



# **Westerly Ware**

## **Management Plan**

**January 2022 – December 2023**



**Westerly Ware Management Plan 2022-23: Foreword**

Westerly Ware is a vitally important asset for local people and visitors to the borough. Therefore the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames will aspire to maintain and manage it to the highest standards.

This management plan is based on the use of an audit of the park following central government guidance known as PPG 17. This is explained within this document but the approach is based on common sense. We believe that it is important to get the simple things right. Is the green space clean and tidy? Is the grass cut? Are the trees and shrubs well maintained? Is any graffiti removed effectively and quickly?

Working with local communities to deliver the highest quality of service is 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 will be consulted on any proposed changes or improvements to facilities. In particular, the borough works closely with local friends group 'The Westerly Ware Association'. We actively encourage suggestions about all aspects of the park.

While the Council is open to the changing needs of the local community with regards to facilities within any of the borough's parks, the gardens are long established and are well maintained. Major changes to the area 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 Continental Landscapes and using a partnership approach regularly monitor Westerly Ware. Members of the local community are also encouraged to let us know their impressions about the level of maintenance as well as their ideas for improving the facilities. It is hoped that the resulting observations and ideas will result in continually improving management and maintenance practices.

The current financial situation will inevitably have a detrimental effect on the resources available to improve and maintain the borough's parks and open spaces. The borough will continue to work closely with its partners, in this case Continental Landscapes and the Westerly Ware Association, 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.

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**1.0 Introduction**

**Introduction to the Management Plan**

1.1 This Management Plan for Westerly Ware provides a framework for the management and any relevant development of the Park. It utilises the methodology outlined in the Government’s Planning Policy Guidance note 17 (PPG 17) in order to audit the state of provision of features and facilities in the Gardens

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

- The Westerly Ware Association 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; and
- Partners and contractors.

1.2 The Plan will run from January 2022 to December 2023. An interim progress update will be undertaken in January 2023.

**2.0 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:

- There are an estimated 27,000 public parks in Britain, visited an estimated 2.6bn times each year (Common Select Committee, 2016).
- There is an estimated 85,847 hectares of Publicly accessible green space in Great Britain, 73,400 in England. (*Natural capital accounts containing information about green spaces in urban areas*, Office for National Statistics, August 2019)
- 17.99% of Greater London is designated Public Open Space; with 3.5% Local Parks and Open Spaces & 5.2% Metropolitan Parks (GiGL, 2019).

2.3 It is widely recognised that the provision of high quality public realm facilities, such as parks, can assist in making an area an attractive place to live and work. This can result in a number of additional benefits such as economic development and regeneration. A park can also play a part in promoting healthy living as it offers the facilities and space 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; and
- 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; and
- 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; and
- 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 Aims and Objectives**

The Council recognises that its parks and open spaces contribute to the:

- overall vision and priorities of the Council;
- quality of life of local people;
- physical, social and economic regeneration of the borough; and
- greening, attractiveness and biodiversity of the area.

Accordingly this Management Plan and the Parks and Open Spaces Service are guided by and are in agreement with the aims, objectives and principles of the following plans and strategies. These can be found at [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk).

**3.1 Richmond’s Community Plan**

The Community Plan describes the Council’s vision for the borough and outlines the steps that will be taken, through partnership working, to achieve this vision. The vision is for a borough where:

- local people are engaged and involved in their communities.

- a vibrant and sustainable community and voluntary sector helps residents play a full role in community life.
- the local character of the environment is protected and development is high quality and compatible with local character.
- our towns and local centres are attractive, viable for businesses and contribute positively to the quality of life of residents and visitors.
- people can live as independently as possible in the local community with good health and wellbeing.

For further details of the Community Plan please visit: [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

**3.2 Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2011**

Our borough has the largest area of public open space per head of population of any London borough. We have a local and national reputation for quality and leadership in the delivery of excellent parks. To ensure the quality of our parks and open spaces remains at a high level, following public consultation, we developed a series of strategic principles by which the parks will be managed:

1. Parks and open spaces will be a sustainable legacy for future generations.
2. Parks and open spaces will continue to define our borough.
3. Parks and opens spaces will enrich the life, health and wellbeing of residents and visitors.
4. The Council will lead in the delivery of excellent parks and open spaces services.
5. Parks and open spaces will offer positive experiences to all visitors.
6. Through innovation, the future development of parks and open spaces services will be ensured.
7. Increased community participation in parks and open spaces will be encouraged and supported.
8. Parks and open spaces will be celebrated as centres of excellence.

