



John Innes Park Management Plan 2016 – 2023

(Updated 2021)



**This document was produced with assistance from
The Friends of John Innes Park**

Foreword



I am delighted to introduce this management plan for one of the finest examples of Merton's cherished green spaces.

The borough's parks have always been greatly valued, however this year more residents than ever have benefitted from having good quality, well-managed green spaces on their doorsteps. Throughout the pandemic our parks and green spaces have been a haven for residents to meet friends, exercise, relax and enjoy the natural environment.

Merton continues to strive to enhance and protect the valuable biodiversity, landscapes and heritage in its parks and open spaces. This work is being carried out in collaboration with idverde, our contractors who have considerable expertise, and our partners in the local community particularly the park friends group.

The Council, in partnership with our local stakeholders, is pleased to support and submit this application for John Innes Park. We welcome the opportunity for the investment made in this valued park to be formally recognised by the prestigious Green Flag Awards.

Should you require any further information with regards to this application please email publicspace@merton.gov.uk
Alternatively contact Doug Napier our Greenspaces Manager on 020 8545 3657 or doug.napier@merton.gov.uk.

Councillor Natasha Irons

Cabinet Member for Local Environment and Green Spaces

Merton's Parks Vision

To encourage enjoyment of the beauty, diverse features and rich heritage of John Innes Park by all members of the community through the provision of a high quality space with facilities that is safe, clean, sustainable and accessible to all.



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1 Introduction

John Innes Park is one of London Borough of Merton's flagship parks. It is a 2.5 hectare, open space situated between Mostyn Road, Cannon Hill Lane and Watery Lane in Merton Park, about 2km north west of Morden town centre, in the London Borough of Merton.

The Arts and Crafts influenced formal gardens, with original buildings and features designed by the architects Quartermain and Brocklesby, were originally opened in John Innes' former estate in 1909 following his death in 1904.

The John Innes Park and nearby John Innes Recreation Ground were transferred to the Urban District Council of Merton and Morden (now LB Merton) in 1949 from the Trustees of John Innes Charity. In 2003 and 2004 the Friends of John Innes and Merton Council worked together to refurbish the park and restore original features to their original condition for the centenary of John Innes' death. In 2005 the park was awarded a prize for "best environmental improvement" in the London in Bloom awards. A celebration event took place in the summer of 2009 to mark 100 years since the opening of the park on 31 July 1909.

The park provides for a variety of active and passive leisure activities and organised sports. The space is popular and highly valued by local residents. A consultation exercise, carried out by the Friends of John Innes Park (November 2008) revealed very high levels of support and appreciation from the local community.

This document, developed by Merton Council and the Friends of John Innes Park summarises the present condition of John Innes Park and its importance to the local community. The aims and objectives for the sustainable management and future development of John Innes Park are structured around the eight key criteria established by 'Keep Britain Tidy' for the Green Flag Award:

1. Creating a Welcoming Space
2. Providing a Park that is Healthy, Safe and Secure
3. A Park that is Clean and Well Maintained
4. Sustainable Management of Resources
5. Appropriate Management of Conservation and Heritage Features
6. Encouraging Community Involvement
7. Marketing the Facility Effectively
8. Implementation of Effective Management Strategies

The management plan is also informed by the results of the consultation exercise and, in particular, the priority that local residents give to the peace and quiet that it affords, together with the quiriness that comes from its nooks and crannies and opportunities to explore. The ideas that residents have suggested for improvements have also been influential in the changes that have (and are) being put in place.

Action Plan Progress Summary

Progress against the action plan projects outlined in Section 6 of this management plan is summarised below. Projects are added to this list upon completion.

#	Description	Objective	Date Completed	Source	Value
1 - 28	Refer to previous plans		2006 -2009		
29	Create circular rose-bed for centenary event	4	2009	Revenue and Friends	£2k
30	Purchase 2 recycling bins for Park	17	2009	Streetscene Capital	£3k
31	Purchase Coman Shredder (£12k) and new chipper (£14k) to allow green waste to be left on site. (To be used across Borough)	17	2009	Revenue	£26k
32	Paint window sills on bowls pavilion	4	May 2010	Revenue	£0.5k
40	Paint front of park railings	1	2010	Revenue	£0.3k
41	Paint interior of disabled toilet and mark out car parking bays	5	2010	Revenue	£0.6k
42	Re-stain seats/benches	11	2010	Revenue	In-house
43	Refurbish bowls pavilion, including new windows	4	2011	Capital	£5k
44	Install new fence to protect croquet lawn	1, 11	2011	Capital	£3.5k
45	Paint croquet pavilion	4	2011	Revenue	£2k

46	Lay tarmac path by croquet pavilion	1, 3, 5	2011	Capital	£1,5k
#	<u>Description</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Date Completed</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Value</u>
47	Review utilities usage	18	2011	Revenue	NA
48	Plant mixed beech hedge at rear of croquet lawn	1	2014	Revenue	1.5k
49	Repairs to roof of bowls pavilion	4	2014	Revenue	5k
50	Improvements to bowls club toilets	4	2014/15	Revenue	1k
51	Pond improvement works	4	2016	Capital	2.5k
52	Croquet Lawn Fencing & Gate	4	2017/18	Capital	3k
53	New diverting footpath	4	2018/19	Capital	12k

2 Strategic Context

2.1 Introduction

This management plan sets out the vision for the improvement and management of John Innes Park and provides detailed objectives and action plans to direct Merton Council to achieve this vision over a 5 year period, reviewed and updated annually. The objectives of the management plan are aligned to the criteria for the Green Flag Award administered by Keep Britain Tidy.

Significantly, the objectives for all of the management plans for LB Merton's open spaces have been developed with the wider strategic objectives across the borough in mind. These objectives are defined in the Merton Community and Business Plans.

At a higher level there are a number of national and regional policies and strategies that influence parks and open spaces. The Mayor of London and the Greater London Authority have been key players in the London context and the current Mayor is a keen supporter of parks and urban greening projects. The London Plan, the overall strategic Plan for London, recognises the contribution that open and green spaces make to the city. Merton's Core Planning Strategy, a key component of the Local Development Framework, and adopted in July 2011, performs a similar role within the local context. Key policies include CS13 (Open spaces, nature conservation, leisure and culture) and CS14 (Design) that have replaced a raft of relevant open space and environmental policies contained within the Unitary Development Plan (UDP).

2.2 Economic environment

The UK is experiencing an uncertain economic future; with opinions divided about whether it is still suffering from a recession, or whether it is now in recovery; it is also feeling the effects of a general global economic downturn. This overall economic context informs much of our national and local decision-making. Generally, budgets are being cut and austerity measures are being adopted.

The London Borough of Merton has a duty of care to ensure that it sets a fiscally prudent budget, that budget holders operate within those constraints and that it balances its books and maintains an appropriate level of reserves. It also needs to ensure that effective procedures are in place to make certain that budgets are continually monitored and reviewed to ensure that resources continue to be targeted towards meeting key objectives. This financial year it needs to make further budget savings on its medium term fiscal strategy. This need for efficiency savings will inform the Council's overall targets and objectives.

2.3 Political Context

National

A statement on the Direct.gov.uk website states:

Good quality parks enhance the quality of life in towns and cities. Parks provide a focal point for communities, a place for relaxation or recreation, and the opportunity to experience nature in an urban environment.

Previous governments had a range of initiatives in support of parks and Greenspaces, including six Urban Green Space Taskforces, Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener', 2002, and a Community Plan, 'Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future', 2003. A regional programme of action for London included: ensuring communities are prosperous, safeguarding green and open space and well designed, accessible and pleasant living and working environments. However all these policies are now under active review.

Regional

The Government Office for London had earlier been scrapped by the coalition government.

The Greater London Authority (GLA) is a strategic authority with a London wide role to design a better future for the capital. While the Mayor and the London Assembly are elected by Londoners, the staff of the GLA is a permanent body that provides continuity in the ongoing development and delivery of strategies for London. There was a mayoral election in spring 2016 and Sadiq Khan was elected. He states that: "Our parks and acres of green open space are part of our city's DNA".

The Mayor's London Plan is the overall strategic plan for London. It sets out an integrated economic, environmental, transport and social framework for the development of the capital over the next 20 to 25 years. It has 6 main objectives including:

A city that delights the senses and takes care over its buildings and streets, having the best of modern architecture while making the most of London's built heritage and which makes the most of and extends its wealth of open and green spaces and waterways, realising its potential for improving Londoners' health, welfare and development.

The Greater London Authority has signalled its support for parks in the capital by launching several new initiatives including the Programme for Parks and Trees in 2009, with an investment of £6m to be spent on selected parks. In addition it has made £4m available to fund the planting of an additional 10,000 street trees.

