



# ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Members of the Environment and Heritage Committee

are summoned to attend a Meeting at **7.30pm** on

**Wednesday 11 June 2025**

to be held at

Loughton Town Council, Council Chamber  
1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton IG10 2QZ

to transact the business shown in the agenda.

**Mark Squire**  
**Town Clerk**  
4 June 2025

**Councillor C C Pond (Chairman)**  
**Councillor A Fricker (Vice Chairman)**

## **Councillors**

W Dodd  
C Ubah

S Harriman  
K Valentine

J Obaseki

Note to Councillors:

If you are unable to attend the meeting,  
please email your apologies to the office [contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk)

## **A G E N D A**

- 1 Apologies**  
To RECEIVE any apologies for absence.
- 2 Declarations of Interest**  
For Councillors to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any items on the Agenda.
- 3 Confirmation of Minutes**  
To CONFIRM the minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2025.
- 4 Public Representations**  
To hear any representations from members of the public who have registered a request to address the Committee in accordance with no 5, Appendix C, of the Standing Orders.
- 5 Town Clerk's / Chairman's Report**
  - Environmental Sustainability – Min no EH77 Councillor Fricker is working on a report that will be brought back to the Environment and Heritage Committee meeting in September 2025.
  - Tree Whips – Min no EH80 and Recreation Committee – Min no RC79. The tree whips have now all been planted.
  - Litter along Station Approach – Min no EH81 refers. The Chairman has reported to Epping Forest District Council (EFDC), who are going to have a good tidy up of the area concerned.
  - The online form for supply of salt for the Salt Grit Volunteer scheme has been applied for and also for an additional pallet, given the size and topography of Loughton.
  - Recruitment – Pleased to confirm that Debbie Taylor, Assistant Community and Services Manager, has been appointed as Services Manager ,as from 14 July 2025. Loughton Town Council (LTC) is currently advertising for an Office Administrator and also a Maintenance Assistant.
  - This will be the last Committee meeting for Paul Hoy, Services Manager at LTC. He has opted to retire, following excellent and loyal longstanding service to LTC. Best wishes for the future are extended from all at LTC.

To receive and note.

- 6 Councillor Joyce Obaseki – see Town Council Min No. 100 – Town Clerk's Report**  
'Members noted the request for a further month's leave of absence for Cllr Obaseki until 17 July 2025'. She has informed the Town Clerk that she should be back to attend meetings as from 20 June 2025.

Members to review and minute accordingly.

- 7 Heritage plaques**  
See attached report on page 5.

Members to review and agree a way forward.

**8 Weekly Markets – Min no EH90**

An application had been lodged with the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) to instigate the lay by closure in Loughton High Street for the weekly Sunday market. However this application has recently been rebuffed. On 2.6.25, the Technical Manager, North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) stated 'Unfortunately, this isn't something we can accommodate as our suspensions are for temporary requirements and not for consistent weekly arrangements. This would require a change in the order which has been implemented in other areas for their local market days'. The Town Clerk is currently liaising with the Interim Engineering Manager, NEPP to see if there is a workable solution going forward.

The market operator has requested a new start date of Sunday 7 September 2025. In the meantime, the Town Clerk will work to agree the market licence, and any other relevant paperwork with the market operator (also meeting the stipulations, as laid down by Essex County Council (ECC) Highways Department.

The Town Clerk will provide a further oral update at the meeting, including an indication of potential costs, which may or may not prove prohibitive.

Members to review.

**9 Christmas Lights – Min no EH91**

The tender panel met recently and having reviewed the seven tender packs received, unanimously opted for Aylesford Electrics to stage the Christmas lighting, at the High Street, Broadway and Station Approach for the next three years (costing was within the agreed three year budget). Some examples of the proposed displays will be available at the meeting.

Members to receive and note.

**10 Allotments – Willingale Road Allotments**

Members to review the attached report and proposed rent increase: see pages 6 – 7.

**11 Davenant Playing Fields – Min no EH91**

(See Recreation Committee – Min no RC119)

The Town Clerk has chased a written confirmation from the school regarding clarification of their responsibilities regarding the school perimeter fencing, adjacent to Willingale Playing Field and Lady Whitakers Mead. A response is still awaited.

To receive and note.

**12 Pyrles Lane (former) Allotment Site – Min EH94**

A letter has been sent to the Secretary of State and a response is awaited.

To receive and note.

**13 Events**

**13.1 Loughton Wombles – Min EH95.1**

Loughton Wombles were out again on 12 April 2025, litter picking near to Debden Park High School and in and around Torrington Drive.

