



# Kew Green Management Plan

January 2022 – December 2023

## **Kew Green Management Plan 2022-23: Foreword**

Kew Green is a vitally important asset for local people and visitors. It has been designated a Conservation Area, due to its character, as a fine example of an historic Green, the associated high quality of mostly 18<sup>th</sup> century development, riverside environment and village character. The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames will aspire to maintain and manage the Green to the highest standards.

The management plan is based on 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, the Kew Society and Kew Green Cricket Club will be consulted on any proposed changes or improvements to facilities or infrastructure. In particular, the borough works closely with a local organisation called the Kew Society. We actively encourage suggestions about all aspects of the Green.

While the Council is open to the changing demands from the local community with regards to facilities within any of the borough's parks, the Green is a long established local green space that is well maintained. It is of great historic value and is designated in the Core Strategy as a 'Conservation Area', 'Metropolitan Open Land', 'Other Site of Nature Importance', 'Public Open Space' and 'Thames Policy 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 Kew 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 economic climate 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, in this case Continental Landscapes and Kew Society, 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.

## Contents

<b>Section</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>National Context</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Relationship to Council Aims &amp; Objectives</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Site Description</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Audit of Facilities</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Vision and Objectives for the park</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Management of the park</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Achievements and Action Plan</b>	<b>20</b>

**1. Introduction**

1.1 This Management Plan for Kew 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 Parks and Open Spaces Service;
- The Kew Society;
- Kew Green Cricket Club;
- St Anne’s Church;
- Royal Botanical Gardens;
- Other services and departments within the London Borough of Richmond;
- Elected members, ward councilors and portfolio holders;
- The residents of Kew Green and Kew and visitors to Kew;
- 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 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](http://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 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 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 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**

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 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](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 Kew Green**

There has been a hamlet around Kew Green since mediaeval times and Kew was first mentioned in documents in 1314. Kew Green used to extend as far as Kew Palace (The Dutch House). The only roadway ran right across the centre of Kew Green from east to west and connected with Love Lane, which led to the ferry. In the 16th century, a number of wealthy noblemen moved to Kew, and Kew started to attract members of the Royal Family e.g. Katherine of Aragon apparently lived at Kew before she married Henry VIII.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century members of the Royal Family made Kew their country seat. In 1760 it became George III's principal retreat and, as a result, a large number of houses were built around the Green. In 1823 an Act of Parliament allowed George IV to enclose the west part of Kew Green for his own use. Later William IV gave up the small part of Kew Green between the avenue of lime trees and where the Elizabeth Gate entrance to Kew Gardens now stands. These gates, designed by Sir Decimus Burton and completed in 1846, were reconditioned and renamed The Elizabeth Gate in 2012.

Until the 19<sup>th</sup> century cattle were grazed on Kew Green and the land around Kew was mostly used as market gardens.

During the Second World War the Green was used as vegetable allotments in the "Dig for Victory" campaign. Alongside St Anne's Church there is a memorial commemorating those who died in the two World Wars. Kew Green still preserves the aura of a village green and cricket has been played here at least since 1737 when Prince Frederick, father of George III, captained a team against the Duke of Marlborough's side. Kew Cricket Club was formed in 1882 following the amalgamation of two local clubs, (Kew Oxford and Kew Cambridge).

**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**

Kew Green is situated close to the River Thames and Kew Bridge. It lies at the entrance to Kew Gardens and is surrounded by historic buildings. The Kew Road (A205), which is a major road carrying traffic across Kew Bridge, divides the site.

The name "Little Kew Green" is sometimes given to the area between the Elizabeth Gate, one of the major entrances to Kew Gardens, and the avenue of lime trees. This area is the responsibility of Kew Gardens (The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) and lies within the World Heritage Site.

**4.2.3 Access**

As a free and open facility Kew 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:** Kew Bridge Station is situated approximately five minutes’ walk away from the Green.