In 2010, the Mayor launched a new Safer Parks Award. The overall aim of the award is to recognise good practice in:

- Tackling specific problem of anti-social behaviour and/or crime

- Challenging public perception that a specific park is unsafe
- Encouraging greater use, and enjoyment, of parks
- Encouraging and supporting community action to improve safety in London's parks.

The award has been discontinued since 2012.

Local

London Borough of Merton is under majority Labour control since May 2014. Previously it was under no overall control with Labour undertaking a minority administration. The seats held are as follows: Labour: 36; Conservative: 20; Merton Park residents (Independent): 3; Liberal Democrat: 1.

Merton Park ward, where John Innes Park is situated, has three Independent councillors, representing The Merton Park Residents' Association; Edward Foley, John Sergeant and Peter Southgate. Merton Park ward has a population of 9,485.

Significantly, the objectives for all of the Management Plans for LB Merton's open spaces have been developed with the wider strategic objectives across the borough in mind. These objectives are defined in the Merton Community and Business Plans.

COVID19

The global epidemic has effected Councils up and down the country. As an authority our main priority has to been to protect and shield the most vulnerable in our society whilst still delivering essential services. Parks have been at the forefront having experienced unprecedented visit numbers as people seek to take daily exercise in the fresh air. Some facilities have had to be temporarily closed (such as outdoor gyms or MUGA's) during lockdown periods. We continue to monitor and adhere to government guidance so that we can serve our residents.

2.4 Merton's Community and Business Plans

Merton's Community Plan 2020-2026, has been developed and implemented by the Merton Partnership (the Local Strategic Partnership), which sets out the overall direction and vision for the borough until 2026 plus a set of commitments and activities to achieve this vision. The Community Plan was refreshed in 2020 to take into account demographic, legislative and policy changes, and now sets out a vision, pledges to deliver the vision and details of achievements to date under the following headings:

- Merton: A place to work
- A healthy and fulfilling life
- Better opportunities for youngsters
- Keeping Merton moving

- Being safe and strong
- Contributing to your community

It covers a range of issues about living and working in Merton, such as housing, the environment, the economy, transport, safety, health, culture and the needs of particular groups like carers, disabled people, older people, children and young people. The key themes of the community plan are:

- Children's Trust
- Health & Wellbeing Board
- Safer & Stronger Communities
- Sustainable Communities & Transport

The Community Plan sets out Merton's aspirations for the local area, and is based on a wide range of evidence, data and consultation that has identified the key concerns for residents, and the big issues that the Partnership needs to focus upon to ensure it improves the quality of life for everyone who lives in Merton. The Council itself has undertaken a significant consultation exercise with local people. The results of this have contributed to the vision and priorities contained within this Plan. The Plan also sets out the key actions the Partnership will be taking to ensure we achieve our vision and priorities.

Delivering quality and value services in an era of significantly reduced resources will require strong and determined leadership. A single business view is essential to ensure a 'One Council' approach is followed in everything we do. Leaders at all levels will be visible and lead by example.

A key action point from the Community Plan is to 'Manage parks and gardens to protect and enhance local biodiversity by integrating biodiversity management methods into parks management plans.' Some 2,500 new trees have been planted in local open spaces and along the borough's highways. Biodiversity enhancements have focused upon heathland re-creation and pond restoration works.

For further information go to:

<https://www.mertonpartnership.org.uk/community-plan>

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/council-and-local-democracy/finance/budgets>

2.5 Culture and Sports Framework 2015

The value of arts and culture contributing to a fairer, better, and healthier society is a matter of constant debate, yet there is already academic and empirical evidence that demonstrates this intrinsic value. Our parks and open spaces are central to the variety of cultural activities offered by the Council.

The Council has produced a new Culture and Sports framework which sets out how the Council will support a wide range of sporting, leisure and cultural activities to enhance the lives of its residents.

The services provided include: arts, sports, leisure, parks and open spaces, children's playgrounds, activities for all ages and heritage.

These services have the potential to deliver and contribute to Merton's priorities and wider social outcomes; in particular, programmes to improve health and wellbeing; learning, skills and employability, economic resilience, positive behaviour and community cohesion. Furthermore, Culture and Sports services have the ability to develop innovative programmes to deliver against a range of outcomes and are an effective tool in promoting and facilitating behaviour change and empowering people, leading to improved life chances. For further information go to:

http://www.merton.gov.uk/leisure/arts/culture_and_sports_framework.htm

2.6 Marketing and Environmental Policies

Merton Council is committed to the principles of 'sustainable development' and 'Local Agenda 21'. The Merton Environmental Action Plan stems from these commitments.

Achieving sustainable development requires making decisions that take into account relevant environmental, social and economic factors. Merton is committed to integrating these three areas across Council policy in all departments.

Merton Council recognises the need for urgent action to address environmental problems. The Merton Environmental Action Plan complements and links with other Merton strategies and plans which address sustainable development issues, such as the Economic Development Strategy, the Community Plan and the Crime and Disorder Strategy, amongst others.

The aim of Merton's Environmental Action Plan is to:

Encourage and facilitate the involvement of residents, businesses and other organization in helping to create an environmentally sustainable Merton, in accordance with the wider principles of sustainable development.

To achieve this aim the plan needs to:

- Encourage, inspire and support willingness, across the different communities in Merton, to take action to help the environment;
- Highlight opportunities for actions that can be taken by different sectors of the community to enhance the environment;
- Provide information and celebrate achievement in supporting the environment.

For further information about the practical steps Merton Council is making to improve our environment go to:

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/la21>

https://www.merton.gov.uk/env_and_regen_1_foreward_contents_introduction.doc

2.7 Merton Sports Pitch Strategy

In 2011 the Council recognised the need to obtain an in-depth sports pitch analysis to enable it to deliver services and facilities in a strategic manner giving a more balanced service provision borough-wide. This will enable the Council to provide facilities where they are most useful both to the local authority and the local community.

This was achieved by commissioning specialist consultants to survey local outdoor sports service provision and facilities and draw up some key recommendations, The Sports Pitch Strategy, albeit still in draft form at the time of writing, gives an insight into the key improvements in terms of the type and location of facilities that will best benefit local communities within Merton.

In 2018/19 a new piece of work is presently in the final stage pending extensive consultation and review with stakeholders.

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/planning/local-plan-research>

2.8 John Innes Park and Merton's strategic objectives

John Innes Park is an important feature of the overall Merton Open Space network and has an essential and individual role in meeting the Council's wider strategic objectives. Merton's Community and Business Plans articulate the key social, environmental and economic themes around which Merton Council is trying to improve the quality of life for our residents.

The table below illustrates how John Innes Park relates to Merton's wider strategic objectives.

Sustainable Communities	Safer, Stronger Merton	Healthier Communities	Older People	Children & Young People
Ivy an important habitat for local invertebrates	Accessible facilities for people living with disabilities.	Sports facilities including: tennis, croquet, bowls and cricket facilities.	Plan to upgrade all paths for safe access	School work days
Protecting, enhancing and promoting local biodiversity (including Friends Wild Area)	Inspected and well-maintained facilities	Good quality toilets	Good quality site furniture	Organised education activities
Protecting local urban amenity	Good policies and facilities for safe dog walking	Good pedestrian access to all parts of the site.	High quality, accessible bowls facilities	Easter egg hunt organized by the community each spring
Good green links to adjacent Glebe Field.	Staff members on site	Merton Healthy Walks	John Innes Park centenary opening of John Innes Park 2009, concert, picnic and planting event.	
Active, enthusiastic friends group and other stakeholders	Engagement with the local community.			
Over 80% recycling of green waste on site	Music concert organised by the community in the bandstand each summer.			
Minimal chemical treatments on bowling green	Planning for centenary of the Park in 2009 is underway.			

3 John Innes Park and Recreation Ground

3.1 Site Details

Name	John Innes Park and Recreation Ground
Address	Park: Mostyn Road SW20 9AE Recreation Ground: Watery Lane SW19
Contacts	General enquiries: 020 8545 3667 or leisure@merton.gov.uk Friends Group: Katherine Watkins, watkins.jk@btopenworld.com
Web	www.merton.gov.uk/leisure/parks www.johninnesociety.org.uk
Grid Reference	Main entrance: OS grid 524750,169250
Designation	Listed public park and open space
Ownership	Leisure Services, London Borough of Merton
Size	3.54 hectares
Type	Garden
Legal Interest	Transferred by way of conveyance 1 st October 1949 from John Innes Charity subject to conditions.
Byelaws	See Appendix 6
Access	The park is accessible to pedestrians via Mostyn Road and the Recreation Ground via two entrances on Watery Lane. Opening hours: Monday – Friday 8am – dusk; Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays 9am - dusk
Local Facilities	Public toilets Tennis Courts Croquet Green Bowling Nelson Hospital Rutlish School
Transport	Train: Wimbledon Chase, South Merton, Morden Underground Tram: Merton Park Buses: 163, 164, 152 and K5
Parking	Parking for 25 vehicles via Mostyn Road Entrance (2 dedicated disabled spaces).