Another trip took place on 24 May 2025, litter picking along the top end of Rectory Lane and in the vicinity of Lady Mary's Path. Loughton Wombles were also kindly invited into Oakland Care, Woodland Grove, for coffee and

croissants, as a mark of appreciation for all the litter picking along the alley and around their premises on past occasions.

Future litter picks have been scheduled for 21 June, 6 July (Jessel Green Day), 26 July and 23 August.

To receive and note

### **13.2 Loughton Day (community event)**

Loughton Community Day will be held on Saturday 20 September 2025 from 12noon – 4pm in the grounds of Loughton Cricket Club.

Organisation of the event is well underway. Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) have issued a TENS licence at a cost of £21. All logistics are in place, and contractors requiring advance booking have been secured. Emails inviting local community groups and organisations to attend will be sent out in the next week or so. Encouragingly, many stallholders from last year have already contacted us to confirm their participation.

We have also received an enquiry from Maddison Fox Estate Agents regarding sponsorship. As part of their generous support, they will donate £10 for every promotional board they can place outside homes in the local area, up to a maximum of 100 boards. This initiative will significantly contribute to our fundraising efforts and help cover essential costs such as security, Portaloos, first aid, and marquee hire for the Churches Together in Loughton tea tent. Full details will be shared with members in the coming weeks.

Members are asked to receive and note.

Additionally, we invite Members to consider what sort of stall they would like the Town Councillors to run this year. Possibly a stall selling Strawberries and Cream or do they have any other suggestions?

Members to discuss and confirm if they wish to run a stall.

## **14 Cemetery Matters**

### **14.1 Bench installation**

A further bench was installed by the 'oak tree roundabout' on 11 April 2025.

To receive and note.

### **14.2 Churchyard Cemetery Plot Endowment – Earmarked Reserve Funds (EMR) – £8,262**

Currently £8,262 sits in this very historic EMR. A full investigation was made to establish the breakdown of these reserves to record in the minutes. It was established that these 'endowment' funds were transferred from EFDC, and almost certainly before that from Chigwell Urban District Council which looked after the cemetery previously. The breakdown is as follows:-

£2,000 to maintain Grave Space 763 until 2040  
£2,783 in reserve for the maintenance of plot 2741  
Total £4,783

Recommend a review of the condition of the two graves and spend the endowment EMR funds accordingly, if required. Then transfer the balance of £3,479 (£8,262 - £4783) to another budget line.

Members to review and agree a way forward.

**15 Benches owned by Loughton Town Council and the City of London Corporation, Epping Forest (CoLC) – Min no EH96**

The CoLC had approached LTC regarding a bench (owned by LTC), along Lower Road which had become a focal point for Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). CoLC wanted to discuss this and other benches upon Forest Land, and Forest Land under care & maintenance of both LTC and EFDC, as some of these locations are no longer fit for purpose and are creating ASB issues or are Health & Safety concerns for CoLC.

The Town Clerk and Services Manager are meeting with the Epping Forest Land Agent & Planning Officer (Interim Epping Forest Business Development Officer) on 13 June 2025.

A further update will be provided at the next Environment & Heritage Committee meeting.

**16 Epping Forest Heritage Trust – Strategy and Impact report 2025 to 2030**

See attached pages 8 – 25.

To receive and note.

**17 Financial Position  
Current Financial Position**

The current financial position as of 31 May 2025 is attached together with current details of the funds available from earmarked reserves. (See pages 26 – 27.)

Members to review.

**18 Environmental Issues**

This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Committee to discuss concerns and improve the ambience and environment of Loughton by tackling adverse factors and promoting positive ones.

The methodology agreed is as follows:

Councillors should send to the Town Clerk at least 14 days before the meeting a statement of what the eyesore is, its exact location, its ownership, if known, and the desired course of action. Members would discuss the matter, come to a conclusion, and then the Clerk would write to the responsible body outlining what the Town Council would like to see done. If no action were taken, the matter could be publicised and revisited at a subsequent meeting.

**19 Future Work of the Committee**

The opportunity for members to suggest topics to be considered by the Committee at a future meeting, subject to the Committee's agreement.

**Mark Squire**  
**TOWN CLERK**  
4 June 2025

**Agenda item 7**  
**Heritage Plaques**

Loughton Town Council's latest heritage plaque for Diana Kennedy (nee Southwood) was installed at 19 York Hill in August 2024, bringing the total plaques installed by LTC to 50.

Future nominations for Heritage Plaques:

**EH9.2 Heritage Plaques**

The request for a plaque for Percy Thompson at The Uplands would be followed up in the next financial year.

