



Cambridge Gardens Management Plan

Foreword

Cambridge Gardens is a valuable asset for residents of East Twickenham, with an excellent position alongside the Thames Towpath which makes it an attractive stopping point for visitors to the scenic Richmond Riverside.

The 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 the 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 these dialogues. The site will be maintained appropriately and the local community in the form of the Friends of Cambridge Gardens will be consulted on any proposed changes or improvements to facilities.

We actively encourage suggestions both regarding the management and maintenance of the park and ideas about changes or possible improvements to elements of the park's infrastructure or its facilities.

Parks officers, working closely with colleagues in Veolia and using a partnership approach regularly monitor Cambridge Gardens. 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, as well as careful consideration of ideas to improve and maintain the Gardens.

The current financial climate will inevitably have a detrimental affect on the resources available to improve and maintain the borough's parks and open spaces. A tightening of budgets seems inescapable. The borough will continue to work closely with its partners, in this case Veolia and the Friends of Cambridge Gardens, 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.

Central to our determination to maintain and if possible improve the facilities and infrastructure of parks and open spaces across the borough is the ongoing review of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

	Contents
No.	Section
1	Introduction
2	The National Context
3	Relationship to Council Aims & Objectives
4.	Site Description
5	Audit of facilities
6.	Vision and Objectives for the park
7.	Management of the park
8.	Action Plan

1. Introduction

1.1 This Management Plan provides a framework for the management and any relevant development of the park over the current five year period. 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 park.

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

- The Friends of Cambridge Gardens and borough residents
- The Parks and Open Spaces Service
- Other services and departments within the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
- Elected members, ward councillors and portfolio holders
- National agencies
- Local businesses

The Plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

Following this Introduction the Management Plan is set out in the following sections:

Section 2: Outlining the National Context

Section 3: Describes the plan's relationship to the Council's aims and objectives

Section 4: Site Description

Section 5: Audit of facilities

Section 6: Vision and Objectives for the Park

Section 7: Management principles and practices

Section 8: Action Plan

2.0 **The 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:

- In 1988 the Audit Commission estimated that local authorities in England and Wales maintained approximately 120,000 hectares of parks and open spaces - an area approximately the size of Berkshire.
- In 2000, the Heritage Lottery Fund estimated that there were approximately 30,000 urban green spaces in the UK, of which 5,000 are urban parks.

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

3.0 Relationship to Council's Aims and Objectives

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

- The overall Vision and Priorities of the Council
- The quality of life of local people
- The physical, social and economic regeneration of the borough
- The 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

All Council's are now required to develop a Community Plan as part of their commitment to delivering more 'sustainable communities'. The Community Plan is a top tier strategy that sets out how the Council will target, manage and monitor its services for the benefit of all local people. The Community Plan has been created in partnership with residents and key local stakeholders and is reviewed on a regular basis. The vision of the plan is:

- Inclusive
- Puts protection of the environment at the core of its services and community life
- Delivers quality public services that truly reflect the needs of all its local people
- Addresses its challenges by harnessing the capacity of all its partners in the public, private, voluntary and community sector.

3.2 Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2003

Vision

- 'to provide access to an exciting range of open space experiences for all'

Key Principles

- **Stewardship**
 - Protect visual and physical access to open land
 - Protect, enhance and promote the characteristic features of the Borough particularly the riverside, historic landscapes and features
 - Improve the maintenance infrastructure

- **Management and Use**
 - Plan to provide for the needs of the community and visitors
 - Make the best use of public and private resources and maximise external funding
 - Work in partnership with the community and other local landscape agencies
 - Promote the use of open land for all
 - Reduce the fear of crime by providing healthy, safe environments and promoting activity

- **Environmental Protection**
 - Maintain and enhance the Borough's biodiversity
 - Provide high quality, sustainably managed open spaces

This strategy has been under review during 2010, and a new strategy document will be produced to reflect the full effect of current financial changes within the Council.

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

3.4 **Other relevant council policies**

All the following policy documents can be found at www.richmond.gov.uk.