Plan of John Innes Park & Recreation Ground

JOHN INNES PARK & RECREATION GROUND

John Innes, the "Squire" of Merton, was a wealthy property developer and benefactor who had a profound influence on the development of Merton Park as an attractive Victorian suburb. On his death in 1904 he left his private estate and most of his money for the benefit of horticulture and the local community. The world-famous John Innes Horticultural Institution was established in Merton Park; after it moved out of London in the 1940s the land was then occupied by Rutlish School and its playing fields. Most of John Innes Park as it is today was formerly the gardens of John Innes' Manor House. They were heavily planted with over 30 species of holly symbolising Innes' coat of arms and evergreen hedges and trees. The gardens were adapted by the architect Brockleby as a public park, which was formally opened to the public in 1909. John Innes Recreation Ground, which is connected by a public footpath to the Park, was established by the John Innes Charity at the same time. The Park and Recreation Ground were transferred by way of 'deed of gift' to the Urban District Council in 1946, and they are now maintained by the Council for use of the public.




Much of the Manor House garden survives, with winding paths, yew hedges and dense evergreen planting. The atmosphere is redolent of a Victorian private garden. This character is enhanced by the attractive buildings, particularly the Quartermain entrance lodge, cottage, the Brockleby public conveniences and bandstand. The park includes four tennis courts, used by members of the public and the nearby Rutlish School, a croquet lawn and a bowling green which are maintained to a very high standard. In 2004 to mark the centenary of the death of John Innes the 'Friends of John Innes Park' together with the London Borough of Merton raised money to recreate features within the park including the fountain and the rockery.

CONTACT DETAILS

Enquiries and Sports Bookings 020 8545 3677
 Play areas 020 8545 3655 or 8545 3658
 Grounds Maintenance 020 8545 4114
 All Other Council Enquiries 020 8274 4901
 Nature Conservation 020 8545 3658

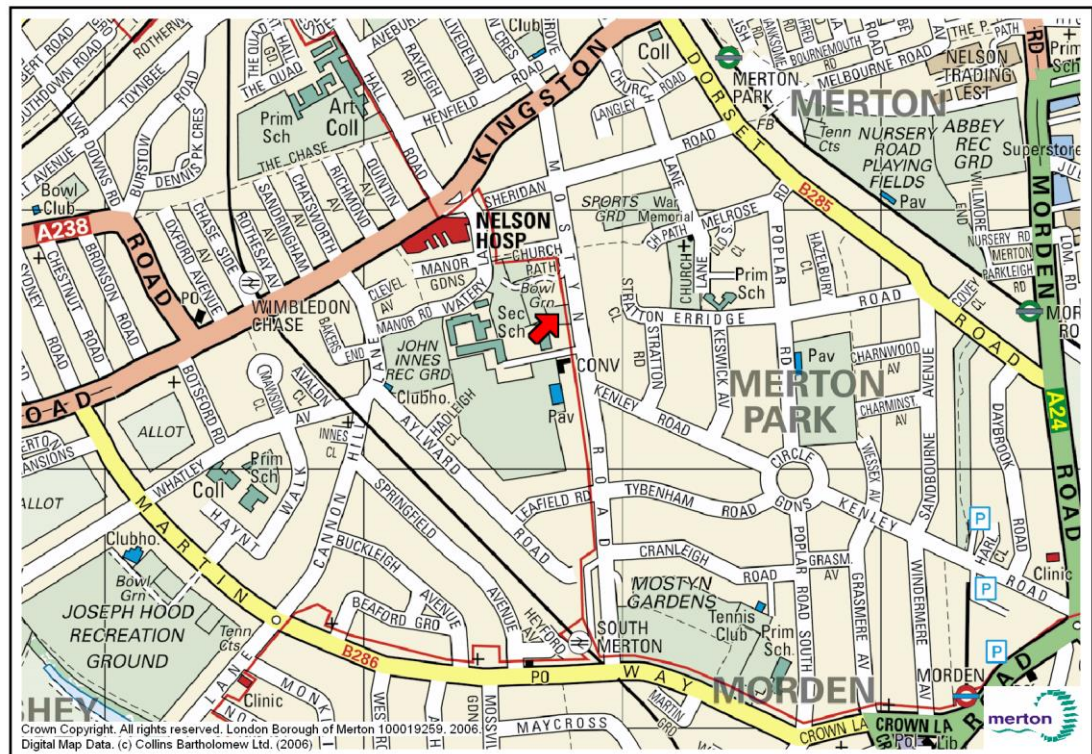
email: leisure@merton.gov.uk website: www.merton.gov.uk



4 Description

4.1 Location

John Innes Park is located in Merton Park, 2km North West of Morden town centre in the London Borough of Merton. The main entrance to the park is on Mostyn Road where there is a small, off-street public car park.



4.2 Local significance and usage

John Innes Park is popular with all members of the community. The variety of spaces and landscapes attract a variety of visitors who come to appreciate the beauty of the park's planting and landscaping and others who come to participate in recreation of a more active type.

The heritage of the park is promoted and protected by the John Innes Society and the Friends of John Innes Park which maintain an archive of historical material and produce leaflets and have regular talks and presentations for the local community.

A key platform of the Merton Community Plan 2006-15 is encouraging healthier lifestyles amongst our communities. Our parks and open spaces, including John Innes Park, are essential facilities for sport and physical activity.

Recreational uses in the park include:

- Tennis
- Bowls
- Croquet

- Music at the bandstand
- Walking and jogging

Cricket is enjoyed in the adjoining John Innes Recreation Ground

Many people just visit the site to enjoy the peace and quiet and appreciate the landscaping. Parents with young children are often seen during the day. At lunch time people can be found enjoying their lunch break away from the office.

4.3 History of John Innes Park and Recreation Ground

John Innes Park is named after the wealthy property developer and philanthropist John Innes who is often credited with the original development of Merton Park as an attractive Victorian suburb in the 19th century.

Upon his death in 1904, John Innes bequeathed his private estate and most of his money to the local community and toward horticultural research. The world-famous John Innes Horticultural Institution was established in Merton Park in 1910. The Institute was the first research centre for plant breeding and genetics in the United Kingdom. The Institute moved its premises to the 372 acre Bayforebury estate in Hertfordshire after the Second World War. It was during this period that the scientific method was first brought to the optimal composition of composts – giving rise to the John Innes formulae well known today.

Declining land requirements prompted another move, this time to Norwich in 1966. In 1994 the John Innes Centre, an independent charitable company, was established following a merger with the Nitrogen Fixation Laboratory and the Cambridge Laboratory. The Centre is affiliated to the University of East Anglia and is located in the Norwich Research Park.

The Centre currently houses the John Innes Archives, an important resource for scholars in the history of genetics. It also includes archival material relating to the Innes family, the foundation of the Institute, scientific notebooks, the works of John Bateman and the fruit breeding work of M.B Crane. There is also a renowned collection of rare books embracing four centuries of botanical research and literature.

Following the relocation of John Innes Institute in the 1940s the land was occupied by Rutlish School and its playing fields.

The Park and Recreation Ground

The layout of the park was adapted from the original manor house gardens, heavily planted with over 30 species of holly (symbolizing the Innes coat of arms) evergreen hedges and trees, by the architect Brocklesby and was formally opened to the public in 1909.

The Recreation Ground, which is connected by public footpath to John Innes Park, was established at the same time. The Park and Recreation Ground were transferred by way of deed of gift to the Urban District Council in 1949. They are currently both managed and maintained by the London Borough of Merton's Greenspaces team.

In 2003/04, to mark the centenary of the death of John Innes, the 'Friends of John Innes Park' (a sub-committee of the John Innes Society) together with the London Borough of Merton raised money via the Living Spaces Grant to restore and refurbish the park's features to their former glory. The rockery and rose arbour were restored and a new fountain for the fishpond was created in conjunction with the Wimbledon School of Art. A statue of the holly emblem of the John Innes Society was also installed. New shrubs along the Serpentine Walk and a display bed of plant and shrubs of the "Merton Variety" (developed by the John Innes Institute) were planted throughout. The Mayor of Merton, Margaret Brierly, formally opened the new development in August 2004.

Further information on the historical development of John Innes Park can be obtained from Merton Council including:

- *Historical Management Plan for John Innes Park* developed by Cobham Resource Consultants (May 1995);
- *The Historical Development of John Innes Park*, Glasspoole Thompson in (March 1998).

Archaeology

No archaeological finds have been recorded at John Innes Park in the Greater London Sites and Monuments Records. However, approximately half of the park area lies within an Archaeological Priority Zone designated by the London Borough of Merton in the Unitary Development Plan (1992). This is due to its proximity to the historic village of Merton and St Mary's Church.

4.4 Geology, hydrology and soil type

This area conforms to the geology of most of Greater London that is of various differing layers of sedimentary rocks. Most significant is the distinctive grey-blue London clay.

