

PRESS RELEASE

Local Park shines in national competition – for the second time!



The Fields in Trust awards for best National and regional parks have just been announced for 2022, and once again Wigmore Valley Park has shone again in the regional awards.

Fields in Trust is a charity formed by The Duke of York, latterly HM King George VI, as The National Playing Fields Association. Over those 97 years the charity has pursued three key aims:-

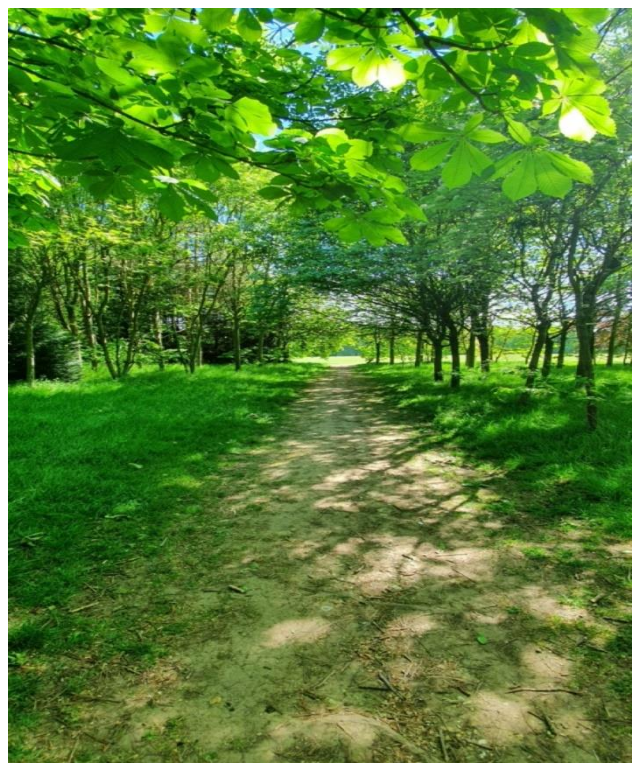
- Champion the value of parks and green spaces.
- Protect parks and green spaces in perpetuity.
- Support parks and green spaces , community groups and users.
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This year was the first vote since 2019, when Wigmore Valley Park won Best Park in Bedfordshire, and made the East of England regional finalists.

Thanks to the support of the thousands of park users who voted again this year, Wigmore Valley Park once again was named in the top eight parks in the East of England. It was the only park listed from Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire that made the finalists, which once again made this Luton Park the most popular in the competition within those Counties.

Wigmore Valley Park covers 70 acres of open parkland, hedgerows and mature trees.

It also hosts a Bedfordshire County Wildlife Site, and is Luton’s best site for Orchids, with five species regularly recorded and enjoyed there.



It is a year round attraction, as each season brings a different perspective to its many visitors.



However, the chair of Friends of Wigmore Park Scott Stalham commented:

“While we are delighted with the award, sadly we still have the continuing threat of destruction to most of Wigmore Valley Park due to the airport expansion plans of our Local Authority, Luton Borough Council. These plans do provide replacement park areas, but being ex agricultural land, the replacement areas are far too rich in phosphate-based fertilisers to support the native flora species needed to replicate biodiversity levels currently found at Wigmore Valley Park. It will also take decades to mature to achieve anything like the current award-winning status of the park, if at all.”

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