



# Kew Green Management Plan

## **Foreword**

Kew Green is a vitally important asset for local people and visitors. 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 the use of an audit of the Green following central government guidance known as PPG 17. This is explained within this document but the approach is based on common sense. We believe that it is important to get the simple things right. Is the green space clean and tidy? Is the grass cut? Are the trees and shrubs well maintained? Is the graffiti removed effectively and quickly? Do the facilities need improving or changing?

Working with local communities to deliver the highest quality of service is our top priority and it is hoped that this document will provide a framework for continuing and improving dialogue. The site will be maintained appropriately and the local community in the form of the Kew Society and Kew Green Cricket Club 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 Green's infrastructure or its facilities.

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 generally well maintained. It is of great historic value and is listed in the Unitary Development Plan as a Historic Open Space. 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 Veolia 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, as well as careful consideration of ideas to improve and maintain the park.

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 Veolia and the 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.

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.

<b>Contents</b>	
<b>No.</b>	<b>Section</b>
1	<b>Introduction</b>
2	<b>The National Context</b>
3	<b>Council Aims &amp; Objectives</b>
4.	<b>Site Description</b>
5.	<b>Audit of Facilities</b>
6.	<b>Vision and Objectives for the Green</b>
7.	<b>Management of the Green</b>
8.	<b>Achievements and Action Plan</b>

## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 This Management Plan for Kew Green provides guidance for the management and any relevant development of the Green over the next five years. 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 and its representative organisations
- Kew Green Cricket Club
- St Anne's Church
- Royal Botanical Gardens
- Other services and departments within the London Borough of Richmond
- Elected members, ward councillors and portfolio holders
- The Community and borough residents
- 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 and audit of facilities.

Section 5: Vision and objectives for the site.

Section: 6 Management principles and practices and the 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 big 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 believes that its parks and open spaces contribute to:

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

### 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 is currently being reviewed.

### 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

[www.richmond.gov.uk/home/environment/land\\_and\\_premises/conservation/biodiversity/richmonds\\_biodiversity\\_action\\_plan.htm](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/environment/land_and_premises/conservation/biodiversity/richmonds_biodiversity_action_plan.htm)

### 3.4 **Other relevant council policies**

The following policy documents can be found at [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://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
- Filming Policy



