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Carlisle Park Management Plan

January 2022 – December 2023

Carlisle Park Management Plan 2022-23: Foreword

Carlisle Park is an important space for local people and visitors. The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames will maintain and manage the park to the highest standards in accordance with our strategic principles and policies.

This management plan is based on the use of an audit of the park 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 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 will be consulted on any proposed changes or improvements to facilities and infrastructure. In particular, the borough works closely with the Friends of Carlisle Park. We actively encourage suggestions about all aspects of the park.

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

Whilst the Council is open to the changing needs of the local community with regards to facilities within any of the borough's parks, Carlisle Park is a long established local green space that is well maintained. Major changes to the park or its facilities are not envisaged. The action plan at the end of this document reflects this perspective.

The current financial situation will inevitably have a detrimental effect on the resources available to improve and maintain the borough's parks and open spaces. The borough will continue to work closely with its partners, in this case Continental Landscapes and the Friends of Carlisle Park, 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 Carlisle Park provides guidance for the management and any relevant development of the park. 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 site.

The Plan includes an Action Plan, which we aim to achieve within the remit of current budgets. The Plan has been drafted for a broad audience interested in the development of the park namely:

- The Friends of Carlisle Park 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 January 2023.

2. National Context

2.1 Parks are managed areas of the green environment providing 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:

Social

- providing safe outdoor areas for all members of 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 Aims and Objectives

The Council 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 2016-2020

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 centers 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 public consultation, we developed a series of strategic principles by which the parks will be managed:

The strategic principles are as follows:

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 Open 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 Carlisle Park

Carlisle Park was bought by Hampton UDC in the 1920's following acquisition by Middlesex County Council from the estate of Lord Carlisle.

Carlisle Park takes its name from George James Howard, 9th Earl of Carlisle (12 August 1843 – 16 April 1911). George was known as George Howard until 1889, and was an English aristocrat, politician and painter. He graduated from Cambridge where he studied at Heatherley School of Fine Art in London.

Howard was Liberal Party Member of Parliament for East Cumberland between 1879 and 1880 and again between 1881 and 1885. He succeeded in the earldom in 1889 on the death of his Uncle William Howard, 8th Earl of Carlisle.

4.2 General Information

4.2.1 Land Tenure

The site is owned by the London Borough of Richmond and is managed by the Parks and Open Spaces Service.

The enabling acts which confer the specified powers to the Council to administer and maintain the land are listed below:

- Open Spaces Act 1906;
- Local Government Act 1972; and
- Local Government, Planning & Land Act 1980.

4.2.2 Location

Carlisle Park is situated in Hampton, in the south-west of Richmond-upon-Thames borough, close to the western boundary of Bushy Park. The park boundaries are shared with residential properties and Hampton Prep School.

4.2.3 Access

Carlisle Park has three entrances – west, east and south. The site is open between dawn and dusk, unlocked Monday to Saturday by 7.30am and by 9am on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Closing time varies according to sunset, from 4.30pm between October and January to 9.30pm in June and July.

The park is a free and open facility with fully inclusive access to local residents and visitors to the area. There is a car park located within the site.

4.2.4 Local Transport

Train: Hampton rail station is a 7 minute (0.4 mile) walk from the south gate in Wensleydale Gardens.

The station is on the Shepperton branch line from London Waterloo via Kingston in Travel card Zone 6. The station is typically served four South West Trains services each hour, with additional services at peak times.

Bus: R70 bus between Nurserylands Shopping Centre and Richmond serves Broad Lane (4 minute / 0.2 mile walk to main entrance from Albury Close stop).

111 bus between Heathrow and Kingston serves Percy Road (7 minute walk to main entrance from Holly Bush Lane stop) and Hampton Rail Station.

4.2.5 Landscape & Topography

The park is transected from east to west by an access path between the main (Wensleydale Road) and east (Carlisle Road) entrances. The large southern triangle of the park contains an area of amenity grassland laid out with three football pitches in winter and with a cricket field in the summer. The boundaries of the triangle are edged with mature trees with areas of grass left long for biodiversity.

North of the track is the car park, bowls green with pavilion, toddler and junior childrens’ playgrounds, seven tennis courts and cricket pavilion.