John Innes Park is located on a fluvial gravel terrace upon London Clay. The quality of the soils for horticulture of the Merton Park area have long been established with the John Innes Horticultural Institute originally located on the park site and Carters Tested Seeds trial beds located along the south side of the railway nearby at Raynes Park.

John Innes Park is not located in an identified flood plain.

4.5 Flora and fauna

John Innes Park consists of formal landscape gardens, trees, shrubs and closely mown amenity grassland and the cricket ground. The bedding, trees and shrubs include several exotic varieties complemented with native species.

The main entrance originally comprised well planted herbaceous borders in character with the period. Today many of these borders have given way to beds of municipal bedding plants. The herbaceous border along Mostyn Road was replanted in 2001.

The Merton Park area has the highest concentration of holly blue butterflies in the country. They are abundant in the John Innes Park and are dependent on the

combination of both holly and ivy for the completion of their life cycle. Both plant species are common in the park.

A bird survey of the park was undertaken by the friends group in 2009/10. This showed that there was a wide variety of birds visiting and nesting in the park.

4.6 Trees

The Borough's arboricultural team undertakes regular surveys of the trees within John Innes Park. The most recent full survey was conducted in July 2009 with *ad hoc* inspections and works conducted at other times. Tree surveys have revealed thirty different varieties of holly, many mature yews and several large cedars. Fuller information is available from the Greenspaces arboricultural section

Other larger trees of note include:

- Green Olive *Phillyrea latifolia*;
- Mulberry *Morus nigra*;
- Red Oak *Quercus rubra*;
- Box Elder *Acer negundo*;
- Beech *Fagus sylvatica*; and
- Tree of Heaven *Ailanthus altissima*.

There is also a range of ornamental shrubs including:

- Cherry *Prunus*;
- Apple *Malus*;
- Thorn *Crataegus*;
- Lobell's Maple *Acer lobelli*; and a
- Cow's Tail Pine *Cephalotaxus fortunei*.

In 2004 with funding from the Council, the Serpentine Walk was replanted with shrubs and the overhead canopies of mainly overgrown yew and hollies were lifted and pruned heavily to allow the under-storey planting to flourish.

4.7 Facilities and features

Created by John Innes in the latter part of the 19th century, the Arts and Crafts garden is the focal point of an ornamental landscape open space that provides opportunities for the community to engage in a variety of activities while appreciating the rich heritage of their surrounding landscape.

Much of the original manor house garden survives intact, with a series of winding paths connecting intimate spaces enclosed by yew hedges and dense evergreen planting. There is a strong "Arts and Crafts" influence and the overall atmosphere is redolent of a Victorian private garden. This character is enhanced by the many attractive historical buildings situated in the park including:

- The entrance lodge and gates (by Quartermain)
- Ornamental brick walls separate the park from the manor house and from the playing fields to the south

- Cottage and adjoining archway (by Quartermain);
- Public conveniences (by Brocklesby)
- Bandstand (by Brocklesby)

Further information on historical features is detailed in the historical management plan which is available from the Greenspaces team.

Rockery Area

The Friends of John Innes Park and Merton Council with the help of a Living Spaces grant restored the rockery area in 2004. The original winding path and lush fernery had been previously removed and the area became overgrown with vegetation and self-seeded yew trees.

The rockery area was completely re-landscaped and a new path established in the original location. Major tree surgery, a new lawn and the renovation of a small pond created a bright, pleasant and relaxing space.

Car park

A car park has been provided via the entrance in Mostyn Road accommodating 25 vehicles. There are two dedicated disabled parking bays available here.

Youth facilities

Rutlish School use John Innes Park as an outdoor classroom to promote learning from nature. A mathematics and art trail is run in conjunction with their six “partner primaries” Year 5 students explore the park with teachers from Rutlish’s Arts and Mathematics departments and observe patterns and design that occurs in nature. Lessons from the field are then used in the classroom through a variety of projects. The London Borough of Merton awarded Rutlish School a Commendation for Educational Innovation for this initiative.

The tennis courts are well used by local young people, as is the adjacent Recreation Ground where two thriving cricket clubs (Merton CC and North Croydon) play. Both clubs have a youth section.

Children’s facilities

There is no playground on site but children are often present in the park enjoying activities supervised by their parents or carers. There has been a suggestion that a play area is sited within John Innes Park. After consultation with the Friends of John Innes Park in 2009/10, it was felt that at this time it was not intrinsic to the park’s historic feel. It was felt that such facilities were within comfortable walking distance of the park at Mostyn Gardens, Joseph Hood Recreation Ground and Dundonald Recreation Ground.

Sports facilities

John Innes Park complements its focus as a place for relaxation, quiet appreciation and unstructured play with provision for a variety of formal sporting activities. Tennis courts, a bowling green and croquet lawn are provided along with a cricket square and playing field (in the recreation ground area).

The public health benefits of participating in sport and physical activity are well known and form an important of the Merton Community Plan 2009 - 2019. Sports facilities at John Innes Park are of excellent quality and are promoted to the wider

community through Merton's Leisure Development Team. The variety of organised and casual activities available to local residents and visitors encourages people to participate in healthy active lifestyles and to enjoy interacting with other members of the community.

Tennis courts

Four hard-surfaced tennis courts with permanent fencing are located on the site of the kitchen gardens of the Manor House. The courts were re-surfaced in 2004. These courts replaced those situated in John Innes' orchard and kitchen garden. The original courts were grass surfaced with loose protective netting at the yew-hedging boundary. The public and pupils from Rutlish School use the tennis courts. The replacement of some of the chain-link fencing commenced in 2007 and was completed in 2010.

Bowling green and croquet lawn

John Innes Park contains both a full size bowling green and a croquet lawn. The latter, which was the original Bowling Green, can be used for disabled bowlers as required

The bowling green moved to its present location in 1963 when the Club moved to a new full-sized green in the gardens of Merton Cottage, then a separate Council-owned property adjoining the northern boundary of the park. The bowling green is now incorporated into the park.

Built in the gardens of Merton Cottage, the bowling green is accessed through gates in the original boundary wall. A small painted timber pavilion with kitchen facilities adjoins the green. The site of the old bowling green is now used for croquet. Both these facilities are well maintained to a high standard and managed using a biological approach to sports turf management.

4.8 Management

Merton's Greenspaces service delivery has changed considerably since February 2017. Where once all services were delivered in house now the grounds maintenance and operations are now delivered by a private contractor: idverde. A small team remains within The London Borough of Merton Greenspaces Team delivering Capital investment, Site development, Events and Arboricultural management. The current team structure is outlined in Appendix 7.

The Greenspaces Manager (Doug Napier) is the service head and oversees the ongoing development of the service and its performance. The service manages over 110 separate open spaces. The Greenspaces Manager and the rest of the team oversee the idverde contract. The main duties of idverde include litter picking; sports pitch preparations, pavilion cleaning and parks locking, amongst other tasks.

The Greenspaces Manager line manages two parks development officers who are primarily involved in the delivery of the parks capital investment programme and for the upkeep and replacement of the parks infrastructure: footpaths, gates, signs, bins, fences, etc.

There is also a professional events officer and two professional arboricultural officers whose duties and responsibilities include the support of activities and conditions in John Innes Park and all other open spaces. Both the development and repair works and the arboricultural works are mainly undertaken by specialist contractors commissioned by, and reporting to, the relevant professional officers. The events role is mainly concerned with providing support and advice, especially in relation to safety, for small-scale outdoor events produced by the local community groups, at least insofar as the area is concerned as the capacity for larger events (fun fairs, circuses, faith group festivals and the like), is more limited there. Two officers in the team have considerable practical experience of ecological issues and the Warden of Mitcham Common, also employed within the team, is an additional biodiversity knowledge resource that is employed across the service.

The park formally opens at 8am and closes (the gates are securely locked by idverde staff) at or about dusk, unless there are lettings in the park. Under the revised operational arrangements, staff are present in the park on most midweek days due to a combination of the park's Key Park status (with daily commitments in terms of litter collection and condition inspections allied to that) and the work commitments required to prepare the various pitches on site (football, cricket) which, together, ensure that the sporting elements of the grounds upkeep is a year-round operation in itself. At weekends, the popularity of the site for lettings and sport also ensures that there is a regular idverde staff presence. Idverde also attends the park in support of the various evening lettings that the pavilion attracts. Overall, the staff establishment is estimated at 2 FTEs, albeit that none is actually allocated to the park specifically under the revised operational arrangements now adopted.

4.9 Stakeholders and community involvement

The John Innes Society is a conservation and amenity charity that promotes good design and community involvement in the area of the former John Innes Estate in Merton Park. It was established in the mid 1970s and has a membership of nearly 700 households in the area.