**3.3 Local Biodiversity Action Plan**

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.

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan can be found online here: [https://habitatsandheritage.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Biodiversity-Action-Plan-Richmond\\_compressed.pdf](https://habitatsandheritage.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Biodiversity-Action-Plan-Richmond_compressed.pdf)

**3.4 Parks Improvements**

The Council have a commitment to continued improvement in our Parks and Open Spaces by improving existing infrastructure and developing and installing new facilities. The Council continues to have a cyclical investment programme to ensure that parks and playgrounds are up to standards, this includes £300k a year for park improvements and £150k for play. One aim of the management plan is to maintain the gains that we have achieved in previous years.

The Council list all major improvement projects on our webpage, which can be found here:

[https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks\\_and\\_open\\_spaces/parks\\_improvements\\_and\\_conservation/latest\\_parks\\_updates](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/parks_improvements_and_conservation/latest_parks_updates)

**4.0 Site Description**

**4.1 Outline History of Westerly Ware**

The site on which Westerly Ware now sits was formally meadow land and was owned by King George IV and the Selwyn estates. The Enclosure Act was enacted in 1823 and enabled the King to divide up, rearrange or get rid of certain pasturage rights. Westerly Ware became one of these lots but came with rights of common which secured the site as public open space for the people of Kew. In 1941 Westerly Ware was handed over to Richmond Corporation following over 100 years under the management of the Commonable Rights Committee. Richmond Corporation undertook a number of works including the installation of a children’s play area and shrub and rose beds. In the 1990s the site became a target for vandalism and the site fell into disrepair. This neglect drove the formation of the Westerly Ware Association (WWA), a community group dedicated to ensuring the park remains a pleasant space for all to enjoy. In partnership with the Council, WWA have driven a number of improvements in the park including installation of ornate gates, creation of herbaceous borders and regeneration of the Memorial Garden.

**4.2 Local Plan Designations**

Westerly Ware is designated as ‘Public Open Space’, ‘Metropolitan Open Space’ and a ‘Conservation Area’ within the Council’s Core Strategy. These designations seek to protect and enhance the site for the benefit of the public.

**4.2.1 Land Ownership**

The site is owned by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and is managed by the Parks and Open Spaces Service.

The enabling acts which confer the specified powers to the Council to administer and maintain the land are listed below:

- Open Spaces Act 1906;
- Local Government Act 1972; and
- Local Government, Planning & Land Act 1980.

**4.2.2 Location**

Westerly Ware is a well utilised green space nestled in the residential area of Kew at the foot of Kew Bridge.



4.2.3 **Access**

As a free and open facility, Westerle Ware has the potential to provide fully inclusive access to local residents and visitors to the area. Pedestrians and those arriving by bus and car can currently access the site.

4.2.4 **Local Transport**

**Bus:** Westerly Ware is served by the 65 and 110 which stops on Kew bridge on Kew Road.

**SatNav:** If using a satellite navigation system, please use the postcode TW9 3AP.

4.2.5 **Landscape & Topography**

The park is a generally flat site comprising amenity grass, areas of bulb planting, shrub beds, trees of different age ranges and recreational facilities including three hard tennis courts and a children’s playground.

4.2.6 **Listed Buildings**

There are no listed buildings on the site.

4.2.7 **Ecology**

Hedgerows surrounding the park are well populated with birds and squirrels. The WWA have created a bee friendly herbaceous border and the northern bank has a wild section that is left to grow naturally for pollinators. The WWA has also planted several fruit trees including quince, cherry and plum varieties. A badger has been spotted in the park on two occasions. The site is now home to a bee colony, (pictured below), which is managed by a member of the local community.