4.2.6 Listed Historic Buildings

There are no listed buildings within the park.

4.2.7 Ecology

Mostly amenity greenspace, the site’s interest is mainly in the mature trees, shrubs and areas of long grass around the boundary of the site.

Common and soprano pipistrelles feed and possibly roost, especially along the line of trees on the south-eastern boundary.

Common garden and woodland birds can be found on site.

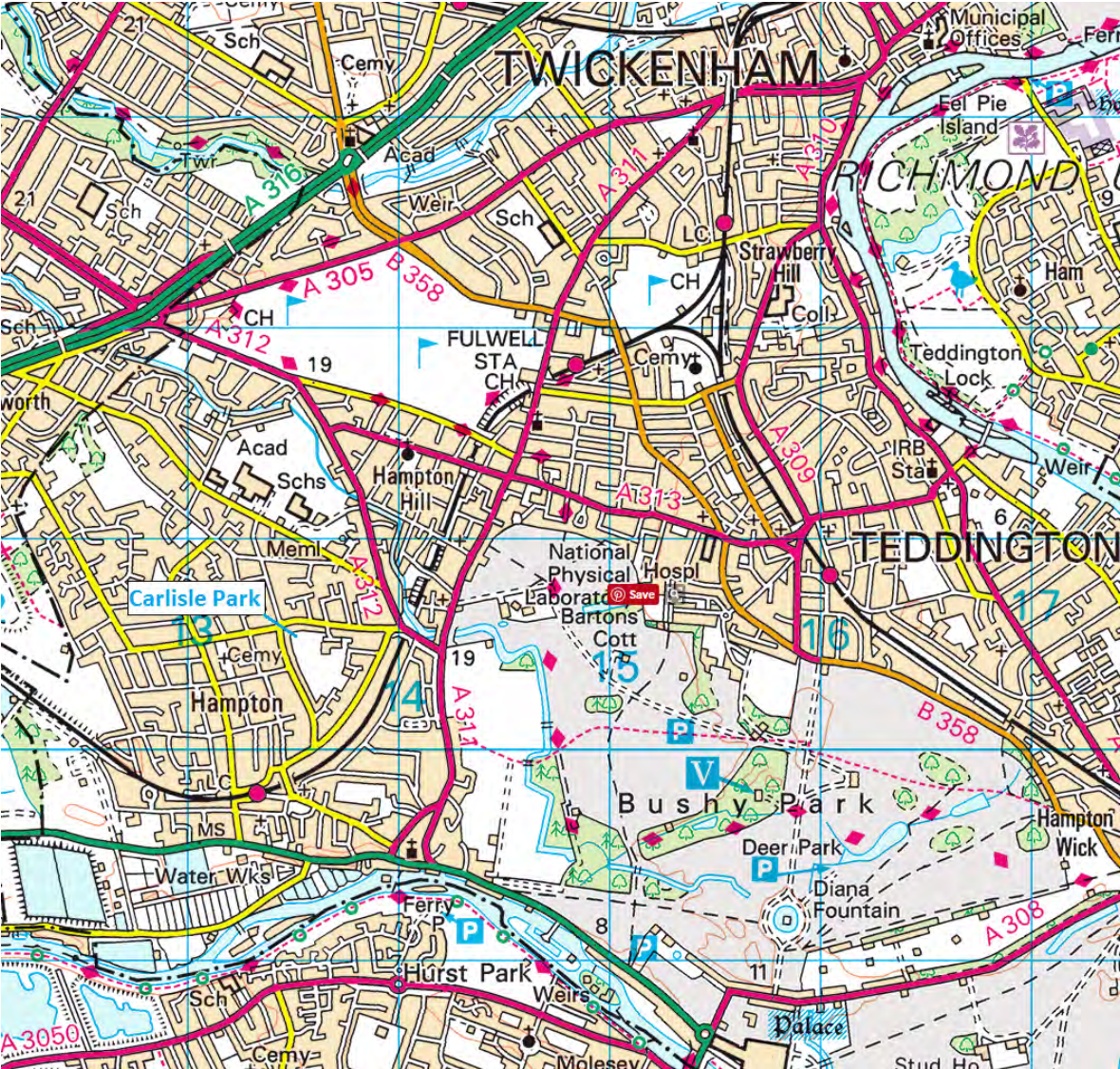
4.2.8 Facilities

Carlisle Park contains the following facilities:

- A children’s play area, equipped and maintained in accordance to ROSPA guidelines.
- Three football pitches
- A pavilion with toilets and a nursery
- A cricket square
- Seven tarmac tennis courts
- Bowls green and pavilion

4.2.9 Maps and Plans

Map 1: Location map of Carlisle Park



Map 2: Plan map of Carlisle Park



Map 3: aerial photo of Carlisle Park



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 required;
- 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 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 Common and Fields.

