown in the red line and orange shaded area on the map) since the mid-20th century. At that time, cycle racing within the park presented a management issue with concerns raised for the safety and enjoyment disturbance of other park visitors.

The Wanstead Park Byelaws and Regulations (1903) were amended, with several byelaws added in 1950, including byelaw (4) which outlined that:

No person shall at any time drive or bring, or cause to be driven or brought, into the Park any vehicle other than an invalid wheeled chair or perambulator. Provided that this byelaw (a) shall not prohibit the wheeling of a bicycle, tricycle or similar machine in any part of the Park not set apart for the purpose of any game and (b) shall not prohibit, subject to the permission of the Superintendent being first obtained, the movement in the Park of any vehicle carrying goods or materials of any kind required in connection with, and for the purposes of, the Park and (c) shall not prohibit the riding of bicycles on those portions of the Park set apart by the Conservators for this purpose and indicated by a notice to that effect exhibited in the Park.

In 2010, approval was given by Epping Forest and Commons Committee for the London Borough of Redbridge to install a designated cycle path. The path runs from Warren Road (N) to the junction of Northumberland Avenue with Park Avenue (S) and passes between Shoulder of Mutton Pond and Heronry Pond. Although it appears to be 'in the park' it is outside the designated park boundary (running along the

western line) and is thus exempt from the byelaw cycling prohibition. This path provides an active travel route from Aldersbrook to Wanstead, and vice versa. It is maintained by London Borough of Redbridge and will continue to remain.

In 2013, the decision was taken to trial a permissive cycle route (orange dashed line on map) on Park designated land to link the Park entrance opposite Wanstead Park Avenue, nearest the tea hut in the Park, with the cycle path. Signage outlining the ‘permissive cycle path, pedestrians have priority’ was installed to communicate the route for Park users. The trial period passed without any major issues being raised and use of the route became the norm.

Cycling Options Consultation

We are consulting on **three** options for cycling in Wanstead Park:

Option 1: Do nothing: Leave the situation with cycling as it is, with cycling permitted in the Epping Forest part of Wanstead Park, but not permitted in the eastern area covered by Wanstead Park byelaws. The designated cycle route (marked blue on the map) will remain.

The implications for this option will be continued confusion on where you can and can’t cycle in the Park which results in user conflict. This option does not address the issue of the continued growth of cycling in Wanstead Park despite the byelaw.

Option 2: Stop cycling – ban it in the park altogether (except for the Warren Road to Northumberland Road permanent route. The permissive route would be withdrawn.

This option will mean that a certain amount confusion would continue because there is still a route that you can cycle through the Park on Warren Road to Northumberland Avenue/Park Road junction.

This option would also have a significant implication for the western part of the Park (blue shaded on the map) covered by Epping Forest Act 1878 legislation. It would mean preventing cycling in a section of Epping Forest, contrary to most of the rest of the Forest.

Option 3: Allow cycling on paths throughout the whole park (both western Epping Forest land and eastern Wanstead Park bye law area).

If we proceed with option 3 – the confusion will be clarified as there will be one consistent rule covering the whole of Wanstead Park, that permissive cycling is allowed. Cyclists will be required to adhere to the code of conduct with priority given to pedestrians. User conflict should be reduced.

| Option | Implications (positive) | Implications (negative) |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Option 1 – do nothing | Easiest to implement - no action required | Does not provide clarity of use |
| | No byelaw changes required | Continued user conflict with new visitors potentially subject to a poor visitor experience |
| | | Fails to address existing use and byelaw violations |
| Option 2 – ban cycling | Provides clarity of use | Restricts some user groups - in particular family recreational cycling in a safe environment |
| | Removes risk of pedestrian/cyclist collisions | Does not support modal shift towards more sustainable, ecologically sound travel for local journeys |

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| | | Legal exclusion of cycling on Epping Forest land may impact on wider area |
| Option 3 – permit cycling | Provides clarity of use | May increase user conflict if cycling code of conduct is not observed. |
| | Supports modal shift towards more sustainable, ecologically sound travel for local journeys | |
| | Increases access to visit the park by bicycle | May impact on ecology or heritage features if abused |
| | Implemented via permission, can easily be revoked at any time | |

Timeline

Three week online public consultation opens 4.00pm Friday 16th May 2021

Online consultation closes at 9.00 Mon 10rd May 2021.

