

WARREN FARM RADIO FLYERS



NOVEMBER AT WARREN FARM

COVID PROTOCOL AT THE FIELD

The COVID-19 Protocols published last month remain in place until further notice.

Unfortunately, the white pits markers have proved to be no match for the torrential rain. We will try to find a more robust means of marking them, possibly after the outfield has received its annual mow.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

This is the final newsletter for 2020, as next month we will be sending out the renewal notices.

We have managed to maintain the subscription at £38, unchanged since 2012. We may need to review this next year, as we have no idea how the anticipated changes to the field may affect our expenditure.

We have yet to receive formal notification of the BMFA subscription rate, however we understand that full senior membership is to remain at £38, with lesser rates for juniors, family members and non-flying members. BMFA members can also renew their CAA registration, which we anticipate to remain at £9.

GOOD NEWS - POSSIBLY

Following the revelation in May that QPR had withdrawn their plans to redevelop the field as a soccer academy, there has been much speculation about what the future may hold.

We are aware that Ealing Council have suggested that they plan to return the field to its former use as a “Community Sports Hub”. In the present financial situation arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is difficult to see how this can be achieved in the foreseeable future.

An alternative proposal by Hanwell Nature would see the site become a Nature Reserve. They have assured us that our place is secure.

In the past few days, the Brent River and Canal Society (BRCS) have issued their own “Vision for Warren Farm”. This again would see the site becoming part of a much larger “Site of Importance for Nature Conservation”, or “SINC” for short, encompassing existing areas such as Long Wood Nature Reserve, Brent River Park South, Blackberry Corner, Jubilee Meadow, Trumpers Field and Fox Meadow.

The needs of Warren Farm Radio Flyers are included in the vision document, which includes taking responsibility for “*mowing of the WF Radio Flyers Area*” and to “*continue to renew the existing usage agreement with WF Radio Flyers*”.

If successful, this all looks very hopeful for the future of the club, however it depends entirely on how willing Ealing Council are to work with BRCS to make the vision become reality. At least one of the opposition parties within Ealing Council has already backed the idea of a nature reserve on the site.

You should by now have received a copy of the BRCS document by email, however another copy is attached.



We note that:

- Warren Farm was one of the top four parks in London in the 'Fields In Trust, UK's Best Park 2019' voting and was awarded 'Much Loved' status.
- Ealing Council declared a Climate Emergency in April 2019 and drafted a Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy in May 2020.
- our vision fulfils and is consistent with all national (Statutory), regional (GLA) and local (Council) environmental legislation, duties, policies and guidance.
- we offer our support, experience and expertise to assist Council Officers to achieve this vision and we stand ready to work in partnership with Ealing Council and all others who sign up to it.

Our aims and priorities for this key section of the Brent River Park are for Ealing Council to:

- 1) obtain Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) status for the remaining areas of Warren Farm (excluding the curtilage of the two private houses).

We offer our expertise to help the Council complete their review of SINC sites and to ensure that the remaining areas of Warren Farm are added to site EaBI12 Long Wood Local Nature Reserve and meadows (which will adjoin existing site EaBI10A Brent River Park South: Blackberry Corner, Jubilee Meadow, Trumpers Field & Fox Meadow). Our expert surveys have provided overwhelming evidence to justify SINC designation based on the quality of the acid and neutral grassland flora and fauna.

- 2) pursue the declaration of Warren Farm and Blackberry Corner, Jubilee Meadow, Trumpers Field & Fox Meadow as a Statutory Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

By ensuring implementation of the existing Council decision to negotiate LNR status with Natural England for Blackberry Corner, Jubilee Meadow, Trumpers Field & Fox Meadow and to add in all of the Council owned Warren Farm to that process. A Management Plan is required for this. There is already a draft Management Plan for the meadows, although this has not been published; this will need to be expanded to include Warren Farm and we offer our expertise to help with this. Progress on new LNR's has stalled for more than a decade, despite the mandate from Councillors.

- 3) manage Warren Farm following the principles of the adopted Brent River Park Countryside Management Plan (Part 1) and Ealing's Biodiversity Action Plan, with priority being given to the Acid Grassland, Neutral and Marshy Grassland and Hedgerow Habitat Action Plans.

- 4) take responsibility for implementing appropriate maintenance of Warren Farm under the existing BRP management plan and under a site-specific management plan as it becomes available.

By carrying out routine litter removal, patrolling and dealing with incidents, cutting of existing footpaths, mowing of the WF Radio Flyers area, removal of redundant and degraded fencing, careful removal of the piles of grass dumped on the neutral grassland, one nature conservation haycut of the meadows per annum between mid August and mid September removing the arisings, and the phased removal of the disused sports and maintenance buildings and infrastructure. The latter items are urgent and overdue on health and safety grounds alone.

- 5) add Warren Farm (the existing SINC and the former sports ground) to the list of sites covered by the Council's Byelaws for Pleasure Grounds, Public Walks and Open Spaces.

- 6) ensure that appropriate LNR byelaws are applied for and adopted once LNR status is obtained.

- 7) continue to renew the existing usage agreement with WF Radio Flyers.

- 8) introduce and maintain appropriate information boards and signage for visitors.

By including information about the BRP and Warren Farm and its significance for nature conservation, about wildlife found on the site, and serving to promote and encourage quiet enjoyment and responsible public access.

- 9) state an intention to acquire the northern section of the former Warren Farm playing fields and the Earl of Jersey's Field to the south (both privately owned and part of the EaBI12 SINC) for LNR purposes in mitigation ('planning gain') for other permitted and sustainable development within the Borough.

- 10) consult and work in partnership with all those who sign up to this vision for Warren Farm.