



# Ham Village Green Management Plan

January 2022 – December 2023

**Ham Village Green Management Plan 2022-23: Foreword**

Ham Village Green is a vitally important asset for local people and visitors to the borough. Therefore, the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames will aspire to maintain and manage the Green to the highest standards.

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. In particular, the borough works closely with the local friends' group 'The Friends of Ham Village Green'. We actively encourage suggestions about all aspects of the park.

While the Council is open to the changing needs of the local community with regards to facilities within any of the borough's parks, the Green is long established and is well maintained. 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 Ham Village 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 practices.

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 Ham Village 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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**1.0 Introduction**

1.1 This Management Plan provides a framework for the management, maintenance and development of the Green for the benefit of the local community and wildlife. 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 in the Gardens.

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 Green namely:

- The Friends of Ham Village 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.

**2.0 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 an attractive place to live and work. This can result in a number of additional benefits such as economic development and regeneration. A park can also play a part in promoting healthy living as it offers the facilities and space 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 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; and
- 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; and
- 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; and
- providing opportunities to reduce transport use through the provision of local facilities and by providing walking and cycling routes through urban areas.

**3.0 Relationship to Council’s 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; and
- greening, attractiveness and biodiversity of the area.

**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 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](http://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 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 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](https://habitatsandheritage.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Biodiversity-Action-Plan-Richmond_compressed.pdf)

**3.4 Parks Improvement**

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

**4.0 Site Description**

**4.1 Outline History of Ham Village Green**

The site on which Ham Village Green now sits was formally farm land. This farm land was gradually sold off and reduced from 306 to 70 acres. The area which is now Ham Close became the home to a number of servicemen, after 100 prefabs were built, following the end of the Second World War. In 1957 the tenant farmer relinquished the farm and the rest of the land was given up to enable the Ham Close development. The site which is now a row of shops, which borders Ham Village Green, was originally the farmhouse which was demolished in 1958

**4.2 Local Plan Designations**

Ham Village Green is designated ‘Public Open Space’ and ‘Other Open Land of Townscape Importance’ within the Council’s Core Strategy. These designations seek to protect and enhance the site for the benefit of the public.

**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**

Ham Village Green is a well utilised green space nestled in the residential area of Ham Close within the suburb of Ham which itself is bounded by the Thames to the south, west and north, and by Richmond Park to the east.

**4.2.3 Access**

As a free and open facility, Ham Village Green has the potential to provide fully inclusive access to local residents and visitors to the area. Pedestrians and those arriving by bus and car can currently access the site.

**4.2.4 Local Transport**

**Bus:** Ham Village Green is served by the 371 which stops on Ashburnham Road.

**4.2.5 Landscape & Topography**

The Green is a generally flat site comprising amenity grass, a wildflower meadow, areas of bulb planting, trees of different age ranges and recreational facilities including an outdoor gym and play facilities for the under 7s, the 7 to 13 age range and the over 13s.

**4.2.6 Listed Buildings**

Although there are no listed buildings within the curtilage of the site, Beaufort House which runs alongside part of the green on Wiggins Lane is grade 2\* listed. Ham Street, of which a part of the green is adjacent to, is a designated conservation area.

**4.2.7 Ecology**

Although the site is generally comprised of amenity grass, which offers limited opportunities for wildlife, many improvements have been made over recent years to diversify the habitats available and encourage nature onto the site. The improvements, which aim to offer a variety of sources of many nectar and pollen-rich plant species for bees and other insects, include:

- Planting of wild and cultivated bulbs chosen to provide nectar for as long as possible through the season;
- Allowing sections of amenity grass to grow longer;
- Installation of a wildflower meadow; and
- Additional tree planting including a selection of fruit trees and a glade of Silver Birch.

Foxes have been seen on-site as well as a variety of birds including a woodpecker which has made the Green its home. Following a survey, bats have also been found to use the trees and vegetation along Wiggins Lanes as part of a flight corridor.



Photo of the wildflower meadow by Friends of Ham Village Green



#### 4.2.8 **Facilities**

Ham Village Green contains the following facilities:

- Outdoor gym;
- Children's play facilities for a variety of age ranges.



