

PUBLIC ENJOYMENT PLAN 2025



INTRODUCTION

“I love the space and how natural it feels, the beautiful trees, seeing the seasons change and develop and how you can see people, and dogs, enjoying themselves.”

(Response to the public engagement questionnaire)

Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators Public Enjoyment Plan 2025

Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons are a much loved and unique green space set in the centre of the town. As an unfenced Common, it is open 365 days per year providing free access for the community to walk, exercise, play games, exercise dogs, socialise, learn and explore. Public enjoyment is subjective, we acknowledge that one person's enjoyment is not the same as another, but we would like to find a common ground.

The Commons consist of 165 acres in Tunbridge Wells and 91 acres in Rusthall and are privately owned by the Manor of Rusthall, which has been Targetfollow Group Ltd since 2008. Despite being called a Common, the land is in fact registered as a Village Green. Village Greens are protected from encroachment and development by the Inclosure Act 1857 s12 and the Commons Act 1876 s29. The only development permitted is for the better enjoyment of the green for sports and pastimes (Open Spaces Society, www.oss.org.uk) Since 1890 the Commons Conservators have been the statutory body with the legal power to manage and administer the Commons. In accordance with the County of Kent Act 1981, Part XV section 109:

The inhabitants of the borough of Tunbridge Wells shall have free access to and a privilege at all times of playing and attending at games and of enjoying recreation upon the Commons without payment but subject to such byelaws and regulations.

Noting their statutory responsibility the Conservators adopted their primary goal: to manage the Commons for the benefit of local people whilst creating and maintaining a wide variety of habitats to sustain and encourage wildlife of all types, both common and rare. Both Commons are designated Local Wildlife Sites and are part of the Conservation Area. Rusthall Common has an area designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for the rock formations at Denny Bottom.

OBJECTIVES



In 2024, the Conservators adopted a new five-year Ecological Management Plan for each Common, written by Dolphin Ecological Surveys, providing a comprehensive, workable plan with prescriptions covering all aspects of the management of the Commons including woodland and special trees, ponds, rocks, grassland, glades and meadows. It is noted within the Ecological Management Plan that the amenity infrastructure on the Common was not addressed or considered. As such, the Public Enjoyment Plan provides a balance with the Ecological Management Plan and looks to maximise the community's use, appreciation and stewardship of the Commons while preserving its ecological and cultural value.

The primary objective of this Plan is to make time spent on the Commons more enjoyable for our community, to be achieved by:

- **Engaging with our community to find out more about their existing use and enjoyment of the Commons and how this can be improved.**
- **Promoting recreation and well-being.**
- **Providing excellent communication to keep our community better informed.**
- **Supporting environmental education, awareness and stewardship.**
- **Making user experience as safe and nuisance-free as is reasonably possible, given that it is a freely accessible green space.**
- **Striving for better physical and social accessibility.**

Please note that the objectives are not numbered, they are not in priority order, all six are required to achieve our primary objective.

The Plan is written by the General Manager of the Commons and is written in first person plural to promote a sense of ownership and accountability, we hope that it demonstrates to you, our reader, community member and stakeholder, a level of commitment and trust. The following sections of the Plan document our existing work and efforts in working towards each objective and proposals to take challenging steps forward. Importantly the Plan is a living document that needs your input, we ask for your thoughts on questions for consideration at the end of each section. The Plan will also be regularly updated as information and data is collected, as work plans are made, projects implemented, feedback provided, and lessons learnt.

A. Engaging with our community to find out more about their existing use and enjoyment of the Commons and how this can be improved.

“I’ve lived here for twenty years and its never looked so good”

(Resident of Mount Ephraim providing verbal feedback).

We are incredibly lucky to have a community that cares passionately about the Commons, the majority strongly advocate for our approach to management, while a minority voice significant concerns or objections. The important lessons are learnt when we take the time to listen and consider all views and opinions.

While on the Commons, Officers are regularly stopped to answer questions, receive feedback, listen to concerns and usually, hear words of encouragement. Our social media platforms are well used and usually a very positive space for engagement. Our website directs people to “get in touch” and our community frequently do just that.

The success of our existing engagement can be demonstrated by the number of enthusiastic volunteers who regularly help on the Commons. There are those who informally litter pick, those who attend the organised monthly volunteering sessions and the very dedicated Ranger volunteers that attend weekly sessions supporting our Ranger in his hands on approach to land management and conservation.

We genuinely could not manage the Commons so well without the input, hard work and engagement with our community.

Our community is made up of two distinctly different groups. The first, our visible users, can be seen walking their dogs, playing cricket, or enjoying a coffee with friends on the Commons. In contrast, our invisible users are those who simply appreciate the views of the Commons, enhancing the overall experience of visiting, working, or living in Tunbridge Wells and or Rusthall. Whether visible or invisible, we will be trying to capture their opinions and ideas.

In addition to our existing engagement methods, we have built this plan around targeted initiatives to listen to our community, to better understand who our users are, what they enjoy about the Commons and how to make their experience more enjoyable.

1. Visitor counts

During the Summer of 2025 we started to plan visitor counts to better understand how and where our visitors use the Commons and in what volumes. We can clearly state that the Commons are well used, but how well used are they? A better understanding of use will help assess whether areas of the Commons are fit for purpose or whether improvements could be made to assist with better enjoyment?

The locations for the counts have been selected in advance to help consider questions over better enjoyment, such as:

- Identifying any user conflicts and potential resolution, such as between dog walkers and cricket players.
- Monitoring the success before and after a project or management change.
- Identifying infrastructure need.
- Observing positive public enjoyment versus opportunities for negative anti-social behaviour.
- Identifying accessibility issues.
- Identifying safety issues.

Counts will take place at these prioritised, strategic locations, across different days, peak and off-peak and in differing seasons, using direct observation with a consistent and accurate methodology. Analysis

of data collected will be used to update this Enjoyment Plan and the priority actions.

2. Public consultation questionnaire

During the Winter of 2024/2025, a public consultation questionnaire was distributed via social media and the Borough Council's e-newsletter, asking what our community enjoys most about the Commons and what they would like to change to increase their enjoyment. All responses are listed in Appendix I.

When asked what they most loved about the Commons, consistent explanations included:

- Peace and tranquillity.
- A haven from the busy town.
- Proximity to the community/the town and accessibility.
- A wide variety of nature and views to see.
- Green vegetation and trees.
- Space and expanse.
- Varied and interesting walks.

Strong emotive words were included such as love, special, beautiful, precious, just so blessed, privilege.

When asked how to make the Commons more enjoyable, the following suggestions were made most frequently:

- Perfect already. This is something we're very proud to hear, but high standards only stay high with care, attention, good management and community input.
- More information boards, information accessible via QR codes, nature trails, marked routes, signage or leaflets.
- Remove excess bramble and scrub, it's far too overgrown.
- Improve drainage on wet and muddy paths and improve path condition (e.g. lower cricket pitch).
- Introduce cycle routes.
- Better behaved dogs.
- More litter bins.
- Guided walks.

