

## **Parks Update – Autumn 2021**

### **BARNES**

#### **Barnes Common**

Working with the Friends of Barnes Common and an external contractor the Council will be commissioning the creation of a new pond. The new pond will be approximately 200sqm and at a depth of 1.3m. The pond will be located near to the Vine Road side of the common.

**Status:** Complete

#### **Barnes Green**

An access guide was prepared for the parks, is included on the council website. There is a link included in the AccessAble website.

<https://www.accessable.co.uk/richmond>

The sensory trails around the park were developed and included on a downloadable app.

**Status:** Complete

### **HAM, PETERSHAM AND RICHMOND RIVERSIDE,**

#### **Gothic Gardens**

Works have been undertaken to repair the damaged wall/raised planter that runs along Petersham Road. The repair works have now been completed which has lowered the wall but retained the feature as a planter. The Council's grounds maintenance contractor will be arranging possible planning schemes for the Gardens. One that features herbaceous plants and the other with shrubs. Planting will take place in the autumn.

**Status:** Ongoing

#### **Ham Pond**

Working with the Friends of Ham Pond, the Council will be co-ordinating repairs to the bank and increasing the size of the island as both areas have started to become eroded. These works are planned for the coming winter.

**Status:** Ongoing

#### **Ham Village Green**

An access guide was prepared for the parks, is included on the council website. There is a link included in the AccessAble website.

<https://www.accessable.co.uk/richmond>

The sensory trails around the park were developed and included on a downloadable app.

**Status:** Complete

### **HAMPTON**

#### **Carlisle Park**

##### **'Friendly Park for All'**

As part of wider improvements to Carlisle Park, to allocate it 'Friendly Parks for All' status, the Council have installed a way marked trail around the park and will shortly install a curved bench to act as central meeting point.

Following a design competition, a mosaic artist is working on 3 entrance and exit markers that incorporate designs by local school children. The mosaics will be placed at the entrance/exits to the park

The Council will also be improving signage that incorporates brail to improve navigation for the toilets.

A sensory trail has been designed for the park which is available via a downloadable app. The leaflet will also be included on the Council website.

An access guide has been included on the Council website and a link has been included in the AccessAble website.

<https://www.accessable.co.uk/richmond>

**Status:** Ongoing.

### **Hatherop Park**

Works to create the new 9vs9 sports pitch have been completed and new goal posts have been ordered but challenges in the haulage trade has led to delays. As soon as these are installed, the pitch will be usable for the remainder of the 2021/22 season.

**Status:** Ongoing

## **HAMPTON NORTH**

### **Hampton Common**

Like Hatherop Park, the Council proposed the installation of a new 9vs9 pitch on Hampton Common. A second consultation was carried out and a decision was made by Cabinet Members to trial the new pitch for the remainder of the 2021/22 season. The new removable goal posts have been ordered and once these are installed prospective clubs will be able to book the facility. A review of how viable this pitch is will be undertaken in the Summer of 2022.

**Status:** Ongoing

## **HAMPTON WICK**

### **Broom Road Recreation Ground**

The Council are proposing to remove the remaining steppingstones in the natural play area by the river and transform the location into a new seating area accompanied with new plantings. Quotes have been sought for the removal and planting of the area and a 2-3 benches have been ordered to be installed. Information notices have been placed on site to inform park users of the proposed changes.

Works scheduled to be completed this autumn.

**Status:** ongoing.

### **Kings Field**

The Council are proposing to trial additional under 10's sessions after school, alongside other skaters. The sessions are to take place on one day a week between Wednesday and Friday and will last for three months. The Council will then review and see if other sessions can be held.

**Status:** Complete

## HEATHFIELD

### Heathfield Recreation Ground

#### 'Friendly Park for All'

The Friends of Heathfield Recreation Ground have been successful in their funding application to the Community Infrastructure Levy grant. The money awarded will go towards replacing the existing Multi-Games Area and install a new permanent table tennis table. The table tennis and chess table have been installed on new surfacing. Fencing and new MUGA are on order but delays in manufacture will likely mean install in December/January.