Printed versions of these policies are available on request:

- Community Safety Policy
- Equality and Diversity Plan
- Unitary Development Plan
- Local Agenda 21
- Cultural Strategy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Parks Byelaws

- Customer Service Standards
- Dog Control Orders
- Tree Strategy
- Events Policy

Cambridge Gardens

Graphic Key and Quantity

	Site Boundary	9531m ²
	Shrubs	546m ²
	Hedge	354m ²
	Grass	5391m ²
	Resin Bond	1250m ²
	Painted Tarmac (Tennis Courts)	2176m ²
	Safety Surface	406m ²
	Lamp Post	7
	Litter Bin	6
	Sign Post	5
	Bench	11
	Tree	27
	Hard Edging	230m
	Chain Link Fence	232m
	Metal Fence	181m
	Bar Gate	1
	Wooden Fence	27m
	Cycle Rack	3

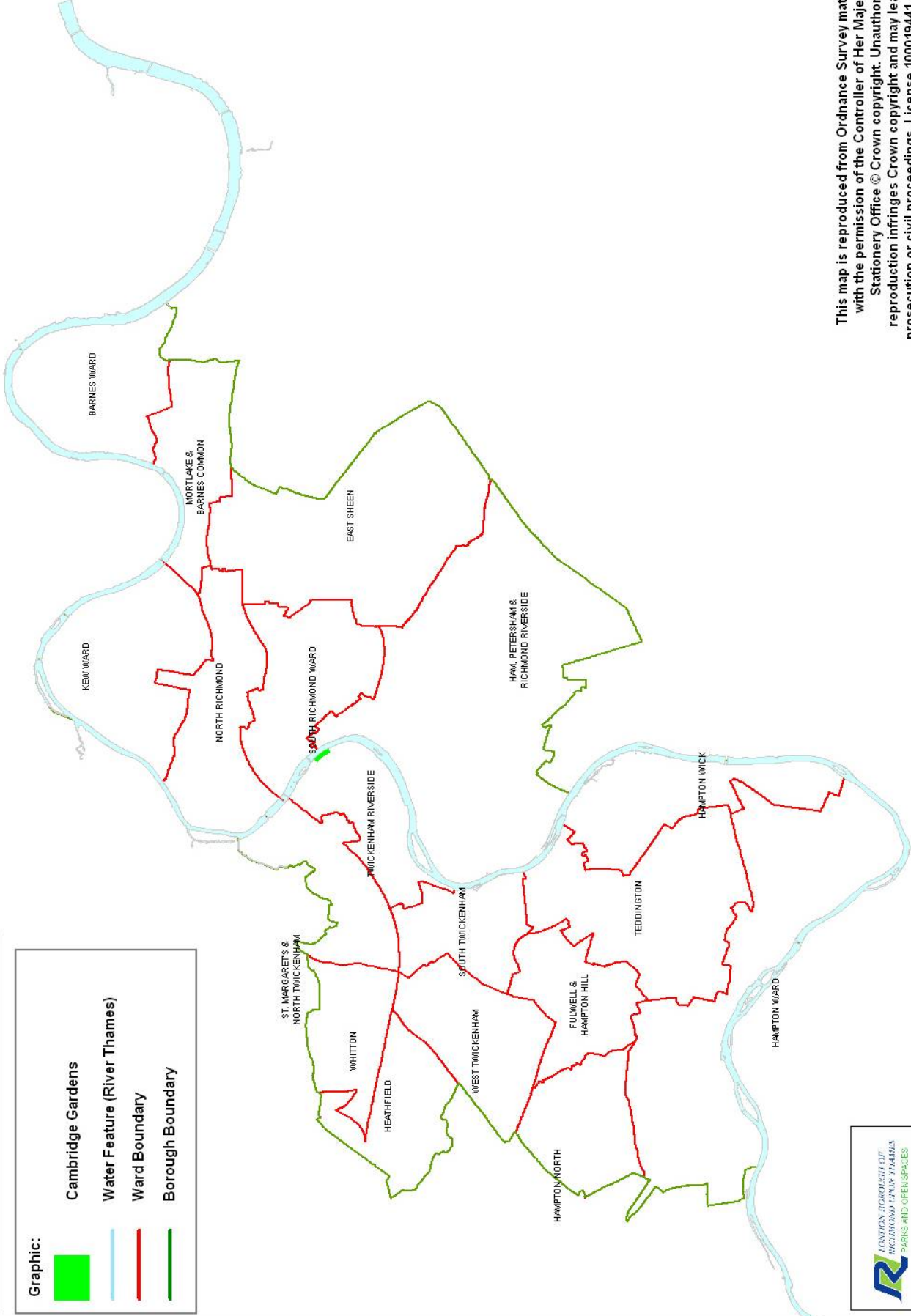


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London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames

Graphic:

-  Cambridge Gardens
-  Water Feature (River Thames)
-  Ward Boundary
-  Borough Boundary



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4.0 Site Description

4.1 Outline History of Cambridge Gardens

Cambridge Gardens is on the Middlesex bank of the River Thames in East Twickenham, in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. It is a picturesque setting that overlooks Richmond Bridge and the renowned Richmond riverside.