Photo by Westerly Ware Association

4.2.8 **Facilities**



Westerly Ware contains the following facilities:

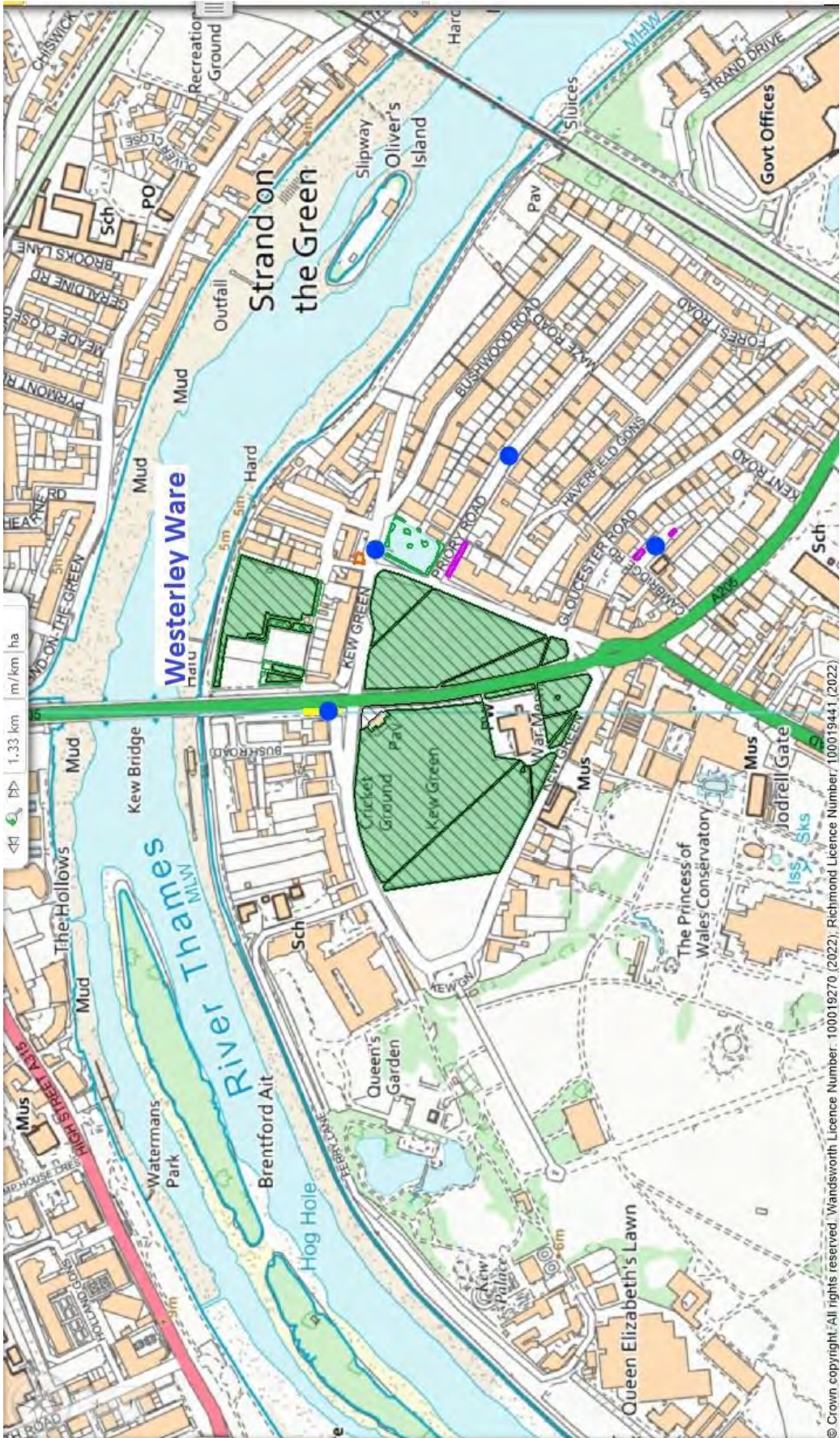
- Tennis courts (coaching and a children’s holiday programme is provided by K5 Tennis Coaching (<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/K5TennisCoaching>))
- Children’s play facilities for a variety of age ranges.

**4.2.9 Maps and Plans**

On the following pages, please find:

- Location map of Westerly Ware within the borough
- Plan map of Westerly Ware
- Aerial photo of Westerly Ware

**Location map of Westerly Ware within the Borough**



### Plan map of Westerly Ware





**Aerial photo of Westerly Ware**



**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; and
  - 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 the key outcomes required by the National Planning Policy Framework.

These are:

- provision of accessible, high quality green space for sport and recreation that meet the identified needs of residents and visitors;
- provision of a park that is ‘fit for purpose’, i.e. the right type in the right place;
- to provide an appropriate balance between new provision and enhancement of existing provision; and
- setting locally derived provision standards.

5.2.1 It is intended that this management plan helps to achieve these outcomes by providing an analysis of existing provision and a plan to effectively maintain and, where appropriate, develop the facilities and infrastructure of the park.