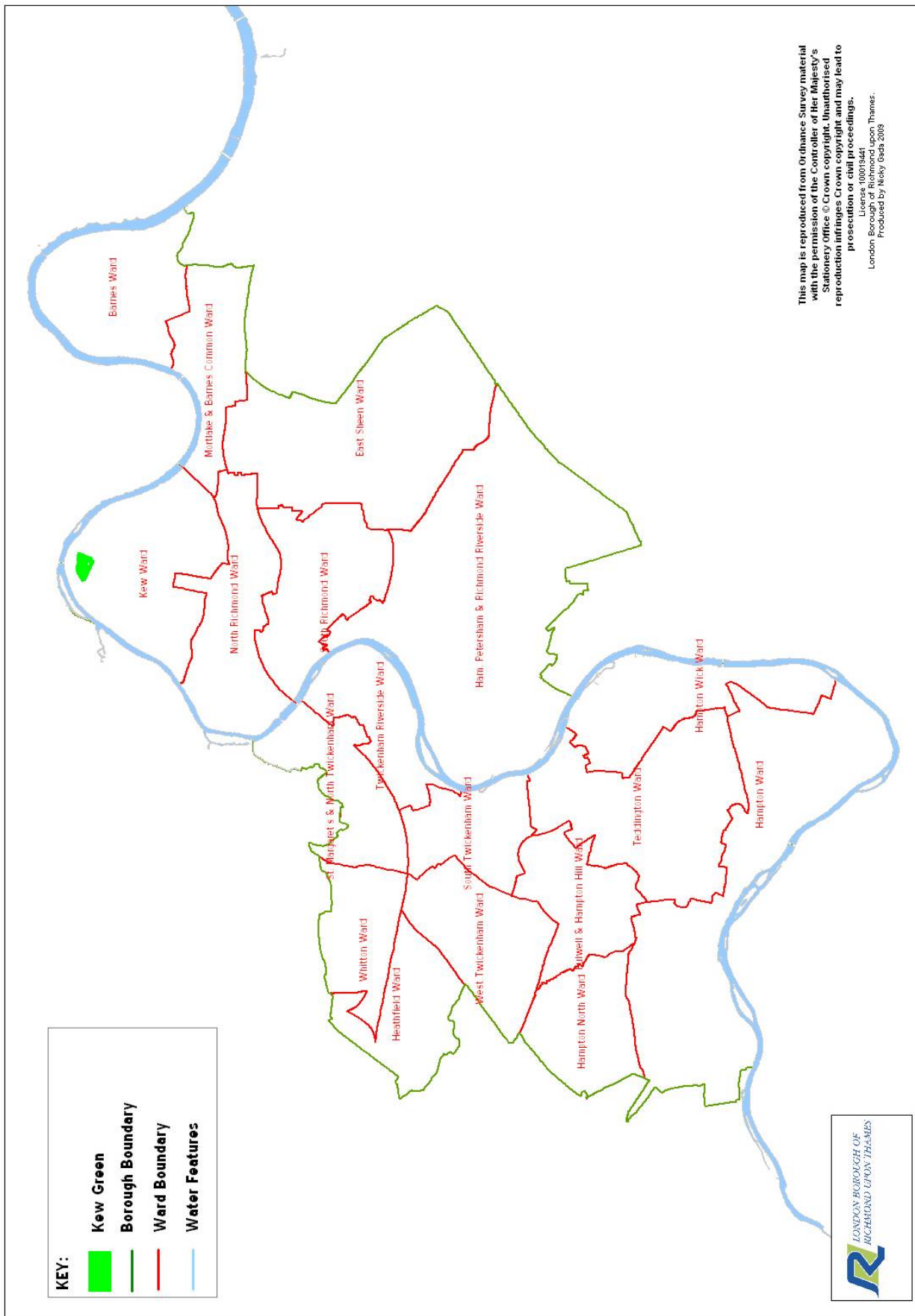
# Kew Green

**KEY:**

	Site Boundary	42,520m <sup>2</sup>		Hard Edging	2488m		Bench	I4
	Shrub	7 m <sup>2</sup>		Vertical Edging	I20m		Tree	I13
	Grass	39,047m <sup>2</sup>		Knee Rail	I59 post		Sign Post	4
	Concrete	32m <sup>2</sup>		Lamp Post	6		Litter Bin	I3
	Breedon Gravel	1487m <sup>2</sup>		Man Hole	3		Dog Bin	6

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.  
 License 100019441  
 London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.  
 Produced by Nicky Gada 2009





## 4.0 **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. The Green used to stretch further west connecting with a lane which led to a ferry across the Thames. 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 trees and where the entrance gates to Kew Gardens now stand. These gates were designed by Decimus Burton and were completed in 1846.

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. By 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, the father of George III captained a team against the Duke of Marlborough's side. Kew cricket club was founded in 1872.

### 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, which is a major road, carrying traffic across Kew Bridge bisects the site dividing the main area of the Green from the 'Little Green'.

#### 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:** South West Trains – Kew Bridge Station five minutes walk from the Green.

**Bus:** 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. In addition the site includes a pond which is divided from the 'Little Green' by Kew Green Road. 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. One of the major entrances to Kew Gardens 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 well used path network.

#### **4.2.6 Listed Historic Buildings**

The Green lies within an important Conservation Area. The only building of historic significance 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 19<sup>th</sup> century, though it has been extended and altered several times. The building is an active church and is managed by church authorities. It lies within the boundary of the Green and has its own small car park and access road.

## 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 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
- 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 is no main entrance on to the Green but a number of small entrances. 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, Cycleways 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. There is a short length of footpath leading from the north side of the Green to the cricket pavilion. This is made up of paving stones, some of which are cracked and uneven.

