



Richmond Green Management Plan

January 2022 – December 2023

Richmond Green Management Plan 2022-23: Foreword

Richmond Green is a vitally important asset for local people and visitors. The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (the Council) will aspire to maintain and manage the Green to the highest standards.

The management plan is based on the use of an audit of the Green following central government guidance known as PPG 17. This is explained within this document but the approach is based on common sense. We believe that it is important to get the simple things right. Is the green space clean and tidy? Is the grass cut? Are the trees and shrubs well maintained? Is any graffiti removed effectively and quickly?

Working with local communities to deliver the highest quality of service is our top priority and it is hoped that this document will provide a framework for continuing and improving dialogue. The site will be maintained appropriately and the local community in the form of the Friends of Richmond Green will be consulted on any proposed changes or improvements to facilities. In particular, we work closely with the Friends of Richmond Green. We actively encourage suggestions about the park.

While the Council is open to the changing demands from the local community with regards to any of the borough's parks, the Green is a long established local green space that is generally well maintained. It is of great historic value and sits within a designated Conservation Area. Major changes to the Green or its facilities are not envisaged. The action plan at the end of this document reflects this perspective.

Parks Officers, working closely with colleagues in Continental Landscapes and using a partnership approach regularly monitor Richmond Green. Members of the local community are also encouraged to let us know their impressions about the level of maintenance as well as their ideas for improving the facilities. It is hoped that the resulting observations and ideas will result in continually improving management and maintenance practises.

The current financial situation will inevitably have a detrimental affect on the resources available to improve and maintain the borough's parks and open spaces. The tightening of available budgets seems likely for the foreseeable future. The borough will continue to work closely with its partners, including Continental Landscapes and the Friends of Richmond Green, to maintain standards. In addition, we will need to look for additional ways of funding to maintain and improve the boroughs parks, one of our most valuable assets.

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1. Introduction

1.1 This Management Plan for Richmond Green provides guidance for the management and any relevant development of the Green. It utilises the methodology outlined in the Government’s Planning Policy Guidance note 17 (PPG 17) in order to audit the state of provision of features and facilities on the Green.

The Plan includes an Action Plan, which should be achievable within the remit of current budgets. The plan has been drafted for a broad audience interested in the development of the Green namely:

- The Friends of Richmond Green and borough residents;
- The Parks and Open Spaces Service;
- Other services and departments within the London Borough of Richmond;
- Elected members, Ward Councillors and portfolio holders;
- National agencies;
- Local businesses; and
- Partners and contractors

1.2 The Plan will run from January 2022 to December 2023. An interim progress update will be undertaken in January 2023.

2. National Context

2.1 Parks are managed areas of the green environment which provide opportunities for a range of formal and informal leisure, passive and active sport, recreation and play.

2.2 The significance of parks, open space and countryside provision is clear:

- There are an estimated 27,000 public parks in Britain, visited an estimated 2.6bn times each year (Common Select Committee, 2016).
- There is an estimated 85,847 hectares of Publicly accessible green space in Great Britain, 73,400 in England. (*Natural capital accounts containing information about green spaces in urban areas*, Office for National Statistics, August 2019)
- 17.99% of Greater London is designated Public Open Space; with 3.5% Local Parks and Open Spaces & 5.2% Metropolitan Parks (GiGL, 2019).

2.3 It is widely recognised that the provision of high quality ‘public realm’ facilities such as parks can assist in making an area as an attractive place to live and work, and can result in a number of benefits in terms of economic development and regeneration. A local park can also play a part in promoting healthy living as a place for people to exercise.

2.4 The benefits of safe and accessible parks and open spaces can be summarised as follows:

Social

- providing safe outdoor areas that are available to all the local population

- providing opportunities for community events, voluntary activities and charitable fund raising
- providing easily accessible recreation as an alternative to other more chargeable leisure pursuits
- providing opportunities to improve health and take part in a range of outdoor sports and activities
- providing an educational resource or outdoor classroom

Economic

- adding value to surrounding property, both commercial and residential, thus increasing local tax revenues for public services
- contributing to attracting visitors, including using parks as venues for events
- encouraging tourism into the area
- helping to create an attractive local image
- helping to reduce social exclusion and its associated costs to society

Environmental

- providing habitats for wildlife as an aid to local biodiversity
- helping to stabilise urban temperatures and humidity
- absorbing pollutants in the air and ground water
- providing opportunities for the recycling of organic materials
- providing opportunities to reduce transport use through the provision of local facilities, and by providing walking and cycling routes through urban areas.

