



# Richmond Green Management Plan

January 2024 – December 2025

### **Richmond Green Management Plan 2024-2025: Foreword**

Richmond Green is a vitally important asset for local people and visitors. The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (the Council) 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 any graffiti removed effectively and quickly?

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. In particular, we work closely with the Friends of Richmond Green. We actively encourage suggestions about the park.

While the Council is open to the changing demands from the local community with regards to 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 sits within a designated Conservation Area. 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 Continental Landscapes 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.

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, including Continental Landscapes 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.

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**1. Introduction**

1.1 This Management Plan for Richmond Green provides guidance for the management and any relevant development of the Green. 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; and
- Partners and contractors

1.2 The Plan will run from January 2024 to December 2025. An interim progress update will be undertaken in January 2025.

**2. 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)
- 18.13 % of Greater London is designated Public Open Space; with 3.5% Local Parks and Open Spaces & 5.2% Metropolitan Parks (Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC, 2023).

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 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 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. Relationship to Council’s Aims and Objectives**

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

- overall vision and priorities of the Council
- quality of life of local people
- physical, social and economic regeneration of the borough
- greening, attractiveness and increasing biodiversity and quality of green space in the area
- tackling the climate emergency; improving air quality and minimising green house gas emissions
- minimising flood risk and sustainable drainage

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 Councils’ plans and strategies. These can be found on the webpages below:

[Council policies and plans - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](#)

Draft Local Plan: Submission - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Parks and open spaces policies and plans - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Assessment 2023 & Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy 2023

**3.1 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 a 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.

The current strategic principles are being reviewed and will be consulted on and updated in spring 2024.

**3.2 Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Richmond**

The main aims of the plan are:

- To conserve and enhance the variety of habitats and species in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, in particular those which are of international or national importance, are in decline locally, are characteristic to the borough and/or have particular public appeal, which can raise the profile of biodiversity.
- To ensure that Richmond upon Thames’ 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: [Richmond upon Thames \(habitatsandheritage.org.uk\)](http://Richmond upon Thames (habitatsandheritage.org.uk))

**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:

[Latest parks updates - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](#)

**4. Site Description**

**4.1 Outline History of Richmond Green**

Whilst anomalously not included on Historic England’s *Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest* despite its direct associations with Henry VII’s Palace of the late-15<sup>th</sup> and early-16<sup>th</sup> centuries on its south-western side and earlier Royal manor houses and palaces dating back to the time of King Henry I in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, The Green remains an integral part of the Crown Estate in Richmond with continuing links to the Crown across the centuries.

Described by Bridget Cherry and the late Nikolaus Pevsner in relevant volume of *The Buildings of England – London 2: South*. as ‘one of the most beautiful urban greens surviving anywhere in England’, Richmond Green possesses considerable architectural, historic and landscape interest and significance.

Now largely built-up on all four sides, except on its north-eastern side where it abuts The Little Green, the Green now forms the heart of The Richmond Green Conservation Area, designated back in 1969. The earliest surviving illustrations of The Green are Anthonis van Wyngaerde’s drawing of the Palace and The Green of 1562 – now in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford – and Moses Glover’s Map of the Isleworth Hundred – now in the Duke of Northumberland’s collection at Syon House of 1635. However, by far the best historic illustration is Overton and Hoole’s well-known aerial view of 1726 – *The Prospect of Richmond in Surry* - in which The Green takes up the entire foreground. The Green forms an integral and essential part of the immediate setting of the Tudor Palace and that of many other historic buildings that lie around its four sides.

The remaining grade I listed parts of King Henry VII’s rebuilding of the Palace of Shene occupy a substantial part of the south-western side of The Green together with the well-known, grade I listed Maids of Honour Row of 1724, and other highly graded, historic listed houses dating from the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The stretch of this south-western side of The Green directly in front of the Palace and Maids of Honour Row is bounded by an elegant, early-19<sup>th</sup> century series of cast-iron bollards and rails carrying the monogram of King William IV – all that survives of the very fine series of bollards and rails that once bounded all four sides of The Green – most of which were removed for the War effort in 1940, but later dumped in the Thames Estuary given that they were unsuited for making steel. The Green is very much the poorer both visually and historically without these bollards and rails.

The south-eastern sides of The Green comprise mostly late-17<sup>th</sup> century and 18<sup>th</sup> century houses, including the grade II\* listed Old Palace Terrace. Many of the houses along the stretch between Duke Street and Paved Court, known as Greenside, have long been in business use as offices and include the historic *Cricketers* and *Prince’s Head* public houses.