**Bus:** The Green is served by the following bus routes: 237, 267, 391, 65.

**4.2.5 Landscape & Topography**

Kew Green is approximately rectangular in shape. It is comprised of two areas of predominantly amenity grass divided by the Kew Road. At the eastern end, Kew Green Road separates Kew Green from a pond. There is a section of post and rail fencing approximately running along the north boundary of the site, separating it from the Kew Green Road. The remaining boundaries are marked by mature trees planted in the grass. Beyond this, roadway surrounds the Green. The road to the north and east of the site primarily contains residential properties. On the south of the site most of the historic properties are part of the Kew Gardens’ complex. The Elizabeth Gate lies at the western boundary of the Green.

The Green is amenity grassland, which is relatively level and flat. It includes a well-used cricket square maintained by the Kew Cricket Club. The main area of the Green is crossed by a path network.

**4.2.6 Listed Historic Buildings**

The Green lies within an important Conservation Area. The only building of historic significance lying within the boundaries of Kew Green is St Anne’s Church. The church, founded in 1714, was originally funded by subscription from local residents. Much of the present building dates from the 19th century, though it has been extended and altered several times. The building is an active church and is managed by church authorities. It has its own small car park and access road.

**4.2.7 Ecology**

Mostly amenity greenspace, the site’s interest is mainly in the mature trees, shrubs and areas of long grass in the corners of the site. Common garden and woodland birds can be found on site.

Kew Pond is adjacent to the Green in the north-east corner and is managed in partnership between local volunteers and the Council. This old fishery and horse pond dates to the 11<sup>th</sup> century but by the 1950s was being used as a car park and playground. Flood protection works in the 1960s enabled the pond to be re-filled and local volunteers now look after the topping up and wildlife management. Planted reedbeds and marginal vegetation are now mature and a variety of birds including mute swan, mallard, moorhen and coot breed. The overall maintenance of the pond is the responsibility of the Council.

**4.2.8 Facilities**

Kew Green contains the following facilities:

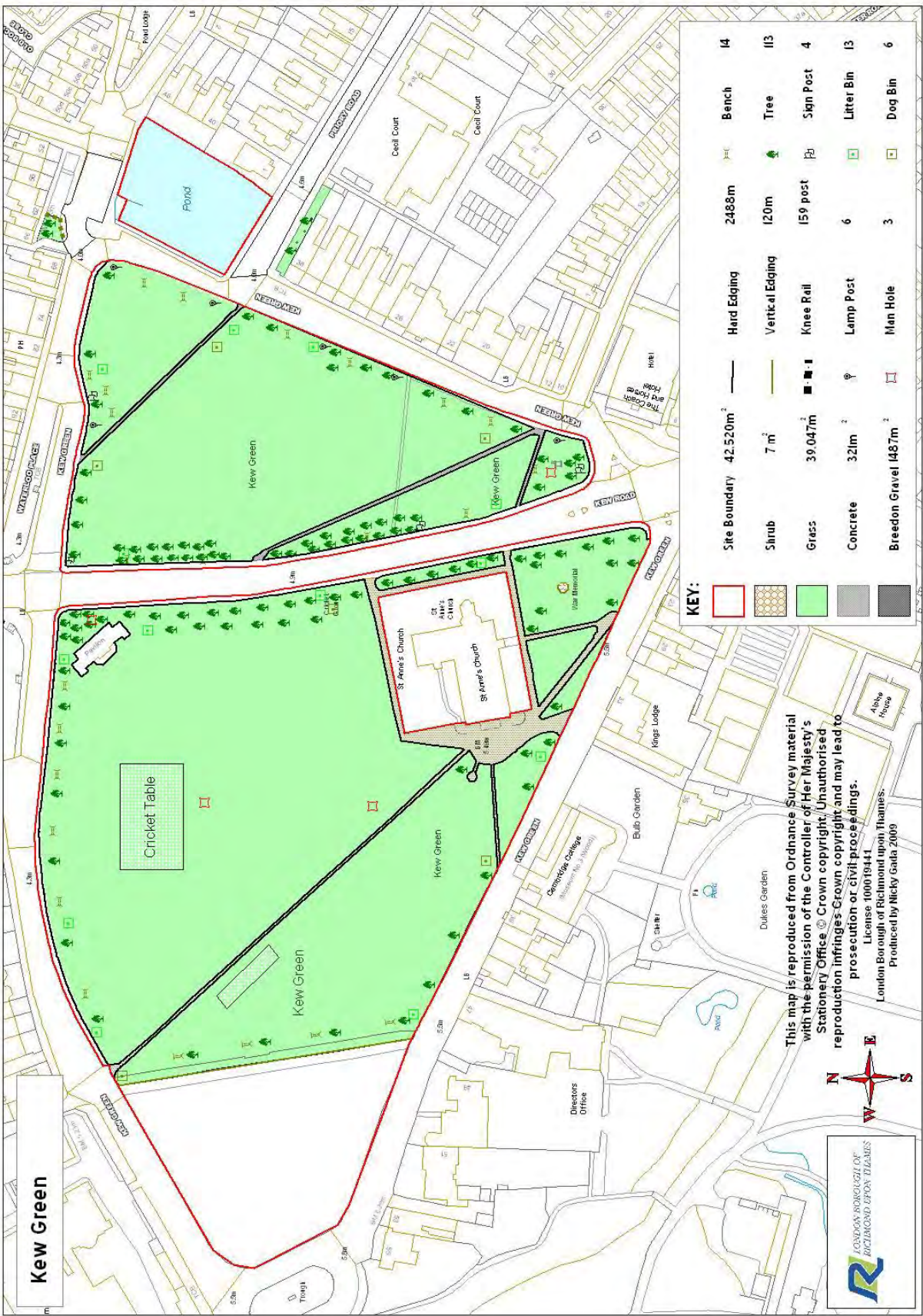
- Cricket pavilion, pitch and nets
- Amenity grassland
- War memorial