Other nominations received, for future consideration, include:

Vernon Robertson – eminent engineer: 5 High Beech Rd (Nomination from Cllr Pond)

Cllr Joan Davis (Nomination from Lindsey Coates)

Debra Paris  
Administration Officer  
28 May 2025

## **Agenda item 10**

### **Allotments – Willingale Road Allotments**

#### **Current Situation**

All plots are currently let. Presently we have four people on the waiting list.

A site inspection took place on 14 May 2025. A number of plot holders were written to as their plots were not being cultivated. A Plot holder has been written to advising him he is being evicted following repeatedly being written to about not working his plot.

#### **Cesspit**

Officers have monitored the level of water in the pit, following it being emptied again on the 18 February 2025. It is apparent the cesspit is taking in ground water. The Committee are to consider if they wish officers to pursue options for a replacement cesspit. Up until this point it, was uncertain that a new cess pit, (or something similar) would be required and as such there is no budget in place for this project. Costs for a new cess pit would be in the region of £10k plus. If members wish to pursue this way forward, funds would need to be vired from other budget headings, and or from General Reserves.

Some potential financial options are as follows

- Allocate £2,000 from the General Allotments budget line
- Allocate £1,000 from the Willingale Allotments budget line
- Transfer £5,000 from Closed Churchyard - Earmarked Reserves (EMR,) as the transfer timeline of the 'St Johns' Closed Churchyard appears to be protracted .
- Transfer of £3,479 from EMR Cemetery Plot Endowment Fund – see agenda item 14.2.

This give a total allocation of £11,3479, any remaining costs to be funded from General Reserves.

Members to consider the way forward

#### **Children running unsupervised on site**

Of late there has been several complaints received from plot holders that children, of plot holders, were being allowed to run free around the site, causing damage to crops and property. Even though emails have been sent out and notices put up this still continues to be a problem. Advice has been sought from the National Allotment Society; we await a response.

#### **Community Plot**

Following a meeting with the allotment volunteers on 20 May 2025, it was agreed Officers would assist with tidying up the Community plot in the coming weeks.

#### **Best Allotment Competition**

Arrangements for this year's competition continue.

#### **Horticultural Show**

Planning for this year's show continues.

#### **Annual Rent Review**

The Committee is asked to consider and agree the rent increase for the period 1 September 2026 – 31 August 2027 so that the required twelve months' notice can be given to all tenants. Usually, the change is based on the increase in the Retail Price Index (RPI). The current level April 2025 is 4.5%.

Recommend increase of 4.5% rounded up / down to the nearest pound. This still provides good value and remains below or comparable with neighbouring parishes

Plot type	1 September 2025 – 31 August 2026	1 September 2026 – 31 August 2027
Full	£55.00	£57
Half	£37.00	£39
Shed	£21.00	£23

MS/DT 4.6.25



Agenda item 16

Epping Forest Heritage Trust – Strategy and Impact report 2025 to 2030



**Epping Forest  
Heritage Trust**



**2025-2030 Strategy**

# Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Our vision and mission	3
3. Our beliefs	4
4. Our values	5
5. Strategic objectives	6
6. Strategic goals by 2030	7
7. Theory of Change	8
8. Delivering our impact	11
9. Our community	12
10. The need for ongoing protection and preservation of the Forest	13

# Foreword

Epping Forest is a unique and irreplaceable asset that is facing its biggest challenges since it was first protected by the Epping Forest Act in 1878. This Strategy sets out our ambition to grow our work to help protect and preserve the Forest over the next 5 years. We want to educate and inspire more people about this precious Forest, involve more people in direct work to conserve and grow it and increase our ability to advocate and campaign to protect it.

Protecting Epping Forest is a collective effort, and in order to do this we will continue to work in close partnership with the City of

London Corporation, who own and manage the Forest, and we will need the continued support of our members, volunteers, supporters and partner organisations.

By committing to this strategy, we are taking a crucial step in ensuring that Epping Forest thrives and is preserved for generations to come.



**James Harrington, Chair**

*Cover photo: Carers4Carers collaboration walk: attendees hugging Grimston's Oak. August 2024.*



# Introduction



*Epping Forest continues to face the gravest threats that it has seen since it was first protected in 1878.*

Epping Forest is the largest open green space in London and Essex, a hugely important ancient Forest, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation, with iron age camps, 1,000 year old trees and rare woodland pasture habitats. It is owned and managed by the City of London Corporation, who as Conservators have a duty to preserve the Forest, and loved by local communities as well as visitors from further afield.

