



Friends of Firs Farm – Public Meeting Minutes

Date: 9th September 2025

Attendees (FOFF Trustees): Toni Guiver TG (Chair), Becky Beach BB, Chris Ferrari CF, Paul Guiver, Peter Charalambous PC.

Apologies: Carl Redondo CR (new Treasurer)

1. Previous Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting (5th June 2025) were agreed as accurate.

2. Hub Management and Use

A question was raised about the management of the Hub and how it is run. CF explained that FOFF leases the land from Enfield Council and the Hub is owned by FOFF. As part of the funding conditions, the Hub must be used on a professional basis. FOFF has contracted the management of the Hub to Home Care Preferred Social Enterprise (HCPSE), who have brought in Leon's Cafe. HCPSE pays a premium to FOFF that allows them to run the business.

FOFF is responsible for the external area surrounding the Hub known as the demise of the building. Recent improvements by FOFF, include the installation of planters and artificial grass. Plans are underway to add a shelter - research into costs is ongoing. A suggestion was received to install a small 'mini-library' close to the shelter for book exchanges. FOFF will look into costs and ensure any structure is weatherproof.

The sensory garden project to the rear of the Hub is progressing, pending final confirmation from the council (as landowners) for installation.

Action: TG to send a list of outstanding issues to Tim Leaver and Charlotte at Enfield Council.

3. Wetlands Expansion

Discussions are ongoing with the council to create additional wetland areas. The current proposal is to build three new 'cells' across the fields to the North to improve water absorption and filtration. A response from the council is expected by December.

4. Local Council Updates

The council has identified three sites under consideration for traveller pitches. A public consultation will be held, which may lead to a public hearing. CF/PC will monitor updates on the consultation.

FOFF is awaiting the installation of recycling bins to help tackle ongoing fly-tipping issues. This is part of a wider council initiative, so there is no confirmed timeframe.



Any issues at Firs Farm should be reported on <https://www.enfield.gov.uk/report-a-problem> or, via www.fixmystreet.com or by using the 'FixMyStreet' app.

FOFF continue to discuss with the council the future use of the land at 144 The Oaks and the former changing rooms site in the Compound next to the Hub.

5. Finances

FOFF's financial position remains stable, with a healthy (but fully committed) balance. A new treasurer, Carl Redond, will be taking over financial duties shortly, including managing accounts, monitoring Gift Aid, and reporting to the Charity Commission.

6. Events

Events play a vital role in raising funds for FOFF's ongoing work.

- Halloween and Christmas Events: Currently under threat due to a shortage of volunteers. Support is urgently needed for set-up, health & safety cover, and event management.
- Corporate Volunteer Days: These focus mainly on conservation work and require a couple of FOFF volunteers to assist. They accommodate up to 20 participants and require a minimum donation of £400. This funds the kit needed by volunteers working in Firs Farm.
- 80s Dance Night: Scheduled for 15th November – further details will follow.
- Future Ideas: A quiz night or quiz/bingo evening was suggested.
- The next Community wetlands clean up day will be Saturday 8th November.

FOFF welcomes approaches from individuals or organisations wishing to host their own events at the Hub, in exchange for a donation.

7. Volunteering

FOFF extends its thanks to all current volunteers for their ongoing support — their contribution is essential to the success of the Wetlands.

We are actively seeking new volunteers. Even a few hours of time can make a huge difference.

Additional support is needed for:

- Supervising students completing Duke of Edinburgh awards.
- Assisting with school visits to the Wetlands.

We are proud to have won a gold award from Enfield in Bloom again this year.

The next general meeting date is: Tuesday 9th December 2025