At the foot of the bridge on the Twickenham side, Richard Owen Cambridge removed the wall around his house in the eighteenth century and opened his lawns to the river, to the delight of tourists who found them ideal for picnics. The area was developed as Cambridge Park at the end of the 19th century and later, before the days of planning legislation, factories, a bus garage and an ice rink were built beside Cambridge's old house, which was demolished in the 1930s. The ice rink has now also been demolished.

An information board in the Gardens, compiled by the Friends, shows the history of the site.



Richard Owen Cambridge's Cambridge Park in 1803

4.2 General Information

Cambridge Gardens is designated Metropolitan Open Land and Thames Policy Area, and lies within the boundary of the Richmond Hill Conservation Area.

A small yet highly valued recreation ground which overlooks the river Thames in East Twickenham. There are 4 hard tennis courts and a practice wall, where coaching and a children's holiday programme is provided. There is popular playground, lawns, shrubs and a seasonal wildflower meadow. The pavilion has a café and a community room which can be booked. The substantial open field, has a boundary hedge and several benches, this area provides for dog walkers and several fitness groups. There is a pleasant walkway alongside the river beds, often used by joggers. This joins the Warren footpath, providing a pleasant walk through the gardens from Richmond Bridge passing Marble Hill Park and Orleans House before reaching Twickenham Town Centre.

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.

Enabling Acts: Local Government Act 1963, Parks and Open Spaces Order 1971

Open Spaces Act 1906

Town and Country Planning Act (S. 32.).

4.2.2 **Location**

Cambridge Gardens is based along Clevedon Road next to Richmond Bridge in East Twickenham. The road borders one side of the gardens, and the river Thames footpath the other. The immediate area around the park is occupied by residential housing.

4.2.3 **Access**

As a free and open facility Cambridge Gardens has the potential to provide 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: Cambridge Gardens is located between the Richmond and St Margaret's train stations – each being a touch under a mile away.

Bus: Clevedon Road, where the garden is based, leads on to the A305 Richmond Road. The H37, H22, 490, R70, 33, and R68 buses stop at the Richmond Road station a minute's walk from Cambridge Gardens.

4.2.5 **Landscape & Topography**

Generally flat with hedges, wildflowers meadow and recreational facilities.

4.2.6 **Listed Historic Buildings**

There are no listed buildings on the site.

4.2.7 **Ecology**

Although at first glance it may seem that there is not much 'wildlife' present, it is in fact an important site for the bats, which use the river to feed. The trees that sit on the perimeter of the site provide valuable resting and refuge opportunities for the bats whilst they are feeding. The thick prickly hedges are good habitats for birds and mammals to move around, forage and rest. A recently sowed wildflower meadow has been sown in-between the tennis courts and the river providing long grass, pollen and nectar for invertebrates. The site is also being enhanced for ecology with proposed nectar and pollen rich planting beds, and a stag beetle loggery.

Rats as with all riverside open areas are present, but they are managed by controlling the food debris and litter left lying about

4.2.8 Facilities

Cambridge Gardens contains the following facilities within the park:

- Tennis Courts (hard surface)
- A Café
- A playground

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;
- 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 PPG 17.

These are:

- provision of accessible, high quality park space for sport and recreation that meet the 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 park.

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
- Management
- Educational value

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 the disabled

5.3.1 **Main Entrance**

There are several entrances to the Gardens, with access at both ends and the middle of Clevedon Road as well as via the Thames footway at both ends. The majority of users seem to enter via the Clevedon Road entrance closest to the café. The welcoming signage includes a notice board used by both the Council and Friends.

5.3.2 **Boundaries**

The riverside boundary and the Clevedon Road boundary

5.3.3 **Roads, Paths, Cycleways and Access**

Paths in the gardens are in good condition. There are no cycleways

5.3.4 **Parking**

There is no parking within Cambridge Gardens, although it is possible to park along the residential roads nearby. The nearest car parks are the Ryde House car park (a minute's walk away) and the Richmond Riverside car park just across the bridge.

Cycle stands are available outside the playground, in close proximity to the café.