Our planned actions to preserve what our users enjoy most and address their suggestions are described in sections B-F of this document.

3. Focus Groups

The Commons impact so many people with a wide range of interests and views. To ensure that we capture as much of this information as is reasonably practicable we will be holding stakeholder focus groups to consult on questions raised by our public engagement activities and proposals within this Plan. All suggestions will be listened to and considered and feedback provided to explain why ideas are or are not feasible. The Plan will then be updated to incorporate feedback from the focus groups.

Summary of draft actions for Objective A: Engaging with our community to find out more about their existing use and enjoyment of the Commons and how this can be improved.

- Start visitor counts and data analysis.
 - Working on incorporating feedback received from the public consultation questionnaire into quarterly work schedules, future planning and projects.
 - Plan and run stakeholder focus groups.
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B. Promoting recreation and well-being.

“It gives me space and time to think and there is always something new, interesting or beautiful to see and enjoy.”

(Response to the public engagement questionnaire)

1. Sports and games

At first glance, sports and games on the Commons seem to be limited to running, jogging, walking, dog walking and cricket, but in fact the Commons are a hive of sporting activities with something for everyone to enjoy.

Cricket and football

There are two cricket clubs on the Commons, Rusthall and Linden Park. Rusthall Cricket Club is located along the Langton Road, at the junction with Coach Road in Rusthall and has been on this site since 1885, playing friendly matches against a variety of local and touring teams. Linden Park Cricket Club have occupied the Higher Cricket Ground on Tunbridge Wells Common since 1898 and have multiple junior teams across age groups from Under-9s to Under-15s and senior teams playing at a friendly level all the way up to Division one of the Kent League. Officers have developed good working relationships with both RPC and LPCC. In 2024, Conservators granted permission for LPCC to operate a nursery from their Club house, to enable financial stability and ongoing survival of the club. While both Rusthall Parish Council and the Conservators have funded encroachment prevention works on and around Rusthall Cricket pitch to prevent damage to the land.

Informal games of cricket and football are regularly seen being played on the Lower Cricket Pitch on Tunbridge Wells Common and is encouraged as a great use of this open community space, being mindful that it does not the impact the enjoyment of other users in the areas.

Fitness groups

Fitness groups and personal trainers take advantage of the wide-open space, dappled shade and beautiful surroundings for their activities, with Targetfollow operating a licensing scheme for commercial operators for a small fee.

Organised runs

The Lower Cricket Pitch is also used as the starting location for the Hospice in the Weald's 10km, 5km and family fun run held annually in September. While the land is provided free of charge, it provides a great opportunity for the charity to raise vital funds. In 2023 they raised £97,000 with over 900 participants taking part.

The Tunbridge Wells Half Marathon runs along the boundary of both Commons. It generates funding, donated to local charities in exchange for the provision of marshals, this includes the Friends of the Commons who have provided approximately eight marshals for the last two years.

Orienteering

Saxons Orienteering Club have held several events on Tunbridge Wells Common, most recently in March 2025, a session forming part of their Kent Night Cup.

Geocaching

The Geocaching website lists several geocache sites on both Commons and is noted as offering a variety of caches that cater to different interests and skill levels.

Rock climbing and scrambling

Rock climbers and scramblers can regularly be seen enjoying time spent on the rocks at Happy Valley and Bull's Hollow. Southern Sandstone Climbs have several pages on their website dedicated to climbs on Rusthall Common and includes access information, parking details and rock-climbing guides. The British Mountaineering Council installed and insured four single bolts at Happy Valley and seven interconnected pairs at Bull's Hollow to ensure that ropes do not cause damage to the soft rocks.

Frisbee

Free frisbee lessons are offered on the outfield of the Linden Park Cricket pitch, by a kind-hearted member of the community.

Horse-riding

Horse riding is not as popular as you may expect on the Commons, considering the heritage of the historical Racecourse and donkey riding that took place in the past. Officers have contact with the Volunteer British Horse Society Access & Bridleways Officer for Tunbridge Wells Borough and have been told that many horse riders are put off due to the number of roads that need to be crossed to get to the Commons. There is however the occasional horse rider spotted and indeed several hoof prints found in the mud to suggest that people are enjoying this sport. The Conservators continue to welcome riders between 1st April and 31st October when the ground is dry enough to support their activity.

Cycling

Cycling is only permitted on the restricted byway path leading from Cabbage Stalk Lane through to Fairground car park and not on the rest of the Commons due to restrictions listed in the byelaws. However, it would be remiss to suggest that people are not enjoying cycling all over the Commons, as their use is regularly observed on paths and tracks, and this will be discussed later in the Plan.

Fishing

Fishing is not permitted on the Commons. Until the end of 2024, family friendly fishing was possible in Brighton Lake on Tunbridge Wells Common, but a number of individuals spoilt this exception by littering and anti-social behaviour, and permission was withdrawn.

Other

There are very likely to be many other informal groups or individuals enjoying other sports and games on the Commons, we will keep researching and looking out for them to include them in the information here. The Conservators will continue to encourage use of the Commons for sports and games and not for profit community events, subject to adherence to the byelaws. They will also support appropriate funding applications to facilitate new games and sports on the Commons.

2. Wellbeing and happiness

There are so many benefits to spending time outdoors from improvements to physical fitness and immunity, reducing stress and anxiety, increased mindfulness and resilience and improved focus and creativity. Meeting a friend for a coffee, a walk and a good chat has become an increasingly popular and meaningful way for people to connect.

The Commons provides opportunities to take time away from busy lives, away from traffic and noise, to observe the beauty of a variety of habitats and species and to enjoy vistas over the town and countryside. With over 100 benches across the Commons there are plenty of options of where to sit and relax.

Organised wellbeing walks already take place on both Commons, organised by the Ramblers and certainly attract lots of happy faces and generate lots of laughter.

On a sunny weekend you will regularly hear princesses, superheroes, pirates, wizards and witches, jungle explorers and army soldiers busily playing on the Commons as the rocks, sands, meadows and trees make the perfect base for children's imaginative play. Not only does this type of physical play support healthy development but it builds confidence, social skills and coordination.

There are many opportunities for picnicking on the Commons, whether you prefer a spot in one of our numerous open fields, on a bench, perched on a rock or in a quieter glade.

The Conservators commit to keeping obvious play spaces, paths and picnic spots well managed, but will try not to destroy any army bases, space stations or castles in the process!

3. Cycle routes

Feedback from the public consultation questionnaire suggested some people would get greater enjoyment from the Commons if cycling routes were introduced (6% of respondents asked for cycle routes, while 2% said they wanted cyclists kept off the Commons).

In support of our byelaws, we will not be allowing cycling on the Commons. However, we will continue to work with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to support their plans for a recreational cycle path from Rusthall village through to Tunbridge Wells, using a route along the perimeter of the Commons, with areas to stop off and enjoy the Commons along the way.

