

WARREN FARM RADIO FLYERS



FEBRUARY AT WARREN FARM

THE FUTURE OF WARREN FARM

We have moved one step closer to learning what is to happen with regards to the future of Warren Farm.

On Wednesday 25th January, the proposals for returning part of Warren Farm to sports use were discussed by the Cabinet of Ealing Council. The motion to proceed with the next stage was passed unanimously. Part of the site will remain rewilded as a Local Nature Reserve.

Discussions have taken place between WFRF and LBE officers, and emails have been exchanged with Cllr. Deirdre Costigan to learn more about the way forward for our club. It seems that work on the site is unlikely to proceed for 2 to 3 years, so there is no need for concern at the moment.

Cllr. Costigan has, in reply to our concerns, assured us that *“Any plans for Warren Farm would most certainly take into account the current usage by the club to ensure that your club’s activity at Warren Farm is maintained as far as is practical.”*, and that *“I would hope that the club will be able to operate in a similar way that it did when Warren Farm was used solely as a sports ground and since the club started activity at this location in the late 1990s”*.

Chris Bunting has suggested that it may be possible to safeguard our Saturday Morning flying sessions – we have suggested 9am - 1pm. Again, this would put us in much the same situation as we were from 1997 to 2011. We would need to see what weekday soccer activities take place, however if they could be restricted to the pitches adjacent to Windmill Lane it should still be possible to fly.

From past experience, Saturday & Sunday cricket fixtures begin around lunchtime, so we hope that this pattern continues.

We may need to seek a temporary site when works commence. Rectory Park is too small for all but the smallest Foamies, so we shall be seeking another option. We have at least 2 years to find a suitable location, however this will not be easy.

Finally, we hope to meet up with Cllr. Costigan at the field as soon as the weather and runway conditions allow. Hopefully, a session with one of our buddy-box trainers will offer her a new perspective on who we are, what we do and how we do it, so that she can offer us suitable flying facilities for the future.

RUNWAY CONDITION

The runway is just about flyable, but is still rough and overgrown. A few days ago, your editor met Matt Sugden, from the Greener Ealing team responsible for the upkeep of the runway. He will be trying to get a roller over the runway in due course, and has offered to look into a spray which will deter the rabbits, who constantly re-excavate the existing holes as soon as we repair them.

We anticipate the first mowing to take place sometime in March, and we have requested that the cylinder gang mower be used. Also, they will be measuring the mown area and restoring it to the original 100m x 40m, as per our agreement with LBE.