

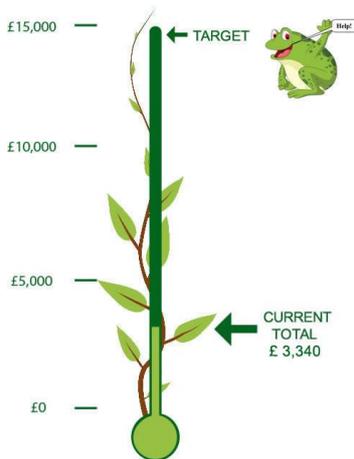


Message from the Chairman

Welcome to the Autumn 2017 edition of the WMG newsletter. This is dedicated to an update on restoration of the pond to which we are totally committed.

The target is to raise £15,000 by the end of the year for phase 1. Following the launch of the restoration fund in May, support for this project has been very enthusiastic and we are extremely grateful to all of you who have contributed so far but as you can see we still have a long way to go!

The more funds we raise the more we will be able to achieve.



Management of any waterway, pond, lake or fishery can be a daunting task. So, as you can imagine, it is quite involved to carry out this work.

We have been asked how funds raised will be spent and what will happen if we don't reach the full £15,000 target?

We want to reassure you that all donations received during this campaign are ring fenced for the pond restoration. If we do not reach our £15,000 objective, the project will go ahead in any case but will only be part completed. We will seek professional advice on what this should be, but it will most likely be removal of the invasive weed that is visibly clogging up the pond, primarily the bulrushes and the New Zealand pigmy weed.

Recent consultation with specialist companies has led us to conclude that, given the cost of a full restoration, it is likely that we will have to undertake the project in two phases. Our website has a more detailed plan, but to summarise:

Phase 1: urgent remedial work, to be undertaken quarter 1 2018. The cost of this is estimated at £15,000 and includes:

- Clearing the tree canopy close to and overhanging the pond
- Silt & vegetation excavation
- Removal and disposal of waste from site

Phase 2: subject to the effectiveness of phase 1, phase 2 will take place in 2 to 3 years (perhaps more) after phase 1. This includes draining and relining the pond. It is by far the most expensive activity but may not be necessary if Phase 1 is particularly successful.

You may ask if a phased approach will cost more in the long term? We have considered this and do not believe this will be the case. Phasing the project in this way allows us to undertake the most urgent work now before it gets any worse and more expensive to remediate. It also buys us time to continue actively fundraising for the most expensive tasks. We believe this is the best way to manage this project and the best use of funds so generously donated.

What is the impact if restoration is not undertaken?

To be blunt: within ten years, or perhaps less, the pond will have disappeared. It will be little more than a muddy quagmire of black sludge and become an eyesore. Most of the wildlife will have perished or have moved on. We must not let this happen. The pond is central to the green and is a lovely amenity for us all to enjoy. In our view, we really have to be proactive in protecting our green spaces, they are so important for all of us.

Please don't let the cost of works put you off of making a donation. We realise that we need to raise a lot of money but when spread over a large number of donors the cost is relatively small. There are over 500 homes on the Woodcote Estate and in the surrounding area. If just £50 per household was donated then we would raise £25,000!

We would like to invite you to take up this opportunity and make a relatively small contribution to something that we will all benefit from for many years to come.

Help!



Thank you in advance for any donation that you feel that you can give us no matter how small. We really do need **your** help to save the pond.

What else can you do?

Maybe you would consider doing or organising a fund raising activity? We are aware of someone selling allotment grown flowers

which has raised £300! So maybe you have an idea of a way of raising some money too. Every pound, whilst it may seem a drop in the ocean, really does help. We would also be interested in hearing from anyone who would be willing to help organise a bigger community based event such as a garden party, a fair or a quiz night.

How to donate

You can make a donation by cheque or by bank transfer. Please see the attached donation form or our website for details.

Alternatively to make donating even easier we have set up a BT MyDonate page. You can access this direct at: <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/woodcotemillenniumgreentrust>
Or via the link on our website or via our new Facebook page.

Please don't forget to gift aid if you can. This can make a real difference and means the trust can claim an additional 25p for every pound you donate.

Smoking

Just to give you all a brief update on this issue: Following some pressure from us and a comment on Facebook by a local resident, the Chief Executive of the Epsom and St Helier Trust ("ESTHT") sent an email to all staff expressing his embarrassment that discarded cigarette butts (left by some staff members) around the benches on the Green were seemingly being cleared up by children! He went on to say "I don't think tidying up this litter should be a job for any child or member of the public, and hope that it never has to happen again." We all share his hope!

Thanks to WMGT Trustee Andrew Broadbent, the ESTHT has now provided some cigarette butt boxes which have been fitted to the rear of some of the seats. These are now monitored and emptied on a regular basis and recently 2.5kg of cigarette butts were removed from just one of them!

The ESTHT is taking the smoking issue seriously and is doing a great deal to try to solve this problem for which we are extremely grateful.

Facebook

We have joined the age of social media!



Join us on
Facebook

Please visit us at

<https://facebook.com/woodcotemillenniumgreen>

and 'like' us,

This will help to promote the green and our cause to the wider community. We have 55 likes and followers to date. You can also keep up to date there with WMG news and events. Thank you to Richard Lea our resident photographer, who has uploaded some stunning photos of the green.

Maintenance Sessions

Our maintenance days have continued to be well supported. It is encouraging to see some of the younger generation coming out to help. Whilst we are lucky to be well supported, there is always more to be done than the time allows and new faces are therefore always welcome.

We are delighted to welcome a group of scouts to help us with the bulb planting on 21st October. More on this to follow on our Facebook page.

The remaining maintenance dates for 2017 are:

Saturday 21st October 2:00 to 4:00pm (bulb planting)

Thursday 28th December 10:00 to 12:00 noon

We usually meet by the human sundial; more details can be found on our website together with provisional dates for 2018.

Trustees

The current trustees are:

Andrew Broadbent	Epsom General Hospital
Jason Cowling	34 Sunnybank
Chris Frost	8 Warren Hill
Liz Frost	Woodcote Residents' Soc.
Jeremy Hawken	35 Sunnybank
Luke Jennings	10 Sunnybank
Paul Masters	44 Oak Hill
Brian Saxby	59 Sunnybank
Mark Swan	6 Sunnybank

Please do get in touch if you have any ideas for future articles we could write or if you would like to be featured in one of our articles.

We're always interested in ideas to improve the newsletter and would be very pleased to hear from you.

Mark Swan, Chairman

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