Summary of draft actions for Objective B: Promoting recreation and well-being

- Actively promoting all of the sports, games and wellbeing opportunities available on the Commons, via our website, social media and when talking to the community. We are due to have two refurbished noticeboards installed on the Commons; this information could be added.
- Keeping obvious play spaces, paths and picnic spots well maintained.
- Continue to work with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to support their plans for a cycle path from Rusthall village through to Tunbridge Wells.

Questions for focus group consideration

- Would you appreciate having picnic benches on the Commons?
- What are your thoughts on the vistas from the Commons, do you prefer vistas of buildings and the town or vegetation and trees? Are there any areas that you would like to see opened up to improve views or indeed kept to screen undesirable views and reduce noise?
- Are there any locations where a new bench (standard design) would be appreciated?
- Many years ago, there were a set of football goals on Common View meadow, should we reinstall a set?
- Our byelaws were set out in 1890 and do not allow cycling on the Commons:

“No person shall drive or ride any vehicle, bicycle, tricycle, or velocipede, or other like machine, on any part of the Commons on which, for the time being, the driving or use of such vehicles or machines is by notice placed on the Commons prohibited by the Conservators”.

How do you feel about this byelaw?

- Have you had any accidents/incidents with cyclists on the Commons?
- Do you support and would you use a cycle path from Rusthall to Tunbridge Wells?
- What are your thoughts on cycling a) alongside existing roads and b) across the centre of the Commons?
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C. Providing excellent communication to keep our community better informed.

“One of the quotes that has always stayed with me is that ‘the Commons are to Tunbridge Wells as the sea is to Brighton’ and it’s quite true. The Commons surround the town, shape the town and provide vital open space and fantastic opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy themselves and their surroundings and to partake in recreational activities. One of my favourite meetings each month is my catch-up with the Commons Conservators – we walk and talk alternating between the two commons. I always come away having discovered something new and never cease to be amazed by the wide variety of ways in which the Commons make a difference to our local communities”.

(William Benson, Chief Executive of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council)

Effective communication is essential, and we take great pride in our achievements, so we are eager to share them broadly and confidently.

1. Website

We will continue to invest time and resources in our website (www.twcommons.org), which provides a wealth of information including events, historical information, features to explore, maps and suggested routes, news and regulatory requirements such as policies, financial information, meetings and minutes and legislation. Importantly, the majority of the website is regularly updated. One exception to this is the blogs page which does require attention and resource, especially as previous blogs were so well received.

It has been suggested that we should add our wildlife survey data to the website to reinforce what species people can expect or hope to see on the Commons.

2. Social media

Keeping up to date with social media is a full-time job on its own, and so we have had to prioritise resource on platforms that provide opportunity for the best two-way communication with the target audience that currently engages with us most. As such Facebook is currently most effective, our closed group was set up in April 2020 and now has just over 2,800 members with monthly reactions of between 1,000 and 3,000. The most popular posts cover the work of our volunteers, photographs and films of our wildlife and details about project work. We reach a slightly different audience with a smaller presence on Instagram, currently 679 followers.

3. E-newsletter

In January 2024, the Clerk started a monthly e-newsletter for neighbours of the Commons, a short one-page document that lists highlights from the previous month. There is opportunity to significantly increase the size of the distribution list to inform more of the community.

When there is significant news, such as recruitment for a new Treasurer, to advertise our events or to ask for people to complete our public engagement questionnaire we have requested inclusion of our news in the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council weekly e-newsletter, which has proved to be very effective to date. We could use this e-newsletter to promote our own e-newsletter.

The Friends of the Commons produce three newsletters each year, which are sent via email or in hard copy through the post to all their members.

4. Magazines

News items featuring the Commons regularly feature in the Rusthall Life magazine, delivered by hand to each resident in Rusthall. It is a great, fun-filled, community focused magazine and is well-read and enjoyed by the Village.

The Ranger writes a news item for the monthly Town Crier magazine which is distributed to homes in many parts of Tunbridge Wells. We do receive feedback on how well enjoyed his news items are and when recruiting for volunteer wildlife surveyors several people contacted us after reading about our requests for help in the magazine.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council publishes Local, its official residents' magazine, on a quarterly basis. Each edition is distributed free of charge to all households across the borough and is also available online. We have had news published in the magazine previously and should target using this more frequently.

5. Notice boards

We have been given several second-hand noticeboards that were previously located in Dunorlan Park. Thanks to a generous volunteer from the community, these boards will be restored and refurbished to create two new information displays, one for each of the Commons. The noticeboards will feature details of volunteering opportunities, seasonal wildlife to spot, events and other news. Having a paid for QR code, linked to a page on our website with this information on would ensure that everything was always up to date and live.

6. Signage on the Commons

Historically, Conservators wanted to keep signage on the Commons to the bare minimum to avoid impacting the beautiful views. The byelaw signs and a limited number of interpretation boards are all that can be found on the Commons, but is this enough to ensure we are effectively communicating? Feedback from our public engagement questionnaire suggested that some people would enjoy the Commons more if there were more information boards, information accessible via QR codes, nature trails, marked routes, signage or leaflets, so we must look again at this with fresh eyes.

We continue to roll out the installation of the new byelaw signs. Replacing very old, wordy signs, our new signage combines clear symbols and words making them universally understood, quicker to recognise, accessible and more aesthetically pleasing. The programme of installation has been very slow, and we hope to arrange for an external contractor to take over this aspect of the project.

We are working on a proposal for the Friends of the Commons to fund marker posts to signpost the Racecourse circular walk on Tunbridge Wells Common.

7. Talks, walks and events

In person talks, walks and events are an essential part of our communications. Not only can they be tailored specifically to the audience, but they are interactive, providing opportunities for immediate feedback, emotional reactions and opinions. Asking a group of people on a walk what they think about a

particular idea or project is invaluable. We learn a lot from our community walks, especially from people who have lived their entire lives on or around the Commons.

Summary of draft actions for Objective C: Providing excellent communication to keep our community better informed.

- More regular use of the blogs page on the website, consider guest bloggers.
- Adding wildlife survey data to the website.
- Increase the distribution list for the monthly e-newsletter, one example being use of the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council e-newsletter.
- Appropriate news to be offered for inclusion in Local magazine. As a suggestion, an update on volunteering opportunities and achievements. Perhaps a push to find volunteers to help with visitor counts or writing blogs or other actions within this Plan.
- Installation of the new information noticeboards.
- Installation of the new byelaw signs at a faster pace, ideally with an external contractor.
- Progress the Racecourse marker post project.

Questions for focus group consideration:

- How do you find out about news from the Commons?
- Should we be targeting alternative social media platforms to Facebook and Instagram and what would be the advantages of these over our current offering?
- Do you want to see more interpretation/information boards on the Commons? Or do you consider them an eyesore?