An access guide was prepared for the park, had been included on the council website. There is a link included in the AccessAble website.

<https://www.accessable.co.uk/richmond>

There were some training sessions for use of the outdoor gym equipment which was promoted to organisations working with vulnerable groups.

The sensory trail around the park has been included on a downloadable app.

**Status:** ongoing

### Heathfield Nature Park

The planning application for Turing House School on Bridge House Nursery in Whitton set aside 1.8 hectares to become new public open space that is managed primarily for nature. The Parks team will create and manage this new space, with s106 funds covering the first five years' costs. The vision for the site is a natural parkland, with a restored neutral meadow bordered by specimen trees. Boundary hedges, rough grassland with low scrub and fruit trees or wild bird cover crop will frame the site. A permeable gravel path loop with seasonal grass paths will traverse the different character areas, with benches at viewpoints and interpretation boards. Public reaction to a draft design released in June 2021 was very positive. A planning application to get this approved will be submitted in late 2021.

**Status:** Ongoing

### Hounslow Heath

The Council are proposing to install several new pieces of play equipment in Hounslow Heath. The proposed items include a steel/metal framed trim trail for the top of the hill, a seesaw and 4 fence mounted play or interactive panels.

Quotes have been requested from several play companies and the Council are aiming to install early next year subject to acceptable quotes being received and the associated lead times.

**Status:** Ongoing

## KEW

### Kew Pond

Working with the Friends Group the Council are preparing winter works to remove several unwanted species from the pond surrounds.

**Status:** Ongoing

### **Westerley Ware Recreation Ground**

The Friends group have successfully applied for a Community Infrastructure Levy Grant to install a new bow top fencing and gate around their community garden and wildlife area. Quotes for the supply and installation have been sought and works will be complete this autumn.

**Status:** completed

### **MORTLAKE AND BARNES COMMON**

#### **Mullins Path Open Space**

The Council are proposing to increase the level of play provision at Mullins Path by installing a small basket swing. Quotes from several play companies have been requested. Once received and accepted the Council are aiming to complete this upgrade before Christmas.

**Status:** Ongoing

### **NORTH RICHMOND**

#### **Old Deer Park – adjacent to the carpark, formerly known as the Fun Fair Site**

The Council have been working with the Old Deer Park Working Group to develop a new linked footpath between the car park and the Riverside to increase public access and enjoyment of this attractive and historic area.

The proposal is still being considered by the Crown Estate's agents. The route would skirt the edge of the treeline along the boundary with the railway and be considerably landscaped to ensure the parkland setting is not harmed.

**Status:** Ongoing – awaiting Crown Estate permission to start work.

#### **Raleigh Road Recreation Ground**

Initial meetings have taken place to install a sensory trail within the recreation ground and it is proposed that the Recreation Ground will become a 'Friendly Park for All'. To do so, the Council will work to finalise the sensory trail and install additional seating to aid visitors that with limited mobility.

Habitats & Heritage have been working with local residents to form a new friends group for the site. A committee was elected, and a constitution agreed, but the interim chair has since stepped away for personal reasons. H&H will ask if any of the existing committee members are will taking on this role, but if not, Colin from H&H will take on this role on an acting and interim basis (only) until the group can recruit. A committee meeting is being held in November.

We hear from H&H that there has been considerable churn of volunteers and committee members over the last year and this was identified as a common theme in the Friends Groups Forum, but also there are also a lot of people looking to volunteer in local initiatives and H&H has launched a mini campaign to mass recruit volunteers to committees and promotional work will recommence post Richmond Climate Week (1st-7<sup>th</sup> November)

**Status:** Ongoing

## **SOUTH RICHMOND**

### **Worple Way Recreation Ground**

The Council are proposing to upgrade the play provision of the Recreation Ground. The Parks team are aiming to amalgamate the two swing sets which currently separates toddler seats from children into one unit. The space provided would be used for a new ground trampoline. In addition, several fence mounted play or interactive panels would be installed, and the thermoplastic graphics will be refurbished along with several other units.