5.2.2 In addition, the preparation of a local assessment will assist in the production of a series of actions which will help to achieve the eight key criteria that are a requirement to be met in order to attain a Green Flag Award:

- A welcoming place;
- Healthy, safe and secure;
- Clean and well maintained;
- Sustainability;
- Conservation and heritage;
- Community involvement;
- Marketing; and
- Management.

**5.3 Open Space Audit**

The methodology used was prescribed in the Government’s “Planning Policy Guideline 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation” (PPG17) for the provision of public open space. The audit primarily concerned with establishing the quantity and quality of existing provision. This consisted of a review of the following key areas of provision:

- Main entrance;

- Boundaries;
- Roads, paths, cycleways and access;
- Parking;
- Information;
- Planted areas;
- Grass areas;
- Cleanliness;
- Provision of litter bins;
- Seating;
- Children’s play space;
- Buildings including toilets;
- Health and safety;
- Nature conservation value; and
- Access for people with disabilities.

**5.3.1 Main entrance**

Westerley Ware has two gates leading off Greyhound Lane, which lies behind the houses on Kew Green. The gate nearest Kew Bridge is a WW1 War Memorial leading to the Memorial Garden and playground. Further down the lane, ornate gates forged by local blacksmith Shelley Thomas lead to the main park and tennis courts.

**5.3.2 Boundaries**

The site is fenced in its entirety or bounded by hedges which are well maintained.

**5.3.3 Roads, paths, cycleways and access**

Paths within the park are in good condition. There are no roads or cycleways within the site’s boundaries. Access points lead directly onto tarmacadam paths.

**5.3.4 Parking**

There is no parking within the park itself although there is a limited amount of free parking in close proximity to the site.

**5.3.5 Gate Locking**

The park is locked during the hours of darkness and details are displayed on site via posters. There is further information on our [website](#).

**5.3.6 Information**

Further information relating to the park is available on the Council’s website: [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk) and South West London Environmental Network’s website: <http://www.swlen.org.uk/looking-for-a-group/westerly-ware-association/%20>

There is a noticeboard at the entrance, off Kew Green, to the park.

**5.3.7 Planted areas**

The park has several rose beds which are in good condition and are maintained as part of the schedule of works. The herbaceous borders and other areas are maintained by Westerley Ware Association volunteers.

**5.3.8 Grass areas**



The site is mainly comprised of amenity grass which is appropriately cut and maintained. The edges are well defined.

**5.3.9 Cleanliness**

The park is kept clear of litter and graffiti by the Council’s grounds maintenance and street cleansing contractor. Bins are emptied daily and the site is litter picked at the same time.

The site is popular for dog walkers and unfortunately fouling is evident. Most dog walkers are residents who do clean up afterwards, however a small minority of people continue to allow their dogs to foul. The Council is committed to working with the Westerly Ware Association and users of this open space to reduce the problem. Incidents are reported to the Council’s enforcement contractor to carry out patrols as necessary.

**5.3.10 Provision of Litter Bins**

There are litter bins throughout the park, and these are generally in good condition.

**5.3.11 Seating**

All seating is in good condition and spaced throughout the park offering peaceful spots for people to sit.

**5.3.12 Children’s Play Space**

The play area is in good working condition and offers a variety of play equipment for the under 7s and for the 7 – 13 age range.

**5.3.13 Buildings**

There is a small shed within the curtilage of the park.

**5.3.14 Health and Safety**

The park presents no obvious dangers as the surface of the site is level with no ruts or trip hazards. The paths and play equipment are in good condition.

**5.3.15 Nature Conservation Value**

The park is generally comprised of a large expanse of amenity grass, but several areas of bee friendly plantings have been created in various sections of the park.

**5.3.16 Access for people with disabilities**

Access to the park is via accessible entrances with flat and smooth paths.

**6.0 Vision and Objectives for the Park**

**6.1 The overall vision for Westerly Ware:**

Following consultation with the local community and as a result of the development of this Plan, the future vision for the park is to ensure its amenity value for the public and increase its valuable as a habitat for wildlife. Safety and security are of high importance as well as good quality facilities. Partnership work with the Council and Westerly Ware Association is also a priority.