The Society has been a supporter of the John Innes Park since it was founded. However, in 2003 it created a specific sub-committee, the Friends of John Innes Park, made up of volunteers who particularly wanted to get involved with the Park. The Friends of John Innes Park worked closely with the Council to raise money for the major upgrades to the park in 2003/04, which was timed to mark the centenary of the death of John Innes. The Friends group has designed features in the park (the rose arbour in particular, designed by Felicity Cole), installed features (e.g. the circular benches) under appropriate supervision by the Council and have regular working parties and litter picking sessions. In 2008, the Friends raised money for and project managed the installation of several interpretative boards in the park that set out information about its history and key features. There is also a Friends'

noticeboard in the park. The Council are invited to and attend meetings of the Friends, and the group is consulted on priorities and key management documents, including this plan and the marketing of the park.

Rutlish School regularly work with the Friends of John Innes Park and provide pupils to weed, plant, paint, etc. This benefits both parties as the park gets some extra attention and the students are able to put their work towards the citizenship part of their PSHE GCSE.

Merton Park Bowling Club takes an active interest in the maintenance of the borders around the bowling green. They provide the planting and the members of the club pride themselves on looking after these areas. The staff on site offer advice when requested and prune the larger shrubs and climbing plants around the perimeters.

4.10 Activities and Events

Every year in mid-summer, the John Innes Society organises an entertainment of light and classical music in and around the bandstand. There is also an Easter egg hunt in the park for younger children organized by the Society.

A well planned and successful event to celebrate 100 years of John Innes Park took place on Saturday, 1 August 2009. The focus of the event was the unveiling of a new rose bed containing John Innes variety roses (specially developed for the John Innes Centre in Norwich). The Mayor of Merton presided at the event.

In November 2008, the Friends of John Innes Park carried out a consultation exercise on the park in the form of a survey of users' and resident's views. 300 questionnaires were distributed and 85 were received back – a response rate of 28%.

Respondents were asked to set out what they liked about the park, what they would like to improve and for any other comments.

It is clear that John Innes Park is much loved and much appreciated. The work of the gardeners was noted. Many respondents paid tribute to the improvements that have been made in recent years and a number have said that there is nothing they would do to improve the park.

Respondents do enjoy the quiriness of the park: its hidden spaces and the fact it is like walking round someone's garden. They appreciate the peace and tranquillity and the fact that it is largely seen as a safe, family-friendly environment.

In terms of things of concern to respondents, or things that they would like to improve:

- There is concern about the proximity of Rutlish School and that users of the park can feel intimidated by groups of young people (whether or not from Rutlish) and there are worries about litter and behaviour of young people. Some people have suggested locking the gate between the Park and Rutlish School during school hours.
- More security measures, including attendants in the evenings, would be welcomed.

- The second, smaller pond near the rockery needs to be re-renovated and the fountain for the main pond needs to be connected again (recognising that it is deliberately turned off during the tadpole season).
- The car park could be improved, especially the removal of the 'container' and the re-siting of the Council vehicles that are usually parked there.
- The toilets are not open as much as respondents would like (or at least that is the perception).
- There is less than universal approval for the statue in the main pond and for the new interpretation boards.

Many of these suggestions have or are being acted upon. For example:

- The Safer Neighbourhoods Team were asked for suggestions as to how security could be improved and they now have a greater presence in the park at more vulnerable times than previously.
- Improvements to the tennis courts, screening for the car park and the ponds are now part of the improvement schedule (see Action Plan on page 10)
- The statue (which was the winner of a competition run by the John Innes Society for students from Wimbledon College of Art) and interpretation boards are felt to add to the character and usability of the park. It is not intended to change them at this time.

4.11 Leases and covenants

John Innes Park is owned by the London Borough of Merton and is managed by the Greenspaces team of the Environment & Regeneration Department

The property was transferred by way of a conveyance dated 1st October 1949 between the Official Trustee of Charity Land and the Trustees of the John Innes Charity and the Urban District Council of Merton and Morden. The land was sold subject to the following conditions:

- Only to be used as a public park
- The land is maintained for the use of the public
- It must be known as John Innes Park
- All of the land must be maintained in the same as the Trustees of the John Innes Charity maintained it and the same must be used for the same purposes as they were used by the Trustee.

The property is not registered and is not affected by a caution against first registration of any priority notice.

There are no entries in the Register of Common Land or in the Register of Town and Village Greens.

5 Vision for John Innes Park and Recreation Ground

The vision for John Innes Park reflects Merton's vision for its parks as a whole:

“To encourage enjoyment of the beauty, diverse features and rich heritage of John Innes Park and Recreation Ground by all members of the community through the provision of a high quality space with facilities that are safe, clean, sustainable and accessible to all”.



Photograph: The Serpentine Walk in John Innes Park

John Innes Park is a unique community asset providing an attractive and peaceful sanctuary from the surrounding urban environment. The vision for the park is focused on promoting the space as a community facility where people can connect with Merton's heritage through appreciation of the variety of formally landscaped gardens, fine tree and shrub specimens and quality examples of historic architecture.

The park also contributes to encouraging healthy lifestyles through the provision of quality sporting facilities that meet the diverse needs of surrounding community. John Innes Park is an excellent example of a high quality space that balances relaxation and recreation through innovative design.

John Innes Park is an excellent example of a community park. The existing responsive management arrangements encourage an active interest and involvement from the local community. Working relationships with our stakeholders including the Merton Cricket Club, Rutlish School, and especially the

John Innes Society and friends group ensure enthusiastic participation in fundraising, management, and restoration of park features. Our community partners have been involved in horticulture, species protection and heritage restoration projects and are a huge asset, promoting this unique place to other members of the community.

The Friends of John Innes Park organise an annual music event on the bandstand at midsummer, plus other various events throughout the year. These might include local history walks, gardening days and events for children.

In addition, the Bowls Club regularly holds social events in the bowls pavilion.

6 Aims, objectives and management actions

This section presents the aims and objectives for John Innes Park for 2016-2021. The format is closely aligned to the key criteria set by Keep Britain Tidy for the Green Flag Award. The current status of the park, measured against the Green Flag criteria highlights current condition, recent development and areas for improvement. Objectives have been developed based on our assessment of the current status of the park. They define our intentions for achieving the vision for the park.



The management actions that follow the objectives describe how we will allocate funding and resources and monitor our progress toward achieving our vision.

The key Green Flag criteria are:

1. Creating a Welcoming Space
2. Ensuring the Park is Healthy, Safe and Secure
3. Keeping the Park Clean and Well Maintained
4. Sustainably Managing Resources
5. Appropriate Management of Conservation and Heritage Features
6. Encouraging Community Involvement
7. Marketing the Facility Effectively
8. Implementation of Effective Management Strategies

The vision and objectives for the park are aligned with and may be in addition to the Merton Partnership's Community Plan, the Council's corporate objectives and the refreshed 2011 Merton Open Space Strategy vision and desired outcomes.

The management actions described in the following section include likely timeframes, responsibility for implementation, cost estimates and funding sources. This information will be reviewed regularly and is expected to evolve as funding and other opportunities arise and the service is transformed during the course of the next 4 – 5 years.

6.1 Creating a Welcoming Park

The overall impression for someone approaching and entering the site should be positive and inviting.

Features of particular importance are:

- Good and safe access
- Effective signage to and in the park; and
- Equal access for all members of the community.

Current condition and issues

John Innes Park's location in the heart of the Borough helps to make this park accessible to the wider community using a variety of transport modes. It is accessible by car on Mostyn Road, off Kingston Road, the busy A238 east-west route through the borough. There is a small parking area for 25 cars with the park grounds accessible from Mostyn Road. Visitors travelling by rail have a 5 or 10-minute walk from South Merton Station or a 10-minute walk from Merton Park tram stop. Buses (163, 164 and 152 buses) also run between Wimbledon and Colliers Wood.

Pedestrians can enter the park through two entrances. The main entrance, on Mostyn Road, welcomes visitors with attractive bedding displays, herbaceous borders, distinctive railings and gates and the historic park lodge. There is also pedestrian access by the Lodge off Mostyn Road. The park is also accessible via the recreation ground (which is accessed by an entrance on Cannon Hill Lane) by public right of way through Rutlish School.

In 2007, in response to health and safety concerns, LB Merton opened up the then disused pedestrian gate on Mostyn Road so walkers can access the park without needing to cross the car park.

Good tarmac footpaths link all areas and points of interest in John Innes Park. The sporting facilities, horticultural areas and features of historical importance are all accessible for visitors pushing pushchairs or those in wheelchairs or with other mobility impairments. Good quality benches and waste bins are located conveniently around the site.

To ensure visitors know where they are and what is available there are two main interpretive panels in the park. One is located at the Mostyn Road entrance and another at the entrance to the Recreation Ground. These signs provide a map of the site with facilities and features of interest, policies on litter, dogs, and motorcycles in the park and contact details. In addition, eight interpretive signs were put up by the Friends of John Innes Park in 2008 to explain to visitors the significance of key features such as the Manor House, the bandstand and the rockery.