3. Relationship to Council’s Aims and Objectives

The London Borough of Richmond recognises that its parks and open spaces contribute to the:

- overall vision and priorities of the Council
- quality of life of local people
- physical, social and economic regeneration of the borough
- greening, attractiveness and biodiversity of the area

Accordingly this Management Plan and the Parks and Open Spaces Service are guided by and are in agreement with the aims, objectives and principles of the following plans and strategies. These can be found at: www.richmond.gov.uk

3.1 Richmond’s Community Plan

The Community Plan describes the Council’s vision for the borough and outlines the steps that will be taken, through partnership working, to achieve this vision. The vision is for a borough where:

- local people are engaged and involved in their communities.

- a vibrant and sustainable community and voluntary sector helps residents play a full role in community life.
- the local character of the environment is protected and development is high quality and compatible with local character.
- our towns and local centres are attractive, viable for businesses and contribute positively to the quality of life of residents and visitors.
- people can live as independently as possible in the local community with good health and wellbeing.

For further details of the Community Plan please visit: www.richmond.gov.uk

3.2 Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2011

Our borough has the largest area of public open space per head of population of any London borough. We have a local and national reputation for quality and leadership in the delivery of excellent parks. To ensure the quality of our parks and open spaces remains at a high level, following a public consultation, we developed a series of strategic principles by which the parks will be managed:

1. Parks and Open Spaces will be a sustainable legacy for future generations.
2. Parks and Open Spaces will continue to define our borough.
3. Parks and Opens Spaces will enrich the life, health and wellbeing of residents and visitors.
4. The Council will lead in the delivery of excellent Parks and Open Spaces services.
5. Parks and Open Spaces will offer positive experiences to all visitors.
6. Through innovation, the future development of Parks and Open Spaces services will be ensured.
7. Increased community participation in Parks and Open Spaces will be encouraged and supported.
8. Parks and Open Spaces will be celebrated as centres of excellence.

3.3 Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Richmond

The main aims of the plan are:

- To conserve and where possible enhance Richmond’s variety of habitats and species, in particular those which are of international or national importance, are in decline locally, are characteristic to Richmond or have particular public appeal, which can raise the profile of biodiversity
- To ensure that Richmond residents become aware of, and are given the opportunity to become involved in conserving and enhancing the biodiversity around them

- To raise awareness and increase stakeholder involvement in maintaining and where possible, enhancing species and habitats of importance

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan can be found online here: https://habitatsandheritage.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Biodiversity-Action-Plan-Richmond_compressed.pdf

3.4 Parks Improvements

The Council have a commitment to continued improvement in our Parks and Open Spaces by improving existing infrastructure and developing and installing new facilities. The Council continues to have a cyclical investment programme to ensure that parks and playgrounds are up to standards, this includes £300k a year for park improvements and £150k for play. One aim of the management plan is to maintain the gains that we have achieved in previous years.

The Council list all major improvement projects on our webpage, which can be found here:

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/parks_improvements_and_conservation/latest_parks_updates

4. Site Description

4.1 Outline History of Richmond Green

Whilst anomalously not included on Historic England’s *Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest* despite its direct associations with Henry VII’s Palace of the late-15th and early-16th centuries on its south-western side and earlier Royal manor houses and palaces dating back to the time of King Henry I in the 12th century, The Green remains an integral part of the Crown Estate in Richmond with continuing links to the Crown across the centuries.

Described by Bridget Cherry and the late Nikolaus Pevsner in relevant volume of *The Buildings of England – London 2: South*. as ‘one of the most beautiful urban greens surviving anywhere in England’, Richmond Green possesses considerable architectural, historic and landscape interest and significance.

Now largely built-up on all four sides, except on its north-eastern side where it abuts The Little Green, the Green now forms the heart of The Richmond Green Conservation Area, designated back in 1969. The earliest surviving illustrations of The Green are Anthonis van Wyngaerde’s drawing of the Palace and The Green of 1562 – now in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford – and Moses Glover’s Map of the Isleworth Hundred – now in the Duke of Northumberland’s collection at Syon House of 1635. However, by far the best historic illustration is Overton and Hoole’s well-known aerial view of 1726 – *The Prospect of Richmond in Surry* - in which The Green takes up the entire foreground. The Green forms an integral and essential part of the immediate setting of the Tudor Palace and that of many other historic buildings that lie around its four sides.

The remaining grade I listed parts of King Henry VII’s rebuilding of the Palace of Shene occupy a substantial part of the south-western side of The Green together with the well-known, grade I listed Maids of Honour Row of 1724, and other highly graded, historic listed houses dating from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. The stretch of this south-western side of The Green directly in front of the Palace and Maids of Honour Row is bounded by an elegant, early-19th century series of cast-iron bollards and rails carrying the monogram of King William IV – all that survives of the very fine series of bollards and rails that once bounded all four sides of The Green – most of which were removed for the War effort in 1940, but later dumped in the Thames Estuary given that they were unsuited for making steel. The Green is very much the poorer both visually and historically without these bollards and rails.