### 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 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. 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 field side of the green was verti-drained in November 2009 to relieve compaction.

- In 2010 the green was sprayed in order to remove weeds.

The cricket pitch is leased to the 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. Most are in good condition although some are in need of replacement.

#### 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. 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 on the Green given the nature of the site and proximity to other local playgrounds. The Green is however 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.

[http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/leisure\\_and\\_culture/parks\\_and\\_open\\_spaces/park\\_details.htm?parkId=262](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/leisure_and_culture/parks_and_open_spaces/park_details.htm?parkId=262)

#### 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

Health and safety is not a major problem on Kew Green. Pathways are of a good condition and are regularly monitored. Some new heritage gravel path ways were laid in 2009.

#### 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 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. Opportunities to enhance biodiversity on Kew Green are limited since the area is principally amenity grassland. However, the mature trees

provide food and shelter for insects and birds and also play a part in the wider ecology of the area. The close proximity of Kew Gardens is very significant in regard to this.

#### **Kew Pond**

It has been suggested that the pond dates from the fourteenth century, being part of a fishery that was fed by a creek. 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.

#### **5.3.16 Access for the Disabled**

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 Green is good. Surfaces are generally safe and level.

#### **5.3.17 Educational Value**

The potential educational value of the Green is considerable. The historical interest of the site and its relationship to the history of the surrounding buildings is especially important. There are three historical information boards on site providing further information on the local history of the Green and its surrounding buildings. Kew Preparatory School has a clearly defined agreement with the Council to use the Green for physical education sessions.

## 6.0 **Vision and Objectives for the Green**

### 6.1 **The Vision for the Green is to:**

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

### 6.2 The key objectives for the Green are 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.

## 7.0 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.

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

- 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 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 the Council maintained parks and open spaces.

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

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

The Council consults with the Kew Society 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.

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.

In relation to grounds Maintenance Staff and 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 be 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.

Client / Contractor jointly inspect 25 sites a month on a random basis. Comments are made at the time and the client will advise the contractor of any items below specification that need to be put right, before the site is passed. The inspections are recorded and are scored to provide a % satisfaction figure for that particular month.

The Client / contractor site inspections for Green Flag sites (and those parks that have received major investment) also include comments and proposals to protect the investment of both hard and soft landscaping and will form part of the revenue infrastructure and planting programmes.

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 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 on a daily basis for graffiti. The full details of the borough's commitment to the prompt removal of graffiti can be viewed on the LBRuT website [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://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**

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 as promptly as possible.

## **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 operatives working at Kew Green 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 patrols the Green on foot.

### 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.

## 7.4 **Clean and Well Maintained**

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

### 7.4.1 **Grass Maintenance**

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

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

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

### 7.4.2 **Conservation**

A preliminary ecological assessment has been completed to identify the habitats present and assess the potential for protected, notable or rare species on all Green Flag sites within the LBRUT. The assessment has included the identification of features with potential nature conservation interest within each site and will provide a basis for current and future plans for ecological enhancement to maximise benefits for 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 draft management plan for Kew Pond is being prepared which will be available on the website when complete.

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

#### **7.4.3 Trees**

The trees on Kew Green have been managed on a reactive basis since they were planted in the early 1800's. They are a prominent feature in both the local and wider landscape and characterise the Green. Unfortunately some of the horse chestnut trees on the Kew Gardens side are reaching the end of their potential safe useful life expectancy and exhibiting signs of senescence and dieback. Failure of whole or part of a small number of trees has occurred over the past 5-10 years.

New trees have been planted between the mature trees in the last 10 years; these are not growing well due to constant shade and nutrient competition from the larger trees.

#### **Current Management:**

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

#### **7.4.4 Cleansing**

The collection of litter is extremely important in maintaining the appearance of the Green 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.

#### **7.4.5 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.

#### **7.4.6 Hard Surfaces**

Hard surfaces will be kept clean, with litter swept from surfaces regularly by the Grounds Maintenance Team.