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, cycleways 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

The main entrance to Carlisle is off Wensleydale Road. A narrow road leads 80m to a car park for 38 vehicles. The entrance way is in a reasonable condition.

5.3.2 Boundaries

The west boundary with houses on Wensleydale Road is a mixture of private fence and hedge maintained by the Council; this is generally in good condition.

The eastern boundary is in three sections, all in good condition. The south-eastern boundary along Wensleydale Gardens comprises a thick hedge backed by railings or fence in places and mature trees; there is a kissing gate in this section. The boundary with Hampton Prep School is tall fencing and hedge with a double line of mature trees. The northern part along Scotts Drive is low metal railings backed by thick hedging and shrubs and includes a gate.

The northern boundary follows an irregular line along the rear of the bowling green – where it is a mixture of private fences and walls, some in poor condition - and tennis courts where there is tall hedging. Behind the toddler playground is an area of former depot space; improvements have been made to improve the boundaries here in recent years by thickening the hedge and reinforcing the fence. The eastern section is fencing and hedging with houses on Garside Close and is in good condition.

5.3.3 Roads, Paths, Cycleways and Access

The entrance road forms part of the main access track that transects the park from west to east across the northern end of the site; this forms one side of a boundary track that continues around the southern triangle. Removable bollards prevent cars entering the park. The paths are generally in good condition.

The main track is well used as a cycleway and signs ask for pedestrians to be given priority.

5.3.4 Parking

There is free parking for 38 vehicles within the site from Wensleydale Road. Parking is not permitted on the entrance road as this narrows it too much for emergency vehicles.

5.3.5 Gate Locking

The park is locked during the hours of darkness and details are displayed on site via posters. There is further information on our [website](#).

5.3.6 Information

Information relating to Carlisle Park is available on the parks section of the Richmond 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. The Friend' group have a noticeboard provided by Richmond Council which the Friends maintain.

5.3.7 Cleanliness

Litter and dog fouling are not frequent problems on the site.

5.3.8 Planted Areas

There are shrub beds and borders at several locations around the park, with joint work taking place on these by the Parks team, the Friends and the contractor.

The boundaries of the sites include long sections of mature hedge and shrub.

Wildflower turf mats were laid by the tennis courts in autumn 2014 – with some bulbs planted beneath – and have established well.

The area outside the pavilion was planted as a Mediterranean bed in November 2015 after existing planting was removed and the yew tree cut back.

The long beds along the entrance track from Wensleydale Road. The south side was cleared and a vigorous bamboo controlled before new shrub planting took place in autumn 2015. Wooden bollards have been installed to protect the bed from vehicles.

Dead trees and shrubs are replaced with reference to the long term plan, which enshrines a wish to replace some of the evergreens with deciduous, colourful, wildlife-friendly plans, including some natives.

5.3.9 Scenic Quality

Carlisle Park’s mature landscape gives it good local landscape value, especially through the mature trees along the fringes.

5.3.10 Grass Areas

Most of the area is amenity grassland. This is in fairly good condition and fares well in winter considering the relatively heavy playing burden from local football clubs and the school. Reinstatement works are ongoing; these include verti-draining, spiking, harrowing and over seeding.

5.3.11 Provision of Litter Bins

Provision of litter bins is sufficient, particularly in the areas along the main track around entrances, playgrounds and pavilion.

Dog waste can now be disposed of in normal litter bins and these bins are emptied daily by the Council’s street cleansing contractor.

5.3.12 Seating

There is plenty of seating available in the park. There are 12 benches in total and these are found within the playground area, outside the pavilion and around the boundary path.

