

# Richmond Green Management Plan

## Foreword

Richmond 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 Friends of Richmond Green 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 Richmond 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 financial situation 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 Friends of Richmond Green to maintain standards. In addition we will need to look for additional ways of funding to maintain and improve the boroughs parks, one of our most valuable assets.

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>Action Plan</b>

## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 This Management Plan for Richmond 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 Friends of Richmond Green and borough residents
- The Parks and Open Spaces Service
- Other services and departments within the London Borough of Richmond
- Elected members, ward councillors and portfolio holders
- National agencies
- Local businesses

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

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

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

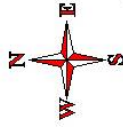
Printed versions of these policies are available on request:

- 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

# Richmond Green, Richmond



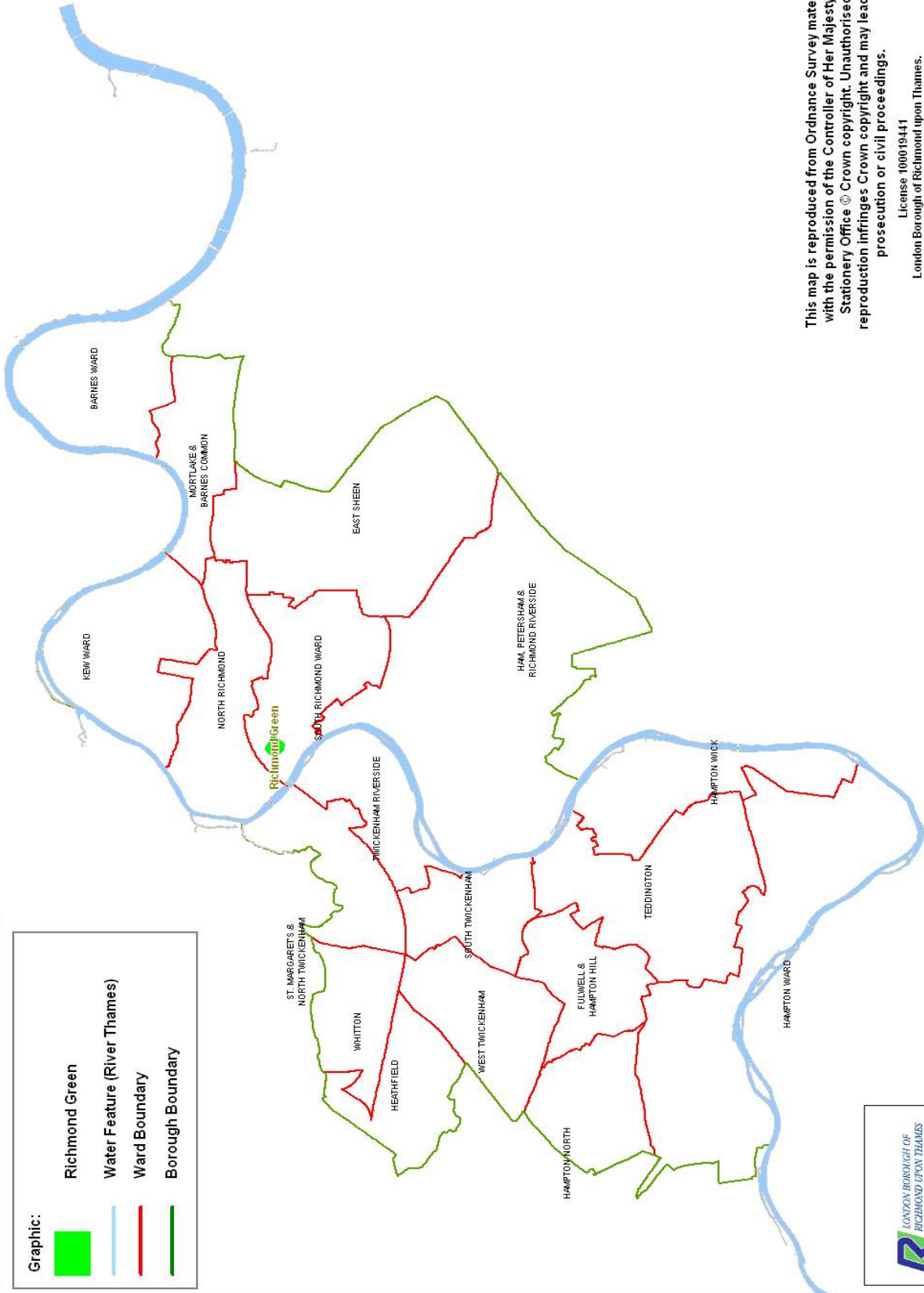
This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey and the Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.  
 London Borough of Richmond upon Thames C.  
 Produced by Meco 2008/2009