The south-eastern sides of The Green comprise mostly late-17th century and 18th century houses, including the grade II* listed Old Palace Terrace. Many of the houses along the stretch between Duke Street and Paved Court, known as Greenside, have long been in business use as offices and include the historic *Cricketers* and *Prince’s Head* public houses.

The north-western side of The Green comprises the five pairs of listed, semi-detached, mid-19th century houses known as Pembroke Villas, whilst the northern part of the north-eastern side comprises the two pairs of listed, semi-detached, mid-19th century houses known as Portland Villas and the award-winning terrace of thirteen houses completed in 1970 known as Portland Terrace. Nearby, fronting The Little Green on its south-eastern sided is the well-known, grade II* listed Richmond Theatre of 1899 - described authoritatively as of outstanding importance as the most completely preserved Matcham theatre in Greater London and one of his most satisfying interiors.

4.2 General Information

4.2.1 Land Tenure

The site is owned by the Crown Estate; it is leased to and managed by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

4.2.2 Location

Richmond Green is situated very near to Richmond Town Centre. It was quite literally at the centre of historic Richmond when the town grew up around Richmond Palace, a royal residence from 1327 to 1649.

4.2.3 Access

As a free and open facility Richmond Green provides fully inclusive access to local residents and visitors to the area. Pedestrians and those arriving by train and bus and car can currently access the site.

4.2.4 Local Transport

Train:

Richmond Green is approximately 5 minutes walk from Richmond Station, which is on the overground London Waterloo line, the Overground line and the District line of the Underground Network

Bus:

Richmond is well served by buses including 190, 33, 337, 371, 371, 391, 419, 485, 490, 65, H22, H37, R68 & R70.

4.2.5 Landscape & Topography

Richmond Green comprises of a large rectangular space. There are 49 bollards on the Maids of Honour side of The Green. About 20% of these are crested William IV ribbed cast iron bollards with the remainder being plain and with the occasional ER II one. Historically, bollards surrounded the entire Green, however most were removed for use as materials in World War II. The 50m of bollards on Maids of Honour Row are all that remain of the original cast iron bollards.

The boundary is marked by mature trees planted in the grass. Beyond this a road surrounds the Green. This is lined with buildings, the majority being residential properties.

There is an adjacent area known as the Little Green. This is a much smaller area of grass that lies opposite Richmond Theatre. It is separated from the main green by a road. Both areas are known and managed as Richmond Green.

The Green is amenity grassland, which is relatively level and flat. It includes a well used cricket square.

The main area of the Green is crossed by a very well used path network. This provides a thoroughfare from a major car park, situated off the A316 opposite the main area of the Old Deer Park, to the centre of Richmond.

4.2.6 Listed Historic Buildings

The restoration of the Victorian Grade 2 listed Drinking Fountain on Richmond Green has been an aim of Friends of Richmond Green for many, many years and we finally achieved our goal in March 2020 - only for COVID to stop its use.

This project was undertaken in conjunction with the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and was made possible by generous donations from Friends of Richmond Green, Richmond Council Civic Pride Fund, Heritage of London Trust, The family of Councillor John Ormiston, The Drinking Fountain Association and Baroness van Dedem.