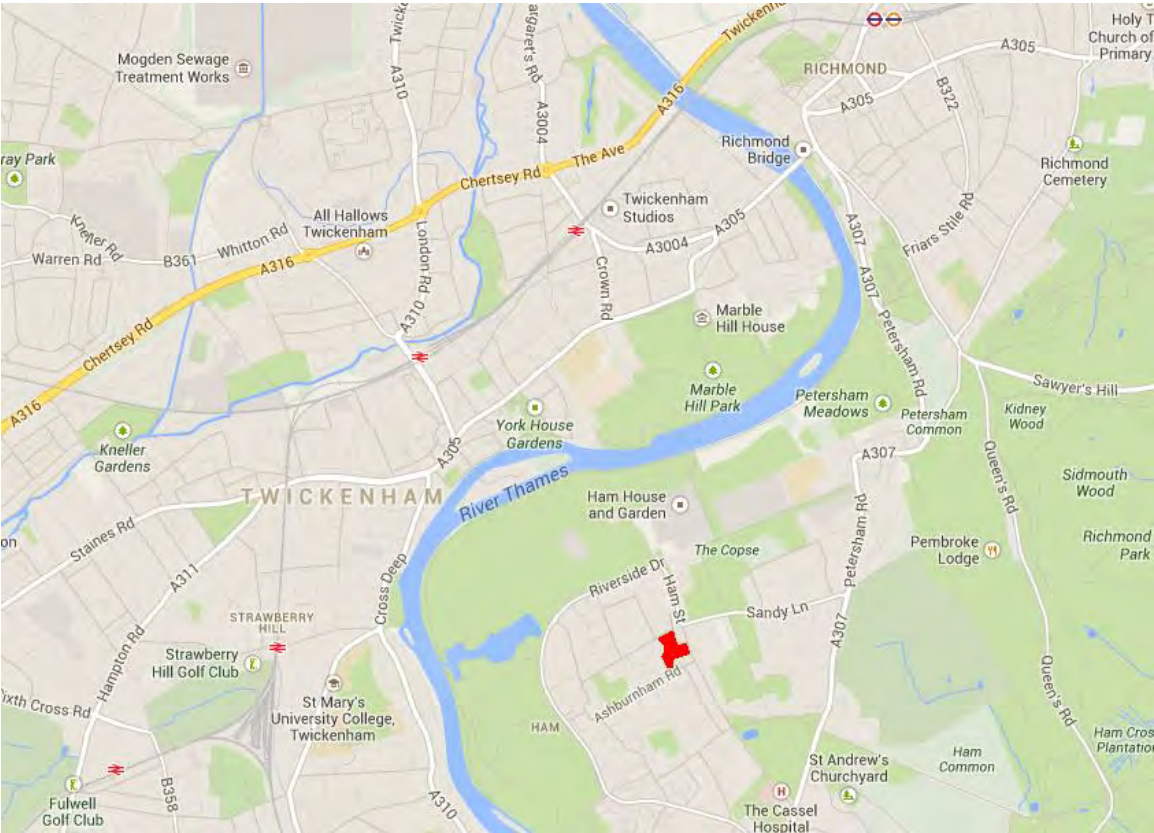
Poets corner mosaic

#### 4.2.9 **Maps and Plans**

On the following pages, please find:

- Location map of Ham Village Green within the borough
- Plan map of Ham Village Green
- Aerial photo of Ham Village Green

### Location map of Ham Village Green within the borough



### Plan map of Ham Village Green



### Aerial photo of Ham Village Green



**5.0 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; and
  - 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 the key outcomes required by the National Policy Planning Framework.

These are:

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

5.2.1 It is intended that this management plan helps to achieve these outcomes by 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, the preparation of a local assessment will assist in the production of a series of actions which will help to achieve the eight key criteria that are a requirement to be met in order to attain a Green Flag Award:

- 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 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation” (PPG17) for the provision of public open space. The audit primarily concerned with establishing the quantity and quality of existing provision. This consisted of a review of the following key areas of provision:

- Main entrance
- Boundaries

- Roads, paths, cycleways and access
- Parking
- Information;
- 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 are several entrances to the Green with access from Woodville Road, Wiggins Lane, Ham Close and Ashburnham Road. The entrances are uniform in appearance.

