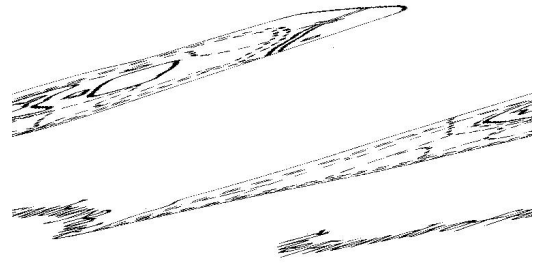


# The Friends of Finsbury Park

## Draft Consultation Policy



### Why do we want to be consulted?

We believe local people, as the users of Local Authority services, should be informed, consulted and involved by their Local Authority. It is also common sense that the Local Authority should do so.

Local people have detailed knowledge, information and experience of their area and the extent and provision of services within it. They are interested in ensuring a high quality environment and services.

Consultation is effective. Solutions are more practical, more innovative, more likely to be implemented, less likely to be damaged.

We are local group with open membership and a constitution and charitable aims that make a duty of our concerns for the wellbeing of Finsbury Park. When Haringey Council has engaged in effective consultation with us the results have been positive, for example the inclusion of water play area within the new play facilities. Consultation with local school children also informed and improved the design of the rest of the play area, which is extremely popular.

We would like examples such as these to become the norm and part of an improved process.

### When do we want to be consulted?

From experience there are two very important criteria. We want to be consulted:

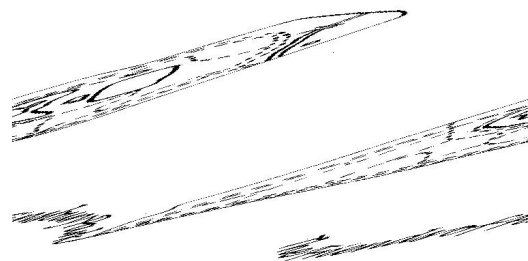
- Before decisions are made
- In plenty of time to discuss with our members

Below are the Cabinet Office criteria for consultation, from their Code of Practice. With the exception of no.6 we think Haringey should use these criteria for all proposed policies and projects that could affect Finsbury Park.

1. Consult widely throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks for written consultation at least once during the development of the policy.
2. Be clear about what your proposals are, who may be affected, what questions are being asked and the timescale for responses.
3. Ensure that your consultation is clear, concise and widely accessible.
4. Give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the policy.
5. Monitor your department's effectiveness at consultation, including through the use of a designated consultation co-ordinator.
6. Ensure your consultation follows better regulation best practice, including carrying out a Regulatory Impact Assessment if appropriate

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### How do we want to be consulted?

There are many techniques for involving and consulting people. Proper consultation is not a matter of picking one or two of these. The extract below shows the type of processes Haringey should be carrying out.

What don't we want? Too frequently an ad hoc chat with one of the Friends is referred to as consultation with the organisation. Almost invariably there's no feedback.

<p>Getting started</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Map local organisations;</li><li>Understand local priorities and skills; Build confidence through early project work</li><li>Develop a vision and action plans with local communities</li></ul> <p>Involving communities in partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Create partnership structures that work for local communities</li><li>Make resources available for community groups</li><li>Arrange training for both community activists and professionals;</li><li>Help community groups with administrative and financial procedures.</li><li>Help to create strong local organisations with their own assets</li><li>Develop a partnership based 'forward strategy', including a strong role for community groups;</li></ul>	<p>Consider possible models for future joint working including: development trusts; neighbourhood management organisations;</p> <p>Developing an infrastructure to build and sustain community organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Accept that community organisations need long-term support;</li><li>Contribute to the better co-ordination of training and support services</li><li>Take steps to secure resources for community groups.</li></ul> <p><b>Monitoring progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Establish a framework for evaluating both concrete outputs and key processes in community involvement;</li><li>Undertake appropriate monitoring of progress</li></ul>
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Based on extract from Joseph Rowntree Foundation Website

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/foundations/169.asp>

### Who else should be consulted?

Consultation should be inclusive. We consult with our membership through newsletters, emails, quarterly meetings and a lot of informal feedback so we can provide Haringey with a group of informed, interested local people with a stated aim of helping to improve the Park.