The north-western side of The Green comprises the five pairs of listed, semi-detached, mid-19<sup>th</sup> century houses known as Pembroke Villas, whilst the northern part of the north-eastern side comprises the two pairs of listed, semi-detached, mid-19<sup>th</sup> century houses known as Portland Villas and the award-winning terrace of thirteen houses completed in 1970 known as Portland Terrace. Nearby, fronting The Little Green on its south-eastern side is the well-known, grade II\* listed Richmond Theatre of 1899 - described authoritatively as of outstanding importance as the most completely preserved Matcham theatre in Greater London and one of his most satisfying interiors.

**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 comprises of a large rectangular space. There are 49 bollards on the Maids of Honour side of The Green. About 20% of these are crested William IV ribbed cast iron bollards with the remainder being plain and with the occasional ER II one. Historically, bollards surrounded the entire Green, however most were removed for use as materials in World War II. The 50m of bollards on Maids of Honour Row are all that remain of the original cast iron bollards.

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 restoration of the Victorian Grade 2 listed Drinking Fountain on Richmond Green has been an aim of Friends of Richmond Green and was achieved in March 2020.

This project was undertaken in conjunction with the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and was made possible by generous donations from Friends of Richmond Green, Richmond Council Civic Pride Fund, Heritage of London Trust, The family of Councillor John Ormiston, The Drinking Fountain Association and Baroness van Dedem.

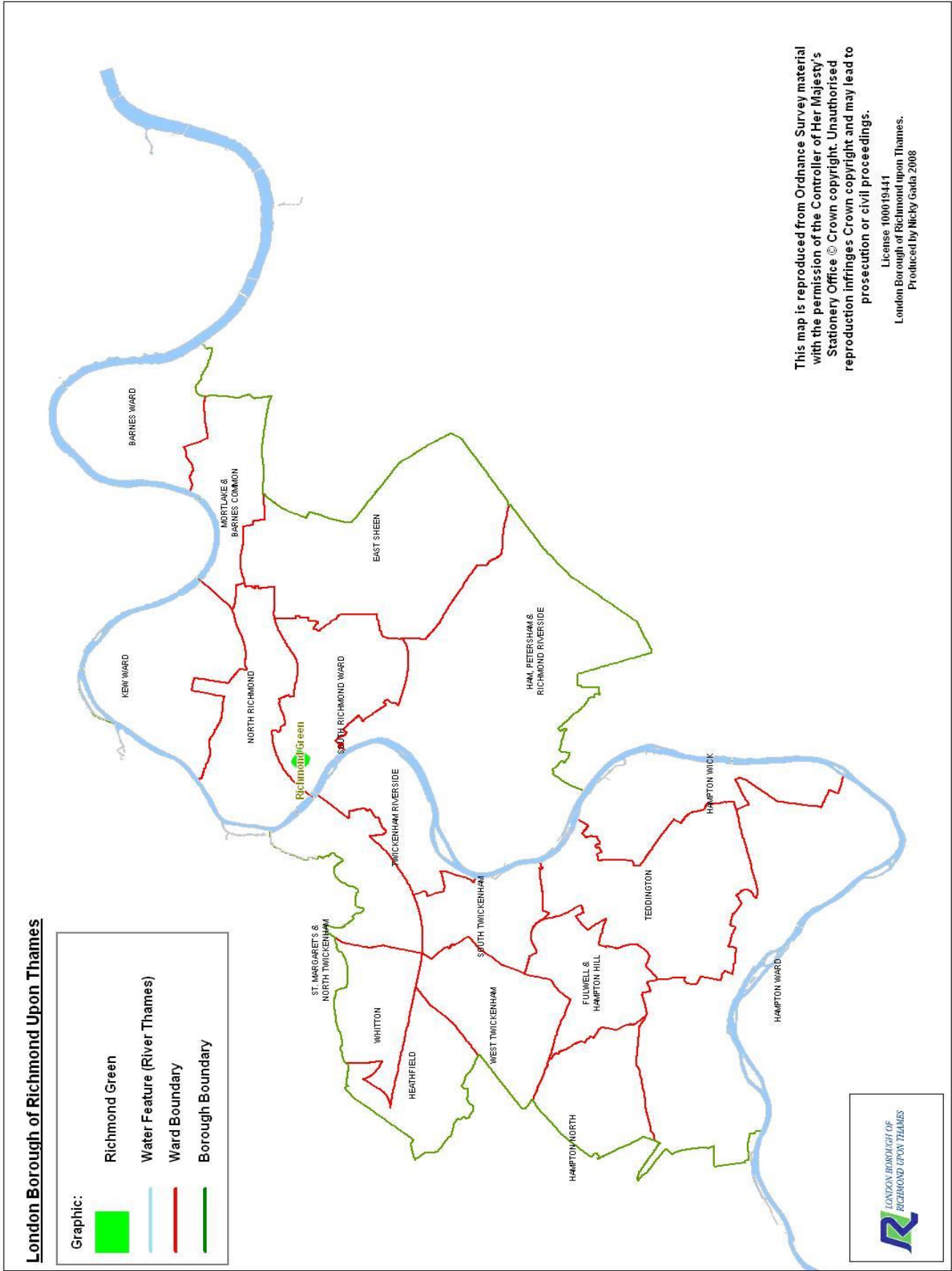
Historic records show that it was last restored as a drinking fountain in 1977 and opened by the then Mayor of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. In September 2021, 44 years on from the last restoration, Her Worship the Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames - Councillor Suzette Nicholson and her Consort – officially opened the restored drinking fountain.