Epping Forest continues to face the gravest threats that it has seen since it was first protected in 1878. Climate crisis impacts of stronger winds, higher

temperatures and more rain, and high levels of pollution threaten its biodiversity; neighbouring development, including plans to build 68,000 housing units in its vicinity, threaten its resilience to increased visitor numbers and further pollution.

At the same time the Forest has the potential to help us tackle the crucial issues of our time: it helps mitigate the climate crisis by reducing temperatures and capturing carbon; it provides a vital amenity for people's health and wellbeing as a space to walk, cycle, ride, relax and enjoy.

*It is essential that we protect and preserve the Forest not just for our own current enjoyment, but also for the health and well-being of the Epping Forest community for generations of people to come.*

In 2022 we embraced a new strategic approach, investing our reserves to deliver greater impact for the Forest, at the same time as modernising Epping Forest Heritage Trust, and in particular engaging new audiences and communities. Moving forward we will build on the proud history of our predecessor organisations the Friends of Epping Forest and the Centenary Trust, as well as our achievements and learnings over the last 3 years, to do even more to protect the Forest.

An integral part of our strategy is to work in partnership with the Conservator to help educate and inspire people about the

Forest, help conserve and grow the Forest, and help protect the Forest through engagement, advocacy and campaigning, and by acting as a critical friend to the Conservator when necessary.

It is essential that we protect and preserve the Forest not just for our own current enjoyment, but also for the health and well-being of the Epping Forest community for generations of people to come.

**We set out below the vital role we believe Epping Forest Heritage Trust has in doing just that.**





## About us

We are a membership organisation and charity dedicated to preserving and protecting Epping Forest, its biodiversity, culture and heritage for people to enjoy now, and for generations to come. We have over 1,000 members, and work across the whole of Epping Forest.



## Our Mission

To protect, conserve, grow and celebrate the Forest's biodiversity, heritage and culture, and engage, educate and inspire other people to do the same.

## Our Vision

A thriving Forest, rich in biodiversity, heritage and culture; enjoyed and conserved now and for generations to come.

# Our beliefs

*We believe:*



a) That the Forest is irreplaceable due to its biodiversity, heritage and culture, and that it should be protected and preserved for generations to come.



b) That the Forest is good for people. It is good for their health and well-being, from encouraging people to be physically active to connecting them with nature, history and culture.



c) That interaction between people and the Forest is essential for both to flourish, but this interaction needs to be carefully balanced.



d) That the Forest should be accessible to everyone to enjoy responsibly.



e) That the Forest contributes to the health of the planet. It helps humanity tackle the climate emergency and captures carbon and produces oxygen. The more biodiverse it is, the more resilient it is to climate change.



f) That pollution in and around the Forest needs to be reduced to protect its biodiversity.



g) That more needs to be done to encourage sustainable transport to, from and around the Forest.

# Our values

*Our values underpin our approach to all our work:*



## *Inclusive*

We believe everyone should be able to enjoy the Forest responsibly, and everyone should be able to participate in our work. Everyone who comes into contact with EFHT should be safe and respected. We want to encourage people and communities who do not currently visit the Forest to do so.

## *Collaborative*

We want to collaborate with other people and organisations to optimise delivery of our mission.

## *Trustworthy*

We will be open and honest in all our work, give evidence-based advice and be clear about our areas of expertise and where others may be better able to help.

## *Sustainable*

We will work to reduce our environmental impact, and encourage others to do the same.



# Our strategic objectives

<b>1</b> <i>Educate &amp; Inspire</i>	We will educate and inspire people about the Forest
<b>2</b> <i>Conserve &amp; Grow</i>	We will do hands-on work to conserve and grow the Forest
<b>3</b> <i>Protect</i>	We will protect the Forest through engagement, advocacy and campaigning





# Strategic goals by 2030

*By 2030, we will*

1

*Reach an audience of 50,000 people each year*

2

*Have at least 1,000 attendees for our walks each year*

3

*Have delivered 5,000 hours of volunteering activity each year to conserve the Forest*

4

*Have over 1,200 individual members*



*200 walkers from Muslim Hikers at the Last Pond 2024. Photo © Kadeer Ali*

# Theory of Change



*"Loved the hike, I live 10 minutes from Epping Forest & haven't ventured out on any of their trails so it was lovely to do it with Muslim hikers & my friends."*  
 - Muslim Hikers' Collaboration Walk Attendee

## Our work in action

### Behnu-Ki-Milan collaboration event

Behnu-Ki-Milan, is a mixed faith group of older, Asian women based at from the Trinity Centre in Newham, introduced to us by Sir Stephen Timms MP, as a result of the awareness-raising work we have done about the Forest in the run up to elections.

