



Westerly Ware Management Plan

January 2024 – December 2025

Westerly Ware Management Plan 2024-25: 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 2024 to December 2025. An interim progress update will be undertaken in January 2024.

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)
- 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 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 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

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:

The strategic principles are as follows:

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

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](#)

4.0 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, installation of a petanque piste 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, Westerley 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, a children’s playground and a petanque piste.

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:

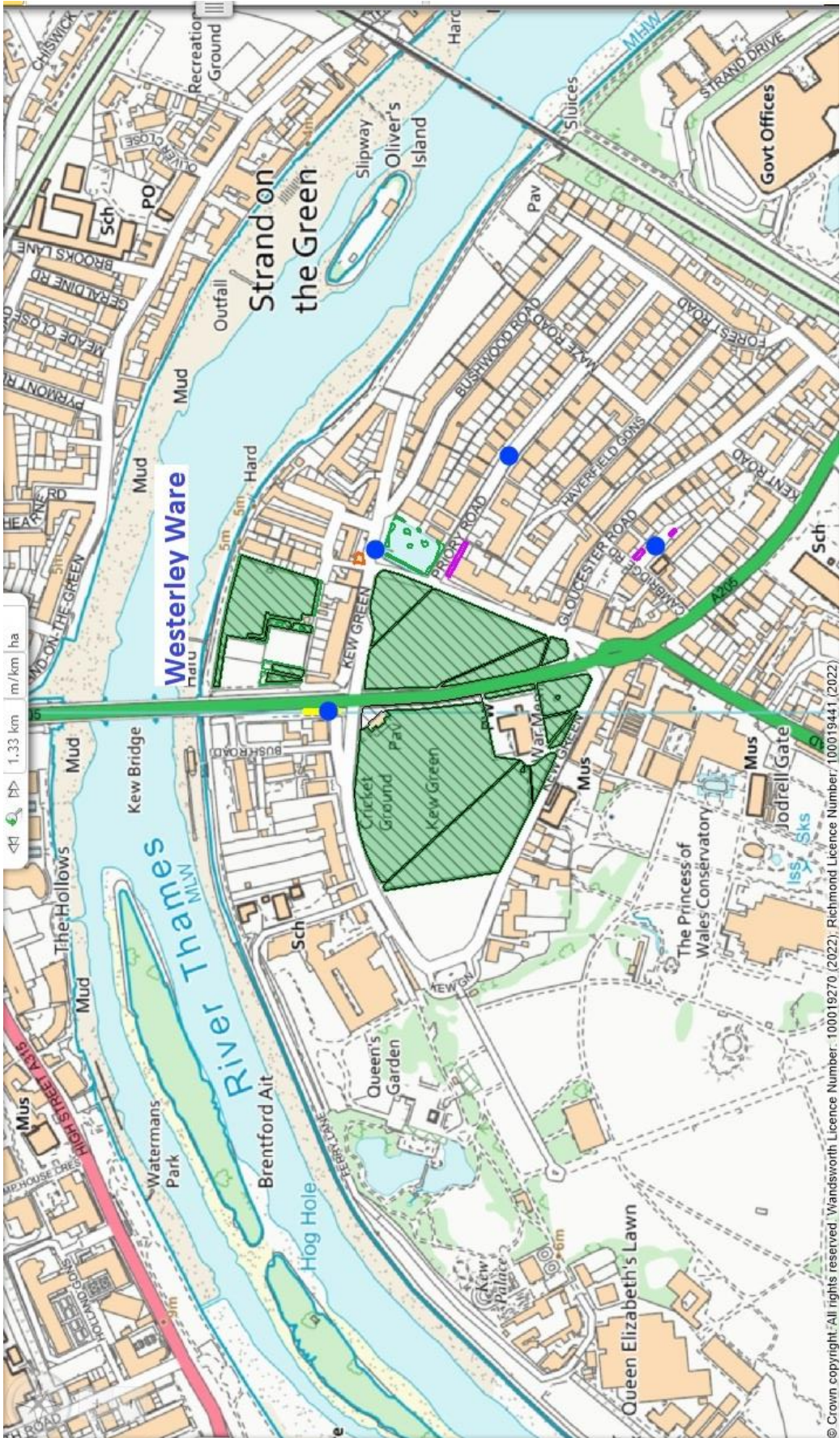
- Tennis courts (coaching and a children’s holiday programme is provided by K5 Tennis Coaching (<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/K5TennisCoaching>))
- Children’s play facilities for a variety of age ranges.
- Pétanque piste

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



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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

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;
- Environmental Management;
- Landscape and heritage;
- Community involvement;
- Marketing and communication
- Overall 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 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**

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 leads 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 tarmac 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

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, there also herbaceous borders in the memorial gardens. The other herbaceous borders 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.

A section of grass has been designated as a Pollination Station with support of the WWA along the back of the site that borders the towpath. This grass area will is managed to naturalise and promote biodiversity on site.

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. Most dog walkers are local residents and do clean up afterwards. Residents and users can report dog fouling to the Council for it to be removed.

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.

Some of the play units were recently replaced, a new boat multi-play unit was installed and a spider net.

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 to compliment the beehive. A section of the grass has been designated as a Pollination Station to increase habitat for pollinators and increase the biodiversity of flora and fauna.

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 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 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.

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 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

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 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.

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 \(richmond.gov.uk\)](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/dog-control-pspo)

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 mertyl. 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 weekly by the grounds maintenance contractor and any hazards identified are dealt with accordingly. In addition, the contractor carries out a quarterly operational report and an independent 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 if required. 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 green waste to Townsmead recycling centre and KPS the Council's tree management contractor recycles woodchip where appropriate.

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 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

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 been 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

Information on the Westerly Ware Association can be found at <https://westerlyware.com> The Friends group can be contacted at 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 2022-23 include:

- Additional bulb planting took place.
- The boat multi-play unit was replaced by a newer model
- The wooden climbing frame was replaced by a spider net
- In collaboration with the WWA a pétanque piste was consulted on and installed

8.2 **Action Plan**

The action plan is divided into three sections:

Item of work and location	Year		Timing	Resources
	2024	2025		
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
Upgrading and replacing the new thermoplastic graphics	Y		Spring 2024	Parks Team
Install a new picnic table in collaboration with the WWA near the pétanque piste	Y		Summer 2024	Parks Team, Continental Landscapes and Friends Group

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.

Feature	Maintenance Operation	Frequency
Amenity grass	Kept to a height of between 15mm to 70mm	Cut approximately every 10 days during the growing season
Pollination Station	Cutting of grass and removal of arisings from site.	Cut 2/3 times per year
Bulbs	Cutting of amenity 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.
Tree	Inspection Replacing and expanding variety and stock	4 yearly As required
Shrub	Kept weed free Mulching Pruning	As required As required As required, dependent on species
Litter	Litter picking Emptying of bins	Daily Daily
Graffiti	Removal of obscene/offensive words Removal of other	Within 24 hours Within 5 working days
Furniture	Clean and paint Repair/replace	As required As required
Playground	Visual inspection	Weekly

	Detailed inspection ROSPA standard	Quarterly Annually
Monitoring of contract	Monitoring	Quarterly with Grounds Maintenance Contractor
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 2024 to December 2025. An interim progress update will be undertaken in January 2025.