

Do You Want This?



Respond to these plans NOW

Public consultation ends September 30th

Background

The All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) has submitted major development plans for the Wimbledon Park Golf Course to both Merton and Wandsworth planning departments. The golf course is part of a grade II* registered heritage site designed by Capability Brown in the 18th century.

In this leaflet from the Southfields Grid Residents' Association (SGRA) we

- summarise AELTC's plans
- highlight current concerns
- suggest what you can do

What does AELTC want to do with the golf course?

- Build a 95-foot high 8,000-seat show court with a service tunnel to No.1 Court (NB this is about the height of a nine storey block of flats)
- Create 38 grass tennis practice courts for private use
- Reconfigure the landscape, including opening up two culverted brooks
- Create a 23-acre linear park, in the south part of the golf course, linking Church Road to the current park, with limited access to members of the public
- Build a grounds maintenance hub, two player hubs and seven maintenance hubs
- Extend the lake, de-silt it and construct a boardwalk around the lake with controlled access for the public
- Create hard standing for new entrances to the Championships in the north and south part of the golf course site
- Fell 296 trees (all covered by tree protection orders) and plant 1,500 new trees
- Close Church Road during the Championships
- Bring the Championship Qualifying Round from Roehampton to Wimbledon, extending the event by one week to three weeks in total
- Attract 8,000 additional visitors per day during the Championships, bringing daily attendance to 50,000

What are the current concerns?

- The golf course is designated as Metropolitan Open Land, protected from development
- The proposed show court will dominate the landscape and affect historic views
- 38 practice courts are more than AELTC uses at present
- This land is designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation and will be affected by the building work and comprehensive landscaping
- There will be major construction traffic through Southfields along Wimbledon Park Road for at least eight years
- The disruption to normal life in Southfields during the tennis event will go on for longer
- AELTC will continue to use the public park for queuing and parking
- The current work, while extensive, may be Phase One of a larger development plan
- The proposed walk around the lake will be 70% on boards, encroaching onto the lake rather than using land owned by AELTC
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What could we ask for?

- A smaller and less intrusive show court
- Fewer practice courts
- A legally binding agreement precluding any more development on the golf course or on land currently belonging to the Wimbledon Club, should it be acquired by AELTC
- A legally binding commitment to safeguard public access to the proposed lake boardwalk and linear park so that it can be accessed by members of the public daily
- Better facilities within the proposed linear park e.g. toilets, benches, drinking water fountains
- Other enhancements to the current park as suggested by local residents
- Community Liaison Officer to deal with issues affecting residents

Here's what you can do

- Go to the councils' websites to see the full details of the AELTC planning application

Wandsworth Council Planning

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control

(using application reference 2021/3609)

Merton Council Planning

www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings

(using application reference 21/P2900)

- **Respond to the planning application on one or (preferably) both websites with your views by September 30th**
- Visit the SGRA website at www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk for more information

Got a question? Email Simon Wright at simon@organicandfairplus.com

Remember: You only have until the end of September to make your voice heard!



Southfields Grid
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION