

PIPII Update May 2018

BARNES

Suffolk Road Recreation Ground

The Council and Friends of Suffolk Road Recreation Ground are working together to carry out a number of improvements to Suffolk Road Rec. The improvements include the creation of a new play area that includes a mixture of natural and traditional play such as a sand pit, multi-play, a number of swings, a ground trampoline and play panels. The play area will be within a dog free area along the right hand side of the park. The Council and Friends Group are working towards a completion date of September, 2018.

A second phase of improvements will see the creation of a sensory garden within the dog free area and the installation of new flowers shrubs, trees and parks furniture throughout the Recreation Ground.

Status: Ongoing

Barnes Green 'Friendly Park for All'

The Council has been working with a number of organisations, including the Dementia Action Alliance, the village planning teams and care organisations based in Barnes who work with people with dementia and their carers to deliver Richmond's first 'Friendly for All' park.

The following improvements were carried out; the existing pathways around the pond were replaced with a new flat surface that has been widened to accommodate all users. New fencing has been installed around the edge of the pond so that users can get closer to the water but remain safe. New seating has been installed at regular intervals as this was outlined in the consultation as a key component for people with dementia. Waymarkers were also installed at each entrance of the Green to help visitors familiarise themselves with their surroundings and a 'chatty chair' and a totem pole meeting point were also installed

All the new facilities have been designed so that they suit the setting of Barnes Green and will appeal to all park users. The way markers reflect the ecology of Barnes Pond.

The Council are also developing interpretation boards, increasing the provision of disabled parking and a programme where people with dementia and their carers are offered appropriate led-activities in the park once a month from May to October. It is an opportunity to take part in stimulating activities, get outside for the benefit of their health and well-being, and to socialise. The programme has come directly from the public consultation with people with dementia and their carers, who said that they would like more organised outdoor activities suitable for their situation. The Council is working with care

organisations to promote the activities to the people who would benefit most. The Council is now working on similar projects at other sites including Heathfield Recreation Ground and Ham Village Green.

Status: Ongoing

Heathfield Recreation Ground 'Friendly Park for All'

Following the success of our pilot 'Friendly for All' project on Barnes Green, the Council is working on a similar project at Heathfield Recreation Ground. We are reviewing the provision of seating and looking to improve user's navigation of the open space through the installation of way markers and a sensory trail.

A funding application has been made to the London Marathon Charitable Trust to upgrade the outdoor gym that exists on the site. Subject to a successful funding bid the new equipment will be tailored to benefit older users and help to improve mobility. It will be the second Friendly Park in the borough following the development of the concept at Barnes Green.

The Council has been working closely with the Art and Design students at the London Borough of Richmond College to design an art installation as part of the improvements to Heathfield Recreation Ground. The sculpture chosen by a panel of Council Members, officers and members of the Dementia Action Alliance is complete and will be installed over the next couple of months and is a huge armchair that symbolises peace and home.

As with Barnes Green, the Council are also developing interpretation boards, increasing the provision of disabled parking and a programme where people with dementia and their carers are offered appropriate led-activities in the park once a month from May to October. It will be an opportunity to take part in stimulating activities, get outside for the benefit of their health and well-being, and to socialise. The launch of the Friendly Parks at Heathfield is planned for late spring / early summer 2018.

Status: Ongoing

EAST SHEEN

Palewell Common

The existing boggy wet area is due to be landscaped in the next month or so and a formal scrape will be created which will be planted up with native marginal plants. This should create a pond/wetland area which will increase the diversity of the site, linking to the woodland and provide a feature of interest for visitors to the park. Seating nearby will be installed at a later date.

Status: Ongoing

The pitch and putt golf course at Palewell Common has recently undergone a re-design to improve the layout and install new features throughout the course.

Status: Complete

Sheen Common

The old small depot has been removed and a turning circle and four parking spaces have been created in its place. The majority of the access road has been re-surfaced and bollards have been installed to prevent any inappropriate parking. A new bar-gate and bollards have also been installed by the entrance of Sheen Common on Fife Road.

Status: Complete

KEW

St Luke's Open Space

The Council is continuing to discuss and revise proposals that would improve the community garden at St Lukes Open Space. The proposals are to create a new entrance on Sandycombe Road and to upgrade the existing planting scheme with new perennial shrubs. Other improvements include resurfacing and installing a permanent chess board for users to enjoy. The Council is intending to start work on this site in the Autumn 2018.

Status: Ongoing

MORTLAKE

Mortlake Green

Following a public consultation, the Council has installed a number of new play items on Mortlake Green. Outside of the existing play area the Council has installed a new Basket Swing and Trim Trail on Mortlake Green along with a new outdoor seating area. A new space net, two play panels, a number of play/activity markings and a new interactive game has been installed within the play area.

A bespoke play train in the design of a 20th century South Western Railway locomotive is to be installed later in the spring.

Status: Ongoing

STRAWBERRY HILL

Radnor Gardens

The Council has now completed the installation of a new ramp onto the bowling green. This project was delivered in partnership with the Friends of Radnor Gardens.

Status: Complete

The Council has also installed a historical interpretation board in partnership with the Friends of Radnor Gardens, due to be installed in spring.

Status: Complete

HAMPTON

Hatherop Park

The former woods yard at the rear of the site has been reduced in size and will be used as a temporary storage facility for parks furniture. We are also trialling bee hives and are in the process of agreeing a lease agreement for two local bee keepers to house their bees in a small section of the compound. The area around the compound is being landscaped and the path to Oak Avenue has been widened to improve the site lines. A new circular path will be created and finger posts to direct walkers between the Green Link between Oak Avenue and Hatherop will be installed.

The small pond has been increased in size and will be planted up with native marginal vegetation. The increased pond area will allow for a greater diversity and numbers of wildlife to use the pond and greater resilience against drought and climate change. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) will be planted to filter water draining in from the surrounding area and in particular the railway. A new boardwalk, steps and path upgrade will be constructed over the summer months as well as some selective crown lifting and tree removal to allow more light into the pond improving the health and viability of the new plants.

Status: Ongoing

RICHMOND RIVERSIDE

Buccleuch and Terrace Gardens

The Council's aspiration, subject to planning permission, is to use the area in Buccleuch Gardens as an outdoor seating area/display space for local arts and crafts in the summers. The seating area would be linked to a new kiosk

provision when the old toilet block is converted into a refreshment kiosk and refurbished public toilet provision. We are planning to go to consultation following the elections to propose changing the toilets into a refreshment kiosk.

Status: Ongoing

DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND RIVER

A successful application was submitted to the GLA's Big Green Fund for match funding for **The Duke's River Project – Revitalising the Link between the River Crane and River Thames**

Working in partnership with Green Corridor, Friends of the River Crane Environment and Hounslow Council, Richmond Council are delivering a project that will re-invigorate the community, access and environmental value of the Duke of Northumberland's River (DNR), as a key link for wildlife and people between the River Crane and the River Thames. Two sections of this corridor have now re-opened to the public and have seen a significant increase in users as accessibility has been greatly improved. New trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers have also been planted to enhance biodiversity. Works on the Third section of the Duke of Northumberland River project started in the beginning of Spring and we are hoping that these will be completed within the next 12 months.

Status: Ongoing please link for more detail on this project

http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/services/parks_and_open_spaces/parks_improvements_and_conservation/parks_improvements.htm

GENERAL PARKS PROJECTS

Tree Planting

Over the last planting season of 2017/18 the Council have planned and projected the planting of around 200 trees within the borough, and are now planning for the season of 2018/19.

Wild Flower Meadows

We have established a number of flowering Meadows around the borough over the last few years. Some of these have been Annual Meadows, which last for one growing season, but the majority have been Perennial Meadows, which will last for many years to come. The Meadows, which are wonderful for wildlife, have been designed to produce lots of colourful flowers over as long a period as possible. The grass content varies between the different seed mixes, with some Meadows including grasses and others being composed purely of flowers.

Poppy Meadows have been sown at various locations around the borough to commemorate those who lost their lives or who were affected by the First World War. We sowed the first Poppy Meadows in 2014 and will continue to sow them until 2018, to reflect the length of World War 1.

Seeds of Change project - Walk this way

The Seeds of Change project is managed through the London Borough of Richmond Parks Department. It aims to encourage more use of parks and open spaces by local people.

New outdoor learning resources are available that can be downloaded free of charge from Richmond Council Website. There are Discovery Walks for Families as well as Learning Walks for Schools to use in any of the parks and open spaces in the borough. The walks have been designed so that the Family Walks complement the Learning Walks. They can be found here: http://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/outdoor_learning_in_parks/walk_this_way

All park Projects are progressing on time and on budget utilising additional funding from S106 and external grants where possible. Cabinet Member and Ward Councillors are kept up to date on all new projects and press releases arranged upon completion of significant projects.