



Friends of Mitcham Common Report to the Conservators June 2026

1. Our **Open Day** this year will be held on Saturday, 4th July 2026, from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Mill House Ecology Centre. We thank the Conservators for providing the space for this annual event and extend a warm invitation to all Board members to attend.
2. We posted on our Facebook page the news of the withdrawal of grant funding from Merton Council. Below we have provided an annotated screenshot of their reply, along with specific questions for the Board's consideration.

Merton Council
Hi there,

Mitcham Common Conservators, and other park conservators in the borough such as Wimbledon Common Conservators, receive annual funding directly from council tax, and are responsible for generating further funds. **The council tax levy** payment elements, which are enshrined in statute, will continue to be made to the Mitcham Common Conservators. There is no change to this.

Merton Council has been working with Mitcham Common Conservators over a number of years to support a planned and gradual move away from direct grant funding.
No other conservator groups in the borough receive this type of funding.

As a public body, the council must ensure that all funding is distributed transparently, fairly and in line with proper governance processes.

Since 2023, funding has been reduced incrementally to allow time for transition, with 2025/26 being the final year of grant funding. The Conservators were informed of this at the start of the last financial year.

The council remains committed to supporting Mitcham Common as a vital green space for residents. We continue to work intensively with the Conservators, providing lots of practical help, including support with their projects. We are also helping them to find alternative external funding opportunities.

The conservators can answer any other questions you have on this, thanks.

4w Like Reply Edited

- 1) We know of the levy for Wimbledon and Putney Common, but not of a levy for Mitcham Common.
- 2) The gradual reduction over the last three years is not reflected in the minutes of Conservators meetings.
- 3) We refer you to the Conservators Meeting Papers on the website, where August 2023 showed contributions from Merton Council as £24,104 and February 2026 also showed £24,104.
- 4) Does the practical help refer to the Manager and Warden of the Common, or some other activity that we are not aware of.
- 5) We ask that the Conservators formally clarify these points for the benefit of our members and the wider public.