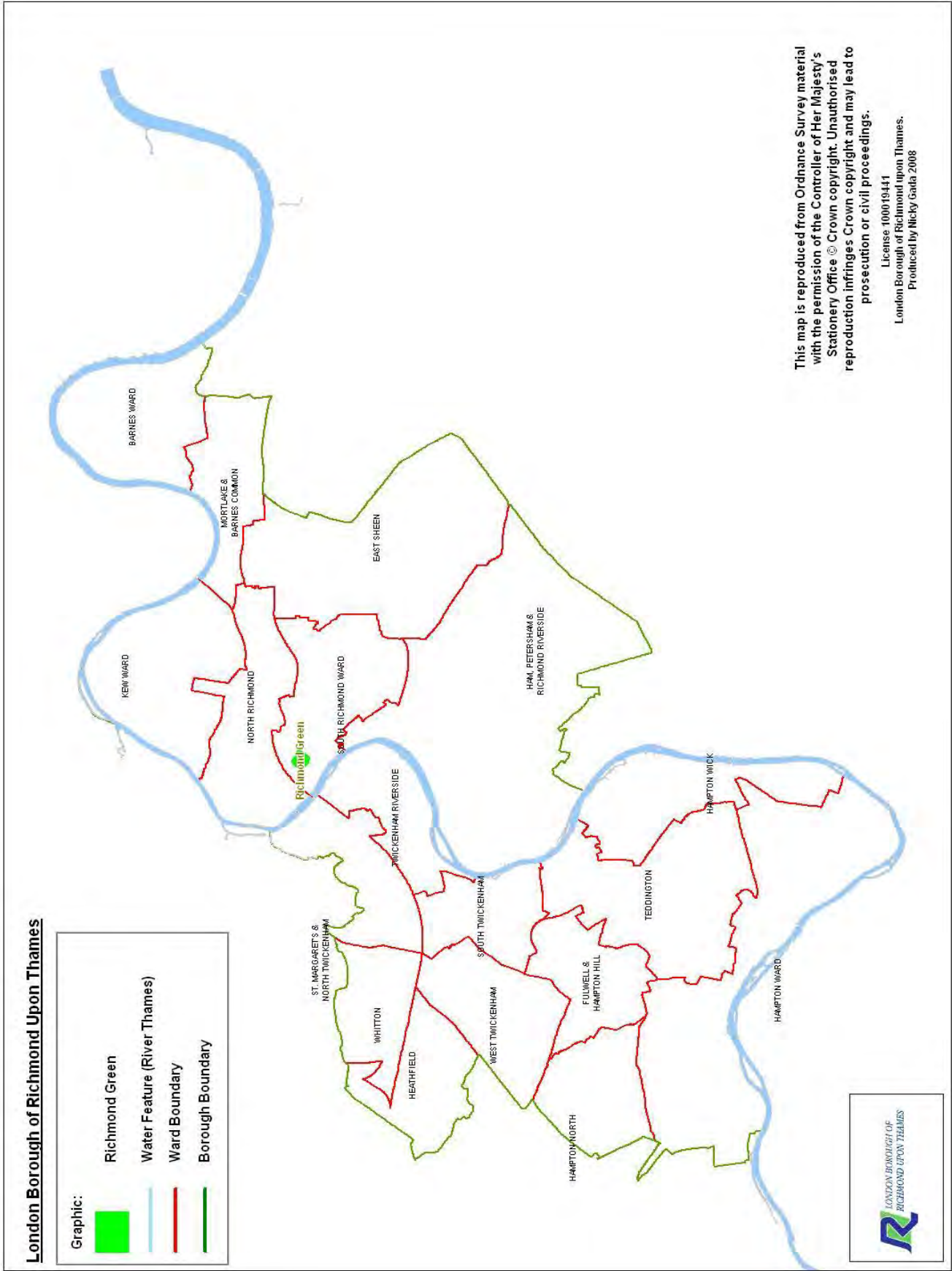
Historic records show that it was last restored as a drinking fountain in 1977 and opened by the then Mayor of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. In September 2021, 44 years on from the last restoration, Her Worship the Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames - Councillor Suzette Nicholson and her Consort – officially opened the restored drinking fountain.

Adjacent to The Green there are two listed Sir Gilbert Scott telephone boxes which FoRG believe are a unique pair within the borough. One is owned by the Council and one is privately owned.

4.2.7 Maps and Plans

On the following pages, please find:

- Location map of Richmond Green within the borough
- Plan map of Richmond Green
- Aerial photo of Richmond Green





Richmond Green aerial photograph



5. Audit of facilities

5.1 The main reasons for undertaking a local assessment are:

- to plan positively, creatively and effectively in identifying priority areas for improvement and to ensure, as much as possible, that there are appropriate types of parks and open spaces provided
- to work towards ensuring an adequate provision of high quality, accessible green space to meet the needs of the community
- to identify the gap between current and desired levels of need and demand, quality and quantity of provision
- to assist in achieving standards such as the Green Flag Award and London in Bloom

5.2. Desirable Outcomes of the Local Assessment

A local assessment of green space will enable planning to be effective and achieve key outcomes required by the National Planning Policy Framework.

These are:

- provision of accessible, high quality park space for sport and recreation that meet the identified needs of residents and visitors;
- provision of a park that is ‘fit for purpose’ – the right type in the right place;
- to provide an appropriate balance between new provision and enhancement of existing provision;
- setting locally derived provision standards.

5.2.1 It is intended that this management plan helps to achieve these outcomes in terms of providing an analysis of existing provision and a plan to effectively maintain and, where appropriate, develop the facilities and infrastructure of the Green.

5.2.2 In addition, it produces a series of actions which will help to achieve the standards laid down for Green Flag Award parks:

- A welcoming place;
- Healthy, safe and secure;
- Clean and well-maintained;
- Sustainability;
- Conservation and heritage;
- Community involvement;
- Marketing; and
- Management.

5.3 Methodology

The methodology used was prescribed in the Government’s Planning Policy Guideline note 17 (PPG17) for the provision of public open space. This consisted of a review of the following key areas of provision:

- Main entrance;
- Boundaries;
- Roads, paths, cycle ways and access;
- Parking;
- Information available;
- Planted areas;
- Grass areas;
- Cleanliness;
- Provision of litter bins;
- Seating;
- Children’s play space;
- Buildings including toilets;
- Health and safety;
- Nature conservation value; and
- Access for people with disabilities

5.3.1 Main Entrance

There is no main entrance on to the Green. As there is no fence around most of Richmond Green, access is possible at virtually any point. The majority of people entering or passing across the Green, use the path network (see plan and aerial maps of the site). These main entrance points are kept clean, tidy, well-maintained and inviting. The signage is clear and well positioned so as to be obvious but unobtrusive.