Listening to the type of activity in the Forest that would interest them, and with funding support from Aviva 'Save Our Wild Isles Community Fund' and City of London 'Enjoying Green Spaces & the Natural Environment Grant', we organised a short walk around the Easy Access path at High Beach, followed by a Forest-related block printing session in the Visitor Centre we run.



*Behnu-Ki-Milan Forest walk and block printing at High Beach. June 2024.  
 Photo © Locality/Alex Brenner*





*"This was a really accessible, friendly session and a great way to do coppicing for the first time. I came along to learn about conservation and get some fresh air, and both were accomplished! Robyn is really knowledgeable and helpful, and this provides a great way to feel connected to the natural world, especially while living in London"*  
 - Ellie, Women\* conservation session volunteer

## Our work in action

### Women\* only conservation sessions

Having realised that the majority of our hands-on conservation volunteers were men, we secured vital funding support to grow our conservation volunteering activities from the City Bridge Foundation. We set up women\* only conservation sessions, to provide a safe and inclusive space for women, trans and non-binary people. These sessions have been a huge success, with over 140 people having now taken part in a women\* only sessions, and the majority of all our conservation volunteers now being women.

\* for women, non-binary and trans people



### 3.Protect

We will protect the Forest through engagement, advocacy and campaigning.

#### a) Engage

We will engage with the public and local stakeholders in relation to public policy in relation to the Forest

*For example: Member consultation/surveys etc*

#### b) Advocate

We will advocate on behalf of the Forest to the City of London Corporation, neighbouring local authorities and other stakeholders

*For example: planning applications/local plan consultations/local election campaigns/Epping Forest & Commons Committee etc*

#### c) Research & campaign

We will research and campaign on key issues to protect the Forest, including on safe, sustainable transport to, from and around the Forest and the impact of adjacent development

*For example, on the need for lower speeds on Forest roads and on preventing local development negatively impacting the Forest.*

ensure we understand the needs and desires of local communities as well as the needs of the Forest

ensure local community voices are heard in relation to decision-making about the Forest

generate more public support for the Forest

ensure politicians and policymakers have the Forest front-of-mind when they are making decisions

engage people on issues that affect the Forest, and encourage them to stand with us to protect the Forest

ensure inclusion and accessibility are at the heart of decision-making about the Forest moving forward

help the public, politicians and policymakers make the best decisions about the Forest

contribute to preserving the Forest, by reducing the negative impacts of developments, poor visitor behaviour, pollution, traffic and noise on the Forest