Due to the suggestion of amalgamating the swing sets into one unit, the Council will carry out a public consultation and is liaising with the consultation team on doing so. Further information will be on the Council's website about this consultation when it has been finalised. Depending on the results of the consultation the Council will decide on next steps.

**Status:** Ongoing

## **SOUTH TWICKENHAM**

### **Radnor Gardens**

The Council and Friends Group have also been working to create a marked trail that runs the 500m or so perimeter of Radnor Gardens. The idea of the trail is to encourage users to run and walk around the Gardens and be able to record the distance that they have travelled.

The trail is to be installed imminently and promotional/explanation posters will be placed on site once installed. The trail will be marked by discs in the tarmac. **Status:** Ongoing

## **ST MARGARETS & NORTH TWICKENHAM**

### **Craneford Way**

The Council is working with our play contractor on proposals to improve the play provision at Craneford Way. Here we are proposing to install a new multi-play climbing unit, to replace the old roundabout with a new cone shaped spinning unit and install several fence mounted play or interactive panels.

Quotes from several play companies have been requested and subject to their suitability the Council would be aiming to install the new units before Christmas.

**Status:** Ongoing

### **Rifle Club, Craneford Way**

Working close to the Twickenham Rifle and Pistol Club, The Council have now appointed Five Rivers as contractor to create a new backwater and in-river berm within the River Crane on land west of the Rifle Club, next to Craneford Way Rec. The project aims to improve the riverside habitats for wildlife and will reduce the flood risk downstream. Works should be completed by March 2022.

The council has been working with the Rifle Club and FORCE on creating a site secure area within the building for FORCE to use for volunteer days – improvement include new security doors, external water source and light to ensure volunteers can safely access during their workdays.

**Status:** Ongoing with works due to start in late autumn

### **Moormead & Bandy Recreation Ground**

The replacement of the 6 faded play panels has now been completed and these new items compliment the new surfacing and thermoplastic games.

The Council is also working with the Friends Group to install a new outdoor gym, which should be opening to the public w/c 15<sup>th</sup> November.

As part of the project, upon completion the supplier will provide 4 free personal training sessions to promote the new outdoor gym. These will likely be held in the spring.

**Status:** Ongoing

### **New woodland walk between Twickenham station and Moormead Rec**

The station re-development includes a new footpath link (believed to be for pedestrians only, not cyclists) through the narrow woodland beside the River Crane between the station and the park. The path has been created but queries have been raised as to whether the surface meets the planning application, and a revised design for safety fencing is also still to be approved; Planning are leading on this. It is expected that these will resolved and the path open (dawn to dusk only) by March 2022 at the latest.

## **TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE**

### **Orleans Gardens**

The Council are exploring the possibility of relocating a large pirate ship themed multi play unit from a local school to the playground at Orleans Gardens. Initial inspections suggest that this would be viable and will fit in the location, but further assessments are required.

Subject to the unit being in a suitable condition the Council would aim for the donated item to be installed

**Status:** Ongoing

## **WEST TWICKENHAM**

### **Crane Park (Little Park)**

The Council has carried out several jobs to improve the accessibility to Little Park, Crane Park. These improvements include the installation of a new ramp and footbridge, new roadside fencing, the installation of a small boardwalk to improve access to the footbridge leading to Hounslow side and the installation of several stepping logs in the small dips throughout the park.

**Status:** Complete

### **Mereway Nature Reserve**

The Environment Agency are progressing with their plans to install a new fish pass at Mereway Weir by the nature reserve. The main fish pass works are planned to go ahead in winter and will help to re-connect the Thames Estuary and tidal reaches of the Crane to the upstream river catchment.

**Status:** Ongoing subject to planning permission.

### **Kneller Gardens**

#### **'Friendly Parks for All'**

Following a successful consultation and the development of recommendations for a park that is designed to meet the needs of people who are blind or have a visual impairment a small group of park users are developing proposal with the Friendly Parks for All team to understand the barriers to access, and facilities required to make the park accessible. Going forward the learning from this engagement will be used in all Friendly Parks.