**5.3.2 Boundaries**

Knee rail fencing delineates the northern, eastern and southern boundaries and is in good condition. The area to the west is bounded by a residential development which is not fenced and instead allows the residents direct access to the Green.

**5.3.3 Roads, paths, cycleways and access**

Paths on the Green were widened in 2009 and are in good condition. There are no roads or cycleways within the site’s boundaries. Access points lead directly onto tarmac paths, which are in good condition, or onto amenity grass areas.

**5.3.4 Parking**

There is no parking within Ham Village Green itself. Although there is a car park directly outside the Green off Ashburnham Road which can accommodate a small number of cars. It is also possible to park along Woodville Road which is to the North of the site.

**5.3.5 Information**

Further information relating to the Green is available on the Council’s website: [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

There is a noticeboard at the entrance (off Ashburnham Road) to the Green and 3 badging signs which detail the name of the site and the ownership.

**5.3.6 Planted areas**

The Green has extensive drifts of bulb planting which bring some welcome cheer in the spring. On the wooded corner by Woodville Road and Wiggins Lane, the Friends group has established a wildflower area, planted with bluebells, wild daffodils, wild ransom, cowslips, wood anemones, wild tulips, and cow parsley. There is also a wildflower meadow in the summer which attracts many butterflies and bees.



Photo by Matthew Rees

**5.3.7 Grass areas**

The site is mainly comprised of amenity grass which is appropriately cut and maintained. The edges are well defined.

Some sections of amenity grass have been allowed to grow long, to create habitats for wildlife and create visual interest, A wildflower meadow has also been established. These areas are managed carefully in order to remain attractive. They are cut once a year and the arisings removed from site.

**5.3.8 Cleanliness**

The Green is kept clear of litter and graffiti by the Council’s grounds maintenance and street cleansing contractor. Bins are emptied daily and the site is litter picked at the same time.

The site is popular for dog walkers and unfortunately fouling is evident. Most dog walkers are local residents who do clean up afterwards, however a small minority of people continue to allow their dogs to foul. However, the Council is committed to working with the Friends group and users of this open space to reduce the problem. In the past we have held dog fouling awareness events at the Green. At the events we spoke to members of the public to raise awareness of the issue, as well as educated park-users about how they can report repeat offenders.

**5.3.9 Provision of Litter Bins**

There are litter bins throughout the Green and these are generally in good condition.

**5.3.9 Seating**

All seating is in good condition and spaced throughout the Green offering peaceful spots for people to sit.

**5.3.10 Children’s Play Space**

The play area is in good working condition and offers a variety of play experiences from natural play to basket swings. There is also an area with exercise equipment installed. This is popular with both children and adults alike.

**5.3.11 Buildings, including toilets**

There are no buildings within the curtilage of the Green.

**5.3.14 Health and Safety**

The Green presents no obvious dangers as the surface of the site is level with no ruts or trip hazards. The paths and play and fitness equipment are in good condition.

**5.3.15 Nature Conservation Value**

The Green is generally comprised of a large expanse of amenity grass. This is to be expected for a municipal green and therefore it offers limited opportunities for wildlife. Over recent years many improvements have been made to diversify the habitats available and encourage nature onto the site. The improvements, which aim to offer a variety of sources of many nectar and pollen-rich plant species for bees and other insects, have included:

- the planting of wild and cultivated bulbs;
- allowing sections of amenity grass to grow longer;
- the installation of a wildflower meadow; and
- the planting of a Silver birch glade.

**5.3.16 Access for people with disabilities**

Access to the Green is via accessible entrances with flat and smooth paths.

**6.0 Vision and Objectives for the Green**

**6.1 The overall vision for Ham Village Green:**

Following consultation with the local community and as a result of the development of this plan, the future vision for the Green is to ensure its amenity value for the public and increase its valuable as a habitat for wildlife. Safety and security are of high importance as well as good quality facilities. We prioritise working in partnership with the Friends of Ham Village Green.