5.3.13 Children’s Play Space

Both playgrounds are in good condition and have appropriate signage. The junior play area in particular contains more equipment which is physically challenging to help introduce children to more controlled risk.

5.3.14 Buildings, including toilets

There are three buildings on the site.

The main pavilion houses toilets, cricket changing rooms and is used by a day nursery. A drinking fountain is available outside the main pavilion.

The bowls pavilion houses a social area, kitchen and changing facilities.

At the southern end is a former seasonal parks office and storage facility; this is now disused, but the exterior of the building remains in good condition.

5.3.15 Health and Safety

The paths and the playground are in good condition and present no obvious dangers to members of the public.

5.3.16 Nature Conservation Value

Common and soprano pipistrelles feed, and possibly roost, along the line of mature trees on the south-eastern boundary. To help the bats, areas of grass are now being left long to provide habitat for insects.

Common garden and woodland birds can be found on site.

A loggery is well established near to the southern entrance (Wensleydale Gardens) for stag beetles and other invertebrates.

The Mediterranean border provides an excellent habitat for pollinators, the plant species having been chosen for their pollen and nectar provision.

5.3.17 Access for people with disabilities

Access is good throughout the site. The tarmac paths are in good condition and no facilities are inaccessible for those with mobility difficulties.

6. Vision and Objectives for the park

6.1 Vision for Carlisle Park

In line with the wishes of the local community and as a result of the development of this Management Plan, the future vision for the Carlisle Park is to:

To protect and enhance Carlisle Park and its flora and fauna as a community resource available for all.

6.2 Aims and Objectives for Carlisle Park

- To achieve the long-term Planting Strategy, providing a coherent approach to soft landscaping, maintaining the park’s character as the plants mature and increasing the horticultural and biodiversity value of the park.
- To ensure that all landscape improvement works are supported by a commitment to maintenance of the same.
- To ensure that all park facilities are well maintained in order to provide a high-quality service for the people using them.
- To consider relocating the toddler playground to the main play area and re-using the space – perhaps as a wildlife garden.
- To encourage and promote community involvement in the on-going management and development of Carlisle Park, consulting and working closely with the Friends of Carlisle Park.

7. Management of the Common and Fields

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 2018.

7.1.2 Delivery partners

The Council works and consults with the Friends of Carlisle Park. This assists the Council to work in harmony with users’ and residents’ views and ensure direct local input into the 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 Carlisle Park

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 Carlisle Park 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 park 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

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 defect 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 the park continues to be a healthy, safe and secure place.

7.3.1 Community Safety

All contractors working in the park 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.

Parkguard regularly patrol the park between Friday afternoon and Sunday evening. In addition, the local Police Safer Neighbourhood team regularly visits the park.

7.3.2 Dogs

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 is currently in the process of phasing out dog bins and replacing these with multi-use bins. All general waste bins can be used to dispose of dog waste.

The Council has Dog Control Orders and with regard to Carlisle Park these prohibit fouling and limit an individual to walking a maximum of six dogs. These orders may be converted to Public Spaces Protection Orders during 2017.

7.4 Clean and well maintained

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

7.4.1 Grass Maintenance

Grass surfaces within the park are mainly classed as amenity grass.

Amenity turf is those areas used for general recreation and formal and informal sports 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 are 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 trimmers in most areas.

The cricket wicket area is maintained by the cricket club; the outfield is maintained by the Council's contractor.

Agreed, designated long grass areas are to be left unmown until September. This includes the former depot area behind the toddlers' playground, the logger area and the bulbed areas under the lime trees.

7.4.2 Trees

Trees within parks are subject to inspection by suitably qualified and experienced arboriculturalists 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 Carlisle Park 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.

The mature trees of the site are dominated by species of lime (*Tilia*). Diversification of these trees to the *Rosaceae* family is under discussion.

A small grove of seven silver birch trees was planted on the edge of the amenity grass in April 2016.

7.4.3 Cleansing

The collection of litter is extremely important in maintaining the appearance of the park and has a direct effect upon how people treat and respect the site. Litter is collected on a daily basis before 10.30am each day by the park cleansing contractors.