Objectives

1. Maintain boundary fencing, hedging, gates and access paths to a consistently high standard.
2. Improve signage in the surrounding neighbourhood to the park and provide more directional and interpretive signs within the park.
3. Meet the accessibility requirements of all users.
4. Provide everybody with a range of high quality, well-maintained and relevant facilities that are accessible, safe, and clean.

Management actions

#	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000)	Source	Secured ?
Objective 1. Maintenance of boundary fencing, hedging, gates and access paths to a consistently high standard						
1	<i>Footpaths:</i> Wearing course and gravel to all footpaths. Replace edging or make good stone edging where necessary. Install new sealed gravel footpath in the playing field to complete perimeter route.	Under review	Contractor	10	Capital	10k for 3 years
2	<i>Serpentine Walk:</i> Install new edging to footpath	20010/11	Contractor	6	Capital	No
3	<i>Mostyn Road</i> Paint railings	2006/07 Complete	Contractor	NA	Revenue	Yes
4	Repair wall by Croquet Lawn	2007/8 Complete	Contractor	10	Capital	Yes
5	Improve screening to Bowling Club from Watery Lane	20010	Contractor	1	Revenue	No
6	Install new railings behind property near yard area	2007 Complete	Contractor	3	Capital	Yes
7	Install new boundary fence in John Innes Recreation Ground.	2007/08 Complete	Contractor	15	Capital	Yes
8	Install more screening for the car park from Mostyn Road	2011/12 Complete	Contractor	2	Revenue	No
9	Complete technical/condition appraisal of, and restore listed walls (by bowling green and school)	2011/12 Complete	Contractor	120	Capital	Yes
10	Plant mixed beech hedge to rear of croquet lawn	2014 Complete	In house	1.5	Revenue	No
Objective 2. Improve signage in the surrounding neighbourhood to the park and provide more directional and interpretive signs within the park						
11	Install a Friends of John Innes Park notice board	2008/09 Complete	Friends/graf fiti team.	1.5	Friends	Yes
12	Work with Transport for London (TFL) to provide directional information at Tram and Rail Stops.	Complete	In house / TFL	NA	Revenue	Yes

#	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000)	Source	Secured ?
13	Install more signage in surrounding neighbourhood leading to John Innes Park	2006/07 Complete	Highways / In house	1	Revenue	Yes
14	Develop and implement interpretive signage for horticultural and architectural features within the park.	2009 Complete	Jl Society / Friends	3	Capital	Yes
Objective 3. Meet the accessibility requirements of all users						
15	<i>Bowling Green Access:</i> Provide new access gate through west wall	2016 Complete	Contractor	2	Revenue	No
Objective 4. Provide everybody with a range of high quality, well-maintained and relevant facilities that are accessible, safe and clean						
16	<i>Old Tennis Courts/ Derelict garden</i> Re-store as usable garden area.	20011-12, 2012/13	LBM Merton/ Friends	45	Capital	No
17	Seating 6 new metal Ogilvie seats at various locations	2005/06 Complete	In house	4	Revenue	Yes
18	Install 2 new seats in Recreation Ground	2008 Complete	Contractor	2	Capital	Yes
19	Install 2 seats in croquet lawn	2009/10 Complete	Contractor	2	Capital	Yes
20	Paint window sills on bowling green pavilion	2009/10 Complete	In house	1	Revenue	Yes
21	Re-mark car park	2009/10 Complete	Contractor	0.5	Revenue	Yes
22	New roof for Bowls Pavilion	2014	Contractor	5	Revenue	Yes

#	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000)	Source	Secured ?
23	Improvements to Bowls Toilets	2013/14 Complete	Contractor	1	Revenue	Yes
24	Improvements to footpath network	2020	Contractor	10	Capital	Yes

6.2 A healthy, safe and secure park

The park or green space must be a healthy, safe and secure place for all members of the community to use. Relevant issues must be addressed in management plans and implemented on the ground. New issues which arise must be addressed promptly and appropriately.

Particularly important issues include:

- Equipment and facilities must be safe to use;
- The park must be a secure place for all members of the community to use or traverse;

Current condition and issues

In conjunction with the Friends of John Innes Park, Rutlish School and other partners, Merton's Greenspaces team has invested considerable resources into the improvement of the facilities in the park to meet community needs and provide a public space that safe, secure and enjoyable to visit.

The most sustainable solution for future safety and security in the park is to ensure that John Innes Park is a well-used and respected facility. With trained on site staff and sensible management of planting and trees, LBM can provide a safe and secure facility for the local community. Incorporating the local knowledge and expertise of our partners is essential to ensure effective management and development of the park. Our partners in this goal include:

- The John Innes Society (especially through its sub-group, the Friends of John Innes Park);
- Local Metropolitan Police Beat Manager;
- LB Merton Street Wardens.

Safety and security in John Innes Park is further enhanced by a number of wider Council-led initiatives that complement the involvement and respect between managers, users and enforcement agencies. These initiatives are very important for the continued security, effective management and enjoyment by all.

Safer Neighbourhoods Team policing is about delivering safer communities through partnership working, both with the local authority, voluntary sector organisations and in consultation with local residents. Each Safer Neighbourhood Team in Merton sets its local priorities in consultation with local people and delivers these actions through a partnership framework through a number of boards. Every ward in the borough now has its own local Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood Team comprising on a police sergeant, up to two constables, and up to three Police Community Support Officers. The presence of grounds staff for periods of the day during park opening hours and the fact that people live on site also deters anti-social behaviour, vandalism and graffiti. Equipment, facilities and park infrastructure are of high quality and are inspected regularly (see Inspection and Maintenance Regime – Appendices 1 & 2) by park staff to ensure their safety for users. Trees are regularly inspected visually by the park staff on patrol. Following stormy weather all trees are checked by park staff to identify risk from damaged limbs.

Condition monitoring and maintenance

The condition of footpaths, waste bins, benches, planting, and fencing are formally inspected four times a year by idverde staff. The condition of seats, litterbins, etc. is undertaken on a daily basis by park staff. Unsafe facilities are repaired or replaced immediately to ensure user safety and discourage vandalism. This work is implemented through the Greenspaces Team.

Building maintenance is carried out by Merton's Corporate Facilities team.

In the event of damage to any structures within the park, the Park Manager or supervisor telephones the Corporate Facilities team. They use termed contractors to organise immediate repairs if they are causing a hazard. There is an overall building maintenance revenue budget that is used for all building maintenance repairs across the Borough each year.

Management systems

Whereas formerly the Council utilised the CONFIRM system for the management of its assets, performance and customer enquiries and complaints, this system has been progressively dropped over the past 12-18 months in favour of alternative systems such as MAYRISE. Our tree data and management history is now managed exclusively in EasyTreev, for example. A new lettings management system has recently been procured and is now live. There are also in-house corporate systems for recording and tracking enquiries and complaints, coordinated by a small team in the Council's Corporate Governance section.

Staff training

Idverde has its own internal H&S and risk assessments which are made available to their respective staff.

Within the idverde there is a programme of staff induction and training that includes:

- Chainsaw use

- Appropriate pesticide use
- First aid
- Safe operation of machinery
- Customer care
- Manual handling
- Dispute resolution
- The inspection programme

Dogs policy and control

Dog walking is a major activity in John Innes Park and the Council wishes to encourage responsible dog ownership across the borough. Dogs are allowed in the park on a lead and under control off the lead in the recreation ground.

The policy of London Borough of Merton has been to treat dog waste as separate rubbish. However we now integrate dog waste into general waste, allowing dog owners to use any of the park bins for their (bagged) dog waste. Information regarding the Council's dog policies is displayed in the park on the main signs.

Dogs are not permitted on the bowling green and croquet lawn areas.

It has been suggested (including by judges for the Green Flag Award) that dog litter bags should be available within the park. This idea has been rejected because, given the proximity of Rutlish School, such bags would be too much of a temptation and would cause unnecessary litter problems.

The Council has recently finished consulting on new Public Space Protection Orders (which replace the current dog control orders). A Public Space Protection Order is a new measure, created by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, which replaced some existing legislation and introduced wider discretionary powers to deal with any particular nuisance or problem that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life.

Emergency contacts

Information for emergency contact, public telephones, hospital, and other local services is provided on the main park notice boards.

Toilets

London Borough of Merton is responsible for the public toilets in the park. Male and female toilets are located in the historic toilet block. An accessible disabled toilet was added in 2005. The toilets are open from 0800 - 1900 during the 6 summer months and when required for events in the park. A dedicated attendant is not on duty but members of staff are present in the park.

Trees

The Greenspaces Arboriculture team carries out detailed tree surveys every three years. In addition to this if a member of the public reports a dangerous tree or parks staff the tree will be inspected within a 12-hour period. The arboricultural team programme works and sends out to contractors. Work is inspected by the arboricultural team on completion of works.