D. Supporting environmental education, awareness and stewardship.

Nearly all of our communication with the community focuses on education, awareness, and stewardship. We aim to explain situations, clarify why certain management methods are necessary, raise awareness of issues or needs, and inspire emotional connection and engagement, encouraging people to take ownership of and feel responsible for “their” Common, to ensure that it is protected and remains for the use of the community for generations to come.

The Commons are an outdoor classroom providing opportunity for inclusive learning for all ages. The land is always changing and so opportunities for education are always changing.

The Friends of the Commons fund many of the engagement activities on the Commons and have indicated that this is an area that they would now like to prioritise their funding.

1. Guided walks

Officers have always offered guided walks on the Commons for interest groups and organisations such as Officers of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, the Women’s Institute and U3A, and will continue with this provision.

In 2024 we introduced two fungi guided walks with local expert, Martin Allison, funded by the Friends. Both identification walks were extremely popular and there was demand for more guided walks. Feedback from the public engagement questionnaire also suggested that the Commons would be more enjoyable if there were more guided walks. For 2025 we have increased our offer of expert led guided walks with two bat walks, a butterfly walk, a general nature walk and two more fungi walks. Looking to 2026 we would like to look at other subjects, such as moths and birds.

2. Self-guided walks

The Friends of the Commons have two self-guided walking trail maps, one for each Common, which are very popular with the community. Working with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and the Friends of the Commons, we are aiming to produce a new leaflet which provides a self-guided walking route of the trees of significance on Tunbridge Wells Common and provides historical information about each of the trees listed.

3. Volunteers

Our volunteers are our greatest stewards. They protect, maintain, and champion the long-term well-being of the Commons out of a sense of community, ownership, and pride, rather than obligation or compensation. The level of their dedication and overall success of our volunteering programme is probably our greatest achievement on the Commons.

The majority of volunteer resource is for physical and practical tasks on the Commons. We should look to find volunteers to assist with administrative work, such as collating wildlife survey data, updating sections of the website, taking photographs for social media and the website, in fact any tasks that are of interest to the individual.

4. Schools and forest school

There are currently two schools that use the Commons for some of their Forest School lessons, St Paul's School in Rusthall and the Wells Free School in Tunbridge Wells. Both schools run their activities independently. Officers have attended a couple of their sessions and have been impressed to see a wide range of topics covered including wildlife surveys, woodland crafts, use of hand tools, ropes and hammocks and campfires.

For many years, free forest school activity days have been held on both Commons, offering opportunities for children to explore and learn. Sessions have been run by Kent High Weald Partnership and Nature Makers and have been funded by the Friends. The sessions are always well attended and demonstrate high demand, scheduling more sessions would certainly be recommended.

Officers at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Amelia Scott, run a comprehensive programme of workshops and activities linked to the National Curriculum. We could approach the Amelia Scott team to investigate whether they could create a children's workshop or workshops based on the Commons. The Commons provide opportunities to engage with core subjects such as science and English and some of the foundation subjects such as history, geography and PE.

5. Duke of Edinburgh's Award

We already support children wanting to carry out their volunteering section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award by litter picking on the Commons and then completing the follow up assessment. The volunteering section engages the children with the Commons and sees them make a positive contribution to their community, while learning more about social and environmental issues.

6. Uniformed groups

The Guide and Scout groups in Rusthall regularly spend time on Rusthall Common. We plan to engage with one of their leaders to better understand existing use and how we can enable better enjoyment of the spaces.

7. Fun day

We are planning to organise a Summer Fun Day on the Commons in 2026, to highlight all of the ways that the community can enjoy the Commons, for example with a schedule of guided walks, bug hunting,

forest school activities, cricket and traditional fair games. We hope that the Fun Day will be a real celebration of the Commons and public enjoyment.

Summary of draft actions for Objective D: Supporting environmental education, awareness and stewardship.

- Consider adding further to the programme of expert led guided walks for 2026.
- Production of the new self-guided walking map of the trees of significance on Tunbridge Wells Common.
- Scheduling additional forest school sessions, run by third parties.
- Work on a volunteering offer for administrative tasks, for people who can't take part in (or don't enjoy) physical tasks.
- Approach officers at the Amelia Scott to investigate whether a Commons' themed school workshop could be created.
- Engage with uniformed groups to understand how they use the Commons and how their enjoyment could be increased.
- Consider a summer fun day.

Questions for focus group consideration:

- How can the Commons support groups/schools more eg more opportunities for use, activities, education?
- What other subjects, habitats or species would you like to see covered in a guided walk? We already cover fungi, bats, butterflies, general nature and trees of significance.
- Would you like to become a volunteer?
- Would you like to help organise the Fun Day?



E. Making user experience as safe and nuisance-free as is reasonably possible, given that it is a freely accessible green space.

“That it’s generally a safe place, if I’m walking alone, you see other people”.

(Response to the public engagement questionnaire)

Unfortunately, we have discovered that all of our hard work to promote, communicate, educate, manage and celebrate the Commons can be undone very quickly by the thoughtless and sometimes criminal actions of a small number of people. When personal safety feels threatened, we have a mountain to climb to rebuild trust and public enjoyment.

But how do we keep everyone safe on the Commons when we don't have any boundary fences, we have multiple entry and exit points, are always “open”, have no control over who uses the Commons and when there are only two Officers covering 256 acres?

The answer is we can only try our very best! We must always consider risk and act when an unsafe risk is identified.

1. Identifying risk

In adherence with our Risk Management policy, a risk register is maintained which identifies land management, legal, strategic, operational, health & safety, reputational, security, financial and information technology risks to the Conservators. Each risk is assessed, and mitigation measures planned and implemented.

Sadly, we have had to update the risks to include violent and or sexual offence, anti-social behaviour and public disorder and have taken measures to mitigate or manage these undesirable risks

2. Working with external organisations

During 2024 and 2025 there have been several incidents of indecent exposure on both Commons which have and continue to be thoroughly investigated by Kent Police. We have received appropriate communications from their Officers and been urged to encourage our community to report all incidents or unusual behaviour immediately, by ringing 999.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Community Safety Team have been very supportive, liaising with Kent Police on our behalf to raise incidents of anti-social behaviour and areas of concern on the Commons, such as a drinking den near Brighton Lake. This has resulted in a limited number of additional patrols and police presence.

It is worth noting that the current structure of police resourcing in the area, having a dedicated police officer assigned to specific patrol areas, has proven to be far more effective than the previous model, which relied on rotating Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). The frequent changes and limited accessibility of PCSOs made consistent communication challenging. In contrast, we now have a strong relationship with our local police officer, whose ongoing support provides significant reassurance to the community. We will continue to liaise directly with the Police and ensure that key messages and campaigns are communicated to the community.

3. Perceptions of safety

Perceptions of safety reflect how welcoming, active, and connected the space feels to the people who use it and is a significant contributor to how enjoyable a green space can be. If any one of the following isn't well managed it can make people feel very uncomfortable, unhappy and unsafe.