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 park has high numbers of visitors and large amounts of litter is expected the cleansing contractors will carry out additional visits to empty the bins. The full litter bags will be collected and removed from the site on the same day. In addition, the bins are cleaned and disinfected quarterly to avoid an unsightly accumulation of dirt.

The park cleansing contractors also maintain the public toilets and drinking fountain.

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 requested by contractors on a Defect Report and carried out promptly. Any single replacement or repair will match the existing furniture, so that the style of the seat remains consistent.

Playgrounds are inspected twice a week by the grounds maintenance contractor and any hazards identified are dealt with accordingly. In addition, there is an annual inspection to ensure that the playground meets ROSPA standards.

7.4.5 Hard Surfaces

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

Hard surfaces will be maintained in a weed free state (with spot treatment weed spraying only where absolutely needed between March and November). Paths will be kept in a good state of repair; all paths being inspected annually and any repairs ordered to be carried out between March and November.

Drains and gulleys will be inspected regularly by the attendant and Parks Patrol. Kerb edges are swept twice a week and cleared of all litter

7.5 Sports Facility Maintenance

All sports surfaces are maintained in accordance with the needs of each sport.

Football Pitches, 7 A Side & Junior

- The public are able to book the football pitches from September to April.
- During the playing season, they are over-marked weekly and spiked and chain harrowed monthly.
- At the end of the playing season the posts are removed and sockets covered.
- The pitches are over seeded with a rye grass mixture.

Cricket Table

- Used by a number of local clubs
- The table is maintained by Hampton Cricket Club

Tennis Courts

- The courts are jet washed annually to remove moss and debris from the playing surface.
- Nets are replaced when required.

7.6 Environmental Sustainability

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

7.6.1 Recycling

Recycling bins were installed in 2013 by the end of the vehicle entrance that comes from Wensleydale Road.

7.6.2 Recycling green waste

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

7.6.3 Pesticides

The use of pesticides will be minimised as much as possible in the interests of nature conservation and ecology. An Integrated Weed Management policy has been developed to assist decision-making.

7.6.4 Biodiversity

Current Management

The Friends group, the Parks team and contractors have worked together to diversify this amenity greenspace for wildlife in recent years.

Common and soprano pipistrelles feed and possibly roost, along the line of mature trees on the south-eastern boundary. To help the bats, areas of grass are now being

left longer to provide habitat for insects.

Advice from bat and bird experts has been well received and it is duly noted to maintain tree lines, create areas of long grass and to retain dead wood, and create thickets within the park. A number of bat and bird boxes have been installed on suitable trees. Areas of long grass have been set up to encourage wildflowers to self-seed and to provide habitats and food for insects, including butterflies and moths which in turn provide food for bats and birds.

Arisings from felling and pruning trees are also used to create habitat piles around the park boundaries and tree trunks are left standing where possible to provide habitat. Deadwood is essential habitat for insects, birds and bats. Some autumn leaves are to be left on borders to protect soil and provide cover for hedgehogs and invertebrates. The park is lockt at night and so is dog free which is good for hedgehogs, bats and other wildlife. The Friends of Carlisle Park encourages neighboring properties to reduce/prevent light from spilling into the park.

Tree lines and hedges are important aids to navigation for bats and form dark tunnels where pipistrelles like to feed. The Council has recently added three Wild Service trees to fill in the tree line near the south boundary.

A loggery is well established near to the southern entrance (Wensleydale Gardens) which is supporting invertebrates, particularly stag beetles which have long larval stages living within the decaying wood. The Friends of Carlisle Park are currently consulting on creating additional areas of long grass and native flowers/shrubs to provide cover and food for emerging insects.

Tree lines and hedge

The Mediterranean border provides an excellent habitat for pollinators, having been chosen for its pollen and nectar provision.

The meadow area provides further interest for plants and invertebrates, by providing more diverse species type and longer grasses

Future Management/Proposals:

The continuing Planting Strategy will improve habitat and food for invertebrates and birds. The Friends Group and Council will work together to ensure that the long-term plan for tree diversity is met, which is the desire to see less evergreen and more deciduous, colourful and wildlife-friendly planting.