Paths will be kept in a good state of repair, all paths being inspected annually and any repairs will be carried out as promptly as possible.

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.

#### **7.4.7 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.

## 7.5 Sustainability

The following regimes are designed to ensure that the Green 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, active recycling of green waste from the Green is carried out. 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 on the Green
- Grass edgings – reused to fill hollows and dips on the Green
- Soft herbaceous cuttings (not woody)
- Broken turfs (after lifting and turfing operations)
- Shredded shrub pruning's – chipped along with tree waste

Wood chippings from Kew Green are taken to the compound within Hatherop Park and left there for approx 1.5 years to mulch down. The mulch is then used on the shrub beds around the borough as both compost and a weed control.

Other green waste is taken to Townmead road recycling centre.

### 7.5.2 Pesticides

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

## 7.6 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, Kew Green Cricket Club, St Anne's Church and ward Councillors. Partnerships continue to grow around joint projects i.e. proposed restoration of the drinking fountain and with regard to the management of the Green. [www.kewcc.co.uk](http://www.kewcc.co.uk)

The Council has an agreement with Kew Preparatory School who are situated around the Green, to use the green at cost at specific times for recreation. [www.kgps.co.uk/kgps/about/offer.php](http://www.kgps.co.uk/kgps/about/offer.php)

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 2000's 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.

### 7.6.1 **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. The Kew Society and local ward councillors are consulted before permission is granted for any new event.

Annual events on Kew Green 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 which can be found on [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

### 7.7 **Marketing**

Promotion and marketing of Kew Green 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.

#### **Entrance Signage**

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

#### **Internet**

Information about Kew Green is available on the council's website and can be accessed from the Parks and Open Spaces link [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

#### **General Promotion**

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

## 8.0 **Achievements and Action Plan**

### 8.1 **Achievements**

Recent changes and improvements made to Kew Green are listed below:

- Feb 2010 - the western side of the Green has been verti-drained to relieve compaction
- Spring 2010 Weed treatment in the cricket out field
- Sept 2010 - Shock wave treatment cricket side

The following action plan is divided into three sections:

### 8.2 **Development and renewal**

As indicated previously, while the section 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.

The following are actions planned/completed before April 2011

- Over seeding cricket outfield has been completed
- Replace old benches & install additional new benches if required
- Replace old bins & install additional if required
- Install bird & bat boxes have been installed
- Actions in relation to improvements to Kew Pond have been published further to consultation
- Liaison with the Cricket Club to work towards improving the nets, and facilities
- Liaison with The Kew Society to restore the drinking fountain on little Green
- Liaison with The Kew Society regarding a community notice board to avoid posters being pinned to trees.
- A revised mowing scheme is to be implemented around the edges of the cricket pitch to allow greater biodiversity and specifically rarer plants like meadow saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*) to thrive.

### 8.3 **Community Engagement**

The parks section intends to continue to develop its relationship with The Kew Society and Cricket Club. 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.

Kew Green was included in a customer satisfaction survey that carried out across the borough's parks and open spaces in September 2010. Results indicated high levels of overall satisfaction with the Green.

[www.richmond.gov.uk/home/council\\_government\\_and\\_democracy/council/consulation\\_and\\_feedback/council\\_consultations/consultation\\_details.htm?id=C00318](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/council_government_and_democracy/council/consulation_and_feedback/council_consultations/consultation_details.htm?id=C00318)

#### 8.4 Operational Schedule

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.

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 Removal of other	Within 24 hours  Within 5 working days
Parks furniture	Clean and paint Repair/replace	Annual As required
Monitoring of contract	Monitoring	Weekly inspection with contractors
Infrastructure inspection	Inspection	Annual
Biodiversity opportunities and actions	Installation of bird and bat boxes  Pond Management	Carried out in 2009, these will be monitored and replaced as required.  Annual

### 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 with the Kew Society and Kew Cricket Club. This Management Plan will be reviewed annually.