Graphic Key and Quantity	
	Site Area 18,000m <sup>2</sup>
	Grass 17,850m <sup>2</sup>
	Sports Marking 788m <sup>2</sup>
	Breedon Gravel 1735m <sup>2</sup>
	Vertical Edging 130m
	Hard Edging 2817m
	Metal Knee Rail 113m (108 Posts)
	Man Hole/ Water Point 3
	Lampost 12
	Sign Post 15
	Parking Bay Meter 5
	Litter Bin 41
	Dog Bin 1
	Bench 54
	Tree 120



## London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames



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 2008

## 4.0 **Site Description**

### 4.1 **Outline History of Richmond Green**

For over 400 years Richmond Green, has been edged by houses and commercial premises - built to provide accommodation for people serving or visiting Richmond Palace. In 1625 Charles I brought his court here to escape the plague in London and by the early 18th century these had become the homes of "minor nobility, diplomats, and court hangers-on".

The construction of the railway in the mid 19th century cut the Green off from Old Deer Park, and led to the building of Victorian villas for the more prosperous commuters to London. The A316 road, built in the early 20th century, accentuated this separation.

The Green is nevertheless an integral part of the town and its riverside location.

### 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**

Richmond Green is situated very near to Richmond Town Centre. It was quite literally at the centre of historic Richmond when the town grew up around Richmond Palace, a royal residence from 1327 to 1649.

#### 4.2.3 **Access**

As a free and open facility Richmond 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:**

Richmond Green is approximately 5 minutes walk from Richmond Station, which is on the overground London Waterloo line, the Overground line and the District line of the Underground Network

##### **Bus:**

Richmond is well served by buses including 190, 33, 337, 371, 371, 391, 419, 485, 490, 65, H22, H37, R68 & R70.

#### 4.2.5 **Landscape & Topography**

Richmond Green is regular in terms of overall shape, comprising of a large rectangular space. There are no fences or walls around the boundary of the Green with the exception of a section of post and rail fencing approximately 50m long on the Maids of Honour Row. The boundary is marked by mature trees planted in the grass. Beyond this a road surrounds the Green. This is lined with buildings, the majority being residential properties.

There is an adjacent area known as the Little Green. This is a much smaller area of grass that lies opposite Richmond Theatre. It is separated from the main green by a road. Both areas are known and managed as Richmond Green.

The Green is amenity grassland, which is relatively level and flat. It includes a well used cricket square.

The main area of the Green is crossed by a very well used path network. This provides a thoroughfare from a major car park, situated off the A316 opposite the main area of the Old Deer Park, to the centre of Richmond.

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

The Green lies within an important Conservation Area but there are no listed buildings on the site. However the Green is surrounded by many listed buildings.

## 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, cycle ways 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. As there is no fence around most of Richmond Green, access is possible at virtually any point. The majority of people entering or passing across the Green, use the path network (see map of the site). These main 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 approximately 50m long on the Maids of Honour Row side of the Green. This is in good condition. Beyond the trees the Green is surrounded by public pavement with the exception of a section along the Pembroke Villas side of the Green. The boundary is well-maintained.

### 5.3.3 Roads, Paths, Cycleways and Access

There are several footpaths crossing the Green. Materials are all-weather in composition, are level, and offer unstepped disabled access. During 2009 all pathways across the Green were resurfaced with Heritage Gravel. The levelling and returfing/reseeding of the grass areas that adjoin the pathways was completed in spring 2010.

At the corner of the Green that leads to the car park situated off the A316 there was a well worn desire line that stretched some 30 metres onto the Green. In autumn 2009 this area was built up with topsoil, levelled and re-turfed.

### 5.3.4 Parking

Richmond 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 nature.

The nearest car park, situated off the A316, is approximately five minutes walk from the Green. There is also public car parking available around the Green.

### 5.3.5 Information

Information relating to Richmond 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 is an attractive interpretative board that gives interesting information about the history of the Green and the nearby remnants of Richmond Palace.

### 5.3.6 Cleanliness

It is understood that with the heavy usage of the Green the presence of litter is an issue that has been a problem. It is an aspect of provision that has been negatively referred to by some local residents. Accordingly, extra litter picking and collection at peak times during the summer has been arranged as part of the management of the site (see below).

### 5.3.7 Planted Areas

There are no shrub or flower beds on Richmond 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 town, its people and the many visitors to the borough. Many of the houses and businesses that surround the Green have a rich history dating back, in some cases, several hundred years. They offer attractive views across the Green. The mature treescape 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 areas under many of the mature trees that surround the Green was very worn and compacted. This was particularly true of the areas under the trees on the southerly side of the Green where there was particularly heavy wear.

In December 2008 this area of grass referred to above was re-turfed with shade tolerant species. It was over-seeded in April 2010 and is programmed again for March 2011 to encourage regeneration of the turfed area.

### **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.

### **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 good condition and are well-used.

### **5.3.12 Children's Play Space**

There is no playground on Richmond Green and it is unlikely to be provided on the Green. It is felt that a playground would not be appropriate on a site of such heritage importance. The Green can be used by younger children for informal ball games.