Relevant risk assessments are carried out by the arboricultural team members.

Objectives

5. All park facilities and features to be maintained providing a safe, secure and inclusive space
6. Work with local residents, police and other stakeholders to increase informal surveillance of the park
7. Address all safety issues addressed promptly and effectively through timely monitoring and reporting
8. Encourage responsible dog ownership through education and active enforcement idverde staff
9. Enforce safe working practices to protect all park staff and visitors
10. Implement the Health and Safety Policy

Management actions

#	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000)	Source	Secured
Objective 5. All park facilities and features to be maintained providing a safe, secure and inclusive space						
1	<i>Tennis Courts:</i> Remove existing chain link fencing and replace with "Zaun" fencing. Extend tarmac at back of tennis courts. Re-spray courts	2007/08 Complete	Contractor	40	Capital	Yes
		2009/10 Complete		5		Yes
2	<i>Tennis Floodlighting</i> Install new floodlighting (subject to consultation and planning permission).	Not actioned. Deferred	Contractor	30	Capital	No
3	<i>Recreation Ground: Chainlink Fencing</i> Remove old chainlink fencing along Watery Lane and Cannon Hill Lane. Replace with railings.	50% complete 2008/09	Contractor	40	Capital	Part
4	<i>Recreation Ground: Safety Netting</i> Remove and replace 5m high post and safety netting and replace.	2012 Complete	Contractor	3	Capital	No
5	<i>Liaison with Rutlish School on the management of the access /gates between John Innes Park and Recreation Ground</i>	2012	LB Merton	NA		
Objective 6. Work with local residents, police and other stakeholders to increase informal surveillance of the park						
6	Work closely with the Merton Park Safer Neighbourhoods team on priorities for security for the Park	Ongoing	Safer Neighbourhoods	0	NA	Yes
Objective 7. Address all safety issues addressed promptly and effectively through timely monitoring and reporting						
7	Implementation of the CONFIRM System (Computerised Parks Management Tool)	Ongoing	In house	E Govt	Revenue	Yes
Objective 8. Encourage responsible dog ownership through education, provision and maintenance of dog bins, and active enforcement by rangers and park staff						
8	Implementation of the traffic light dog control system in the park	2006/07	In – house/Animal Warden	NA	Revenue	Yes
9	Consult with Environmental Services on feasibility of on-the- spot fines for dog control violations	Review 2012	In house /Animal	NA	Revenue	Yes

			Warden			
Objective 9. Enforce safe working practices to protect all park staff and visitors						
10	No significant risk factors identified in John Innes Park (Refer to Health and Safety and CHAS policies in Appendix 5)	Ongoing review of risks	In house	NA	NA	Yes
11	Implement regular tree inspections	Daily visual. 3 yearly. Detailed inspection. Last inspection 2012.	Arboriculture Team	NA	NA	NA
Objective 10. Implement the Health and Safety Policy						
12	Healthy and Safety Policy distributed to all staff and available on staff intranet	2008 Completed	In house	NA	NA	Yes

6.2 A well maintained and clean park

For aesthetic as well as health and safety reasons issues of cleanliness and maintenance must be addressed, in particular:

- Litter and other waste management issues must be adequately dealt with;
- Grounds, buildings, equipment and other features must be well maintained; and

Current condition and issues

John Innes Park is now classified as one of the Borough's 25 "Key Parks" whose maintenance inputs have hardly been affected by the resource reductions that have affected the service as a whole since April 2011, save for losing its permanent member of staff. Overall, the staff inputs in the park remain in the vicinity of 1.5 FTEs, albeit comprising more mobile worker inputs than in the recent past. The current Greenspaces team structure is included as Appendix 7.

Providing quality parks and open spaces remains a high priority for the Council despite the difficult financial climate. The number of Green Flag Awards secured is one of the Environment & Regenerations Department's current Key Performance Indicators. User feedback since the service restructure was fully embedded has been good and the revised operational approach has coincided with a reassuring increase in the user satisfaction levels as revealed in the annual Residents' Survey: satisfaction with parks rises 3% to 79%.

John Innes Park is used extensively by a variety of groups and individuals and litter is a significant management issue. Litterbins are emptied on a minimum frequency of three times per week by idverde (twice midweek and once at the weekend). They also undertake litter picking across the park and recreation ground. idverde regularly, in the electric powered ATV, undertakes the collection of litter in the park. Waste is collected by idverde staff and transported to an offsite waste processing facility. Litter around the borders of the park is mainly windblown from the adjacent Rutlish School. The idverde staff collects any litter around the fringes of the park.

The old policy of London Borough of Merton was to treat dog waste as separate rubbish. However we now operate a "any bin will do" policy where dog waste can be added to a normal rubbish bin. Information regarding the Council's dog policies is displayed in the park on the main signs.

Sustainable waste management is a high priority for the London Borough of Merton and John Innes Park has a role in demonstrating its feasibility across the parks network. A considerable amount of green waste is generated from the formal bedding, herbaceous borders, shrubs and trees. Branch and tree waste is routinely chipped and recycled into the herbaceous borders as mulch. There is an active green waste recycling scheme with a policy not to remove any green waste from the site.

idverde are required to remove graffiti from Council property within 5 days and offensive or racist graffiti anywhere in the borough within 24 hours.

Currently the Council also:

- Publicises well known tag names and works closely with police and schools to identify taggers;
- A video and teaching pack aimed at 10 to 16 year olds;
- Works in partnership with the police and other bodies on surveillance at known graffiti hotspots;
- Asks local shops to restrict the sale of spray paint and jumbo marker pens to young people;
- Works with other councils through SWAAG (South West Action Against Graffiti) to share knowledge and best practice;
- Organises graffiti-removal training sessions and community clean-up days throughout the year;
- Encourage public utilities and transport operators to remove graffiti from their equipment and property;
- Use idverde for removal of graffiti from council property

The park is maintained to a very high standard. After routine inspections have ensured that the park is safe, secure and tidy, the park staff commences a wide range of maintenance and horticultural and arboriculture operations. These activities are described in more detail on the maintenance schedule in Appendix 2. Park staff work regularly our other partners to undertake specific maintenance and refurbishment.

The rockery area and Serpentine Walk were re-landscaped in 2004 with a living spaces grant and match funding from LBM. There has been removal of some of the planting on the rockery in 2007 LBM has worked in partnership with the friends group to carry out some fundraising and replanting which began in autumn 2008 and is still an ongoing project.

Built heritage

The buildings in the park are of considerable architectural and historical significance. Their condition, restoration and maintenance regimes are discussed in Section 6.5 Conservation and Heritage.

Vandalism/damage to buildings in the parks reported to the idverde who then contact Merton's Corporate Facilities team on a hotline number. They will organise a repair through nominated termed contractors.

If the damage is to the landscape or parks infrastructure, idverde in conjunction with Merton organise necessary repairs and process insurance claims where appropriate and damage exceeds £500 in value.

Objectives

11. Ensure high standards of maintenance for bowling greens, tennis courts, lawns, bedding areas, trees and shrubs, user facilities and park and water features
12. Provide adequate facilities for the disposal of visitor's rubbish and dog waste
13. Discourage vandalism and graffiti through education, innovative design of facilities and building community alliances
14. Monitor the maintenance programme to ensure improvements can be celebrated and weaknesses addressed.



Management actions

#	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000)	Source	Secured
Objective 11. Ensure high standards of maintenance for bowling greens, tennis courts, lawns, bedding areas, trees and shrubs, user facilities and park and water features						
1	<i>Tree Conservation Works:</i> 434 trees in the park Work to include reshaping, crown reduction, thinning, and removal.	3 year project 2006-09	Contractor	12	Revenue	Ongoing
2	<i>New Shrub Planting / Herbaceous Border</i> Replant under storey planting. To include new shrub planting in back lawn in front of wall of Rutlish School (near Rose Walk)	3 year project 2006-09 Complete	In house	20	Capital	Yes (50%)
3	<i>Reshaping of hedges</i> Reshaping of yew hedges and replacement where necessary	2006-09	In house	2	Revenue	Ongoing
4	Amenity screening of Park Depot	2009/10 Complete	Contractor	10	Capital	Yes
5	<i>Recreation Ground</i> Remove Leylandii hedge and replace with (Hornbeam Hedge). Remove old <i>Carpinus betulus</i> tree stumps	2007/08 Complete	Contractor	3	Capital	Yes
Objective 12. Provide adequate facilities for the disposal of visitor's rubbish and dog waste						
6	Summer evenings – additional litter collection	Ongoing	In house	NA	Revenue	Yes
Objective 13. Discourage vandalism and graffiti through education, innovative design of facilities and building community alliances						
7	Working with Metropolitan Police/Safe Neighbourhood Team	Ongoing	In house	NA	NA	Yes
Objective 14. Monitor the maintenance programme to ensure improvements can be celebrated and weaknesses addressed						
8	<i>Joint monitoring programme</i> Park Manager and friends group representative evaluate the park together (provides a good insight into management focus and maintenance programmes for the friends)	Ongoing	In house / Friends	NA	NA	Yes
9	Consultation exercise/questionnaire of users/residents	Complete	Friends	NA	NA	NA
10	Reporting from regular inspection regime (see Appendix 1)	Ongoing	In house	NA	NA	Yes

6.4 Achieving sustainable spaces

Methods used in maintaining the green space and its facilities should be environmentally sound, relying on best practice according to current knowledge. Management should be aware of the range of techniques available to them, and demonstrate that informed choices have been made and are regularly reviewed: Specifically:

An environmental policy or charter and management strategy should be in place, in practice, and regularly reviewed;

- Pesticide use should be minimised and justified;
- Horticultural peat use should be eliminated;
- Waste plant material generated in the park should be recycled;
- High horticultural and arboriculture standards should be demonstrated; and
- Energy conservation, pollution reduction, waste recycling and resource conservation measures should be used.