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

On the following pages, please find:

- Plan map of Kew Green
- Aerial photo of Kew Green





**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 Policy Planning 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, 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
- Access for people with disabilities

**5.3.1 Main Entrance**

There is a small fence around most of Kew Green, however the site is accessible at virtually any point. The majority of people entering or passing across the Green, use the path network (see map of the site). The 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 running along the northern side of both sections of the Green. Beyond the trees the Green is surrounded by roadway.

**5.3.3 Roads, Paths, Cycle ways and Access**

There are several footpaths crossing the Green. Materials are all-weather in composition, are reasonably level, and offer un-stepped disabled access. Edges are reasonably well-defined and the adjacent lawn areas are appropriately cut. The footpaths are generally in a good condition.

**5.3.4 Parking**

Kew 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 type.

The nearest car park is approximately five minutes’ walk from the Green. It lies within jurisdiction of Kew Gardens and is mainly used by visitors to the Gardens. There is also public car parking available around the Green. The available parking is heavily used by residents and visitors to Kew Gardens, which is a major international attraction.

**5.3.5 Information**

Information relating to Kew Green is available on the parks section of the website: [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://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 are three attractive interpretative boards which provide interesting information about the history of the Green.

**5.3.6 Cleanliness**

Despite heavy usage of the Green the presence of litter is not an issue that has been a problem for users and local residents. In line with contractual agreements the site is litter-picked, and the bins are emptied once a day.

**5.3.7 Planted Areas**

There are limited shrub/flower beds on Kew Green. Efforts have been to increase this with the creation of a new wildflower meadow around the war memorial and the addition of bulb planting and greenery to improve the church grounds is being undertaken.

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 area, its people and the many visitors to the borough. Many of the houses and buildings forming part of Kew Gardens have a rich history dating back, in some cases, several hundred years. They offer attractive views across the Green. The mature tree-scape 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 cricket pitch is leased to Kew Cricket Club, who maintain the table and pavilion.

**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.

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.

**5.3.11 Seating**

There are no deficiencies in terms of either the quality of the seating or the number of seats provided. The seats are solidly designed and in a generally good condition. There are currently 16 benches and a further 19 memorial benches in the park. Empty spaces in the park have been filled in with a bench and where possible, non-memorial benches have been swapped for memorial ones. Some are in need of repair.