5.3.5 **Information**

Information relating to Cambridge Gardens is available on the parks section website www.richmond.gov.uk and www.richmondenvironmentnet.org. 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.

5.3.6 **Cleanliness**

The Gardens are kept clear of litter and graffiti by the Council's Grounds Maintenance 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 and do clean up afterwards however the Council is committed to working with the friends to reduce the problem.

The play area is dog free and overlooked by the café and tennis.

5.3.7 Planted Areas

The riverside beds have recently been redesigned in consultation with the Friends and will be replanted this spring.

They comprise a mixture of the best of the existing planting retained with some new innovative schemes reflecting the flowing lines of the river Thames. Plants have been chosen to cope with the tree shade and heavy clay conditions. The site is also home to some highly ornamental specimen Magnolia trees which abound with blossom in spring.

5.3.8 Scenic Quality

Views of the river Thames and the famous Richmond Riverside are one of the strongest features of Cambridge Gardens. The Thames footpath, which runs along the edge of the gardens, offers its own views, and the opportunity to walk down to the gardens of Marble Hill House and the Orleans House Gardens.

5.3.9 Grass Areas

The amenity turf throughout the Gardens is appropriately cut and maintained. The edges are well defined.

5.3.10 Provision of Litter Bins

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

5.3.11 Seating

There is no shortage of seating in the Gardens. Benches are in a good condition and are spaced throughout the area offering peaceful spots for people to sit.

5.3.12 Children's Play Space

There is a playground in good condition in the Gardens, installed in 2006 following public consultation. As with all playgrounds now installed in the borough there are fully accessible pieces of play equipment

5.3.13 Buildings, including toilets

The building housing the café is leased out to a private operator, who takes care of the internal maintenance. It is subject to regular inspection. Toilets are provided within the café

5.3.14 Health and Safety

The paths and the playground are in good condition and present no obvious dangers to members of the public. Play equipment is up to date and the park as a

whole is flat, the riverbank does not lead directly onto the park and is also fenced off.

5.3.15 Nature Conservation Value

This is high as the site forms part of a Bat Highway along the River Thames. This is enhanced by the trees offering places of refuge and feeding. Good habitats for birds and mammals in the hedges and the wildflower meadow provide long grass, pollen and nectar for invertebrates. The site is also being enhanced for ecology with proposed nectar and pollen rich planting beds, and a stag beetle loggery.

5.3.16 Access for people with disabilities

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

Access to the park from Cambridge Road is via flat and accessible entrances. Access to the Thames towpath is even with steps and ramp facilities. However the towpath does flood which leaves debris and a potentially uneven surface.

5.3.17 Educational Value

Cambridge Gardens provides educational potential in relation to its varied wildlife, ecology and proximity to the river Thames and Richmond town Centre. There are no formally organised sessions at present. An information board in the Gardens, compiled by the Friends, shows the history of the site.

6.0 Vision and Objectives for the park

6.1 The overall vision for Cambridge Gardens:

Following consultation with the local community and as a result of the development of this Management Plan, the future vision for the Park is to keep its valuable habitats and amenity value for both the public and wildlife as high as possible. Safety and security are of high importance as well as good quality facilities. Partnership work with the Council and Friends of Cambridge Gardens is also a priority.

6.2 Aims and Objectives for the Management of the Park

This section sets out the aims and objectives for the management of Cambridge Gardens follows:

- To identify and cherish the special character of the Park

- To ensure that the management of the Park protects and enhances the biodiversity of the site
- To ensure that the management of the landscape maintains the character of the Park
- To ensure that the Park 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
- To encourage and promote community involvement in the implementation of the proposals and in the on-going management and development of the Park

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7.0 Management of the Park

7.1 Introduction

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

Management needs to deliver high standards of maintenance of all aspects of the soft and hard landscaping of Cambridge Gardens within existing revenue budgets. Developments have been funded by a major borough wide capital investment programme that began in 2005 and ended in 2010.

The parks section is headed up by the Head of Parks. It is made up of three sections.

- The Operations team is responsible for liaising with contractors and monitoring the parks. The team includes an ecology officer and a GIS mapping officer.
- The Service Development team which is responsible for consultation and the planning and initiation of projects.
- The Arboricultural team is responsible for all street trees and arboricultural work in council managed parks and open spaces.

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

The Council works and consults with the Friends of Cambridge Gardens. This assists the Council to work in harmony with users' and local residents' views.