enable more people to safely visit the Forest and care about it

### Our work in action

#### Blocking the Next Distribution Centre, north of the Forest

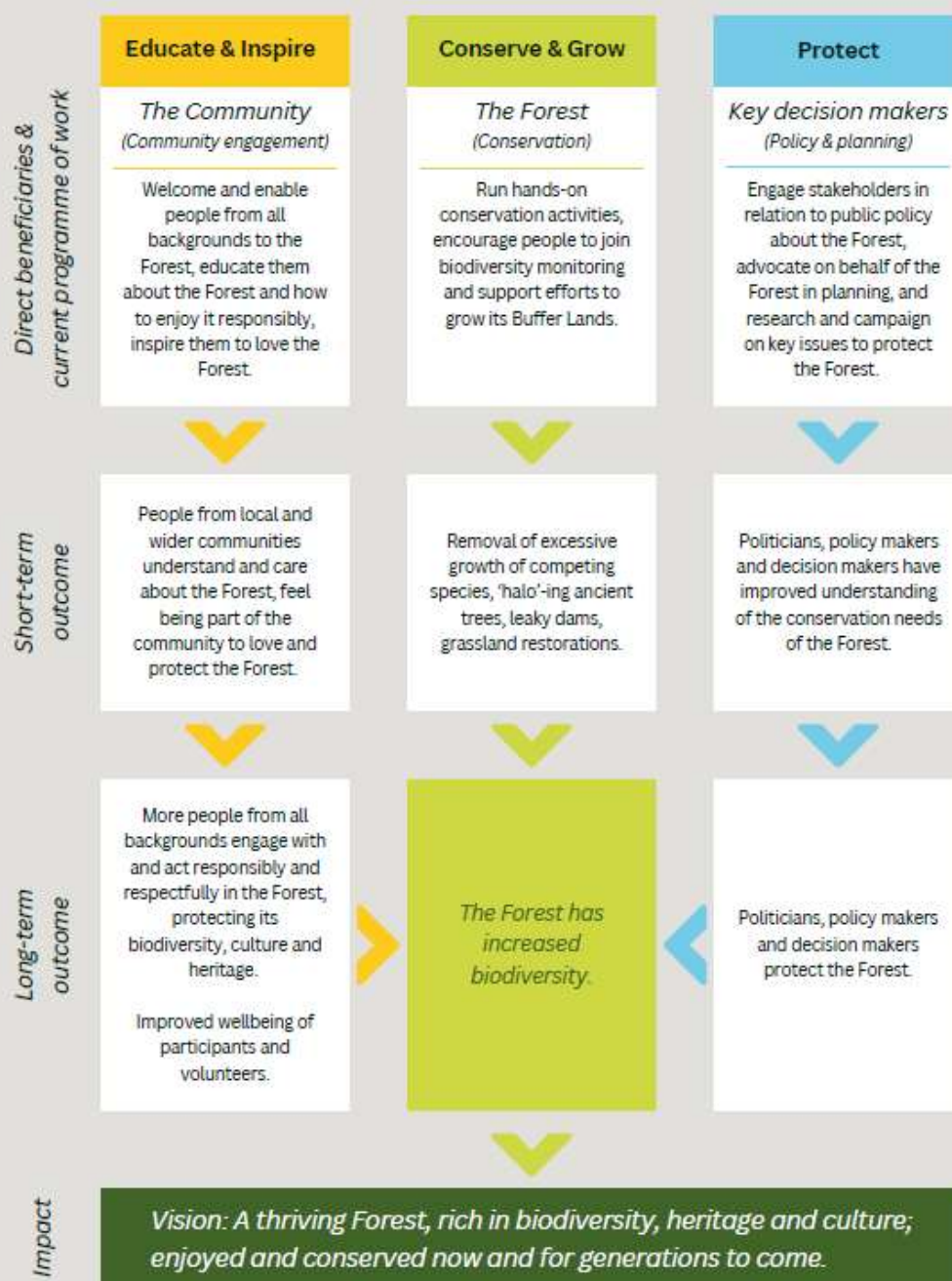
With the support of an amazing small team of volunteers we have rebooted our work reviewing and responding to planning proposals, with successes including blocking Next's proposed distribution centre on Dowding Way, north of the Forest, a number of other planning refusals where the plans, if implemented, would have damaged the Forest, and several conditions being imposed on permissions to protect the Forest.

Plans published in 2018 of what the distribution centre would look like. Credit: Quod

10



# Delivering our impact



## Our community



Sustainably Muslim Forest walk: February 2024



Collaboration walk with Wanderers of Colour at Chingford: December 2024

*'Nature is a way to reset and feel connected. Having a community to do this with makes it that much sweeter.'*

*-Black Girls Hike family walk attendee*

*'A really well organised session with a great and diverse group of women. We worked very hard and I came out of it with a great sense of well being, feeling that I had achieved something worthwhile.'*

*-Womens\* conservation session volunteer*



Women\* conservation session



Bespoke Hands-on conservation day with VaChina: June 2024



Happy Loppers and Judy Adams, EFHT's Honorary Life President, in Epping Forest: December 2024

*'We LOVE working with EFHT - your knowledge and creativity have really brought the Forest alive for our participants.'*

*-Fences & Frontiers*



Fences & Frontiers, Urban Tree Festival Walk: May 2024

*'Very proud!'*

*- Robert, Happy Lopper*

*'A very enjoyable and informative stroll perfectly pitched by the leader. The story of saving Epping Forest needs to be better known and events such as this are vital!'*

*-Guided walk attendee*



Night walk: March 2025



Behnu-Ki-Milan Forest walk and block printing at High Beach: June 2024  
Photo © Locality/Alex Brenner



## The need for ongoing protection and preservation of the Forest



*We believe that the Forest is currently facing unprecedented threats and will continue to face these and other threats for the foreseeable future.*

These threats include neighbouring development, high levels of pollution and climate change.

In order for the Forest to be conserved and protected now, and for generations to come, we believe that the work we have set out in our strategic plan will be needed on an ongoing basis. The Forest will need people to care for it and advocate on its behalf for years to come. Our approach is therefore to develop programmes of work that are sustainable long into the future.

As an organisation that means that over the next 5 years we are planning to at least break even each year, and maintain an appropriate level of reserves for future investment or to deal with unanticipated events.

In order to achieve that we will:




- Grow our membership and the number and generosity of our supporters
- Develop the number and scale of our funding and corporate partnerships
- Broaden our range of free and chargeable activities
- Invest in the development of our staff, Trustees and volunteer teams, including developing a formal volunteer strategy
- Evolve the monitoring and evaluation of our work
- Raise our profile through all of our activities
- Strengthen our governance
- Work in close partnership with the City of London Corporation and other supporting organisations.