The results will be analysed and taken to the Epping Forest Consultative Committee, and then to the Epping Forest Commons Committee for a decision in mid-Summer. We hope to implement the changes by Autumn 2021.

Any changes will be reviewed 18 months after introduction, to assess how the changes are working.

Please see the frequently asked questions (or FAQs) document for answers to more detailed questions, which you can [view here](#).

Questionnaire

Q1. Having read about the reasons for changing cycling in Wanstead Park, which option do you support?

Option 1: Do nothing – keep cycling the same with no changes, keeping cycling in the Epping Forest half of the park, but not allowing it in the Wanstead Park byelaw part. Keeping the Warren Road to Northumberland Avenue/Park Road designated cycle route.

Option 2: Stop cycling – ban it in the park except for Warren Road to Northumberland Avenue / Park Road junction route.

Option 3: Allow cycling on paths throughout the whole park.

Q2. Do you have any other comments about cycling in Wanstead Park?

Q3. How often do you use Wanstead Park?

Everyday

2-3 times a week

Monthly

Infrequently

Q4. How do you get to the park?

- Walk
- Cycle
- Public Transport
- Private vehicle (including owned vehicle, taxi or private hire vehicle)
- Other

Q5. What do you do when visiting the park? (please tick all that apply)

- Walking
- Dog Walking
- Jogging/ Running
- Cycling
- Socialising – meeting friends and family
- Visiting the Tea Hut
- Nature watching/appreciation e.g bluebells
- Visiting heritage areas like the Temple, Grotto or other
- Children’s play activities
- Other

Q6. How long do you spend in the park on an average visit?

- 0 – 2 hrs
- 2 – 4 hrs
- 4 – 6 hrs
- Over 6 hrs

The next section is about you to help us understand more about the people using or not using Wanstead Park.

We ask these questions because we are keen to see fair representation in the responses to our consultation exercise and to be able to see that our proposals do not adversely impact on any one particular group.

This section is optional, but we would really appreciate it if you have time to fill in the questions, it should only take a minute.

All data stored by us is kept, maintained, and used in compliance with the City of London Data Protect Policy, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and all other relevant legislation.

About you

Q7. Which age range are you?

0 -10 years

11 – 20 years

21 – 35 years

36 – 45 years

46 – 55 years

56 – 65 years

66 – 75 years

Over 76 years

Q8. What is your ethnic group?

- White
- White – Irish
- White – English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British
- White – Scottish
- Irish Traveller
- Roma, Gypsy or Traveller
- Other White background

- Black or Black British – Caribbean
- Black or Black British – African
- Other Black background

- Asian or Asian British – Indian
- Asian or Asian British – Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Other Asian background

- Mixed – White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed – White and Black African
- Mixed – White and Asian
- Other mixed background

- Arab
- Other ethnic background (Please state)

- Not known
- Prefer not to say

Q8. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Other (Please state)
- Prefer not to say

Q9. Do you have an impairment, health condition or learning difference that has a substantial or long-term impact on your ability to carry out day to day activities?

(tick all that apply)

- No known impairment, health condition or learning difference
- A long-standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy
- A mental health difficulty, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder
- A physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using your arms or using a wheelchair or crutches
- A social/communication impairment such as a speech and language impairment or Asperger's syndrome/other autistic spectrum disorder
- A specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D
- Blind or have a visual impairment uncorrected by glasses
- D/deaf or have a hearing impairment
- An impairment, health condition or learning difference that is not listed above (specify if you wish)
- Prefer not to say

Q10. What are the first three parts of your postcode, for example, E11 1AT, would be E11.

Q11. Please enter your email address below if you would like to receive more information from Epping Forest Charity regarding Wanstead Park. Your details will only be used for Wanstead Park communication.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.