**5.3.12 Children’s Play Space**

There is no playground on Kew Green, and it is unlikely to be provided given the nature of the site and proximity to other local playgrounds. However, the Green is used by children for informal ball games and other informal play.

The nearest playground is situated in Westerly Ware, which is directly beside Kew Bridge, close to the Green. The other is St Luke’s Open Space, Victoria Cottages. For more information, please visit: [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

**5.3.13 Buildings, including toilets**

There are no toilets on the Green. The cricket pavilion is leased to the Kew Cricket Club under an agreement with the Crown Estates and Richmond Council. The club have responsibility for maintaining the building and this is done appropriately.

**5.3.14 Health and Safety**

With relatively few facilities, health and safety is not a major problem on Kew Green. Pathways are of a good condition and are regularly monitored. Trees are surveyed at regular intervals.

**5.3.15 Nature Conservation Value**

Apart from Kew Pond (see below) the Green currently holds little significant conservation value as the area is a formal recreational ground, although the mature 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 and play a part in the wider ecology of the area; the close proximity of Kew Gardens is significant in this regard. Opportunities to enhance biodiversity on Kew Green are limited as the area is principally amenity grassland.

**Kew Pond**

For many years an active group of volunteers have helped with the pond's maintenance and management including topping it up from an inlet off the Thames. This can only be done at spring tides and has to be carefully managed. The management of the pond lies with the Council.



**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. Surfaces are generally safe and level.

**6. Vision and Objectives for the park**

**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 Gardens**

- To 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 2018.

**7.1.2 Delivery partners**

The Council consults with the Kew Society and Cricket Club and it is intended to further develop this relationship with particular regards to the Green. 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 Framework approach was introduced from April 2013, with services split into separate lots. The current contract started in February 2018 and is split into seven lots. In broad terms maintenance will be carried out by the contractors’ operatives who are specialist in the relevant areas, thus achieving 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 Kew Green

Continental Landscapes are the main grounds contractor, undertaking horticulture (grass cutting, shrubs, hedges and bedding) and small works (hard landscaping, infrastructure and furniture installation, etc.) plus managing sports and play facilities. 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 wardening and gate locking 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 Kew 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: <http://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 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 promptly.

**7.3 Healthy, Safe and Secure**

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that Kew 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.

The park is currently included in a Public Spaces Protection Order designed to reduce anti-social behavior in public places in the borough, effectively replacing the open space byelaws. For example, barbeques, fires and fireworks are prohibited; bicycles must not cause a hazard, nuisance or damage; drones are prohibited; and smoking is prohibited in any enclosed play or sports area. More details can be found on the Council’s website.

**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.

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

The Council has a Public Spaces Protection Order in place to regulate dog control. With regard to North Sheen Rec these prohibit fouling, limit an individual to walking a maximum of four dogs (unless in possession of a licence or permit issued separately) and require dog walkers to ensure their dog is under proper control.

**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 & horticulture**

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 trimmers in most areas.

**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 friends’ groups and associations 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.

Kew Green is host to mature perimeter plantings of London plane, lime and horse chestnut; many of which are likely to be 19<sup>th</sup> century plantings, making them heritage trees. In recent years horse chestnut have begun to decline to the south of the site and some have been removed to manage the risk. Consideration is being given to what should be planted as a replacement, as it is becoming increasingly difficult to establish the species in an environment where bleeding canker usually infects and destroys young trees.

**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 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.

**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 Sports Facility Maintenance**

The only formal sports facility is the cricket field. The pitch along with the pavilion is leased on a long-term basis to the Kew Cricket Club who carry out the maintenance of the cricket square.

**7.6 Environmental Sustainability**

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

**7.6.1 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.

**7.6.2 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 on the Green is 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**

Kew Pond was relandscaped in 2010 to increase its diversity by planting a range of marginal plants. This list includes yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*), meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), water mint (*Menthe aquatica*), ragged robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*) and brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*). In addition to increasing biodiversity it also provides a lower vegetation level which enables passers-by to look into the pond. A new management plan for Kew Pond has been prepared by the Council with the Friends of Kew Pond.

