

MERTON HERITAGE STRATEGY 2021-25: DEVELOPMENT PLAN – May 2022 Update

The following development plan has been compiled using information supplied by Merton heritage providers including council departments, historic sites, visitor attractions and community groups. It identifies key projects and activities that will help to fulfil the core objectives of the Merton Heritage Strategy 2021-25.

Progress will be monitored and shared twice yearly in May and October. Progress will be shown using a traffic light system

Red: Project delayed **Amber:** Progressing with minor delays **Green:** On schedule/complete

This is intended to be an evolving plan - whilst activities have been scheduled to take place within the designated five year period, timings may be subject to change as a result of public health advice linked to the coronavirus pandemic, funding and logistical considerations.

OBJECTIVE 1: To raise Merton's profile by increasing public access to the borough's unique and diverse cultural heritage

Project / Activity:	Expected Benefit:	Start date:	End Date:	Location:	Responsible Group/Officer:	Status R/A/G	Progress feedback from responsible group/officer (May '22)
To secure planning permission for and undertake improvements to the Revelstoke Road entrance to Wimbledon Park	Transformation of entrance area to give more positive and uplifting impression to visitors. Additional tree hedging will support greater biodiversity. Joining up the perimeter path and creating a separate area for cars will increase safety and improve the visitor experience for walkers. Murals will engage schools, increasing engagement with local heritage	2021/2	TBC	Wimbledon Park	Friends of Wimbledon Park		LB Wandsworth planning application 2021/0432 approved on 11 May 2021 subject to conditions. LB Merton planning application 21/P2657 granted 25 October 2021 subject to conditions. Historic England supports the application, whilst recommending that the car park realignment is shifted slightly northwards to enhance the view of the historic park. H E also suggest that this would "help to address issues contributing to the Registered landscape's inclusion on the Heritage at Risk Register." FOWP in discussions with TfL re. estimates for work on their patch. (Discussions are proving difficult and protracted). FOWP will then look to obtain estimates for work on LBM's land.

OBJECTIVE 2: To Safeguard the borough's varied heritage sites and resources, protecting and conserving them for the benefit of future generations

Project / Activity:	Expected Benefit:	Start date:	End Date:	Location:	Responsible Group/Officer:	Status R/A/G	Progress feedback from responsible group/officer
Write a management plan for the ancient woodland of Ashen Grove, which covers both LBM and AELTC controlled land.	Just 2.5% of UK woodland is classified as ancient. This work will help to preserve a valuable natural heritage asset,	TBC	TBC	Wimbledon Park	Friends of Wimbledon Park		New addition to development plan.

Review the management plan of historic Horse Close Wood.	Improved wellbeing and biodiversity.	TBC	TBC	Wimbledon Park	Dr. Dave Dawson & Friends of Wimbledon Park		New addition to development plan.
FOWP to investigate potential for environmental improvements and supporting greater biodiversity in Wimbledon Park e.g the addition of nesting banks for Kingfishers and Sand Martins; restoration of wet woodland fringe and the creation of a lakeside walk.	Supports the Green and Blue Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Open Space Study' LBM 2020; enhances the historic park, improving vistas, so adding to the visitor experience. Improves access to nature and supports wellbeing.	TBC	TBC	Wimbledon Park	Friends of Wimbledon Park		New addition to development plan. FOWP to liaise with the three owners of the park, relevant LBM Officers and biodiversity experts. To be raised at Examination of Local Plan in June 2022.
To enhance the trees of the public park, in keeping with the Capability Brown legacy. FOWP to investigate the potential for more meadow grassland to support rewilding.	Enhances and maintains the historic park. Promotes biodiversity and helps to balance public use of the park with support for its flora and fauna.	2022	February 2023	Wimbledon Park	Friends of Wimbledon Park		New addition to development plan FOWP to liaise/work with the 3 owners of the park and relevant officers. FOWP have been offered a stone pine – the siting of this needs to be agreed by all parties. The other main planting will take place in February ('23) as in previous years.
OBJECTIVE 3: Ensure that Merton's heritage provision is inclusive by working collaboratively to widen public engagement and participation							
Project / Activity:	Expected Benefit:	Start date:	End Date:	Location:	Responsible Group/Officer:	Status R/A/G	Progress feedback from responsible group/officer
FOWP to review community/structural assets in the park and potential for them to be renewed.	Improvements to visitor experience. Potential to increase usage of park by a more diverse audience. Potential benefits to physical./mental health of the community.	2022	TBC	Wimbledon Park	Friends of Wimbledon Park		New addition to the development plan. FOWP to liaise and work with the 3 owners of the park and local stakeholders. FOWP to raise this issue during the examination of the Local Plan in June 2022.
FOWP to approach the 3 owners of the park regarding the need to improve footpaths, clear vistas and improve entrances.	Boosts park appeal; improves safety and enhances the visitor experience. Supports informal activity within the park (walking, sports, relaxing.)	2022	TBC	Wimbledon Park	Friends of Wimbledon Park		New addition to development plan. FOWP to liaise with 3 owners of the park and respective departmental officers. Topic to be raised by FOWP during the examination of the Local Plan in June 2022.
Wimbledon Park Volunteers to encompass all voluntary work in the historic park and widen public engagement and participation	More coordinated approach to voluntary work at this site.	2022	TBC	Wimbledon Park	Friends of Wimbledon Park		FOWP to liaise with all relevant stakeholders and 3 park owners. First paper on this subject completed with action plan to follow.

	Increased number/diverse range of park volunteers. Supports physical/mental health and wellbeing in the community.						
OBJECTIVE 4: To recognise the important contribution of social enterprise and secure ongoing funding and investment in Merton's heritage through partnership work, external funding and sponsorship							
Project / Activity:	Expected Benefit:	Start date:	End Date:	Location:	Responsible Group/Officer:	Status R/A/G	Progress feedback from responsible group/officer
FOWP to investigate funding opportunities and methods for supporting social prescription in the park. (Boosting therapeutic activities – gardening, sports, volunteering to benefit people suffering from depression, health issues, isolation, addiction recovery.)	Therapeutic benefits for a wide range of people, including residents with physical / mental health issues; special needs, social or emotional difficulties.	TBC	TBC	Wimbledon Park	Friends of Wimbledon Park		<p>New addition to development plan.</p> <p>FOWP to seek advice and liaise with 3 owners of the historic park, Public Health, advocacy/ community support groups and other relevant stakeholders.</p>