



# Wandle Valley Forum Constitution

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## Name

1. The name of the organisation is Wandle Valley Forum.

## Area

2. The Wandle Valley Forum is concerned with the Wandle Valley, including the entirety of the Wandle Valley Regional Park and the Thames at the Wandle Delta.

## Purpose

3. The purpose of the Wandle Valley Forum is to promote and improve the environmental, social and economic well-being of the Wandle Valley and to provide a forum for all those individuals, community organisations, voluntary groups and businesses that have an interest in it. It shall:
  - promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment, including the public realm, open spaces and the historic and natural environments;
  - encourage high standards in the management and development of the built and natural environment;
  - promote public access to the river and to the historic and natural environment of the Wandle Valley consistent with its sustainable management and use;
  - promote sustainable development by the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment, and the promotion of the prudent use of resources (sustainable development being development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs);
  - stimulate public understanding of the beauty, history, geography, wildlife, landscape and character of the Wandle Valley and encourage sporting and recreational use;
  - support development of the capacity and skills of individuals and communities to understand and take action to benefit the Wandle Valley;
  - support businesses and economic activity that benefits from or supports the Wandle Valley's historic and natural environment; and
  - promote such other purposes as may from time to time be determined by the Executive Committee.
4. The Wandle Valley Forum shall achieve this by:
  - supporting individuals, organisations, groups and businesses that share its purpose;
  - collaborating with local community groups, voluntary organisations, businesses and public bodies;
  - supporting and delivering projects and activities that are of benefit to the Wandle Valley;
  - providing an independent platform and voice for the public benefit of the Wandle Valley;
  - being the consultative forum for the Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust, London Boroughs, Greater London Authority and other statutory bodies on Wandle Valley issues;
  - providing information and communications about the Wandle Valley;

- other activities which contribute to achievement of its purpose; and
- operating without distinction or discrimination on the grounds of gender, disability, sexual orientation or race, or of political, religious or other beliefs.

## **Operations**

### Supporters

5. All individuals, community organisations, voluntary groups and businesses with an interest in the Wandle Valley who support Wandle Valley Forum's purpose and provide contact details shall be considered supporters of Wandle Valley Forum. The Executive Committee shall have the power to refuse or terminate support where it considers it not in the best interests of the Forum.

### Executive Committee and Officers

6. The day to day business of the Wandle Valley Forum shall be conducted by an Executive Committee. This shall comprise up to eight people elected by the supporters at a General Meeting and shall include the following Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The term of any member of the Executive Committee shall expire at each AGM and they shall be eligible to stand for re-election. The Committee may co-opt up to four additional voting members for a term to expire no later than the following AGM and may renew their role.

7. The Executive Committee shall meet as frequently as it sees fit. A minimum of three members (including one Officer) is required for a quorum. All members of the Executive Committee shall declare any interests, conduct themselves in a manner which respects the views of others, abide by collective decisions made and always represent Wandle Valley Forum in a positive manner.

### Meetings

8. At least one General Meeting shall be held each year, which shall be the Annual General Meeting. This shall include reports from the Chair and Treasurer, approval of the accounts, election of Officers and the Executive Committee and consideration of any other business. It shall be open to anyone to attend and a minimum of ten supporters (including two Officers) is required for a quorum. At least 21 days' notice of the time and location of any General Meeting shall be provided to supporters.

9. Nominations for election to the Committee shall be invited in advance of the AGM and must be proposed and seconded in writing by supporters with the consent of the candidate. Nominations shall be duly submitted to the Secretary not less than three days prior to the date of the AGM.

10. Election of members of the Committee may be taken by a show of hands of members or, if requested by a majority of those supporters present, by a ballot of those present at the AGM. A supporter shall be entitled to appoint a proxy to vote on his or her behalf. Notice of appointment of a proxy must be received by the Secretary not less than 24 hours before the meeting.

11. A General Meeting shall be called when so desired by the Executive Committee or within 42 days of receipt by the Secretary of a request in writing signed by no less than 21 supporters, stating the purpose for which the meeting is required.

12. A record of each General Meeting shall be produced and made publicly available.

13. Any requirement in this Constitution for notices or reports to be distributed to supporters of the Forum shall be deemed to have been satisfied if such notice or reports have been sent by e-mail, by posting on the Forum's website or by other electronic means. An individual supporter may request hard copies and in such a case the Committee reserves the right to make a charge to cover the extra cost incurred.

### Finances

14. The Wandle Valley Forum shall maintain a bank or other appropriate account in its name. The Forum's accounts shall be made publicly available within three months of the Forum's financial year end.

15. The Forum may raise funds by donation, grants, or other means to be used in furtherance of the Forum's purpose.

### **Amendment of the Constitution**

16. The Wandle Valley Forum constitution may only be amended by a two thirds majority vote of members at a quorate General Meeting.

### **Dissolution**

17. In the event of dissolution of the Forum any remaining assets shall be distributed for the benefit of the Wandle Valley as agreed by the Executive Committee which shall retain responsibility for completing such distribution for a period ending six months from the date of dissolution.

This constitution was agreed by the Wandle Valley Forum Annual Meeting on 16 September 2021.