

## A Brief History of Woodfield since 1926



*The 'Woodfield Sports Ground' Opening Day*

### ***(1) Foundations 1926-37***

The most celebrated moment in the history of an always-secluded spot occurred on a Saturday afternoon on 6 May 1933. A new sports pavilion sitting on the three acre 'paddock' at Woodfield, Streatham, was opened for public use. The paddock was not large--1.214 hectares in today's units--but it was pleasantly rural, and the simple building was something to be proud of. Its walls and the six columns supporting the roof above its veranda were made of brick; the Dutch gabled roof was elegantly tiled; it boasted a modest but elegant clock tower surmounted by a weather vane. Presiding over the opening ceremony was Sir Kenyon Vaughan, Chairman of the Greater London Playing Fields Association. The bishop of Kingston, the Rt. Revd. Percy Herbert, was there to bless the proceedings. Also attending were councillors from the Metropolitan Borough of Wandsworth (MBW) and their wives, further clergy, and Boy Scout and Girl Guide leaders, together with distinguished lay guests.

The Mayor of Wandsworth, Councillor Edwin Brookes, pronounced the building and the recreation ground open. He was in full regalia as befitted the occasion. He no doubt had his say, but what was reported in the local newspapers as worthiest of note was the speech by the architect and prime mover of the new creation, the octogenarian Wandsworth councillor, Alderman Samuel Cresswell. He pronounced that 'the recreation ground and the pavilion are to be preserved for all time for the use of scouts, guides, lads' brigade, bands of hope, and Toc H'. The Prince of Wales (he noted) had recently stressed the need for the young to devote themselves to their country; their country (he thought) should make itself worth their devotion. He was reported to have said that in the 'enclosure...they would be safe from vehicular traffic, from molestation from rougths, and be able to enjoy themselves with displays, games, and sports'. In such activities they would 'see what a good heritage they have in this dear old England of ours (Hear, hear)'.<sup>1</sup>

Cresswell received messages of congratulation both on the spot and in letters. One message delivered on the spot was from Sir Kenyon Vaughan, praising his devotion to providing sporting facilities for London; another (by way letter) was from the celebrated chief scout, Lord Baden-Powell. Further letters were sent by the president of the National Sunday School Union (a dominant figure in Cresswell's local church in Southfields), and by Cresswell's friend, H. Russell Ellis, the head master of Battersea Grammar School, located three miles away on St. John's Hill near today's Clapham Junction Station. The old man deserved the praise he got. Cresswell was a talented and experienced Councillor, devoted to Wandsworth both before and after the borough had come into existence in 1904, and very recently its mayor. He had especially devoted his energies for the good of the borough's children, its open grounds, its schools, and churches. He was, for instance, on the board of the Greater London Playing Fields Association. Now, in 1933, he had succeeded in obtaining £500 from London parochial charities towards acquiring the Woodfield ground, had headed a local fund-raising drive which netted £270, and personally donated £500 to match the generosity of the London County Council (LCC) which had made the land available and had helped finance the pavilion. The whole was planned to cost £1,500 and would, Cresswell and his supporters thought, make a wonderful site for sports and rallies. A local firm owned by another Wandsworth councillor donated the clock tower: further witness to local enthusiasm.<sup>2</sup>

Until 1927 the land had been in private hands as far back as reliable records go and before that was enmeshed in feudal tenures. It seems to have been cropped by working farmers until the early 1700s, after which it was put into more elegant meadow as a small section of one of the country estates around the Tooting commons owned by nobility, gentry and prosperous city families.<sup>3</sup> The Woodfield estate, from the western section of which the recreation ground was to be taken, was the last of those private estates, owned by the Mortimer family. It was visible to the users of Tooting Bec Common from an ancient pathway that travelled southwards from Bleak Hall Lane along the eastern edge of the common. The Hydaburn stream ran through the Mortimer land, to travel westwards from the heights of Streatham across the common to the Thames.<sup>4</sup>

