

Parks Update – Spring 2020

BARNES

Priests Bridge

As part of the Council's commitment to improve habitat for biodiversity the Council has upgraded the 80m² planter, outside of Priests Bridge with a new urban meadow.

Status: Complete

Suffolk Road Recreation Ground

The Council and the Friends of Suffolk Road Recreation Ground are developing an idea for a sensory garden which will be planted amongst the dog free area within the Recreation Ground. This project is to be led by the Friends of Suffolk Road and the Council are waiting for the group to develop their designs for the sensory garden, before these can be discussed with the Council.

Status: Ongoing

EAST SHEEN

Palewell Common

The Council has commissioned for the defunct rocking horse to be replaced by a new unit known as a Union. The new unit provides a different play experience to users and will be seen as an improvement to the current play provision that is offered.

Status: Complete

Sheen Common

The Council have been working with the Friends of Sheen Common on designs for a new nature trail and playground within the woods of Sheen Common. A public consultation held in the Autumn of 2019 was met with 76% of respondents voting in favour of the proposal.

The Council and Friends Group are now working on a project specification in order for organisations to tender for the project. A funding application to the London Marathon Charitable Trust has also been submitted, with a decision scheduled for the end of May 2020. The Council and Friends Group are also exploring other funding options should this funding application be unsuccessful.

Status: Ongoing

FULWELL AND HAMPTON HILL

Holly Road Recreation Ground

The Council has arranged for the sadly defunct rocking horse to be replaced with a new basket swing at this location. In addition, to increase the biodiversity at Holly Road Recreation Ground, a number of trees are scheduled to be planted at this location.

Status: Ongoing

HAM, PETERSHAM AND RICHMOND RIVERSIDE,

Buccleuch and Terrace Gardens

The renovation works of the former toilet block are almost complete. The refurbishment has transformed the building into a new café with toilet facilities. In addition the Council has completed its competitive tender process and awarded the contract to a new supplier. Due the current Covid-19 outbreak, the opening has been delayed for the time being but it is hoped that they will be operational soon.

Status: Ongoing

Ham Village Green 'Friendly Park for All'

As part of the Friendly Parks for All Project, monthly activities are held which are aimed at people with dementia and their carers to encourage regular use of the space for health and wellbeing.

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/explore_richmonds_parks_and_open_spaces/friendly_parks_for_all

Status: Ongoing

Towpath - Teddington Lock to Kingston Boundary

Following a review of the existing towpath surface the Council commissioned for the towpath surface between Teddington Lock and the Borough boundary by Burnell Avenue to be re-surfaced with a new layer of tarmac.

Status: Complete

HAMPTON

Carlisle Park 'Friendly Park for All'

As part of wider improvements to Carlisle Park, to allow it to be designated a 'Friendly Park for All', the Council and Friends Group ran a public consultation in March to propose the relocation of play equipment from the toddler play area into the main playground and to transform the former toddler playground into a new outdoor gym area. 88% of respondents were in favour of relocating the play equipment into the main playground and 89% were in support of creating a new outdoor gym in the old space.

The Council and Friends Groups will now source quotes to relocate the existing play area and seek external funding opportunities to fund a new outdoor gym. The gym would be aimed at a mixture of able bodied users and those that suffer from mobility difficulties. Upon securing additional funding, the Council will develop a competitive tender and will invite interested suppliers to bid for the project.

Other improvements relating to the 'Friendly Park for All' initiative include creating a central meeting point for visitors, working with local schools on designs for artistic installations that would be placed by each entrance to improve users' navigation of the park. The Council will also look to reinstate

the zebra crossing, reallocate the existing seating more evenly around the park. Other improvements may be developed as the project moves forward.

In addition, the Council has now completed the agreed reduction works to the row of cypress trees that border Wensleydale Gardens, and a ramp on to the bowling green has been installed.

Status: Ongoing.

Hatherop Park

The area around the compound has been landscaped and the path to Oak Avenue has been widened to improve the site lines.

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 were constructed in 2019 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. We are also seeking to reform the Friends of Hatherop Park which will also include Oak Avenue. SWLEN leading on this project.

Scrub control was carried out February/March 2020 but this is an ongoing project.

The Council also intends to carry out a public consultation on proposal for a new sports pitch to be created. The new sports pitch would provide additional facilities for local football clubs and aid the development of girl's football, which is one of the fastest growing sports in the borough.

All consultations are currently suspended due to the current coronavirus epidemic, but once the situation has improved enough for consultation to take place, the Council will be seeking local residents and park users' opinions on this suggestion.

Status: Ongoing

HAMPTON NORTH

Hampton Common

As with Hatherop Park, the Council intends to carry out a public consultation on proposal for a new sports pitch to be created. The new sports pitch would provide additional facilities for local football clubs and aid the development of girl's football, which is one of the fastest growing sports in the borough.

All consultations are currently suspended due to the current coronavirus epidemic, but once the situation has improved enough for consultation to take place, the Council will be seeking local residents and park users' opinions on this suggestion.