**6.2 Aims and Objectives for the Management of the Park**

This section sets out the aims and objectives for the management of the park:

- To identify and cherish the special character of the park;
- To ensure that the management of the park enhances the biodiversity value of the site;
- To ensure that the management of the landscape maintains the character of the park;
- To ensure that the park is promoted and managed in order to provide a high-quality service;
- To meet the demands and expectations of the local community primarily as a recreational, diverse and enjoyable place; and
- To encourage and promote further community involvement in the implementation of the proposals and in the on-going management and development of the park and its running.

**7.0 Management of the Park**

**7.1 Introduction**

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

**7.1.1 The Council’s Parks and Open Spaces Service**

The Parks Service is overseen by the Head of Culture, assisted by the Parks Service Manager. It is made up of three teams:

- The Operations team is responsible for liaising with contractors and monitoring the parks. The team includes a parks operations manager, a parks officer, an ecology officer and a support officer.
- The Development team which is responsible for consultation and the planning and initiation of projects. The team consists of a group of local expert consultants coordinated by the Service Manager and assisted by the parks officer.
- The Arboricultural team is responsible for all street trees and arboricultural work in council-managed parks and open spaces, as well as assisting with planning issues. The team consists of a manager, four tree officers and a support officer.

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

Management of the park needs to deliver high standards of maintenance of all aspects of the soft and hard landscaping of the park within existing revenue budgets. Developments have been funded by major borough-wide capital investment Parks Improvement Programmes between 2005 and 2010 and 2012 and 2017.

**7.1.2 Delivery partners**

The Council works and consults with the Westerly Ware Association who are a group formed by the local community. The Association was formed in 1997 to transform their small public park from a vandalised area with poor children’s play equipment and substandard tennis courts into a pleasant space for all to enjoy. The Association maintains high standards by raising additional funds for various projects to continually improve the park and through its volunteer gardeners who spend about 160 hours a year in the park. Working with the Association enables the Council to understand the different users of open space and can help to advise the Council on how to meet their diverse needs.

For parks maintenance, a new approach was introduced from April 2013, with services split into eleven separate lots and being delivered through a framework contract. In broad terms maintenance will be carried out by the contractors’ operatives who have the necessary skills to achieve high and consistent standards. As a framework, the contracts will also be available for other authorities and organisations in London and the south-east of England.



Photo by Westerly Ware Association

**Parks Framework contract: February 2018 – February 2021 (renewed March 2021 – 2025)**

Following an open and thorough procurement process that began in spring 2017, contractors were appointed to seven service areas to start 36 month contracts in February 2018 (now renewed to 2025). Evaluation was on an 80% cost and 20% quality basis.

- |                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Amenity Landscape Management      | 5 Parks Patrol      |
| 2 Arboriculture Management          | 6 Events Management |
| 3 Oak Processionary Moth management | 7 External Planting |
| 4 Play Inspection & Maintenance     |                     |

Procurement was written in an output style with built-in quality measures and performance indicators and asking qualifying contractors to design excellent services using their knowledge and experience.

Relevance to Westerly Ware

Continental Landscapes are the main grounds contractor, undertaking amenity management (grass cutting, shrubs, hedges, sports bookings and pitch maintenance), small works (hard landscaping, infrastructure and furniture installation, etc.) gate locking operations, plus undertaking play inspection and maintenance. They also undertake parks cleansing alongside existing street cleansing and graffiti removal to create a joined-up operation.

KPS are the arboricultural contractor, working closely with the Council’s tree team who undertake inspections and specify works, with Bartlett Tree Experts undertaking Oak Processionary Moth management.

Events in parks are managed by The Event Umbrella, a company who specialise in managing outdoor events in the public sector.

Park patrols are undertaken by Parkguard, a company specialising in education, support services and enforcement in parks and open spaces.

**7.2 A Welcoming Place**

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that the park continues to be a welcoming place.

**7.2.1 Graffiti removal**

As a part of the Council’s aim to make the borough safe, green and clean we are committed to reducing and removing graffiti. The park will be inspected daily for graffiti. The full details of the borough’s commitment to the prompt removal of graffiti can be viewed at: [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

There is an agreement with the Council’s street cleansing contractor, Continental Landscapes Ltd, to manage the removal of all graffiti within five working days. Where the graffiti is offensive it will be removed within one working day of notification.

**7.2.2 Signage**  
Signage will be kept clean and will be regularly inspected. Any necessary repairs will be carried out as promptly.