Things changed utterly while the pavilion and recreation ground were taking shape. In 1926 Balham tube station opened--Streatham Hill Railway Station was long established--and from 1927 into the mid-1930s the surrounding area was transformed from a landed estate into suburban housing. Roading extensions were laid down, for instance, in Drewstead Road, Woodfield Avenue and off Bedford Hill, now the Spinney. Abbotswood Road and Hoadly Road were carved out from the fields, and named. There, and in the surrounding streets lying east towards Streatham High Road, roads were adjusted and paved; electricity, water, gas, and telegraph lines were provided both under and over ground; houses and garages were raised on the ancient fields and paddocks. Plans emerged for relocating Battersea Grammar School at the Bedford Hill end of Abbotswood Road to take up the rest of the western section of the Mortimer estate south of recreation ground. Woodfield house and its lodge were demolished in 1935; the school was opened in September 1936. It was clearly not for nothing that Alderman Cresswell chaired its Board of Governors and was the friend of Russell Ellis.

Things were thoroughly settled by 1937, the year Alderman Cresswell died and George VI was crowned. Two maps, one produced the year before Cresswell arrived in Wandsworth from his native Derbyshire in 1878, the other drawn up a decade after his death, show just how much during his lifetime in Wandsworth the remaining fields of Streatham had been covered with roads and buildings, and how the surrounding countryside had succumbed to the same fate.<sup>5</sup>

By 1937 only the recreation ground remained of Mortimer estate in anything like its original form. And the flurry of activity on Woodfield, hardly comparable with that surrounding it, was followed by fifty years of settled tranquillity, until a school moved in, in 1986.

The land had been bought in 1926, along with the Grammar School's, by the LCC and declared a Public Open Space. In partnership with the Wandsworth Council, the LCC built the pavilion; electricity and water were brought to the site. Gas reticulation was provided free by the Southern Metropolitan Gas Company. By 1933 the main building work was done. There was no heating, and cold showers only; but there was a large changing room which could be divided (probably by a screen) into male and female changing rooms, and a kitchen. To universal acclaim, male and female 'conveniences' were now made available to users of the common as well as the recreation ground. A permanent pedestrian entrance was provided off the Abbotswood Road (eastern) side of the ground--a right-of-way between the deep-sectioned houses that closed off the land's northern and eastern aspects—and (probably) locked vehicular access was provided for ground staff, again off Abbotswood Road, leading to the southern boundary of the field. To the north and west, a high, close-boarded, boundary fence was erected around the field, with openings allowing entrance only to the conveniences but not to the body of the pavilion, and a gate for controlling entry to the to the pavilion and ground. To the south the grammar school took shape, according to living memory, separated from Woodfield by a wire mesh fence. The paddock was mowed, and otherwise prepared for games and sports. <sup>6</sup> The Woodfield Pavilion and Recreation Ground were in business.

*(2) The first inheritance: seclusion and the first devolution of control 1947-2008*

Although the days of scouts, guides, and empire in Woodfield are long over, and those of its exclusive use by the youth of England are more recently past, now in 2016, as it was eighty years ago, it is hard to see the pavilion and paddock as other than part of Tooting Bec Common, firmly rooted as such in the affections of its local users. It is separated from the common only by a line of trees and shrubs, more widely spaced around the pavilion, and readily visible from various points on the part of the common called 'the Triangle'. It was, in fact, precisely its close connection with the common that decided its administrative fate during the reorganisation of London's government during the decade 1963-73. The consensus among the negotiating parties was that the ground and pavilion should be owned and controlled by the new, downsized, London Borough of Wandsworth, although it was to lie

within the boundaries of the new London Borough of Lambeth. It seemed unwise to divide the administration of lands designed for public use. By the same token, Lambeth was to administer that part of Clapham Common that lay within Wandsworth.<sup>7</sup>