The Council works in partnership with Veolia Environmental Services in a contract that began in 2003 and will end in 2013. In broad terms maintenance will be carried out by the contractor's operatives who have the necessary skills to achieve high and consistent standards.

Veolia Environmental Services has a contracts manager in overall control of the service. It is made up of grass cutting teams and mobile maintenance gangs who are managed by supervisors who monitor the work. The Parks Patrol Service is managed by Veolia Environmental Services. They play a community safety role patrolling the parks and also inspecting playgrounds on a daily basis. The patrol will attend incidents involving anti-social behavior and liaise directly with Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

Grounds Maintenance Staff - Health and Safety

All staff complete a company induction before they commence their employment. The induction includes relevant Health & Safety legislation and responsibilities along with environmental awareness training.

An assessment is carried out on each employee to ascertain their skill and competence levels. This includes manual handling training and driver assessment where applicable.

Following a 6 month probationary period for new employees, the new employee will complete a one to one personal development plan with their line manager which will set key targets for development and training needs. The information

will entered on the staff training matrix and is reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

Throughout the year, a refresher programme of tool-box talks, including Health & Safety issues, new legislation and machinery training, is given to all employees.

All employees have the opportunity to raise any Health & Safety concerns at monthly meetings through their nominated Health & Safety representative who is invited to all contract Health & Safety meetings.

The maintenance works will be monitored effectively and regularly by parks officers who understand the nature and purpose of the works being carried out. Any points and actions arising from monitoring will be communicated to the parks contractors and officers will ensure that any necessary work is completed.

The following management processes and regimes are listed below under the Green Flag standards listed in 5.2.2. Any new initiatives in the following sections will also be included in the action plan that follows.

7.2 A Welcoming Place

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that Cambridge Gardens 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 site 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 Councils Street Scene Contractor Continental Landscapes to manage the removal of all graffiti within five working days. Where the graffiti is racist or 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 as possible.

7.3 Healthy, Safe and Secure

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

7.3.1 **Community Safety**

All operatives working at Cambridge Gardens undertake an important role in terms of a visible staff presence in the park and structure their maintenance work accordingly. All staff are uniformed and wear highly visible clothing. The Parks Patrol regularly patrols the site.

In addition the local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team regularly patrol the park on foot.

Unfortunately during the summer time the Gardens suffer from anti-social behaviour. The Council and Friends are working closely with the police to resolve the problem.

7.3.2 **Dog fouling**

The Mobile Litter gang, Parks Patrol and the Parks Service make efforts to educate dog owners to be responsible, particularly close to areas where people are liable to be eating or children playing. Signage clearly indicates that dog mess should be picked up and disposed of by those walking their pets.

Dog bins are emptied on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and more if required. Richmond has adopted the new dog control orders www.richmond.gov.uk.

7.4 **Clean and Well Maintained**

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

7.4.1 **Grass Maintenance**

Grass within Cambridge Gardens 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**

The trees within Cambridge Garden are of mixed age and species (native and non-native). The most prominent if these trees align the towpath and contribute greatly towards the character of the riverside setting.

Trees are present within the Gardens and whilst they are in small numbers recent and planting will increase the Gardens tree stock.

Current management

The trees are currently inspected on an adhoc basis and following periods of high wind, following which and dangerous trees or limbs are removed/pruned. Any removed trees are subsequently replaced with new specimens in the next planting season.

7.4.3 Cleansing

The collection of litter is extremely important in maintaining the appearance of the Park and in the consequent respect with which people will treat and use it. Litter is collected on a daily basis with a litter pick of the park being carried out before 10.30am each day by the Mobile Litter gang.

The Mobile Litter gang carries out litter picking, emptying of litterbins and the sweeping/blowing of paths. The zone applies to all surfaces, paths lawns and beds.

To prevent bins overflowing on days when the park has high numbers of visitors, the Mobile Litter gang will carry out additional emptying with the litter bags 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 Mobile Litter gang and Parks Patrol ensure that all park 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 the Mobile Litter gang and Parks Patrol on a Defect Report and repairs will be carried out promptly. Any single replacement or repair will match the existing furniture so that the style of the seat remains consistent.

The playground is inspected daily by the Parks Patrol service for any hazards. There is also a monthly health and safety inspection by contractors R.S.S who rectify any faults. 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. The Mobile litter gang will carry out further sweeping.

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, 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 Mobile Litter gang and Parks Patrol. Kerb edges are swept twice a week and cleared of all litter.