Visibility

Keeping vegetation cut back from path edges and ensuring that there are well managed open spaces for people to see and be seen is a practical management tool to remove opportunities for people to hide and conceal undesirable behaviour. In 2022 we received consistent feedback that the Victorian Terraces area of Tunbridge Wells Common felt unsafe because of the density of secondary woodland creating lots of dark areas suitable for hiding. We are now in the third year of thinning work to clear back the Terraces, creating light, open areas which are so much more appealing.

The Ecological Management Plans details the way that path edges should be managed, explaining that the balance between access and ecology can be achieved:

Path edges will require different management depending on factors such as their location, the surrounding vegetation and amount of public use. In some places path edges may need to be cut regularly but elsewhere a less frequent regime of cut and collect is more appropriate and beneficial.

Near town centre pavements and main footpaths, it can be valuable to maintain strips of short vegetation (5-10cm height) alongside paths to "frame" taller vegetation, making it clear that wildflower areas are being allowed to grow taller by design not through neglect....

In less urban areas and along wider paths a high intensity of path edge mowing is neither necessary nor ecologically desirable. Instead, vegetation alongside paths should be cut back only as necessary to maintain an edge strip of approximately 10cm height within which encroaching Bramble, Bracken or scrub are selectively removed. This will maintain good access for people whilst also preserving valuable and well- connected habitat for the fauna and flora that favour shorter swards.

(Tunbridge Wells Common, Five-Year Ecological Management Plan 2024-2028)

Feedback from the public consultation questionnaire suggested that some people thought the Commons were far too overgrown and that we needed to remove excess bramble and scrub, this could be to improve aesthetics and vistas, to enable more sports and games, to give more picnicking options, to enable children to play freely for access or for safety, but the fundamental request remains the same.

We aim to ensure that work is undertaken with such care that the land appears untouched, but perhaps we have made certain areas a little too untouched. Following this feedback, at the end of 2024, we appointed a new contractor to trial a more thorough level of maintenance work. The contractor demonstrates a high quality of work, diligence, and attention to detail. We have allocated 20 hours per month between April to September, and 60 hours per month between October to March to trim and clear areas of the Commons to enhance public access and enjoyment. We are delighted to have received some very positive feedback already.

In an ideal world, where we only focused on public safety, installing extensive lighting across the Commons would be a sensible option, but we must consider both the practicalities and the impact on our wildlife.

Presence of other people

Active, well used spaces feel much safer than deserted or isolated ones. We are lucky in that the majority of areas of the Commons are well used for different activities, by a mix of people at different times of the day. However, we have always acknowledged that the nighttime Common is a much less desirable place to visit than the daytime Common, and here we are exposed to more risk.

Officer or authority presence on the Commons

When working on the Commons, our Ranger wears a high visibility jacket to look official, however the chance of him witnessing any anti-social behaviour or other safety issue over the 256 acres of the Commons is slim to none. We also need to ensure that as a lone worker, our Ranger himself is kept safe as a priority, as such he follows our Lone Worker Policy and does not put himself at unnecessary risk. To date he has experienced several verbal assaults and does have a bodycam to wear to record any such behaviour.

The Police do maintain patrols on the Commons; however, it would be fair to say that these are not a regular occurrence.

Maintained infrastructure

Well maintained benches and litterbins indicate that the area is actively managed, cared for and valued. With over 100 benches and over 30 litterbins it takes a lot of resource to keep on top of refurbishments and replacements and could not be done without the assistance of a small handyman (person) budget.

Feedback from the public engagement questionnaire suggested that some people would find the Commons more enjoyable if there were more litterbins. We have several locations where additional bins would be convenient for visitors. In the 2025/6 budget, funding was allocated for the purchase, installation and servicing of four new litter bins.

We also allocated budget to replace four old and damaged bins.

Anti-social behaviour

Removing graffiti, vandalism, camps, fly tipped waste and broken infrastructure is essential to maintain perceptions of safety. These things must be removed promptly once reported so that the community see the value in taking the time to report issues.

Dogs

17% of those people that responded to the public consultation questionnaire said that they walked their/a dog on the Commons. We welcome dogs under effective control and note the following on our website:

Your dog will also love to explore the sights, sounds and smells of the Commons. We ask you to be a responsible owner and keep your dog in sight and away from other visitors; not everyone loves your dog as much as you do. Please pick up after your dog, using the bins provided, and please avoid using the outfield of the cricket pitches for your walks, as the surfaces are suffering from over-use.

(www.twcommons.org)

It would be fair to say that the outfield of Linden Park Cricket Club is one of the most popular locations to walk a dog, much to the despair of the Cricket Club and its players. It was therefore no surprise that some of the people who responded to the public consultation questionnaire said that better behaved dogs, dogs off the cricket pitch and or dogs on leads areas would increase their enjoyment of the Commons.

The presence of dogs on a green space can improve feelings of safety, while badly behaved dogs that are aggressive or not under control can have the opposite effect. There are currently no national regulations restricting the number, size or weight of dogs walked by individuals. Under the Dangerous Dog Act 1991, a dog of any breed or type must be kept under proper control

We don't believe that we have many professional dog walkers on the Commons, and we therefore don't think we need to introduce a professional dog walking licence or a dog walking code of conduct but really need input from our community to confirm our position.

In October 2024 put up signage asking for dogs to be kept on leads around Fir Tree Road car park to protect both the dogs and our non-dog owning or loving visitors. Encouragingly, from our own observations we see that most visitors follow this request.

Other nuisances e.g. campfires, use of motorbikes etc

The byelaws need to continue to be enforced to protect the land and the enjoyment of the community, the roll out of the new byelaw signs should make understanding and interpretation of expected behaviours clearer.

5. Community engagement

We rely heavily on our community being our extra eyes and ears on the Commons, they regularly report issues that we have not even seen ourselves, such as graffiti, fly tipped waste, damage to the Council's toilet block and littering. As mentioned previously people feel ownership and pride in the space

6. Supporting local campaigns

In November 2023, a locally organised and empowering nighttime walk took place from Rusthall village, across both Commons, and through to the Pantiles. The walk aimed to raise awareness of safety concerns experienced by women, girls, and marginalised people in public spaces after dark. The strong

turnout of around 70 participants reflected the significance of this issue within the local community. Due to its impact and resonance, the event was held again in 2024.

Summary of draft actions for Objective E: Making user experience as safe and nuisance-free as is reasonably possible, given that it is a freely accessible green space.

- We will continue to liaise directly with the Police and ensure that key messages and campaigns are communicated to the community.
- Work to keep vegetation back from path edges, sight lines and cleared areas, following the recommendations in the Ecological Management Plan.
- During 2025/6, the installation of four new litter bins and the refurbishment of four existing bins in poor condition.
- We continue to support Linden Park Cricket Club in their ongoing request to keep dogs off the cricket pitch and outfield.