The nearest playground is situated on the Old Deer Park within fifteen minutes walk of the Green.

### **5.3.13 Buildings, including toilets**

There are no toilets on the Green. Several of the stores in Richmond town centre take part in the Council's Community Shared Toilet Scheme.

The only building is a 'keepers hut' made of wood. This is used principally for storage. The hut is in reasonable condition and is kept clean of graffiti.

### **5.3.14 Health and Safety**

Health and safety is not a major problem on Richmond Green. The footpath network has been resurfaced (see above) addressing previous concerns about possible trip hazards. Work to ensure that there is a level surface between the paths and the surrounding is being completed.

### **5.3.15 Nature Conservation Value**

Richmond Green currently holds little 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 such as Old Deer Park and the River Thames. Opportunities to enhance biodiversity on Richmond 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.

In 2009 10 nesting boxes for birds and 5 for bats were installed in the mature trees surrounding the Green.

#### **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. Following the resurfacing of the footpaths the trip hazards referred to in last year's management plan have been eliminated

#### **5.3.17 Educational Value**

The potential educational value of the Green is unlimited. The historical interest of the site and its relationship to the history of the surrounding buildings and town is exceptional. As mentioned above, there is an informative interpretive sign relating to the historical aspect of the Green.

## 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 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.

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 has completed in 2010.

The Council works and consults with the Friends of Richmond 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.

#### *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.

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 Richmond 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. 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 Richmond Green continues to be a healthy, safe and secure place.

#### **7.3.1 Community Safety**

All operatives working at Richmond 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.

There are continuing concerns amongst local residents and the Friends about anti-social behaviour in and around the Green, particularly on Friday and Saturday evening. This is being addressed through liaison with the community and other partners including the police

#### **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 **Trees**

Trees on Richmond Green have been managed on a reactive basis since they were planted in 1800's. They are a prominent feature in both the local and wider landscape while characterising the Green.

##### **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 suitable planting season.

Basal growth is removed from the lime trees on a biannual basis.

##### **Future Management**

The trees will continue to be inspected on an annual basis and following normal weather. Those trees that are growing under the canopies of the mature specimens should be removed and placed in more suitable locations

#### 7.4.3 **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.

To prevent bins overflowing on days when the park has high numbers of visitors, the Mobile Litter gang or attendant 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.

In 2006/7 Parks Officers negotiated with the Street Cleansing contractor, to carry out a major litter pick of the Green before 07:30 each morning, seven days a week, during the late spring through to the start of autumn each year. The Grounds Maintenance contractor during this period has a site attendant to keep the Green litter free until dusk, seven days week.

#### 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.

#### 7.4.5 **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.

#### **7.4.6 Sports Facility Maintenance**

The general public books the cricket table from April to August.  
The maintenance of the cricket table is as follows:

- The Council's grounds maintenance contractor Veolia maintains the table
- The table is cut weekly
- Wickets are prepared as and when booked
- It is fertilised in April, July and September
- At the end of the season the table is scarified in 4 directions, spiked and top dressed with loam soil.

#### **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, efforts should be 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

Wood chippings from Richmond 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.

##### **7.5.2 Pesticides**

Pesticides are used as and when necessary however this is kept to a minimum 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 primarily carried out by working with the long established Friends of Richmond Green.

#### **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 Friends of Richmond Green and local ward councillors are consulted before permission is granted for any new event.

There are a limited number of established events. Most notable of these is the Richmond May Fair which is an important annual community event in aid of local charities that has been organised for many years by a local residents committee.

Richmond Green has a particular historical significance and this has led to sensitive management of this special place. To this end LBRuT has worked with the Friends of Richmond Green to preserve the Green's special character.

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 Richmond 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 Richmond 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

Changes and improvements made to Richmond Green during 2010/11 are listed below:

- The process through which areas of grass around the footpaths and under mature trees on the South side of the Green were to be overseeded and was completed early in the year.
- Re-seeding has been ongoing on the Green during the year
- A new electricity supply point has been installed for the ice-cream van which hires a pitch on Green in an effort to reduce carbon emissions whilst the van is in operation.

### Action Plan

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. Richmond Green is a site of great heritage value. 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.

- During 2011 re-seeding will continue

### Green Flag Priorities

1. Path edge re-seeding.
2. Tree maintenance will require careful monitoring.
3. Maintain cleansing standards.

### 8.3 Community Engagement

The parks section intends to continue to work with the Friend of Richmond Green. The council has consulted and will continue to consult with the Friends and local ward councillors in relation to any applications hold events on the green. We are committed to being receptive to concerns and suggestions voiced individually or through community groups.

### 8.4 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.

<b>Element</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
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

## 8.5 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 Richmond Green. This Management Plan will be reviewed annually.