The pond has an annual maintenance programme which includes reed cutting and removal of any duckweed.

**7.7 Community Involvement**

This is crucial to the management of the Green. Engagement with the local community is carried out by working with the long-established Kew Society, a longstanding organisation who work to enhance the beauty and character of Kew. We also work with Kew Green Cricket Club, St Anne’s Church, ward Councillors and other local organisations. Partnerships continue to grow around joint projects i.e. the increased planting within the churchyard of St Anne’s and around the War Memorial.

The Council has an agreement with Kew Preparatory School, situated north of the Green, to use the green at cost at specific times for recreation.

In relation to the Cricket Club, maintenance of the cricket table is carried out by the club, whereas grass cutting of the outfield is carried out by the Council’s grounds maintenance contractor. Conversations have been had between both organisations on how it may be possible to increase the standard of the playing field.

Being situated in such close proximity to Kew Gardens, the Green is a favorite meeting place and picnic area for visitors and the local community.

A historic interpretation board was installed in the late 2000s to provide visitors with information on the history of the Green. Money was raised by St Anne’s Church who worked in partnership with the Council to install the lectern.

**7.7.1 Parks Events**

The policy of the council is to encourage the hire parks to appropriate organisations particularly if this is seen as being of benefit to a local community. Where new events are proposed, the council will continue to consult local ward councilors and the Kew Society, which the Council recognises wishes to ensure appropriate use and to retain the feel of a village green.

Annual events on Kew Green have included; A Victorian funfair; the start of various river-based charity runs and the Kew Horticultural show.

Events are held in accordance with the Parks and Open Spaces Events Policy found at: [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

**7.8 Marketing**

Promotion and marketing of Kew 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.

**7.8.1 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.

**7.8.2 Internet**

Information about the park is available on the council’s website: [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

Information on the Kew Society can be found on the following link: <https://www.kewsociety.org/>

**7.8.3 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**

Achievements, change and improvements at Kew Green since 2020-21 include:

- Upgrade the existing benches through the memorial bench programme.
- Continue to work with the Friends of Kew Pond on the management of the facility and address any water level or contaminant issues that may occur.
- Continue to work with the Kew Preparatory School is rotating the area used for their sports and recreation activities to ensure the site is well managed.
- Upgrade the planting of St Anne’s Church with the Kew Society

**8.2 Action Plan**

Item of work and location	Usual month		Timing	Resources
	2021-22	2022-23		
Maintain and improve the quality of the turf and bulbs and to manage the trees, including replacement of trees where they need to be felled or are damaged by storm with suitable species in accordance with the Council's tree policy	Y	Y	Ongoing	LBRuT/Continental Landscapes/KPS Contractors Ltd
Upgrade the existing benches through the memorial bench programme and recycling of existing benches from other sites.	Y	Y	Ongoing	Parks and Open Spaces Team
Explore the possibility of upgrading the cricket outfield so that the club can play at a	Y	Y	Ongoing	LBRuT & Kew Cricket Club

higher level. Work would be a partnership between the Council and the Cricket Club				
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**8.2.1 Development and renewal**

As indicated previously, while the team 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. Kew Green is a site of heritage value and great local character. 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 develop its relationship with The Kew Society and Kew Cricket Club and other local organisations. The council has and will continue to consult with the Society 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.

<b>Element</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
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.	As required to maintain length; average 16-18 cuts per year
Tree maintenance	Inspection Replacing and expanding variety and stock	Every three years minimum 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	When necessary When necessary
Monitoring of contract	Monitoring	At least every three months
Infrastructure inspection	Inspection	Annual

Biodiversity opportunities and actions	Pond Management	Annual, we will work to the guidelines as set out in our Nature Conservation Policy Statement.
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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 in a sustainable way. The Council is open to the changing needs of local communities and will continue to work with the Kew Society, Kew Cricket Club and other local organisations. The Plan will run from January 2022 to December 2023. An interim progress update will be undertaken in January 2023.