Questions for focus group consideration:

- Do you feel safe when you're on the Commons?
- What things are "nuisances" to you on the Commons?
- Do you think we should put cameras on certain areas of the Commons to protect the land, assets and people?
- Have you observed recent improvements to path edges, sight lines and cleared areas? Have we got the level of grass cutting and strimming right?
- Do we need more litterbins, or is littering the actual problem?
- We have been asked for more litterbins on the Commons, can you suggest where more bins are needed?
- How do dogs impact your enjoyment of the Commons?
- Do you think dogs should be allowed to be walked offlead/should be on lead? How do you feel about dogs playing on the outfield of Linden Park Cricket Club?
- Do many professional dog walkers use the Commons? Do you think they follow best practice?



F. Striving for better physical and social accessibility.

"It's accessibility, beauty and tranquillity, once you venture into the areas furthest from the roads and car park".

(Response to the public engagement questionnaire)

For many of us, accessing the Commons is simply a case of putting one foot in front of the other and allowing the many paths and tracks to take us on an adventure. If we come across a particularly muddy section, we walk around it. If a branch has fallen across our path, we scramble over it. For young families with pushchairs and buggies, the elderly and people with disabilities, health conditions or impairments, access can be hugely challenging, sadly leading some to avoid certain areas of the Commons entirely.

1. Physical accessibility

Accessibility needs can be wide and varied and given the nature of the land, we can't ever claim to be fully inclusive or accessible for all. What we can offer is a can-do attitude. We are prepared to do what is reasonably practicable to take positive steps forward.

AccessAble is an online accessibility guide, providing information for locations across the country. The site has a detailed access guide for Tunbridge Wells Common on their website, it would be essential to

establish whether a guide could be added for Rusthall Common.

Transport and parking

The Commons are connected to a network of public transport and in close proximity to both Tunbridge Wells town centre and Rusthall village. There are 92 designated parking spaces for blue badge holders across the town. (www.visittunbridgewells.com).

The challenge for many users is accessing the Commons from the town and surrounding roads, as there are not enough pedestrian crossings or safe crossing points. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council have just completed a consultation on their Draft Town Centre Plan; one of their seven principles and ambitions is:

Connected landscapes:

“Royal Tunbridge Wells valued and accessible greenspaces are well connected for people, habitats and wildlife to move between and enjoy. Streets have been greened with trees with a focus on making liveable streets”. (p9)

Specifically, within the draft plan, West Quarter Masterplan Framework, it is noted that there are opportunities for “improvements to character and linkages around London Road, the Common and the lower end of town” (p22). Equally, in the South Quarter Masterplan Framework it states, “general public realm and connectivity improvements within this quarter and linking to the surrounding area” (p23). The plan goes as far as to suggest that London Road is a possible project opportunity, “to provide landscape buffers and safe pedestrian crossings and cycle routes” (p27).

It will be essential to track progress in the production and implementation of the Town Centre Plan and to ensure that we are consulted on specific projects as and when they are agreed.

The Town Centre Plan only covers the southern area of Tunbridge Wells Common and there are many other areas where direct access to the Commons is challenging. We need to better understand these specific locations and why access is difficult.

In July 2023, the Conservators joined the steering group to campaign to see a reduction in the speed limit on the A264 Langton Road in Rusthall from 40mph to 30mph. While Kent County Council flatly refused the request, despite no justifiable explanation for the refusal, the Conservators continue to show support to John Barber who took over as lead of the campaign in February 2025.

While we actively encourage the community to walk to the Commons, there are two car parks provided to increase accessibility, one on Fir Tree Road, free to users of the Commons for up to four hours, and the other at the bottom of Major York’s Road, Upper Pantiles, run commercially by RCP.

Pathways and surfaces

The AccessAble access guide to Tunbridge Wells Common records:

- There are many wide tarmac footpaths across the Common.
- Some have steep gradients.
- Some wheelchair users may require assistance to use these paths.
- There are also many other paths in the wooded areas which are unmade, uneven and likely to be muddy.
- There are steps along some of these routes.

Rusthall Common could be described as having a limited number of tarmac, flat footpaths suitable for wheelchair users, buggies and mobility scooters however, the majority of the Common has unmade and uneven tracks, likely to be muddy.

Having identified that Rusthall Common is much less accessible than Tunbridge Wells Common, John Barber of the Friends of the Common set out to create an accessible path enabling more users to access and enjoy Happy Valley. The fittleworth stone path took many years of planning and fundraising and was eventually opened in June 2024, at a cost of £45,000 fundraised by the Friends of the Commons. The Freehold Tenants and Conservators then funded an extension of the Happy Valley path through from the Beacon to Langton Road.

Other achievements include installation of another fittleworth stone, accessible path from Castle Road to the rear of The Forum, funded by The Forum and installed in July 2024.

An access audit would be an essential next step to better understand how and where other areas of the Commons would benefit from an accessible path.

Feedback from the public engagement questionnaire indicated that some people would find the Commons more enjoyable, and in this case accessible, if there was improved drainage on wet and muddy paths and improved path condition. This area of improvement works is already under active review by officers, with the following actions having been implemented to date:

- Contractors have assisted with the clearance and restoration of drainage ditches and culvert repairs and installation. Both ditches and culverts will require ongoing monitoring and maintenance.
- The Ranger and his volunteers have been digging small drainage channels and scrapes to temporarily hold water during wet conditions. Ongoing maintenance of drainage channels and scrapes, to restore any damaged during storms.
- For several years, Officers have been working with Kent County Council's (KCC) Flood and Water Management Team to better manage water on Tunbridge Wells Common. More recently, KCC have appointed consultants, Waterman Infrastructure and Environmental Ltd to produce a report on flood mitigation options including both engineering and nature-based solutions. Under the project management of KCC Officers the recommendations in the report are being further investigated and planned.
- Following the successful use of fittleworth stone as a path surface on the accessible path at Happy Valley and rear of The Forum, the Ranger is investigating the use of the same material for other paths and tracks on the Commons. In June 2025, the very wet path to the Bumps on Rusthall Common was resurfaced with fittleworth stone and a small muddy section of path on the Racecourse, to the north of Hungershall Park on Tunbridge Wells Common was also resurfaced. Which other sections of path could we look at?

Encroachment

We need to continue to scrutinise planning applications, local plans and potential encroachments to ensure that the Commons are not detrimentally impacting access and the Commons in general.

Parking on verges is another area that needs to be managed, to reduce impacts on access and degradation of the Common.

Infrastructure and facilities

Accessible toilets are available at Wellington Rocks, these are owned and managed by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, very detailed descriptions of the features are listed on AccessAble.

We must make sure that bins and benches are accessible, at the right height to be used from a wheelchair or mobility scooter and alongside the existing path and track network.

2. Social accessibility

Inclusive events

As our programme of engagement activities expands, we must ensure that we are making them inclusive events by addressing physical, social, cultural, and economic barriers to participation.