The site is also being surveyed to see if hedgehogs are present and if successful this will be developed further. The Friends Group will work to raise local awareness of the needs of hedgehogs, bats and birds and jointly improve the boundary planting, especially on the western boundary. Consideration for drought tolerant plantings will also be taken so to effectively manage the challenges faced by climate change.

The Council and Friends Group will continue to monitor light levels for the benefit of bats and more loggeries, habitat piles, bee hives and bird and bat boxes will be considered where appropriate.

It has been proposed that a wildlife garden could replace the toddler playground if this relocated.

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

7.8 Community Involvement

This is crucial to the management of the common and fields. Engagement with the local community is carried out by working with the Friends of Carlisle Park.

The Friends of Carlisle Park were established in 2013 and have already done much work to improve and promote the park through regular meetings, their work on the Planting Strategy and organizing public events and walks on bats and birds. They have created a dedicated website <http://e-voice.org.uk/friendsofcarlislepark/>

7.8.1 Parks Events

The Council encourages the hire of parks to appropriate organisations. The Friends and ward councilors are consulted before permission is granted for any new event. An evaluation process is held after each event.

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

7.9 Marketing

Promotion and marketing of Carlisle Park 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. It was designed to be attractive and informative.

Internet

Information about the park is available on the council’s website: www.richmond.gov.uk

Information on the Friends of Carlisle Park can be found on the following link: <http://e-voice.org.uk/friendsofcarlislepark/>.

The Friends group can be contacted at: focpark@gmail.com.

General Promotion

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

8. Achievements and Action Plan

8.1 Achievements

Changes and improvements made at Carlisle Park during 2020-21 were:

- Bulb planting around the pavilion perimeter and wildlife area near Wensleydale Gardens
- Replace the toddler playground equipment with new items and relocate in the main playground.

- Transform the former toddler play area into a new inclusive outdoor gym and promote through Friends Group and supplier
- Audit the provision of seating throughout the park, ensuring that they are evenly placed.

8.2 Action Plan

Item of work and location	Year		Timing	Resources
	2022	2023		
Potential to improve the bed by the Carlisle Road entrance	Y	Y	Ongoing	Parks Team and Continental Landscapes
Install a circular bench as part of the Friendly Parks for All Programme.	Y		Winter 2021	Parks Team, Friends Group & Continental Landscapes
Tree planting to be undertaken	Y		Winter 2022	Parks Team & KPS Contractors
Work with a local artist and schools on the designs of mosaics to accommodate the circular bench	Y	Y	Throughout 2022	Parks Team & Friends of Carlisle Park
Encouraging the Friends Group to organise events	Y		All year round	Friends of Carlisle Park
Encouraging the Friends Group to organise walks and talks	Y		All year round	Friends of Carlisle Park

8.2.1 Development and renewal

As indicated previously, while the section is open to changing demands from the local community with regards to facilities within any of the borough’s parks, major changes to or developments of the parks’ facilities are not envisaged. 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 will continue to work with the Friends of Carlisle Park. 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 a park, 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.

Element	Action	Frequency
Grass Maintenance	Kept to a height of between 20mm & 60mm Designated long grass areas are to be unmown and left long until September each year.	10-day cycle
Tree maintenance	Inspection Replanting	Annual As necessary
Shrub Maintenance	Kept weed free Mulching Pruning	As required Annual As required, dependent on species
Litter collection	Collection and emptying	Daily
Cleansing	Cleaning of public toilets and drinking fountain	Daily
Graffiti	Removal of obscene/offensive Removal of other	Within 24 hours Within 5 working days
Parks furniture	Clean and paint Repair/replace	When necessary When necessary
Monitoring of contract	Monitoring	Every three months
Playground inspection	Visual inspection Detailed inspection ROSPA standard	Twice per week Monthly Annual
Infrastructure	Inspection Clearance of paths	Annual When necessary
Biodiversity opportunities and actions	Woodland Management Introduction of bird/bat boxes Hedgehog surveying with a view to improve hedgehog habitat The wildflower meadow (in front of the tennis courts) is cut in September. Consultation on a plan to support the logger by providing long grass, native plants and creating a thicket.	Ongoing Ongoing Spring 2017 Autumn 2017 Ongoing

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 Carlisle Park. The Plan will run from January 2022 to December 2023, with an interim progress update in January 2023.