5.3.2 Boundaries

The boundary to the Green is marked by mature trees and is as a result clearly defined. There is a section of post and rail fencing approximately 50m long on the Maids of Honour Row side of the Green. This is in good condition. Beyond the trees the Green is surrounded by public pavement with the exception of a section along the Pembroke Villas side of the Green. The boundary is well-maintained.

5.3.3 Roads, Paths, Cycleways and Access

There are several footpaths crossing the Green. Materials are all-weather in composition, are level, and offer unstepped disabled access. During 2009 all pathways across the Green were resurfaced with Heritage Gravel. The levelling and re-turfing/reseeding of the grass areas that adjoin the pathways was completed in spring 2010.

At the corner of the Green that leads to the car park situated off the A316, there was a well-worn desire line that stretched some 30 metres onto the Green. In autumn 2009 this area was built up with topsoil, levelled and re-turfed.

5.3.4 Parking

Richmond Green does not have a car park. It would not be practical or desirable to create a car park in a green space of this nature.

The nearest car park, situated off the A316, is approximately five minutes' walk from the Green. There is also a car park in Friars Lane carpark and public car parking available around the Green.

5.3.5 Information

Information relating to Richmond Green is available on the parks section of the Council website: www.richmond.gov.uk

The parks signage is attractive and durable giving appropriate contact details. It uses easily understandable symbols to deter users from inappropriate and anti-social behaviour. In addition, there is an attractive interpretative board that gives interesting information about the history of the Green and the nearby remnants of Richmond Palace.

5.3.6 Cleanliness

Due to the heavy usage of the Green, litter can be an issue. Extra litter picking and collection takes place at peak times during the summer, as part of the management of the site (see below).

5.3.7 Planted Areas

There are no shrub or flower beds on Richmond Green. As indicated above, trees mark the boundary of the Green. The majority of these trees are mature. They appear healthy and well maintained.

5.3.8 Scenic Quality

The Green is very attractive and is obviously an important historical asset to the local town, its people and the many visitors to the borough. Many of the houses and businesses that surround the Green have a rich history dating back, in some cases, several hundred years. They offer attractive views across the Green. The mature treescape adds considerably to the scenic appeal of the Green.

5.3.9 **Grass Areas**

The grass is in a reasonable condition given the number of people who walk across the Green, particularly during weekends and holiday periods. Maintenance and renovation is likely to be an ongoing concern. The areas under many of the mature trees that surround the Green was very worn and compacted. This was particularly true of the areas under the trees on the southerly side of the Green where there was particularly heavy wear.

In December 2008 this area of grass referred to above was re-turfed with shade tolerant species. It was over-seeded in April 2010 and March 2011.

5.3.10 **Provision of Litter Bins**

There are plenty of litter bins on the Green. These are spaced evenly around the perimeter, leaving little excuse for users to drop litter on the ground. The construction of the bins is solid. Most are in good condition.

5.3.11 **Seating**

Some of the benches are in a poor state of repair and Friends of Richmond Green is working with Continental Landscapes to identify which benches need replacing. The plinths are also being standardised to avoid erosion and bare and muddy patches in front of the benches

5.3.12 **Children's Play Space**

There is no playground on Richmond Green, and it is unlikely to be provided here. It is felt that a playground would not be appropriate on a site of such heritage importance. The Green can be used by younger children for informal ball games.

The nearest playground is situated on the Old Deer Park within fifteen minutes' walk of the Green.

5.3.13 **Buildings, including toilets**

There are no toilets on the Green. However, many shops in Richmond's town centre take part in the Council's Community Shared Toilet Scheme.

The only building is a 'keepers hut' made of wood. This is used principally for storage. The hut is in reasonable condition and is kept clean of graffiti.

5.3.14 **Health and Safety**

Health and safety is not a major problem on Richmond Green. The footpath network has been resurfaced (see above) addressing previous concerns about possible trip hazards. Work to ensure that there is a level surface between the paths and the surrounding is being completed.

5.3.15 **Nature Conservation Value**

Richmond Green currently holds little conservation value, as the area is a formal recreational ground, although the trees around the periphery of the site provide a

valuable habitat for birds, bats, invertebrates and fungi within an urban setting. The trees also provide valuable sight lines and wildlife corridors for bats and other wildlife to get to important feeding areas such as Old Deer Park and the River Thames. Opportunities to enhance biodiversity on Richmond Green are limited since the area is principally amenity grassland. However, the mature trees provide food and shelter for insects and birds and a number of bird and bat boxes have been installed.