Epping Forest  
Heritage Trust

Epping Forest Heritage Trust  
The Warren Lodge  
Loughton  
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IG10 4RN  
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    @EppingForestHT

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## Agenda item 16 EFHT Impact Report

### Our impact 2022-2025: highlights

Thank you for your love for the Forest. With your help, together, we delivered the following increases in impact over the past three years!

**27%▲**

more visitors welcomed to the High Beach Visitor Centre

**24%▲**

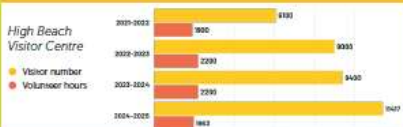
more participants on our guided walks programmes

**700%▲**

increase in the number of community groups engaged

**1044▲**

more participants engaged in community outreach programmes



**626%▲**

increase in the number of volunteers taking part in conservation sessions



**102%▲**

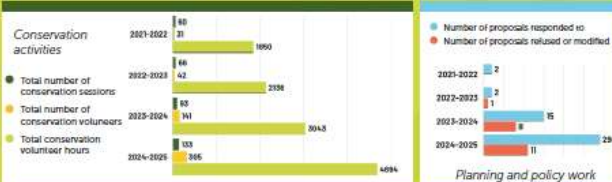
increase in the number of conservation sessions

**120%▲**

increase in conservation volunteer hours

**13.5▲**

times more planning proposals responded to



### From partners and participants

*It was so fun being out in nature doing something physical with a nice bunch of people. It was really satisfying work (even for a beginner!) and a good feeling knowing you're doing something to help biodiversity in the Forest.*

*-Sarah, Conservation volunteer*

*"Skilfully led with great knowledge of the Forest, very caring and considerate volunteers keeping us all together, so I could relax and thoroughly enjoy the night walk."*

*-Guided Walk attendee*

*"Our collaborative activity with the Epping Forest Heritage Trust (EFHT) provided an exceptional opportunity for our Chinese women and LGBTQ+ community members to connect with nature and participate in the conservation process. Not only did we gain specific conservation knowledge and skills, but we also learned about the history of Epping Forest. We deeply appreciate the work of EFHT and their efforts to make nature more accessible to marginalised groups."*

*-LeiLei, VaChina Group*

*"As proud Londoners, we are honoured to partner with the Epping Forest Heritage Trust (EFHT). We hope this partnership resonates not only with our customers but with other companies, and Londoners alike. Together, let's preserve the present and inspire action to ensure a healthy planet for generations to capture memories in."*

*-Photomart, EFHT Business Partner*

*"It really was a pleasure and in fact an honour to walk for the Forest. It felt something to give back for all that has been given to me from the magical land over the years. It's a day I'll remember very fondly."*

*-Emily, Big Walk Fundraiser*

020 8508 9061  
admin@efht.org.uk  
www.efht.org.uk

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### Our impact



**Epping Forest  
Heritage Trust**



## A message from our Chair

I was privileged to take on the role of Chair earlier this year, and I am delighted now to report not only on our achievements over the last year, but also on our growth in impact over the last 3 years.

And I would first like to thank all of our members, donors, partners, funders, volunteers, fellow Trustees and staff for your huge commitment to protecting and preserving this very special ancient Forest. **Together we have done so much.**

In particular I would like to highlight:

- The genuinely transformational growth in the number of people we have welcomed to the Forest
- The doubling of our conservation activities and the number of individual volunteers engaged
- Our increased policy and planning work, reaching out to, and gaining the support of, local and regional politicians, as well as responding to planning proposals which



would have an adverse impact on the Forest.

At the same time the Forest is still facing its biggest challenges in a generation: climate change, pollution, increased footfall, which will only be exacerbated by the high levels of adjacent development planned over the next few years. **There is a lot more we need to do.**

That is why we have developed a new strategy for 2025-2030, focused on building on our achievements over the last 3 years, and aiming to invest in more policy, advocacy and campaigning work to better defend the Forest from the threats it faces.

Thank you so much for your support for the Forest over the last 3 years, and I hope we can count on your continued support in the years to come.