The previous section of this Plan covered physical accessibility, but other considerations include:

- Quiet zones and sensory-free areas, which are plentiful on the Commons, but we should remind and acknowledge this during event introductions.
- Culturally diverse events.
- Engagement with the community to plan events.
- Zero tolerance on harassment or discrimination.
- Continuation of our free or low-cost events.

Nature belongs to everyone, when we make wild places accessible, we invite all people to find connection, healing, and wonder in the natural world.

Summary of draft actions for Objective F: Striving for better physical and social accessibility.

- Contact AccessAble to establish whether a guide for Rusthall Common could be uploaded to their website and provision of pre-visit accessibility information on our website.
- Track progress in the production and implementation of the Town Centre Plan and to ensure that we are consulted on specific projects as and when they are agreed.
- Contact Tunbridge Wells Access Group to carry out an access audit to better understand specific locations where access is challenging.
- Consider areas of path and track that are known to be wet and muddy and look at installation of a fittleworth stone path.
- Continue to monitor planning applications to prevent encroachment on the Commons.
- Parking on verges to be prevented.
- Making sure that bins and benches are accessible, at the right height to be used from a wheelchair or mobility scooter and alongside the existing path and track network.
- During event introductions it is important to acknowledge quiet zones and sensory-free areas and the ability to take time out.

Questions for focus group consideration:

- What access issues do you experience when getting to the Commons?
- Are there specific paths or tracks that you want to see less muddy?
- Would an engineered sandstone path be better anywhere?
- Can you suggest practical improvements to enhance accessibility on the Commons?
- Can you help us with our accessibility audit.
- The Forestry Commission website acknowledges that it's not always physically possible to get into its forests and provides videos on a variety of topics including animals enjoying the habitat, forest bathing, guided forestry yoga, virtual guided walks and sounds of the forest. Would this be of interest to the community?



Public Enjoyment Action Plan

This table will be populated when all actions are agreed and prioritised, using information and feedback from the focus group work:

Objective	Action	Timescale	Update
A	Plan and carry out focus group sessions.	Winter and Spring 2025/6	
A	Record and evaluate all suggestions at the focus groups and provide feedback on feasibility.	Winter and Spring 20205/6	



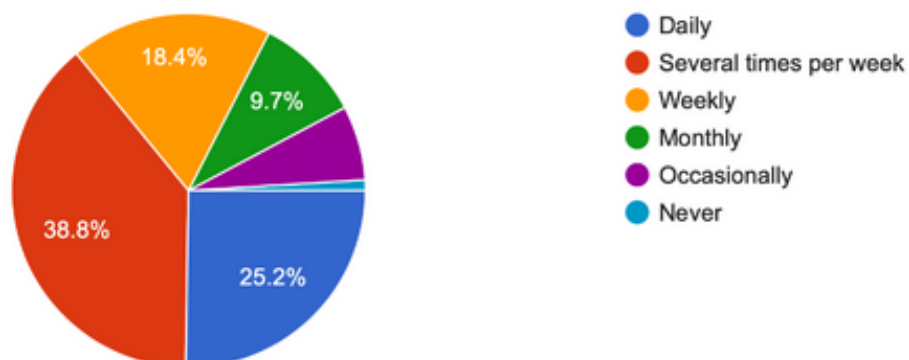
Appendix I

Public Consultation questionnaire responses:

- **Frequency of visit**

Of the 103 respondents, 82% stated that they visit the Commons daily/several times per week/weekly, this reinforces our belief that we have a very dedicated community, which is why it is so important that we make the right decisions at the right time, with them in mind.

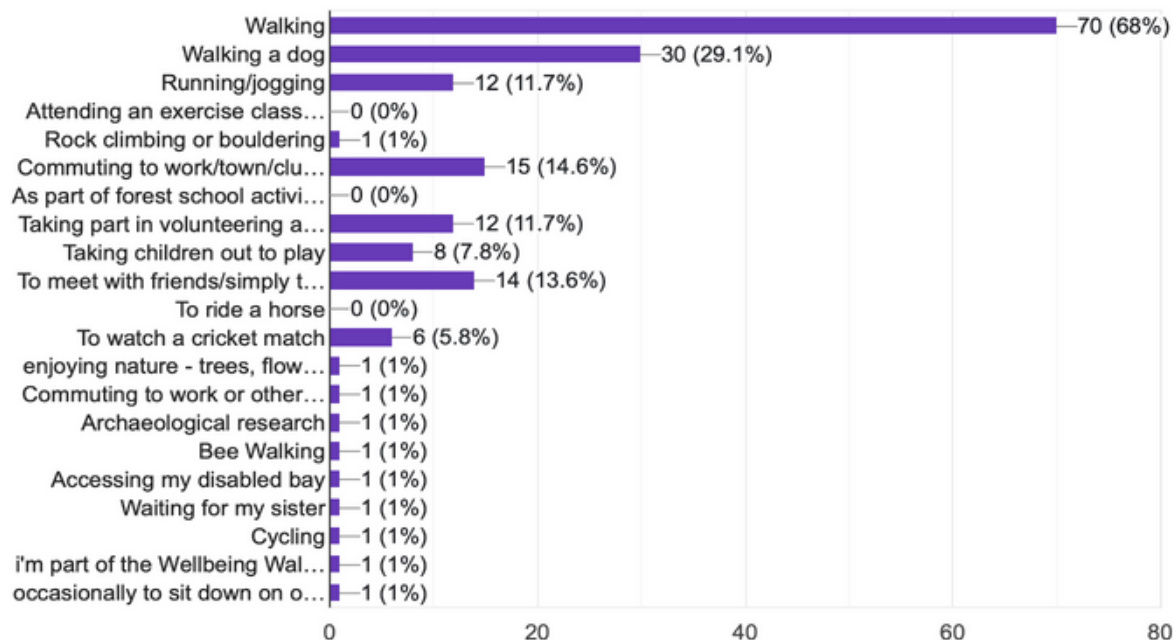
1. How often do you visit Tunbridge Wells or Rusthall Common?



- **How the Commons is used**

From our snapshot data we were able to confirm that, as expected, the vast majority of visitors use the Commons for walking, walking their dog(s), commuting to work/social activity, meeting friends, running or taking part in a volunteering session.

2. How do you spend the majority of your time on the Commons (select up to three answers)



- **What do you love about the Commons**

When respondents were asked what they love about the Commons, we had a wealth of positive statements:

3. In one sentence, what do you love about the Commons?

The majority of comments were expressing the same thoughts, with highlights shared here:

A large, beautiful, quiet, unspoilt area in the middle of town available to all.

The expanse of green space where you can think you are out of town and can escape the traffic and entertain the grandkids.

The variety, the views and the accessibility: woodland, glades, ponds, rock formations, formal and informal paths.

Its mixed flora and ecosystems alongside hard rock outcrops (rare in the southeast), its location (in the middle of the town), the care it is given by volunteers and by the public in general.