5.3.16 Access for people with disabilities

This factor has been included not only to ensure maximum accessibility for those in wheelchairs, for the elderly, and the less able-bodied; but also to ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act. Access to the Green is good.

6. Vision and Objectives for the Green

6.1 The Vision for the Green is to:

“Maintain and improve the Green so as to continue to provide opportunities for outdoor contemplation, recreation and education in keeping with its urban location, its heritage and history.”

6.2 Aims and Objectives for the Management of the Green

- Ensure that the Green is a place that is secure, safe to use and is clean and well maintained.
- To ensure that the management of the landscape maintains the character of the Green.
- To ensure that the Green is promoted and managed in order to provide a high quality service.
- To continue to encourage and promote community involvement in the management of the Green.
- To ensure that the management of the Green protects and enhances the biodiversity of the site.
- To ensure that the Green is managed sustainably.

7. Management of the Green

7.1 Introduction

This section sets out guidelines and general principles to be followed in delivering the vision and objectives outlined above.

7.1.1 The Council’s Parks and Open Spaces Service

The Parks Service is overseen by the Head of Culture, assisted by the Parks Service Manager. It is made up of three teams:

- The Operations team is responsible for liaising with contractors and monitoring the parks. The team includes a parks operations manager, a parks officer, an ecology officer and a support officer.
- The Development team which is responsible for consultation and the planning and initiation of projects. The team consists of a group of local expert consultants coordinated by the Service Manager and assisted by the parks officer.
- The Arboricultural team is responsible for all street trees and arboricultural work in council-managed parks and open spaces, as well as assisting with planning issues. The team consists of a manager, four tree officers and a support officer.

We value diversity and are committed to delivering a service that puts equality of opportunity as a priority.

Management of the park needs to deliver high standards of maintenance of all aspects of the soft and hard landscaping of the park within existing revenue budgets. Developments have been funded by major borough-wide capital investment Parks Improvement Programmes between 2005 and 2010 and 2012 and 2017.

7.1.2 Delivery partners

The Council works closely with the Friends of Richmond Green in consulting with local people regarding their views of the facilities and any impact that is made on their lives. Continued working with the Friends has a very high priority in relation to the continued management of the park.

For parks maintenance, a new approach was introduced from April 2013, with services split into eleven separate lots and being delivered through a framework contract. In broad terms maintenance will be carried out by the contractors' operatives who have the necessary skills to achieve high and consistent standards. As a framework, the contracts will also be available for other authorities and organisations in London and the south-east of England.

Parks Framework contract: February 2018 – February 2021 (renewed March 2021 – 2025)

Following an open and thorough procurement process that began in spring 2017, contractors were appointed to seven service areas to start 36 month contracts in February 2018 (now renewed to 2025). Evaluation was on an 80% cost and 20% quality basis.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Amenity Landscape Management | 5 Parks Patrol |
| 2 Arboriculture Management | 6 Events Management |
| 3 Oak Processionary Moth management | 7 External Planting |
| 4 Play Inspection & Maintenance | |

Procurement was written in an output style with built-in quality measures and performance indicators, and asking qualifying contractors to design excellent services using their knowledge and experience.

Relevance to Richmond Green

Continental Landscapes are the main grounds contractor, undertaking amenity management (grass cutting, shrubs, hedges, sports bookings and pitch maintenance), small works (hard landscaping, infrastructure and furniture installation, etc.) gate locking operations, plus undertaking play inspection and maintenance. They also undertake parks cleansing alongside existing street cleansing and graffiti removal to create a joined-up operation.

KPS are the arboricultural contractor, working closely with the Council’s tree team who undertake inspections and specify works, with Bartlett Tree Experts undertaking Oak Processionary Moth management.

Events in parks are managed by The Event Umbrella, a company who specialise in managing outdoor events in the public sector.

Park patrols are undertaken by Parkguard, a company specialising in education, support services and enforcement in parks and open spaces.

7.2 A Welcoming Place

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that Richmond Green continues to be a welcoming area.

7.2.1 Graffiti removal

As a part of our aim to make the Borough safe, green and clean we are committed to reducing and removing graffiti. The Green will be inspected daily for graffiti. The full details of the borough’s commitment to the prompt removal of graffiti can be viewed at: www.richmond.gov.uk

There is an agreement with the Council’s street cleansing contractor, Continental Landscapes Ltd, to manage the removal of all graffiti within five working days. Where the graffiti is offensive it will be removed within one working day of notification.

7.2.2 Signage

The signage will be kept clean and will be regularly inspected. Any necessary repairs will be carried out promptly.

7.2.3 Pathways

All paths will be inspected annually with regular monitoring throughout the year. Any necessary repairs will be carried out as promptly as possible.

7.3 Healthy, Safe and Secure

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that Richmond Green continues to be a healthy, safe and secure place.