**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 the park continues to be a healthy, safe and secure place.

**7.3.1 Community Safety**  
All contractors working on the park undertake an important role in terms of a visible staff presence and structure their maintenance work accordingly. All contractors are uniformed and wear highly visible clothing.

**7.3.2 Dog fouling**  
The Council and their contractors make efforts to educate dog owners to be responsible for their dog's waste as the dangers of humans coming into contact with dog faeces are well known.

Signage clearly indicates that dog mess should be picked up and disposed of by those walking their pets.

Dog waste can now be disposed of in normal litter bins and these bins are emptied daily by the Council's grounds maintenance contractor.

**7.4 Clean and Well Maintained**  
The following regimes are designed to ensure that the park is clean and well maintained.

**7.4.1 Grass Maintenance**  
The majority of the grass within the park is classed as amenity use.

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

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

**7.4.2 Trees**  
Trees within parks are subject to inspection by suitably qualified and experienced Arboriculturalists, this is in order to identify and remedy any unacceptable risks to people using the sites, an example of this is the prophylactic treatment of oak processionary moth or the removal of trees that are extensively decayed compromising their structural integrity.

Tree pruning is only carried out where necessary for risk management purposes or where formative pruning is necessary; this approach allows Richmond's parks to retain a natural landscape with well-formed specimens. Where there is a particular characteristic by way of species composition, size or natural distribution the Council seeks to maintain this through selecting appropriate replacement and new trees. All tree works are in accordance with our Tree Management Policy.

Richmond Council encourages the Westerly Ware Association to consider the tree population within parks and to communicate with the parks and open spaces team in order to make improvements and ensure that there is continuity in the way that the trees are managed.

Westerly Ware contains a mixture of native and non-native trees. The towpath to the north contains horse chestnut and hybrid poplar, the memorial garden is host to a feature swamp cypress which is mirrored by a specimen plane tree on the eastern boundary. The Council has been working with the Friends in order to select small ornamental plantings for the open space to the east of the grounds. This will include a mixture of magnolia, apple, cherry and a feature crape myrtle. A mature sycamore was recently removed from the eastern boundary as part of a thinning operation. This decision was made in conjunction with the Westerly Ware Association combined with local residents, with the aim of making space for the mature plane to develop its crown. The remains of the sycamore have been retained as a feature of the south east corner which is well used by children for play. The principle aim of this retention is to provide a habitat for deadwood specialist wildlife.

**7.4.3 Cleansing**

The collection of litter is extremely important in maintaining the appearance of the park and has a direct effect upon how people treat and respect the site. The park cleansing contractors carry out litter picking, emptying of litterbins and the sweeping/blowing of paths. This applies to all surfaces, paths, lawns and beds.

When the park has high numbers of visitors and large amounts of litter is expected the parks cleansing contractors will carry out additional visits to empty the bins. The full litter bags will be collected and removed from the site on the same day. In addition, the bins are cleaned and disinfected quarterly to avoid an unsightly accumulation of dirt.

**7.4.4 Furniture and Fittings**

The grounds maintenance contractors ensure that all 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 contractors on a Defect Report and carried out promptly. Any single replacement or repair will match the existing furniture so that the style of the seat remains consistent.

Playgrounds are inspected twice a week by the grounds maintenance contractor and any hazards identified are dealt with accordingly. In addition, there is an annual inspection to ensure that the playground meets ROSPA standards.

**7.4.5 Hard Surfaces**



Hard surfaces will be kept clean with litter swept from surfaces regularly by the ground’s maintenance contractor.

Hard surfaces will be maintained in a weed free state with spot treatment weed spraying between March and November. Paths will be kept in a good state of repair and all paths being inspected annually and any repairs ordered to be carried out between March and November.

Drains and gulleys are inspected regularly.

**7.5 Sustainability**

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

**7.5.1 Recycling**

At present we do not have recycling facilities available in this park. However, residents can recycle at some of our other parks and open spaces as well as the cafes situated within them.

**7.5.2 Recycling green waste**

The Council’s ground maintenance contractor takes all contract generated green waste to Townsmead recycling centre. The WWA have their own compost on site for green waste that is created by the volunteers.

**7.6 Conservation and Heritage**

**7.6.1 Pesticides**

The use of pesticides in the park is kept to a minimum in the interests of nature conservation and ecology. An Integrated Weed Management policy has been developed to assist decision-making.

**7.6.2 Biodiversity**

The River Thames is an important wildlife corridor. As Westerly Ware sits next to the river, it becomes an important extension to this.