Adjacent to The Green there are two listed Sir Gilbert Scott telephone boxes which FoRG believe are a unique pair within the borough. One is owned by the Council and one is privately owned.

**4.2.7 Maps and Plans**

On the following pages, please find:

- Location map of Richmond Green within the borough
- Plan map of Richmond Green
- Aerial photo of Richmond Green



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Richmond Green aerial photograph



**5. 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

**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 the National Planning Policy Framework.

These are:

- provision of accessible, high quality park space for sport and recreation that meet the identified 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;
- Environmental Management;
- Landscape and heritage;
- Community involvement;
- Marketing and communication
- Overall Management.

**5.3 Methodology**

The methodology used was prescribed in the Government's Planning Policy Guideline note 17 (PPG17) for the provision of public open space. This consisted of a review of the following key areas of provision:

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

**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 plan and aerial maps 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 a car park in Friars Lane carpark and public car parking available around the Green.

**5.3.5 Information**

Information relating to Richmond Green is available on the parks section of the Council 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**

Due to the heavy usage of the Green, litter can be an issue. Extra litter picking and collection takes place at peak times during the summer, 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 March 2011.

**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. In summer when the Green experiences increased use extra wheelie bins are added to ensure there is enough bin provision.

**5.3.11 Seating**

There are many benches surrounding the perimeter of the Green, with the majority of these being memorial benches. Where these fall into a state of disrepair or become unsafe for public setting the benches are removed and families informed. These benches experience high use, due to this the plinths were extended to limit erosion and aid access to the benches.

**5.3.12 Children’s Play Space**

There is no playground on Richmond Green, and it is unlikely to be provided here. 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. However, many shops in Richmond’s 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 a number of bird and bat boxes have been installed.

**5.3.16 Access for people with disabilities**

This factor has been included not only to ensure maximum accessibility for those in wheelchairs, for the elderly, and the less able-bodied; but also to ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act. Access to the Green is good.

**6. 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 Aims and Objectives for the Management of the Green**

- 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. 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.

**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 two teams, the Parks Service also use consultants when needed.

- The Operations team is responsible for liaising with contractors and monitoring the parks. The team includes a Parks Operations Manager, two Parks Officers, an Ecology Policy and Planning Manager, an Ecology Policy and Planning Officer, Allotment Officer and a Parks Support 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, seven tree officers and a technical 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. In 2022 Public Realm funding allow improvements in all wards covering – Sports pitches, Outdoor gyms, Playgrounds and pathway access.

**7.1.2 Delivery partners**

The Council works closely with the Friends of Richmond Green in consulting with local people regarding their views of the facilities and any impact that is made on their lives. Continued working with the Friends has a very high priority in relation to the continued management of the park. The Council also works with a number of external companies who offer fitness classes in Sheen and other parks. For more information, please visit:

[https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks\\_and\\_open\\_spaces/fitness\\_activities\\_in\\_parks/fitness\\_training\\_in\\_parks](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/fitness_activities_in_parks/fitness_training_in_parks)

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.

**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 Richmond Green

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.

Our contractors take appropriate actions to ensure their health and safety of their staff and a safe working environment through proper training, risk assessments and inspections. These may vary depending on the contractor, further details of these can be made available upon request.

**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 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**

The signage will be kept clean and will be regularly inspected. Any necessary repairs will be carried out promptly.

**7.2.3 Pathways**

All paths will be inspected annually with regular monitoring throughout the year. Any necessary repairs will be carried out as promptly as possible.

**7.3 Healthy, Safe and Secure**

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that Richmond Green continues to be a healthy, safe and secure place.

**7.3.1 Community Safety**

All contractors working on the Green 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.