**6.2 Aims and Objectives for the Management of the Green**

This section sets out the aims and objectives for the management of the Green:

- To identify and cherish the special character of the Green;



- To ensure that the management of the Green protects and enhances the biodiversity of the site;
- 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 meet the demands and expectations of the local community primarily as a recreational, diverse and enjoyable place; and
- To encourage and promote further community involvement in the implementation of the proposals and in the on-going management and development of the Green and its running.

**7.0 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 and consults with the Friends of Ham Village Green who are a group formed from the local community. Their aim is to protect, enhance and promote the green as a community green space. Working with the Friends group enables the Council to understand the different users of open space and can help to advise the Council on how to meet their diverse needs.

The Friends of Ham Village Green have run a diverse array of events on or relating to the Green including a community picnic, bulb planting events, [Tai Chi classes](#), children’s art competition, and decorating of the Green’s Christmas tree.

The Friends were instrumental in the installation of a mural in 2005/2006. This is on a shop wall, which borders the Green, and was the most graffitied wall in the borough. In 2014 the Parks service and Friends worked together to deliver another mosaic which was sited at the other end of the shops and was designed by the charity, Save the World. The process of designing the mosaic involved over 200 members of the community. Their ages ranged from three months to 93 years and included the youth club, Ham Multicultural Women’s Group, Strathmore School (for children with learning disabilities), local schools, the Woodville Centre (for dementia sufferers), with family sessions at the library.

Officially unveiled on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014, Sir David Attenborough had this to say:

“I have to say I live up on Richmond Hill and we are lucky aren’t we being in one of the glorious spots of London and if it is to remain one of the greatest spots of London it is because you care about it and say something about it and put people in office who will do something about it. So, it is to your credit that this is as lovely as it is and to your credit that it goes on being as lovely as it is.”



Sir David Attenborough official unveiling of the mosaic in 2014



Sir David was presented with a cake for his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday on the day of the event

## Children's Art Competition

Winner of the 5 to 8 age range category proudly points at his painting.



Photo by Friends of Ham Village Green

The photograph below shows an event organised by the Friends of Ham Village Green and Continental Landscapes. Over 2000 crocuses and daffodils were planted with the pupils, parents and staff from the local school. All of those involved are looking forward to coming back in the spring to look at the results of their hard work.



Photo by Annie Tollafield

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 Ham Village 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 the Green continues to be a welcoming place.

**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](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

There is an agreement with the Council’s street scene 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 as promptly as possible.

**7.2.3 Pathways**

All paths will be inspected annually. Any necessary repairs will be carried out as promptly.

**7.3 Healthy, Safe and Secure**

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that the 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 on the Green and structure their maintenance work accordingly. All contractors are uniformed and wear highly visible clothing.

**7.3.2 Dog fouling**

The Mobile Litter gang, Parkguard and the Parks Service 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.

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

The Council has adopted dog control orders which can be found at: [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

**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**

The majority of the grass within the Green is classed as amenity use.

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 Ham Village 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.

Ham Village Green is host to trees of varying size and age, all of which are an important amenity in softening the landscape. Recent plantings have included a

grove of silver birch and orchard plantings of pear and apple, all have been planted in partnership with the Friends of Ham Village Green and will be an important habitat for wildlife and provide edible produce. The site’s young giant redwood is decorated by the community to transform it into a Christmas Tree each year.

**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 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 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. 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.

**7.4.4 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 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 gulleys are inspected regularly.

**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.

### 7.6 **Conservation and Heritage**

#### 7.6.1 **Pesticides**

The use of pesticides in Ham Village Green is kept to a minimum in the interests of nature conservation and ecology. An Integrated Weed Management policy has been developed to assist decision-making.

#### 7.6.2 **Biodiversity**

The Green has seen many biodiversity improvements over recent years to diversify the habitats available and encourage nature onto the site. We will work to the guidelines as set out in our Nature Conservation Policy Statement.

### 7.7 **Community Involvement**

This is crucial to the management of the Green. Developments to the Green have been made in close co-operation with the Friends of Ham Village Green, who arrange for regular events on the Green, advertised in the Green's notice board.

### 7.9 **Marketing**

Promotion and marketing of Ham Village Green is carried out by means of a range of measures, including the Council's website and publicity literature and the Friends of Ham Village Green noticeboard, to ensure that local people and visitors to the borough are aware of the facility.