7.4.6 **Sports Facility Maintenance**

The tennis courts are subject to a regular maintenance schedule which includes; jet washing and new nets.

Tennis Courts

Bookings are taken at the café

7.5 **Sustainability**

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

7.5.1 **Recycling green waste**

From a number of points of view, sustainability, environmental considerations and to comply with Local Agenda 21, efforts are made to recycle green waste. In doing so it is essential to ensure that the recycled waste only includes acceptable material, i.e.

- Grass clippings – these are left in situ in the park
- Grass edgings – reused to fill hollows and dips in the park
- Soft herbaceous cuttings (not woody)
- Broken turfs (after lifting and turfing operations)
- Shredded shrub pruning's – chipped along with tree waste

The Council's Ground Maintenance contractor takes wooded waste to the Hatherop Park timber recycling yard and other green waste to Townsmead recycling centre.

7.6 **Conservation and Heritage**

7.6.1 **Pesticides**

The use of pesticides in Cambridge Gardens will be minimised as much as possible in the interests of nature conservation and ecology.

7.6.2 **Biodiversity**

The Gardens are an important site for wildlife especially with the close proximity of the river which acts as a bird and Bat highway.

Current Management

The hedges are managed outside of the bird nesting season by the LBRuT contractor, the wildflower meadow is cut on an annual basis by BTCV. The bird boxes are checked annually by BTCV.

Future Management/Proposals:

Shrub beds are due to be revamped in 2011 with the aim to making them more wildlife friendly by attracting bees and invertebrates. We are also planning to incorporate dead wood and also other habitats such as shingle and pebbles – which are great for invertebrates.

7.7 Community Involvement

This is crucial to the management of the park. Developments to the park have been made in close co-operation with the Friends of Cambridge Gardens, who arrange for regular events in the Gardens, advertised in the Gardens notice board.

7.7.1 Parks Events

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

7.8.1 Marketing

Promotion and marketing of Cambridge Gardens is carried out by means of a range of measures to ensure that local people and visitors to the borough are aware of the facility.

Internet

Cambridge Gardens features on the council's website and can be accessed from the Parks and Open Spaces link at www.richmond.gov.uk where new projects and works are announced via the Latest Information Page. Information of the Friends of Cambridge gardens can be found at www.richmondenvironmentnet.org

General Promotion

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

8.0 **Achievements and Action Plan**

8.1 **Achievements**

Changes and improvements made to Cambridge Gardens during 2010 are listed below:

- The new café in the Gardens pavilion was re-let, serving hot and cold snacks and sandwiches with outdoor tables with a view of the Thames in Richmond.
- Meadow enhancements
- Planting on riverside edge
- Hedges – reduction in heights to increase visibility and safety at the request of the Friends Group

The following action plan is divided into three sections:

8.2 **Development and renewal**

LBRuT is open to the changing needs of the local community with regards to facilities within any of the borough's parks. Cambridge Gardens has benefited from major capital investment over the last five years culminating in the installation of the pavilion. It is not envisaged that there is likely to be any other major addition to the parks facilities. The major challenge is to maintain high standards of maintenance.

The following projects will be completed in 2011/12

- Meadow path
- Repairs to path edgings spring 2011

8.3 **Community Engagement**

The parks section intends to continue to work with the Friends of Cambridge Gardens. 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.

8.4 **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 also included. Biodiversity management and initiatives are included in this section.

Element	Action	Frequency
Grass Maintenance	Kept to a height of between 15mm & 25mm	Cut approximately every 10 days during the growing season
Tree maintenance	Inspection Replacing and expanding variety and stock	Annual As required
Shrub Maintenance	Kept weed free Mulching to minimise weed growth Pruning	As required Annual As required, dependent on species
Litter collection	Litter picking Emptying of bins	Daily Daily
Graffiti	Removal of obscene/offensive words Removal of other	Within 24 hours Within 5 working days
Parks furniture	Clean and paint Repair/replace	Annual As required
Playground inspection	Inspection	Daily – park patrol Monthly – RSS contractors Annual – Rospa standard
Monitoring of contract	Monitoring	Weekly inspection with contractors
Infrastructure inspection	Inspection	Annual
Biodiversity opportunities and actions	Inspection, enhancement when necessary	Meadow September cut Monitor Bird nesting season and Bat activity accordingly

8.3 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 Cambridge Gardens. This Management Plan will be reviewed annually.