A new sculpture has been commissioned following a public competition to design a sculpture. The winning entry is suitable for people will engage people who are blind and visually impaired and will include sensory plants. A sculptor is currently working on the feasibility of installing the sculpture.

An access guide has been included on the council website. There is a link included in the AccessAble website. <https://www.accessable.co.uk/richmond>  
A tree trail and sensory trail were prepared for the park and are ready to be included on the council website. A downloadable app has been developed for the sensory trail and the project team are talking to the designers to make this suitable for people who are blind and visually impaired.

The application to the Richmond Community Fund to refurbish the pavilion building was successful and the work is taking place autumn/winter 2021. The Friends are running a crowdfund page with Habitats & Heritage over the autumn to purchase equipment for the Café to make it a community space.

**Status:** Ongoing with aim to complete in December.

## **WHITTON**

### **Murray Park**

The Arboricultural Manager is working with the friends of Murray Park to establish a tree management strategy for the site, this will include provision for immediate and long-term tree planting, and a range of works to enhance the protection of and educational information relating to heritage and veteran trees.

**Status:** Ongoing

## **OTHER PROJECTS**

**Green Flag Award** the Council has been awarded its 21<sup>st</sup> Green Flag Award site at [Vine Road Recreation Ground](#).

For a list of all our Green Flag Award sites, see below.

- [Buccluech Gardens](#) (combined with Terrace Gardens)

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

### **Seeds of Change project - Walk this way**

#### **Tree Planting**

During the 2020/21 planting season (November to March) 571 trees were planted across the borough. Preparations are underway to plant a similar number in the 2021/22 season with suitable sites being surveyed at present.

#### **Wellbeing Walks / Accessible Wellbeing Walks**

A new programme of walks has been developed for 2021 with partners. Take up from the community has been slow, but there has been an average attendance of 8-10 people in autumn 2021.

#### **Nature Buddies Project**

Recruitment and training are ongoing.

#### **Health Parks Audit of the Friendly Parks for All**

The findings of this audit are being discussed with the aim of developing them into the wider strategy for the Friendly Parks for All project. Some of the findings have been incorporated into the project plans, this includes opportunities for linking local green spaces for exercise using downloadable walking apps.

#### **Climate Change project – Re-imagining Richmond**

The project linked to the borough Climate Change emergency aims to get young people to envisage what an open space could look like and the role that it could play in mitigating climate change. The project has engaged 2 youth groups through a series of 5 workshops allowed the young people to look at the existing habitats and landscape and to imagine what a diverse ecology could look like. The proposals for a new backwater on the Rifle Club



site was an opportunity to reimagine the River Crane as a more natural space. The resources developed from the workshops are currently being worked up into a resource which schools can use to green their school grounds. A series of workshops for schools are planned for October/November 2021


### **Dementia Friendly Communities Richmond programme**

The Friendly Parks for All project has been included in the Dementia Friendly Communities Richmond programme

[https://www.richmond.gov.uk/news/april\\_2021/new\\_partnership\\_to\\_drive\\_efforts\\_to\\_make\\_richmond\\_dementia\\_friendly](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/news/april_2021/new_partnership_to_drive_efforts_to_make_richmond_dementia_friendly)

### **Public Space Protection Orders**

As of 16 October 2020, Richmond Council renewed their Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) for both anti-social behaviour and dog control. These orders impose various restrictions to dog control and other activities in our parks and open spaces.

The [Dog Control PSPO](#)  (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**

In September we re-advertised all 18 professional dog walking licences. 12 licences have now been awarded and no further applications will be accepted until September 2022.

The 12 new licences will now run for two years with the licence holders invoiced on a yearly basis. Any remaining licences can be applied for but only in September.

The licences permit up to 6 dogs to be professionally walked at the licenced site. They are not transferable to other locations. Residents with more than 4 dogs can also apply for a resident permit to walk up to 6 dogs.

### **Anti-social behaviour**

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