It's a place of peace and feels like a special place to be in.

The paths

Peace and quiet, greenery

Bringing nature, in an ordered and uplifting way, into the heart of Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall

Peace and quiet, nature.

To enjoy nature, and to walk into TW on varied routes through The Commons (and to miss the traffic).

The sense of space for both people and Nature

Simply, I live on the Common, and as soon as I leave my property, I am on the Common and immediately appreciating it and all the ways it can be enjoyed.

An ecologically diverse landscape with a rich History

The natural 'unmanaged' atmosphere.

It is a lovely large area and there is always something to look at

the openness

Nature on our doorstep...

Its natural ambiance

Its variety

Variety of plant life and peaceful environment.

Open spaces, trees & wildlife.

A haven of green and wildlife so close to the town

Countryside in the middle of a town

It gives me space and time to think and there is always something new, interesting or beautiful to see and enjoy.

An extremely positive area to have in the town; good for health; lovely for bird-watching and walking.

Beautiful trees and fresh air away from traffic

Open space & escape from the traffic plus occasional wildlife i.e. peaceful

The Commons are open, fresh and green.

Seeing people enjoying the outdoors

Its accessibility, beauty and tranquillity, once you venture into the areas furthest from the roads and car park.

The calm and peace of being in nature: fresh air, birdsong; spotting wildlife.

The variety of landscape, fauna and flora

Rus in Urbe - best rural/urban landscape I know in UK

It's a beautiful diverse place to be

Its proximity to the town, its calming effect, the variety of habitats, wildlife and activities - seeing people -and children- enjoying benign activities

That you can walk the same paths and there is always something different to see

The trees, the wide paths, signs of the wildlife, the peace

Words fail when trying to express the daily delight that being in the midst of nature, while near to RTW and Rusthall, gives. We are just so blessed.

Easy access, good for dog walking but able to see or listen to wildlife.

Green oasis in town centre

Nature on your doorstep

the open space and is lovely later on in the day as it gets the sun until late being higher up.

Quiet

Trees, fewer cars the better

Its mixed flora and ecosystems alongside hard rock outcrops (rare in the south east), its location (in the middle of the town), the care it is given by volunteers and by the public in general.

The green space, and the rocks plus the tranquillity being so close to the town centre

It's variety and lack of litter.

The expanse of green space where you can think you are out of town and can escape the traffic and entertain the grandkids.

That it is a green space.

It is a privilege living near such a unique and beautiful open space - rare indeed in the centre of a town.

Open space near the town centre

They are large wooded areas close to where I live and the town centre.

It's an oasis of green, beautiful trees and nature in the heart of our town and I love it.

Beauty and tranquillity on the edge of the town. Green space and fresh air!

Having so much nature up close and personal

Proximity, diversity of environment, nature, quiet.

It's a place of peace and feels like a special place to be in

The great number and variety of footpaths.

Beautiful nature, that is well cared for, where I watch the seasons change.

Green space in quite heavily populated area

Its proximity to where I live and its accessibility for me walking my dog.

So near to the centre of town

Its meandering, beautiful and precious

Green lungs of the town.

The natural state rather than parkland, trees, birds etc

I have lived in my house on Rusthall common land for nearly 37 years & love the peace that being semi rural gives.

Trees and rocks

Back to nature, open space and like being in the countryside, while being part of the overall town.

My favourite open space in Tunbridge Wells

Tranquillity

A lovely woodland space in an urban area.

A glorious area of open space

Its location in the centre of the town

Fresh air, peace and quiet, bird and plant life, privacy.

The variety, the views and the accessibility: woodland, glades, ponds, rock formations, formal and informal paths.

The openness and landscape and wildlife and history.

Green space in the middle of town

A large, beautiful, quiet, unspoilt area in the middle of town available to all.

Safe access for dog walking

The greenery

Beautiful trees, cheerful walking dogs and lovely wildlife

quiet, plant life

The flora and fauna.

Variety of different routes, good to get out of the house and meet friends

Its open space and beauty

The open space, with so much wildlife, deer roaming freely so close to and accessible from my house and from the town.

It's an open space very near my home.

The two commons are very much attached to one another which makes interesting walking

The trees and the fresh air

The tranquillity of nature so close to town.

Proximity of a woodland area so close to the town centre of Tunbridge Wells

That it's generally a safe place, if I'm walking alone, you see other people. It's well maintained yet remains naturally interesting for my dogs. That I can get a coffee nearby and if I need it there is accessible parking.

I love the space and how natural it feels, the beautiful trees, seeing the seasons change and develop and how you can see people (and dogs) enjoying themselves.

easily accessible, good paths to walk on, nice views.

The trees and bird singing. Also foraging in a minor way. Blackberries etc.

Large open space in the middle of a busy car necessary town

The natural way it is maintained, the abundance of bird, tree and wildflower species; the fact that dogs can run free.

Variety of wildlife

Lovely space to walk and see nature.

Tranquillity

It's not manicured, it's varied "areas", and that it's well utilised

very overgrown and not maintained at all well.

Safe and pleasant place to walk with good pathways and easily accessible from centre of TW.

The ability to walk in the green surroundings, and the mixture of woods and open grassy areas

The open space

Ability to cycle safely

4. How can we make the time that you spend on the Commons more enjoyable?

Responses were categorised and those categories receiving 2 comments or more of the responses are included here:

Comment	Number of comments (one response could include several comments)	% of total comments made
It's already perfect!	18	10
More information boards/information accessible via QR codes/nature trails/marked routes/signage/leaflets	12	7
Cut back bramble and scrub/too overgrown	11	6
Improve drainage on wet and muddy paths and path condition (eg lower cricket pitch)	10	6
Introduce cycle paths	9	5
Better behaved dogs, dogs off cricket pitch, dogs on leads areas	9	5
More litter bins	9	5
Guided walks	9	5
Open views (eg at Happy Valley, Mt Ephraim)	6	3
Pedestrian crossings (London Road/Castle Street, Major Yorks/Nevill and St Paul's Church/Langton Road, by Spa Hotel)	6	3
Community picnic area/more open spaces to sit and relax/cut grass areas (cut more frequently and earlier in the season)	6	3
Continue to fight against litter	5	3

More benches/seats	5	3
More children's activities in holidays/events/activities	4	2
Reduce speed on roads through Commons eg A264 to 30 mph, Castle Road etc	4	2
Make it more open	3	2
Keep bicycles and motorbikes off the Commons	3	2
Full time Coffee kiosk/cafe	3	2
More wild flower planting	3	2
Remove damaged trees and branches, poor quality trees	3	2
Better accessibility including wheelchair and buggy access	2	1
Lists of wildlife on the Common	2	1
Continue to manage invasive species	2	1
Owl and Bat boxes	2	1
Handrails (eg on hill down to Nevill Park, behind St Paul's Church graveyard	2	1
Signs to encourage dog owners to pick up poo/reduce dog poo	2	1

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