7.3.1 Community Safety

All contractors working on the Green undertake an important role in terms of a visible staff presence and structure their maintenance work accordingly. All contractors are uniformed and wear highly visible clothing.

In addition, the local Police Safer Neighbourhood team and our wardening contractor Parkguard regularly patrol the Green on foot to monitor behaviour and deter any incidents of anti-social behaviour. Any incidents are recorded and logged within Parkguard’s patrol reports.

7.3.2 Dog fouling

The Council and their contractors make efforts to educate dog owners to be responsible for their dog’s waste as the dangers of humans coming into contact with dog faeces are well known.

Signage clearly indicates that dog mess should be picked up and disposed of by those walking their pets.

The Council has phased out dog bins and replaced these with multi-use bins. All general waste bins can be used to dispose of dog waste.

The Council has adopted dog control orders.

7.4 Clean and Well Maintained

The following regimes are designed to ensure that the Green is clean and well maintained.

7.4.1 Grass Maintenance

Grass within the Green is classed as amenity grass. Amenity turf is those areas used for general passive recreation and formal sports, in this case cricket, and can include wide-open spaces or those areas planted with trees and shrubs. The height of this grass is kept between 15 and 25mm throughout the year.

The level of maintenance will depend on the level of use, with increased repairs, fertilising, and scarifying of those areas subject to heavy wear. Most repair works to turf will be carried out in the autumn or spring, with areas either re-turfed or seeded.

Grass edges, whether they are against paths, fences or walls will be cut at the same time as the rest of the grass using strimmers in most areas.

7.4.2 Trees

Trees within parks are subject to inspection by suitably qualified and experienced Arboriculturalists, this is in order to identify and remedy any unacceptable risks to people using the sites, an example of this is the prophylactic treatment of oak processionary moth or the removal of trees that are extensively decayed compromising their structural integrity.

Tree pruning is only carried out where necessary for risk management purposes or where formative pruning is necessary; this approach allows Richmond's parks to retain a natural landscape with well-formed specimens. Where there is a particular characteristic by way of species composition, size or natural distribution the Council seeks to maintain this through selecting appropriate replacement and new trees. All tree works are in accordance with our Tree Management Policy.

Richmond Council encourages the Friends of Richmond Green to consider the tree population within parks and to communicate with the parks and open spaces team in order to make improvements and ensure that there is continuity in the way that the trees are managed.

Richmond Green is surrounded by perimeter plantings of plane and lime trees. Limes form historic single and double avenues on the Green; some are estimated to be at least 140 years old. Their location and age gives them heritage status. The mature plane to the south east, which were planted around eighty years ago, provide considerable amenity and refuge for shade seekers during hot summer periods.

7.4.3 Cleansing

The collection of litter is extremely important in maintaining the appearance of the Green and has a direct effect upon how people treat and respect the site. Litter is collected on a daily basis at around 7am by our park cleansing contractor. From 11am there is an additional static member of staff who litter picks both Richmond Green and Richmond Riverside Complex for 8 hours a day.

The park cleansing contractors carry out litter picking, emptying of litterbins and the sweeping/blowing of paths. This applies to all surfaces, paths, lawns and beds.

When the Green has high numbers of visitors and large amounts of litter is expected the parks cleansing contractors will carry out additional visits to empty the bins and provide additional bins to help manage the high usage. In addition, the bins are cleaned and disinfected quarterly to avoid an unsightly accumulation of dirt.

7.4.4 Park Furniture and Fittings

The grounds maintenance contractors ensure that all furniture is clean and will check benches, notice boards and bins on a regular basis. Items will be cleaned on a monthly basis or more frequently when heavily used. Repairs will be carried out promptly. Any single replacement or repair will match the existing furniture so that the style of the seat remains consistent.

7.4.5 Hard Surfaces

Hard surfaces will be kept clean with litter swept from surfaces regularly by the grounds, maintenance contractor.

Hard surfaces will be maintained in a weed free state with spot treatment weed spraying between March and November. Paths will be kept in a good state of repair

and all paths being inspected annually and any repairs ordered to be carried out between March and November.

Drains and gully's are inspected regularly.

7.4.6 Sports Facility Maintenance

The public are able to book the cricket table from April to August. The maintenance of the cricket table is as follows:

- The Council's grounds maintenance contractor maintains the table
- The table is cut weekly
- Wickets are prepared as and when booked
- It is fertilised in April, July and September
- At the end of the season the table is scarified in 4 directions, spiked and top dressed with loam soil.

7.5 Sustainability

The following regimes are designed to ensure that the Green is managed in a sustainable way.

7.5.1 Recycling

At present we do not have recycling facilities available in this park. However, residents can recycle at some of our other parks and open spaces as well as the cafes situated within them.