Inclusive consultation should use appropriate techniques to ensure representative samples and appropriate techniques to ensure open questions

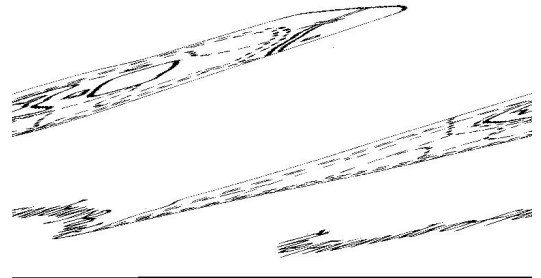
Registered Charity No: 1104450. Registered office as above

[www.thefriendsoffinsburypark.org.uk](http://www.thefriendsoffinsburypark.org.uk)

email:finsburyparkartclub@blueyonder.co.uk

# The Friends of Finsbury Park

## Draft Consultation Policy



### How will we consult?

#### with members and trustees:

Our most basic consultation is that required by our Articles of Association. This requires us to:

- hold 4 general meetings a year and to notify all members at least 21 days in advance to vote on resolutions at meetings for decisions
- Trustees decisions must be made by vote a quorum of at least 1/3 of the committee
- Subcommittees (three or more trustees), must report to the trustees at committee meetings
- We can vote by written resolutions as an alternative to agreement at meetings

Following discussions at our Jan 07 meeting we are proposing to improve on this with a draft meeting schedule of 6 members meeting a year as below:

Meetings would be on the last Thursday of the month.

January	Formal "business" meeting
March	Informal meeting with speaker
May	Formal "business" meeting
July	Informal meeting with speaker
September	Formal "business" meeting
November	AGM with speaker

Trustees meetings would be in the months between members meetings

#### with Park users and local people:

We participate in the Haringey Friends of Parks meetings to consult with other Groups.

We propose to set up a Forum for groups that use Finsbury Park and have received a grant from Haringey help up achieve this.

We also consult with our membership and Park users through the website, newsletters, emails, and a lot of informal feedback.

We have a database of other groups in the Park and around the park including residents groups, faith groups, age groups, ethnic and culture based groups and community regeneration organisations. We think these groups will want to be consulted on some issues. We do not have the resources to do this but would willingly share the database to help Haringey achieve inclusive consultation.

#### With Haringey Council, funders, and statutory bodies

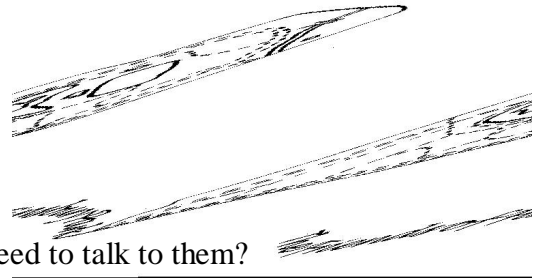
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who do we need to talk to (staff, politicians) when do we need to talk to them?

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### **How do we ensure open, transparent, honest communication?**

The Charities Commission and most major funders expect us to have “good governance”

The key principle of this is that we should be open, responsive and accountable to our users, beneficiaires, members, partners and others with a legitimate interest in our work.

#### Meetings:

The new meeting structure will give us greater scope to talk with our members. Should we back this up with a code for meetings, so that people know what to expect. This could help meetings stay relaxed and informal.

#### Website

We can put a lot of information on the website. What would people like to see?

#### Newsletter

Who should this be aimed at, the public, members or both? Should we have a members page in the newsletter? would an e-newsletter be useful?