**James Harrington**  
Chair

## Our impact 2024-2025

The support of EFHT members, supporters, partners, funders and volunteers is vital in protecting and preserving Epping Forest. We'd like to say a big thank you for your love of the Forest, and share some of the highlights of our achievements together over 2024-2025. We:

Inspire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcomed over <b>11,000</b> people to the Forest through the Visitor Centre at High Beach</li> <li>• Guided over <b>470</b> people on our free monthly guided walks programme, sharing insight about the Forest's ecology, heritage and culture</li> <li>• Led <b>150</b> people on the Epping Forest Big Walk, with support from the City of London Corporation, a range of local politicians and local organisations, and with talks about the Forest along the route</li> <li>• Led successful partnership walks with Muslim Hikers, Black Girls Hike and <b>30</b> other <b>community organisations</b>, introducing <b>1,089</b> new people to the Forest</li> </ul>
Conserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>282</b> individual volunteers took part in <b>97</b> hands-on conservation sessions, delivering <b>3,053</b> hours of conservation activity to improve the biodiversity of the Forest</li> <li>• Our team of people with learning disabilities, the Happy Loppers, undertook <b>36</b> conservation sessions involving <b>23</b> people and delivered <b>1,641</b> hours of volunteer time</li> </ul>
Protect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responded to <b>29</b> planning proposals, contributing to the refusal of <b>11</b> and changes to conditions on a further application</li> <li>• <b>11</b> elected Councillors in Epping Forest District Council pledged to protect and preserve the Forest</li> </ul>



The Net Promoter Score (NPS) of our hands on conservation volunteering sessions was **92**. This means that participants are extremely satisfied and are very likely to recommend taking part to friends and family.

Image credits. 1. Epping Forest Big Walk 2024 © Black Daffodil Photography. 2. James Harrington, Chair of Epping Forest Heritage Trust. 3. Muslim Hikers Epping Forest Walk 2024 © Kadeer Ali

## Our impact 2024-2025



### Huge thanks to our amazing volunteers:

Last year, **376** volunteers contributed over **8,000** hours of volunteer time! Including:

- **1,962** hours of time welcoming people to the Forest at the Visitor Centre at High Beach
- **534** hours to our free guided walks programme and community engagement support
- **4,694** hours to our hands-on conservation activities
- **635** hours to our policy and planning work.

### We are very grateful to:

#### Our funders:

City Bridge Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, Baily Thomas Charitable Fund, The Big Give, NLCF Awards for All, Postcode Places Trust, Essex County Council Locality Fund, City of London Central Grants Programme, The Swire Charitable Trust, The Nineveh Charitable Trust, Loughton Town Council, The Cobb Charity, Haslers Foundation, and ShareGift



#### Our Business Partners:

JJNet, Photomart, The Royal Forest, Attwaters Jameson Hill Solicitors, The Outspire, Colour Flow Active, The Stow Brothers



## Agenda Item 15

### Financial Position

#### Current Financial Position

#### Summary Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/05/2025

Month No: 2

#### Environment & Heritage Committee Report

		Actual Last Year	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Budget	Variance Annual Total	Funds Available	% of Budget
<b><u>Environment &amp; Heritage</u></b>							
Christmas Best Dressed Window	Expenditure	340	0	360	360	360	0.0%
Cemetery (Church Lane)	Expenditure	61,428	9,831	74,650	64,819	64,819	13.2%
	Income	18,351	233	13,178	12,946		1.8%
Street Furniture	Expenditure	27,022	0	34,819	34,819	34,819	0.0%
	Income	5	0	0	0		0.0%
Allotments	Expenditure	6,627	169	6,810	6,641	6,641	2.5%
	Income	4,457	168	4,205	4,037		4.0%
Lady Whitakers Mead	Expenditure	2,170	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.0%
Other Services	Expenditure	4,769	21	4,480	4,459	4,459	0.5%
	Income	1,728	0	1,750	1,750		0.0%
Service Re-charge (1)	Expenditure	132,000	0				0.0%

#### **INCOME – EXPENDITURE TOTALS**

Environment and Heritage Expenditure	<b>234,356</b>	<b>10,021</b>	<b>19,133</b>	<b>112,098</b>	<b>112,098</b>	<b>8.2%</b>
Income	<b>24,541</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>122,119</b>	<b>18,733</b>		<b>2.1%</b>
Net Expenditure over Income	<b>209,815</b>	<b>9,620</b>	<b>102,986</b>	<b>93,365</b>		

Notes:

- 1) Service re-charge for 2025/26 is £132,000 which is deducted at the end of March 2026.

**Agenda Item 15**  
**Financial Position****Current Financial Position****Earmarked Reserves**

A summary of the Committee's reserves showing the amounts available from reserves as at 31/05/2025 is provided below:

<b>Environment &amp; Heritage Committee</b>	<b>31/05/2025</b>
Christmas lights	350
Cemetery	17,292
Cemetery – Closed Churchyard	10,000
Cemetery plot maintenance endowment (restricted fund)	8,262
Willingale Road Fencing	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,904</b>