Yet there was always something closed and private about the Woodfield Recreation Ground as it was officially known until 1952, when the LCC renamed it simply 'Woodfield'.<sup>8</sup> As a public asset it was too small and insignificant for institutional memory--and care-- to be lavished upon it. For example, the new Wandsworth Borough Council (WBC) soon proceeded to call it 'Woodfields Recreation Ground', probably unaware of the LCC's decision; and both the singular and more often plural usage together with the suffix 'Recreation Ground' continued in official use until 2014, when, though the 'Recreation Ground' remained in use, 'Woodfield' reverted to the singular in the face of growing knowledge.<sup>9</sup> High wooden fences surrounded it. It could be seen only if one deliberately entered it, or, as a grammar school boy, if one gazed through the wire mesh fence (so this historian has been informed) to observe school girls engaging in sporting activities. The use of the ground also discouraged much connection between the general public using Tooting Bec Common. Except for the public's use of the conveniences, it was set aside for exclusive use by organised bodies. LCC rules of 1937 forbade casual use for sports practice; only organised sports were allowed. It was indeed made available without charge when the participants were under 16, so that they could enjoy 'sports meetings, juvenile cricket matches', 'school treats, etc'. But their organisers were required to work through council officials, and their activities were allotted their places in a yearly timetable. They were allowed to provide refreshments, to charge for them or use a caterer, and to charge admission to the ground by arrangement with the Council. 'Adult organisations' fared less well. When they wanted to use the ground they paid a fee and were responsible for forwarding their entertainment tax to the appropriate authorities. They were responsible for marking out the grounds--a five-lap to the mile running track for instance, could be laid out--and for restoring the ground to its original condition once they had finished with it: removing chairs, clearing up litter, etc. They could charge an entrance fee, but as with youth organisations, entrance had to be through the Tooting Common gateway and they had to arrange for 'a steward to be present there to prevent admission to the ground by unauthorised persons'. The sensibilities of the locals of Abbotswood Road were to be respected, too: 'The organisation must take steps to ensure the maintenance of order in the

Recreation Ground and to prevent refuse being thrown over the fences of adjacent gardens or any other annoyance to the owners...'.<sup>10</sup>

From then on until 1986 when the WBC leased uses of the pavilion and ground to the Waldorf School of South West London, run according to Steiner principles,<sup>11</sup> Woodfield seems to have been little used by adults, and decreasingly used by their juniors. When the Waldorf School moved in the frequent presence of a hundred or so school children further deterred the public from entering.<sup>12</sup> The Tooting Common Management Plan of 1988 noted that it was administered separately from the rest of the common, was surrounded by fences—now retained mainly only to exclude dogs--and spoke of it, probably too bravely, as being only 'fairly well used' for local sports events.<sup>13</sup>

Why the neglect of Woodfield and its subsequent lease to the Waldorf School?

The facility had always been just one among many administered by the LCC, by its 1965 successor the Greater London Council (GLC), and by the WBC when it took over its management in 1972. Questions as to its uses and upkeep had to take their place among the many other calls on both councils' attentions. After Woodfield's foundation, the LCC hardly attended to it at the council level, so that the WBC inherited a doubtful asset from the GLC: in 2007, for instance, it represented less than 0.11% of its holdings of open spaces, and had probably never reached even as little as 0.30%.<sup>14</sup> Little was known about its past either. A WBC minute recorded that, because of doubts about its legal status, the land's accession had to be postponed until well after 1 April 1971 when most of the GLC's other parks and open spaces were transferred. Mistaking for some reason the brick pavilion for a wooden one, a council official told the Wandsworth councillors that it 'comprises a small running track and a timber pavilion, and is regularly used, mainly by schools.'<sup>15</sup>

But having assumed responsibility for it, the WBC at first had every intention of restoring the tiny recreation ground and encouraging its use. In July 1973, while developing part of the Borough Plan, its Recreation Committee noted that 'The pavilion at the Woodfields Recreation Ground is dilapidated and needs replacement'. When it considered the needs of the parks, commons and open spaces of the borough, that replacement (at a cost of £24,000) was placed in 'Priority "A"' category, the highest of three grades, the first two of which would be financed at a total cost of just over £1,000,000. The decision fed into the Borough

Plan,<sup>16</sup> but the Plan produced no good for Woodfield. All that was spent was (in 1983) a share with the Tooting Commons Athletic Track of £3,500 for internal redecoration and (in 1984) a share with King George's Park of £7,500 for paving the Abbotswood Road pedestrian access way.<sup>17</sup> Devolution of authority from the centre to the borough had not produced the local benefits it was supposed it might bring. And so Woodfield, when it was leased to the Waldorf school was put into mothballs for a period while further plans were developed for its use. The councillors may well have thought that rent from the school would at least pay for the upkeep of its grassland surrounds, while the school kept the pavilion, and later, two further small buildings—damaged by fire in 2004—in reasonable condition.