The park has seen many biodiversity improvements over recent years to diversify the habitats available and encourage nature onto the site.

**7.7 Community Involvement**

This is crucial to the management of the park. Developments to the park have been made in close co-operation with the Association.

**7.8 Marketing**

Promotion and marketing of the park is carried out by means of a range of measures, including the Council’s website, publicity literature and the Association noticeboard, to ensure that local people and visitors to the borough are aware of the facility.

**7.10 Internet**

Westerly Ware features on the council’s website and can be accessed from the following link at: [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

Information on the Westerly Ware Association can be found at <https://westerlyware.com> The Friends group can be contacted at [info@westerlyware.com](mailto:info@westerlyware.com)

**7.11 General Promotion**

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

**8.0 Achievements and Action Plan**

**8.1 Achievements**

Changes and improvements made to Westerly Ware in 2020-21 include:

- Removed the second half of hedge from the memorial garden and replaced with a mixture of herbaceous shrubs. Additional bulb planting also took place.
- Replace the green wire fencing around the garden area with a new bow top powder coated fence with a gate.
- Installed a standpipe for use by the Friends Group

**8.2 Action Plan**

The action plan is divided into three sections:

Item of work and location	Year		Timing	Resources
	2022	2023		
Review the provision of parks furniture replace accordingly	Y	Y	Ongoing	Parks Team/Continental Landscapes/Friends group
Work with grounds maintenance contractor and friends group on tackling ongoing problems with animals digging holes in the grassed areas	Y	Y	Ongoing	Friends group, Parks Team & Parkguard Ltd
Work with the Friends group on organising community events	Y	Y	Ongoing	Friends Group
Explore the possibility of a new petanque pitch – subject to consultation, planning permission and available budget	Y	Y	Ongoing	Friends Group
Explore upgrading the playground by replacing faded panels on the multi-play units and installing new thermoplastic graphics – subject to available funding.	Y		Spring 2022	Parks Team
Additional Tree Planting	Y		Spring 2022	Parks Team

**8.2.1 Development and renewal**

The Council has consulted extensively with the community regarding facilities within the borough’s parks and open spaces. As a result of this consultation, it is not envisaged that there is likely to be any other major additions to the parks’ facilities at present. The major challenge is to maintain high standards of maintenance. Park usage has noticeably increased over the past couple of years, in particular by dog owners and playground users. The additional wear and tear that comes from these users (particularly dog fouling and digging) needs to be monitored and additional maintenance provided when necessary to ensure that the park is not spoilt for other visitors.

**8.2.2 Community Engagement**

The Parks team intends to continue to work with the Westerly Ware Association. The Council has and will continue to consult with the Association and local ward councillors in relation to any new initiatives. We are committed to being receptive to concerns and suggestions voiced individually or through community groups.

**8.3 Operational Commitments**

The maintenance schedule includes the main features that make up the fabric of the park and the maintenance operations for each. Monitoring and inspection duties are also included. Biodiversity management and initiatives are included in this schedule.

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Maintenance Operation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Amenity grass	Kept to a height of between 15mm & 25mm	Cut approximately every 10 days during the growing season
Informal grass	Cutting of grass and removal of arisings from site.	Cut once a year
Bulbs	Cutting of amenity grass where bulbs are planted.  Cutting of long/informal grass where bulbs are planted.	Cut approximately every 10 days during the growing season once the bulbs have flowered and the foliage has died back.  Once a year
Tree	Inspection Replacing and expanding variety and stock	Annual As required
Shrub	Kept weed free Mulching Pruning	As required Annual As required, dependent on species
Litter	Litter picking Emptying of bins	Daily Daily
Graffiti	Removal of obscene/offensive words	Within 24 hours

	Removal of other	Within 5 working days
Furniture	Clean and paint Repair/replace	Annual As required
Playground	Visual inspection Detailed inspection ROSPA standard	Twice per week Monthly Annual
Monitoring of contract	Monitoring	Weekly
Infrastructure inspection	Inspection	Annual
Biodiversity opportunities and actions	Inspection, enhancement when necessary	As required We will work to the guidelines as set out in our Nature Conservation Policy Statement.

**8.4 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 and in a sustainable way. The Council is open to the changing needs of the local community and will continue to work closely with the Westerly Ware Association. The Plan will run from January 2022 to December 2023. An interim progress update will be undertaken in January 2023.