7.5.2 Recycling green waste

The Council's ground maintenance contractor takes all green waste to Townsmead recycling centre

7.5.3 Pesticides

Pesticides are used as and when necessary however this is kept to an absolute minimum in the interests of nature conservation and ecology. An Integrated Weed Management policy has been developed to assist decision-making

7.6 Community Involvement

This is crucial to the management of the Green. Engagement with the local community is primarily carried out by working with the long-established Friends of Richmond Green.

7.6.1 Parks Events

The Council's policy is to encourage the hire of parks to appropriate organisations, particularly if this is seen as being of benefit to a local community. The Friends of Richmond Green and local ward councillors are consulted before permission is granted for any new event.

There are a limited number of established events – currently three charity events. Most notable of these is the Richmond May Fair which is an important annual community event in aid of local charities and community groups. The Richmond May Fair celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2019 and was organised by Be Richmond.

Richmond Green has a particular historical significance, and this has led to sensitive management of this special place. To this end the Council has worked with the Friends of Richmond Green to preserve the Green’s special character.

Events are held in accordance with the Parks and Open Spaces Events Policy found at: www.richmond.gov.uk

Friends of Richmond Green has worked with the Council’s Film Office to draw up a set of guidelines for filming on Richmond Green and in surrounding areas. This covers filming times, parking arrangements, catering, litter, noise, lighting and communications.

7.7 Marketing

Promotion and marketing of Richmond Green is carried out using a range of measures, including the Council’s website and publicity literature, to ensure that local people and visitors to the borough are aware of the facility.

Entrance Signage

A corporate style of signage for Richmond’s parks and open spaces was launched in 2007.

Internet

Information about Richmond Green is available on the council’s website and can be accessed from the Parks and Open Spaces link: www.richmond.gov.uk

Information on the Friends of Richmond Green can be found at: <http://www.forg.org.uk/>. The Friends can be contacted at: mail@FoRG.org.uk

General Promotion

In order to create community awareness for all of its facilities the Parks Service regularly and systematically produces articles and press releases about activities and facility development.

8 Achievements and Action Plan

8.1 Achievements

Changes and improvements made to Richmond Green in 2020-21 were:

- Work commenced to restore the grade II listed stone drinking fountain funded by Friends of Richmond Green .
- Local community groups cleaned the bollards on The Green
- Continuous upgrade of benches through the memorial bench programme
- Provided temporary toilets for use during the pandemic

8.2 Action Plan

The following action plan is divided into seven sections:

Item of work and location	Year		Timing	Resources
	2022	2023		
Looking to arrange a series of volunteer days to paint the railings that surround the green.	Y			Parks Team & Friends group
Bench plinths to be increased in size to avoid erosion and compaction	Y	Y	Ongoing	Funded by the Friends of Richmond Green with works undertaken by Continental Landscapes
Undertake review of soil compaction and very worn areas underneath trees with a view to re-seeding with fescue grass		Y	Autumn 2022	Parks Team & Continental Landscapes

8.2.1 Development and Renewal

As indicated previously, while the Council is open to the changing demands from the local community with regards to facilities within any of the borough’s parks, major changes to or developments of the Green’s facilities are not envisaged. Richmond Green is a site of great heritage value. The major challenge is to maintain high standards of maintenance and to plan for effective repair and renewal of the major elements of a park’s hard landscaping or infrastructure e.g. path system.

8.2.2 Community Engagement

The Parks team intends to continue to work with the Friends of Richmond Green. The Council has consulted and will continue to consult with the Friends and local ward councillors in relation to any applications hold events on the Green. We are committed to being receptive to concerns and suggestions voiced individually or through community groups.

8.3 Operational Commitments

This is presented in tabular form and includes the most important elements of the day to day maintenance of the Green, grass cutting, trees and shrubs, litter collection and maintenance of parks furniture. Monitoring and inspection duties are included. Biodiversity management and initiatives are also included in this section

and will work to the guidelines as set out in our Nature Conservation Policy Statement.

Element	Action	Frequency
Grass Maintenance	Kept to a height of between 15mm & 25mm	Cut approximately every 10 days during the growing season
Tree maintenance	Inspection Replacing and expanding variety and stock	Annual As required
Litter collection	Litter picking Emptying of bins	Daily Daily
Graffiti	Removal of obscene/offensive Removal of other	Within 24 hours Within 5 working days
Parks furniture	Clean and paint Repair/replace	Annual As required
Monitoring of contract	Monitoring	Weekly inspection with contractors
Infrastructure inspection	Inspection	Annual

8.4 Conclusion

This Management Plan is not ‘set in stone’. It provides a framework and guidelines that enable the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to manage the site to a high standard in a sustainable way. The Council is open to the changing needs of local communities and will continue to work closely with the Friends of Richmond Green. The Plan will run from January 2022 to December 2023. An interim progress update will be undertaken in January 2023.