This was a situation that was never greatly desired by the WBC and always thought of as a temporary measure until it finally terminated the school's lease in 2008. Lambeth Borough Council was even less happy, thinking that the open space Wandsworth administered had been too much closed to the public while the school was there.<sup>18</sup> But it must have seemed unavoidable to the WBC: the combined operations of a régime of financial austerity and other venues' providing greater attraction or demanding more attention, condemned Woodfield to official obscurity. Reasonably so: the site's particular political and geographical characteristics secluded it from the public eye as well as diminished its potential in the eyes of the council.

As it prepared for its contribution to the Borough Plan in June 1973, the Recreation Committee of the WBC had already heard of cuts in central government funding expected the following year, and had been informed that support for local sports teams must now come from the council rather from the exchequer.<sup>19</sup> And so began an age of austerity which continues to grip the council. The trajectory that had been set for Woodfield by the 50's would not be reversed until thirty-five years later. Other assets demanded servicing. In 1936, a larger athletics track on Tooting Graveney Common was opened not more than quarter of an hour's walk to the south. For many years it appealed as a venue not only to local but to national and international competition and lessened the appeal of Woodfield. The sheer size alone of the new enclosure was important. In 1947 the organiser of a dance festival to be attended by large numbers of children was terminally dissatisfied at being offered Woodfield rather than the new Athletics Track as a venue. He complained that it was 'too small', and went elsewhere.<sup>20</sup> By the early '60s too, following public and institutional demand, both the

LCC and the had WBC developed juvenile football pitches on the Triangle field and ‘dry playgrounds’ both there and by Streatham Woods, again providing counter attractions, and—like the Athletics Track--draining potential funding from Woodfield.<sup>21</sup> By about 1983, there were eight football pitches on the Triangle. All Woodfield could boast was a junior football pitch that doubled as a sports field with six lane 100 and 200 meter running tracks, the former in a straight line. Pits for high and long jumping were also available. By 1988 many of the football pitches had been moved south on the common over Dr Johnson Avenue and by the Lido; but the thought was (in the Tooting Common Management Plan) that all football fields should at some later time be moved to the Triangle so as to free the southern area for reversion to heathland. It was also thought that, desirable as it might be, it might not be possible to include Woodfield in the plan. A considerable drainage problem would present itself if it were to make a tolerable playing ground: the ghost of the Hydaburn lived on. But at least the pavilion must be restored. Like the Lido building, the Athletics Track Pavilion, and the clump of buildings on the south eastern end of the Triangle inherited from the LCC and developed piecemeal, it was a ‘permanent constraint’ on development, and though badly aging, could not be demolished.<sup>22</sup> There were wider considerations too. Following metropolitan guidelines regarding access to open spaces, the WBC identified other areas in the borough in far greater need of open space than their boundaries around Tooting Bec Common: not least nearby Balham.<sup>23</sup> And so Woodfield declined.

It was also the particular character of Woodfield that made it vulnerable to a combination of benign neglect and indecisive planning at the hands of the WBC during the time it was in the hands of the Waldorf school. It was partly that hardly anyone knew Woodfield was there, except the occupiers of the dozen Abbotswood road residents who shared fences with it and a few others who lived close by, in SW16. It was partly, too, that it was too small for an adult sports field of any kind, was damp, and would need drainage works if it were to be used in the winter. It was partly that the pavilion would need expensive rehabilitation work--and it was partly its political marginality. Woodfield lay surrounded by Lambeth housing and it cannot have been easy for Wandsworth to keep its neighbour’s citizens foremost in mind. The political position emerged in stark clarity during the course of a controversy of 2007-8 concerning both the future of the Waldorf school and a proposition to renew part of the Triangle. The WBC’s idea was that new, taller, buildings would be erected on the Triangle site; several redgra football pitches with enhanced floodlighting to enable night use would be

built alongside them; parking space might have to be provided. The new complex would be put into private ownership, and in compensation for loss of the common's land, Woodfield would be made legally part of Tooting Bec Common.<sup>24</sup> The reaction to an exaggerated version of the plan was immediate and vocal. Councillors from Lambeth (Liberal Democrats) got up a petition against the (Conservative) WBC. The (Labour) MP for Streatham relayed the following message to the Wandsworth councillors:

I fully appreciate that my constituents are Lambeth residents, that both the Triangle and the Woodfield site are in the ownership of the Wandsworth Council, and that it is ultimately for Wandsworth to make its dispositions. At the same time, I am also aware that the two-thirds of Clapham Common, which lie within the Streatham constituency and are managed by Lambeth, are extensively used by Wandsworth residents and properly so; boroughs have a shared obligation to each other's residents where these great public spaces<sup>25</sup>straddle council boundaries.<sup>26</sup>

In fact the WBC did not need reminding of its duties. Many of its own constituents felt the same way as Lambeth's about intrusive buildings and floodlighting on the common. More to the point, its views, in line with its public's, were in any case pointing toward a different future for Woodfield that built on its past: on its seclusion and the few and reversible changes that had been visited on it since 1933.

### *(3) The second inheritance: alternative uses and the latest devolution 2008-15*

Just because the Woodfield Recreation ground and pavilion were dedicated for junior games and sports in 1933, and even though many of the WBC's plans for it revolved around improving it for such purposes,<sup>27</sup> the council showed a growing awareness of other possibilities. In their 1988 Tooting Common Management Plan, 'Woodfields' presented other possibilities as well: not exclusive of games and sports, but potentially presenting alternatives to them. A move towards preserving and enhancing the natural and historical environment was clearly evident, and so Woodfield's winter water-logging suggested not only that it should be drained but that the water taken off might be used to restore an ancient watercourse, or else to create a marshy area for wildlife. Again: 'the Woodfield Recreation Ground, and the

school playing fields next to it are...of great ecological value'.<sup>28</sup> While plans for improving the Triangle as a sports centre remained alive,<sup>29</sup> the councillors were becoming increasingly aware of alternatives. If England and her open spaces were still to be worth loving—and not just by the young--new directions might have to be pursued.

A 1993 Wandsworth survey of 'customer satisfaction' with open spaces told them that 45% of people used parks, open spaces, and commons for just 'walking around', whereas only 10% used them for 'games', and only 7% for 'organised games'. It showed too, that while 11% walked their dogs and 28% had no problem sharing space with them, another 28% had 'serious problems' with dogs and another 51% had 'problems' or found them to be at least a 'minor nuisance'.<sup>30</sup> As there was a case for excluding dogs from certain areas, so there was one for quiet usage by strollers seeking to avoid the stresses of traffic and unrelieved ever-denser builtscape. A more complex review in 2007, the Wandsworth Open Space Study, summed up continuing developments in demography, open space access and usage, and public opinion about it—though seems to have excluded Woodfield from its purview as outside the borough boundaries. Again, across the borough, walking was the main reason from people visiting open spaces (51%); children's play attracted 23%, 'getting fresh air', 14% and 'walking the dog', 12%. 'Younger age groups' went to meet friends and play mainly informal games, and while men and women in the 35-44 age group visited children's playgrounds most often, it was those aged from 16-24 used outdoor sports facilities more.<sup>31</sup> People thought that the worst things about open spaces—all of them longstanding problems -- were 'dogs and dog mess' (52%), 'vandalism and graffiti' (39%), 'litter' (37%), 'no toilets' (35%) and 'broken equipment' (25%).<sup>32</sup>

Sport and recreation were the 2007 study's main concerns about the uses of open spaces, but two other themes had also arrested its attention<sup>33</sup> just as it had the WBC's attention since the Tooting Common Management Plan: the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment and the participation of a 'diverse' range of locals 'enriching their lives' in managing the assets the council had at its disposal. Both public opinion and prudent economy pointed the council in those directions. 'Ecology', 'the environment' and the workings of 'community groups' had come ever further to the fore, so that the committees of the WBC that dealt with Woodfield were called, successively, Recreation (1973-81), Leisure and Amenity Services (1981-2001), Environment and Public Services (2001-06), Environment

and Leisure (2006-10), Environment, Culture and Community Safety (2010-14) and (in 2015) Community Services. Numerous papers expressed commitments to the enhancement of natural ‘biodiversity’ or ‘species diversity’<sup>34</sup> together with human diversity of age, interests and ethnicity on the commons, and local participation in using and managing open spaces.<sup>35</sup>