Status: Ongoing

Hampton Square

The Council has commissioned the upgrade of the five raised planters in Hampton Square. The previous floral displays that were beginning to look tired have been removed and replaced with a mixture of roses. Each bed has initially been fenced off to allow the new plants to establish, but this is a temporary measure.

Status: Complete

HEATHFIELD

Heathfield Recreation Ground

'Friendly Park for All'

The Council has completed the upgrade of the outdoor gym at Heathfield Recreation Ground and in the Spring will be scheduling in four free personal training sessions with the equipment supplier to promote the gym to local residents and interested parties. Once these sessions are confirmed they will be promoted via social media, posters on site and through the Friends Groups' communication portals.

Status: ongoing

Following a review by the Friends of Heathfield Recreation Ground and the Council of a number of proposals that were put forward by a range of play companies to upgrade the mounded area within the natural play area. The Council commissioned a supplier to proceed with installation of a series of new trim trails on the mounded surfaces. This installation is now complete and we are awaiting official opening of the new equipment.

Status: Complete

The Council and Friends Group have also created two new wild areas where the grass will be left to naturalise as a normal meadow would establish. These areas will be cut, with the cuttings removed twice a year. Lastly, a number of new loggeries were installed along the boundary of Borough Cemetery by a mixture of volunteers from The Conservation Volunteers and members of the Friends Group.

Status: Complete

Hounslow Heath

The Council has commissioned the installation a new footpath which will connect the playground with the entrance to the open space on Wyndham Crescent. The new footpath will improve accessibility across the open space.

Status: Complete

KEW

Kew Green

Working with the Kew Society, the Parks Team will be planting a number of bulbs and a wildflower meadow by the boundary with St Anne's Church. The planting is to take place this autumn. **Status:** ongoing.

St Luke's Open Space

The Council has carried out improvements to the boundary of the community garden by laying new paving around the two trees, installing a new guardrail on the junction of Sandycombe Road and Victoria Cottages and installed a number of bicycle racks.

Improvements within the community garden were postponed but the installation of the permanent concrete chess board has been completed, the Council are finalising the resurfacing of the site with new tarmac and then the improvement works will be complete.

Status: Ongoing

Towpath – Chiswick Bridge to Putney Town Rowing Club

Following a review of the existing towpath surface the Council has authorised for the towpath surface between Chiswick Bridge and Putney Town Rowing Club. This is a 400m stretch of towpath, that runs adjacent to Mortlake Crematorium.

Status: Ongoing

Westerley Ware Recreation Ground

Working with the Friends Group, the Council has arranged for the shed to be repainted and some minor repair works were carried out by the Councils Facilities Management Team.

The Council and Friends have also agreed to remove half of a mixed hedge which border the tennis courts and memorial garden. The removed hedge will be replaced with a number of herbaceous shrubs and a mountain ash tree as a centrepiece.

The second half of the hedge will be removed in the autumn with a symmetrical planting scheme planned for the second side. The new border has improved site lines across into the park.

Status: Ongoing

MORTLAKE AND BARNES COMMON

Barnes Green

'Friendly Park for All' project

Monthly activities are held which are aimed at people with dementia and their carers to encourage regular use of the space for health and wellbeing.

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/explore_richmonds_parks_and_open_spaces/friendly_parks_for_all

Status: Ongoing

NORTH RICHMOND

Raleigh Road Recreation Ground

The Council are working on proposals to carry out a number of improvements to the Recreation Ground that include the installing of a sensory trail, new plantings and increasing the play provision within the playground. The Council

has completed the installation of the new trim trail and spinning pole. The upright basket swing is scheduled to be installed in the next 6 to 8 weeks, along with additional seating throughout the park.

Initial meetings have taken place to install a sensory trail within the playground and it is proposed that the Recreation Ground will become a 'Friendly Park for All'. In order to do so, the Council will work to finalise the sensory trail and install additional seating to aid visitors that suffer from mobility problems.

The Council will also work with the South West London Environment Network (SWLEN) on their plans for creating a 'Friends Group' based on the 5 respondents of the initial consultation who had requested to form one.

To contact SWLEN about the possibility of forming a Friends Group at this site or one of our other parks and open spaces, please email hello@swlen.org.uk

Status: Ongoing

Tangier Green

Following a recent building development in the local area, an amount of Section 106 money has become available to improve the play provision at Tangier Green. With this in mind, the Council has completed the installation of a new trim trail. The new trim trail will increase the play provision at Tangier Green.

Status: Complete

ST MARGARETS & NORTH TWICKENHAM

Grimwood Road Recreation Ground

The Council's grounds maintenance contractor has now completed the upgrade of the four raised planters, revitalising each bed with new plantings. Between the 10th of January and the 7th of February 2020, the Council held a public consultation on proposals to upgrade the playground. Of the 46 respondents that took part, 100% were in favour of the suggestions. The Council has now requested our play contractor to obtain competitive quotes for each of the items that were suggested in the consultation, with the addition of thermoplastic graphics painted on to the existing tarmac surface.

Once the quotes have been received, the Council will arrange installation and will update users accordingly.

12 of the 46 respondents indicated that they would like to form part of a new Friends Group for Grimwood Road Recreation Ground and so the South West London Environment Network have been instructed to contact each individual about the possibility of forming a new group.