### 7.10 **Internet**

Ham Village Green features on the council's website and can be accessed from the following link at:

[http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/leisure and culture/parks and open spaces/park\\_details.htm?parkId=185](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/leisure_and_culture/parks_and_open_spaces/park_details.htm?parkId=185)

Information of the Friends of Ham Village Green can be found at <http://www.swlen.org.uk/looking-for-a-group/hamvillagegreen/> and can be contacted at: [hamvillagegreen@swlen.org.uk](mailto:hamvillagegreen@swlen.org.uk)

### 7.11 **General Promotion**

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

**8.0 Achievements and Action Plan**

**8.1 Achievements**

Changes and improvements made to Ham Village Green during 2020-21 were:

- Continued sponsorship of additional summer hanging baskets around The Green.
- Additional tree planting on the green

**8.2 Action Plan**

The action plan is divided into three sections:

Item of work and location	Year		Timing	Resources
	2022	2023		
Explore the possibility of improving the access at the Ham Street entrance to the Green.			Ongoing	Continental Landscapes / Parks Team
Increase the number of benches as part of making the site a 'Friendly Park for All'		Y	Summer 2022	Parks Team
Working with a local school on an art initiative for the green.	Y		Spring 2022	Friends of Ham Village Green
Explore upgrading the outdoor gym facilities		Y	Spring 2022	Parks Team & Friends of Ham Village Green
Review the perimeter railings with a view to re-paint	Y		Spring 2022	
Review the condition of the wildflower meadows with a view to plant additional yellow rattle	Y		Spring 2022	Parks Team & Continental Landscapes.

**8.2.1 Development and renewal**

The Council has consulted extensively with the community regarding facilities within the borough's parks and open spaces. As a result of this consultation, Ham Village Green has benefited from major capital investment, via the Parks Improvement Programme, over the last seven years which has resulted in the installation of play and fitness equipment and path improvements amongst other works. For more information on the fitness equipment available, please visit: [http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/services/parks\\_and\\_open\\_spaces/organise\\_park\\_event/fitness\\_activities\\_in\\_parks/fitness\\_equipment\\_in\\_parks.htm](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/services/parks_and_open_spaces/organise_park_event/fitness_activities_in_parks/fitness_equipment_in_parks.htm) It is not envisaged that there is likely to be any other major addition to the Green's facilities at present. The major challenge is to maintain high standards of maintenance.

**8.2.2 Community Engagement**

The Council intends to continue to work with the Friends of Ham Village Green. The Council has and will continue to consult with the Friends and local ward

councillors in relation to any new initiatives. We are committed to being receptive to concerns and suggestions voiced individually or through community groups.

**8.3 Operational Commitments**

The maintenance schedule includes the main features that make up the fabric of the Green and the maintenance operations for each. Monitoring and inspection duties are also included. Biodiversity management and initiatives are included in this schedule.

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Maintenance Operation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Amenity grass	Kept to a height of between 15mm & 25mm	Cut approximately every 10 days during the growing season
Informal grass	Cutting of grass and removal of arisings from site.	Cut once a year
Wildflower meadow	Cutting of meadow and removal of arisings from site.	Cut once a year.
Bulbs	Cutting of amenity grass where bulbs are planted.	Cut approximately every 10 days during the growing season once the bulbs have flowered and the foliage has died back.
	Cutting of long/informal grass where bulbs are planted.	Once a year
Tree	Inspection Replacing and expanding variety and stock	Annual As required
Shrub	Kept weed free Mulching Pruning	As required Annual As required, dependent on species
Litter	Litter picking Emptying of bins	Daily Daily
Graffiti	Removal of obscene/offensive words	Within 24 hours
	Removal of other	Within 5 working days
Furniture	Clean and paint Repair/replace	Annual As required
Playground	Visual inspection	Twice per week
	Detailed inspection	Monthly
	ROSPA standard	Annual
Monitoring of contract	Monitoring	Weekly
Infrastructure inspection	Inspection	Annual

Biodiversity opportunities and actions	Inspection, enhancement when necessary	As required
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**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 and 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 Ham Village Green. The Plan will run from January 2022 to December 2023. An interim progress update will be undertaken in January 2022.