Considering the movements in opinion together with their eye to economy, it was no matter for surprise that, in considering the Triangle development project in 2007-08, the council thought to open up Woodfield and plant it as part of Tooting Bec Common,<sup>36</sup> or that when the Triangle plan was laid aside because of public opposition, it called for community groups to proffer plans for managing the Woodfield site. The same themes appeared when several groups came up with proposals thoroughly in line with the council’s own views developed over more than thirty years: the use and management of Woodfield should be ‘community-led’, ‘focused on wildlife and diversity’, ‘focused on “education” in its broadest sense’, ‘freely-accessible to the general public’ and ‘self-funding’.<sup>37</sup> As the plans matured,<sup>38</sup> so it became evident that the dual heritage bequeathed to Wandsworth might be inherited anew to be passed on to future generations. There waited an open space that had seldom changed, a building that stood for the commitments of past generations, and a renewed local interest in the secluded spot free from traffic, vandals and dogs--even more necessary as a green oasis than it had been eighty years before. The process of regeneration is underway.

Andrew Sharp  
Balham, June-July 2015, slightly revised April 2016.

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<sup>1</sup> *Wandsworth Borough News*, 12 May 1933, p.10. Original prints of photographs of the ceremony are in Lambeth Archives IV/148/4/p.73. There are newspaper copies of photos of the event in Battersea Library: WN/XI/93, p. 92.

<sup>2</sup> *Wandsworth Borough News*, 12 May 1933, p.10. More generally on Cresswell's contribution see London County Council, *Minutes and Proceedings* (1932), pp. 821-22, and his obituary and related material in *Wandsworth Borough News*, 12 September 1937, pp.3-5. See the late Brian Bloice's 'History of Woodfield Estate and Recreation Ground': <https://www.heartstreatham.co.uk/brief-history-of-the-woodfield-estate-and-woodfield-recreation-ground> for a another story, more detailed in parts, about the opening and of the grounds and pavilion, and Cresswell's work in funding it.

<sup>3</sup> See Bloice, 'History of Woodfield Estate'.

<sup>4</sup> A plan produced in 1928 shows the Mortimer estate about to be divided—the beginning of the end of the remains of the old grounds of Woodfield: LMA CL/PK/2/89

<sup>5</sup> Compare Stanford's Library Map 1877 with the Ordnance Survey Map of 1949.

<sup>6</sup> On the development of Woodfield from 1927-33, see London County Council, *Minutes* (1933), pp. 175, 790. There is some detail in L[ondon] M[etropolitan] A[rchives], CL/PK/2/28; but the crucial item 5, 'acquisition of additional three acres' is missing. See also Battersea Library, MBW/1126-1136: Metropolitan Borough of Wandsworth Council Minutes, 1926-1936), and scrapbook WN/XI/93 pp. 92, 96; LMA, GLC/AR/BR/17/065581 and 076494 (Woodfield Estate...Building Act case files 1929-1934 and 1935-1956).

<sup>7</sup> WBC Minutes, 8 February 1972: Battersea Library, WBC/1/8, p.21 (2) also 21 October 1971 in WBC/1/7; Baths and Parks Committee Minutes, WBC/2/10/1, esp. Report 9 Paper B, 9 July 1964; Local Government Boundary Commission for England, Report No. 669, *Review of Greater London....London Borough of Wandsworth* (1992) paras. 125-39; G[reater] L[ondon] C[ouncil], *Minutes of Proceedings* (1968), pp.550-51 and (1969), pp.514-16:

<sup>8</sup> LCC, *Minutes* (1952), p.663

<sup>9</sup> See e.g. the usage in the Tooting Common Management Plan (1988), §3.3.6, §3.4.26; §3.7.2, §3.85. Continued ambiguity and the change back to the singular can be traced in WBC papers (the first two digits refer to the year in the twenty-first century when they were published): 07-755, 08-156, 11-466, 13-34, 13-273, 13-412, 14-363 and 15-231.

<sup>10</sup> LCC. 'Woodfield Recreation Ground. Particulars and conditions under which the use of the ground is granted' (November 1937): LMA, CL/PK/2/28 towards the end of the file.