In addition, the local Police Safer Neighbourhood team and our wardening contractor Parkguard regularly patrol the Green on foot to monitor behaviour and deter any incidents of anti-social behaviour. Any incidents are recorded and logged within Parkguard’s patrol reports.

**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.

All general waste bins can be used to dispose of dog waste.

The Council has adopted Public Space Protection Orders relating to Dog Control. These have been renewed in 2023 for a further 3 years. They can be found online here: [Dog Control PSPO \(richmond.gov.uk\)](http://richmond.gov.uk/Dog-Control-PSPO)

**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 20 and 50mm 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 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 Friends of Richmond Green 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.

Richmond Green is surrounded by perimeter plantings of plane and lime trees. Limes form historic single and double avenues on the Green; some are estimated to be at least 140 years old. Their location and age gives them heritage status. The mature plane to the south east, which were planted around eighty years ago, provide considerable amenity and refuge for shade seekers during hot summer periods.

**7.4.3 Cleansing**

The collection of litter is extremely important in maintaining the appearance of the Green and has a direct effect upon how people treat and respect the site. Litter is collected on a daily basis by our park cleansing contractor. From 11am there is an additional static member of staff who litter picks both Richmond Green and Richmond Riverside Complex for 8 hours a day.

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 Green 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 and provide additional bins to help manage the high usage. In addition, the bins are cleaned and disinfected quarterly to avoid an unsightly accumulation of dirt.

**7.4.4 Park 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 when required and any 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 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 gulley’s are inspected regularly.

**7.4.6 Sports Facility Maintenance**

The public are able to book the cricket table from April to August. The maintenance of the cricket table is as follows:

- The Council's grounds maintenance contractor 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**

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.

**7.5.1 Recycling green waste**

The Council's ground maintenance contractor takes all green waste to Townsmead recycling centre

**7.5.3 Pesticides**

The use of pesticides on the Common will be minimised as much as possible in the interests of nature conservation and ecology. An exception to this is the annual spraying of the [oak processionary moth](#).

The Council have an integrated Pest Management Policy which can be found online at:

[https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/25346/integrated\\_pest\\_management\\_policy.pdf](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/25346/integrated_pest_management_policy.pdf)

**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 Council’s policy is to encourage the hire of 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 – currently three charity events. Most notable of these is the Richmond May Fair which is an important annual community event in aid of local charities and community groups. The Richmond May Fair celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019 and was organised by Be Richmond.

Richmond Green has a particular historical significance, and this has led to sensitive management of this special place. To this end the Council 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 found at: [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

Friends of Richmond Green has worked with the Council’s Film Office to draw up a set of guidelines for filming on Richmond Green and in surrounding areas. This covers filming times, parking arrangements, catering, litter, noise, lighting and communications.

**7.7 Marketing**

Promotion and marketing of Richmond Green is carried out using a range of measures, including the Council’s website and publicity literature, to ensure that local people and visitors to the borough are aware of the facility.

**Entrance Signage**

A 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)

Information on the Friends of Richmond Green can be found at: <http://www.forq.org.uk/>. The Friends can be contacted at: [mail@FoRG.org.uk](mailto:mail@FoRG.org.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 Achievements and Action Plan**

**8.1 Achievements**



Changes and improvements made to Richmond Green in 2022-23 were:

- Continuous upgrade of benches through the memorial bench programme
- Required post season renovations to the Cricket Green and wicket

**8.2 Action Plan**

The following action plan is divided into three sections:

Item of work and location	Year		Timing	Resources
	2024	2025		
Undertake review of soil compaction and very worn areas underneath trees with a view to re-seeding with fescue grass	Y		Autumn 2025	Parks Team & Continental Landscapes
Work with the Friends to identify any improvements that can be made to the Green	Y	Y	Ongoing	Parks Team & Continental Landscapes
Ensure visits are made by our Parks Enforcement Contractor to deter ASB	Y	Y	Ongoing	Parks Team & Parkguard

**8.2.1 Development and Renewal**

As indicated previously, while the Council 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.

**8.2.2 Community Engagement**

The Parks team intends to continue to work with the Friends 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.

**8.3 Operational Commitments**

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

and will work to the guidelines as set out in our Nature Conservation Policy Statement.

<b>Element</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Grass Maintenance	Kept to a height of between 20mm & 50mm	Cut approximately every 10 days during the growing season
Tree maintenance	Inspection Replacing and expanding variety and stock	Four yearly As required
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	When required As required
Monitoring of contract	Monitoring	Quarterly inspection with contractors
Infrastructure inspection	Inspection	Annual

**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 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. The Plan will run from January 2024 to December 2025. An interim progress update will be undertaken in January 2025.