To contact SWLEN about the possibility of forming a Friends Group at this site or one of our other parks and open spaces, please email hello@swlen.org.uk

Status: Ongoing

TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE

Diamond Jubilee Gardens

Following the vandalism during the Christmas period in the play area, a burnt spinning unit has been replaced with a new unit, adding an increase in provision to the play area.

Status: Complete

Twickenham Embankment

Work has been completed to upgrade the raised planter that is located by the Barmy Arms Pub. The existing vegetation has been removed and a mixture of new shrubs, bulbs and grasses have been planted in their place.

Status: Complete

WEST TWICKENHAM

Kneller Gardens

'Friendly Parks for All'

Draft proposals for Kneller Gardens to become the 4th Friendly Park are being developed. An initial assessment and proposals have been drafted for discussion.

The Council and Friends Group have conducted a borough wide consultation, which had an initial focus on Kneller Gardens to establish what boundaries park users that are either blind or visually impaired experience when they visit our parks and open spaces. A summary report is to be finalised, however the main barriers that people experience are feelings of safety and pathways that are hidden with trips and hazards. Once the report is finalised the Council will review its parks and open spaces, with a view to ensure that they are accessible for all users.

The Council has also completed the path repairs along the stretch that runs alongside the River Crane and tennis courts.

Status: Ongoing

OTHER PROJECTS

Nature Conservation and Tree Planting

As part of the Council's Higher Level Stewardship Agreement with Natural England, scrub removal has been carried out at Ham Lands, Ham Common Woods, The Copse and Terrace Fields during early 2020. The works have been successful and helped to enhance existing areas of grassland. In addition, a number of loggeries have been created.

Within our nature conservation sites, we have had reports of a number species being recorded on our land such as; tawny owls' little owls, kestrels and sparrowhawks. There was also the first record of toad spawn in the new ponds within Ham Common Woods, a direct result from the Council's efforts to increase toad habitat in recent years.

The Council has planted 183 new trees in its parks and open spaces this winter with 150 more planned for the next planting season (October 2020 to March 2021).

Green Flag Award

[Heathfield Recreation Ground](#) has been entered as the Council's 20th Green Flag award park and open space. Results will be announced later this year.

Here is a list of our other Green Flag sites.

- [Buccleuch Gardens](#)
- [Cambridge Gardens](#)
- [Carlisle Park](#)
- [Crane Park](#) (joint with LB Hounslow)
- [Garrick's Lawn](#)
- [Ham Village Green](#)
- [Hampton Common](#)
- [Hatherop Park](#)
- [Kew Green](#)
- [Kneller Gardens](#)
- [Murray Park](#)
- [North Sheen Recreation Ground](#)
- [Palewell Common and Fields](#)
- [Radnor Gardens](#)
- [Richmond Green](#)
- [Terrace Gardens](#)
- [The Kings Field](#)
- [Twickenham Green](#)
- [Westerley Ware](#)
- [York House Gardens](#)

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.

- Outdoor learning resources available that can be downloaded free of charge from Richmond Council Website have been promoted for the 2019 Outdoor Classroom Days on Thursday 23 May and Thursday 7 November.
- Wellbeing Walks and Carers Walks. These are held monthly in partnership with local charities with the council leading parks through different parks in the borough. Attendance over the winter was low but with a core attendance. Numbers have improved over the spring.
- New Accessible Wellbeing Walks targeted at people with mobility problems and in wheelchairs. This was tested in April 2019 and a programme has been developed for monthly walks from Twickenham

Junction Rough to Kneller Gardens and return. This is a partnership with Walking for Health and Ruils an independent living charity.

Nature Buddies Project

Project supporting volunteers to work with the Friendly Parks for All project is currently being evaluated and written up. A total of 16 volunteers were recruited with 10 active throughout the year. There were 4 support meetings and a manual produced for the project. Areas covered included – confidentiality, safeguarding and collecting impact evidence. There was interest in the model from 3 other local authorities over the year, project led by Let's Go Outside and Learn CIC

Public Space Protection Orders

As of 16 October 2017, all parks and open spaces are controlled by Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). These orders impose various restrictions to dog control and other activities in our parks and open spaces.

Dog control

The [Dog Control PSPO !\[\]\(a69696d69cfd88b51cbd02e5288eca32_img.jpg\) \(pdf, 1.5 MB\)](#) replaces our existing Dog Control Orders and includes a restriction on the number of dogs that can be walked by one person. This has now been reduced from six to four.

Licences and permits

We have agreed to issuing 18 professional dog walking licences, allowing those with a permit to walk six dogs on one of six sites across the borough. Residents with more than 4 dogs can also apply for a resident permit to walk up to 6 dogs. 12 licences have been issued to Professional Dog Walkers.

No new applications are currently being considered.

Anti-social behaviour

The [anti-social behaviour PSPO !\[\]\(d5831b2ac75eb48b4c49d27e61d24c03_img.jpg\) \(pdf, 14.4MB\)](#) outlines measures and restrictions to eliminate anti-social behaviour in our parks and open spaces.