<sup>11</sup> The nature and history of the various leases is summarised, and continued, in WBC papers 07-555 (revised) and 08-156 and 11-466.

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<sup>12</sup> Officer Report, Lambeth Planning, Case Number 07/025224/FUL contains a useful description of the school and its effect on Woodfield in its ‘attractive, almost rural, setting’: §3.10.1

<sup>13</sup> T[ooting] C[ommon] M[anagement] P[lan] (1988), §3.6.2, §3.8.5. See in Battersea Library, WBC/2/11/10.

<sup>14</sup> Open Spaces Review, §5.1: ‘less’ because Woodfield was probably not counted into the total. An earlier figure of the WBC’s holdings at 415 ha. is in WBC 04-651 (2004), §14 (a).

<sup>15</sup> WBC Minutes, 8 February 1972: Battersea Library, WBC/1/8, p.21 (2).

<sup>16</sup> Paper 6037 of 23 July 1973, presented to the WBC Recreation Committee 2 August and 8 October 1973: Battersea Library, WBC/2/10/6. See also Report of Studies. Survey Paper no. 7, Recreation (1980): Battersea Library, WBC/9/1/11

<sup>17</sup> WBC, Leisure and Family Services Committee Minutes: Battersea Library, WBC/11/1 LAS 70, Meeting of 2 January 1982 and WBC/2/11/4 LAS 365, Meeting of 10 April 1984.

<sup>18</sup> Officer Report, Lambeth Planning, Case Number 07/025224/FUL

<sup>19</sup> WBC, Recreation Committee, 18 June 1973, and 3 September 1973: Battersea Library WBC/2/10/6

<sup>20</sup> LMA, CL/PK/2/90, correspondence of August 1946 and a Council Paper of 1 February 1947.

<sup>21</sup> Tooting Common 1956-70: LMA, LCC/CL/PK/02/119

<sup>22</sup> Tooting Common Management Plan (1988), §3.3.4, §3.3.6, §4.3.2, §4.3.6.

<sup>23</sup> ~Greater local demands on space

<sup>24</sup> On the proposal as understood by Councillors, see Paper 07-755 (revised) and 08-387.

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<sup>26</sup> Rt Hon Keith Hill to Edward Lister, Leader of WBC, 21 December 2007. WBC, Paper 08-156, Appendix 4. Processed February-March 2008

<sup>27</sup> TCMP, § 3.3.4, §3.3.6, §3.4.6, §3.8.5.

<sup>28</sup> TCMP, §3.4.26, §3.7.2

<sup>29</sup> WBC Paper 07-755 (September-October, 2007)

<sup>30</sup> WBC Paper 995 in Battersea Library, WBC/2/11/15 (1993)

<sup>31</sup> Wandsworth Open Space Study, §3.83-84. On youth usage, see §3.122 and following, esp. 3.125-27

<sup>32</sup> Wandsworth Open Space Study, §3.141

<sup>33</sup> Though see for a more extensive summary, §2.6

<sup>34</sup> A point registered John Newton and Nick Bertrand, Tooting Common Woodlands Management Plan (June 1995), pp. 9, 10, and Alan Scott and Barry Nicholson, *Management Plan for Tooting Woodlands 2005-10* (August 2005), p.20 and throughout.

<sup>35</sup> See Papers 01-39 Best Value Review of Parks Service (February 201); 04-317 On public consultation and Green Spaces Strategy (April 2004); 04-651 (September 2004) on Strategy for Parks, Commons and Open Spaces; 06-37 On Woodland Management Plan for Tooting Common (January 2006); 10-662 (September-October 2011); 10-959 on agenda for change and localism (~); 11-855 on Parks Management Strategy (November 2011); 13-412 on HLF bid (July 2013) and the upcoming Tooting Common Conservation Plan (2015)

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<sup>36</sup> Paper 07-755 regarding proposals for recovering possession of the Woodfield Recreation Ground (September-October 2007).

<sup>37</sup> Paper 11-466 on the 'use of the pavilion and grounds at Woodfields' (June 2011)

<sup>38</sup> Paper 13-34 (January 2013); Paper 13-273 (April 2013); Paper 13-412 (July 2013); Paper 14-463 (July 2014); Paper 15-231 (June 2015);