Current condition and issues

Merton Council's current environmental policies on sustainable resources, energy efficiency, and waste management are in various stages of development.

In order to protect the health of park users, staff and the biodiversity of the park, the Greenspaces team and idverde has a general policy to reduce the use of pesticides in the maintenance of all parks and open spaces. The use of pesticides has been eliminated from all areas of the park with the exception of the fine turf bowling green where non-residual herbicides are used only where necessary. The bowling green is maintained using a biological approach to sports turf management. A copy of the management programme for the bowling green is available from the Parks Manager upon request. Within most of the Park areas weed growth is suppressed with hand weeding, hoeing and mulching.

Peat-based composts are no longer being used in the park for the bedding plant contract.

A shredder/mulcher was purchased in January 2009. This eliminated the need to transport green waste off site. All old bedding will be mulched on site once removed at the end of the two bedding seasons and the resulting compost will be spread on site at a later date.

There are existing green waste bays on site which were improved in summer 2009 and again in 2016.

Vehicle use in the park is kept to a minimum. An electric vehicle is currently used to service John Innes Park. Electric vehicles provide a cleaner and quieter alternative to diesel. All park machinery is used correctly and is maintained to a very high standard. Any hazardous chemicals are safely stored in a lock-up on site.

Replacement park furniture and fixtures are made from sustainable and recycled resources where available. The emphasis is on maintaining existing facilities to a high standard to avoid waste.

Resource use is quantified and reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that water, electricity and gas bills are closely monitored to ensure leaks and efficiencies are addressed promptly.

Practical steps toward more sustainable use of resources and environmental improvements are coordinated through Merton's Environmental Action Plan 2003. A location for on-site recycling facilities has not been found at John Innes Park. The Friends of John Innes Park believe that these facilities would only replicate existing facilities already in the park catchment area.

In 2008 Madison Water Technology Ltd installed an irrigation system at the bowling green. This system uses the water from the bowling green pavilion roof. It incorporates a rain stat that will turn off the system when it is raining, saving water. The system evenly distributes the correct amount of water instead of using an inefficient tool.

The Climate Strategy and Action Plan forms Merton's response to our [declaration of a climate emergency](#), which set net zero carbon targets of 2050 for the borough and 2030 for the Council. This 30 year plan sets out our vision for Merton in 2050 and the key actions required to get to net-zero carbon across four thematic areas (the Green Economy, Buildings and Energy, Transport and Greening Merton), as well as how the Council is going to decarbonise its own operations by 2030.

Appendix 9 shows actions that the Greenspaces Team within Merton have taken to adapt to the changing climate now and in the future to ensure that future generations are able to use our parks and open spaces. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-emergency>

Appendix 9 shows actions that the Greenspaces Team within Merton have taken to adapt to the changing climate now and in the future to ensure that future generations are able to use our parks and open spaces.

Objectives

15. Ensure environmental policies are in place, implemented and reviewed annually.
16. Minimise on site pesticide use.
17. Recycle all green waste.
18. Review the use of energy, water and other materials on site.

Management actions

#	Description	When	Who	Budget	Source
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				(£000)	
Objective 15. Ensure environmental policies are in place, implemented and reviewed annually					
1	Operate in line with Merton's Environmental Action Plan 2003.	Ongoing	In house	NA	NA
Objective 16. Reduce on site pesticide use					
2	Embed policy of using pesticides only where absolutely necessary. Continue investigation into eliminating pesticides entirely through new management techniques	Ongoing	In house	NA	NA
Objective 17. Recycle green waste					
3	Investigate opportunities to expand existing Council waste recycling scheme in parks. Install 2 recycling bins in Park.	2009 Complete	In house	3	Street Scene Capital
4	Purchase new chipper and shredder to allow recycling of green waste on site.	2009 Complete	In house	26	Revenue
Objective 18. Review the use of energy, water and other materials on site					
4	Ensure reports from the inspection schedule inform energy and resource conservation in the park	Ongoing	In house	NA	NA.
5	Install new bowling green irrigation system and use water from bowling green pavilion roof.	2008 Complete	Contractor	9	Capital
6	Undertake formal review of all utilities usage on site	2011 Complete	In house	NA	Yes

Photograph: Rare *Cephalotaxus fortunei* in John Innes Park



6.5 Conservation and heritage

Particular attention should be paid to the conservation and appropriate management of:

- Natural features, wildlife and flora;
- Landscape features; and
- Buildings and structural features.
- These features should serve their function well without placing undue pressure on the surrounding environment.

Current condition and issues

Natural Heritage

John Innes Park is not yet recognised or designated Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SINC). Due to its core function as a formally managed horticultural and recreational landscape, the park does not include much natural habitat to support native and endangered species.

However, the park does have some wildlife value and careful and responsive management techniques have increased the overall biodiversity of the park. A number of bird and bat boxes were installed in the park in 2005.

Invertebrate habitats are another area where nature conservation could be promoted in the park. The Merton Park residential area has the highest concentration of holly blue butterflies in the country. They are abundant in the John Innes Park and are dependent on the combination of both holly and ivy for the completion of their life cycle.

A bird survey of the park was conducted in 2009/10 by the Friends group and revealed the presence of a range of familiar woodland and garden species, including wrens, tits, robins, jays, goldfinches and wagtails.

Heritage interest

The formal design and layout of the park and extensive horticultural interest links the present management of the park to the early history of the site. Further work to preserve existing horticultural features and inform visitors of their significance is required.

The buildings and architectural features within John Innes Park are in various states of repair. A detailed inventory of the condition of the various buildings should be undertaken and a repair, restoration and maintenance regime should be agreed between the LBM and partners. Where possible, existing buildings should be adapted for modern uses to encourage use and appreciation (whilst protecting their integrity and historic significance).

In 2008 the Greenspaces team worked with the friends of John Innes Park to install interpretative panels on all main heritage features.

- The Entrance Lodge and gates (by Quartermain)
- Ornamental brick walls separate the park from the Manor House and from the playing fields to the south
- Cottage and adjoining archway (by Quartermain);
- Public Conveniences (by Brocklesby)
- Bandstand (by Brocklesby)

Glasspoole Thompson Landscape Architects were commissioned by London Borough of Merton to carry out a study on John Innes Park and Recreation Ground in 1998. The four objectives were to:

- Evaluate potential for park restoration;
- Evaluate areas for historical reinterpretation;
- Evaluate wider conservation issues that will ensure that the park has a sustainable future;
- Evaluate costs, priorities and the case for implementing these findings.

Glasspoole Thompson assessed the current condition of built features in March 1998. The resulting Restoration Proposals for Heritage Park Conservation has informed the management and improvement actions listed in Section 5.5.3.



Objectives

19. Enhance the wildlife value of the site
20. Conserve the ornamental character, unique design and intimate layout of the park and recreation ground
21. Protect the historical features and horticultural heritage of the park and educate the public on their value
22. Continue to restore park features in line with the principles and objectives of the Glasspoole Thompson Historical Management Plan

Management Actions

#	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000)	Source	Secured?
Objective 19. Where appropriate, restore original heritage features aware of modern needs						
1	Restore two listed walls between park and recreation ground	2012 Complete	Corporate Facilities /Contractors	120k	NA	NA
Objective 20. Enhance the wildlife value of the site						
2	Minimise all pesticide use	Action 2 5.4.3	In house	NA	NA	NA

#	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000)	Source	Secured?
3	Maintain bat and bird boxes (see Appendix 2: Maintenance Schedule)	Ongoing	In house	NA	NA	NA
Objective 21. Conserve the ornamental character, unique design and intimate layout of the park and recreation ground						
4	Ensure the inspection regime advises the maintenance programme and highlights opportunities for future park development	Ongoing	In house	NA	NA	NA
5	Refer to Actions 1-7 – 5.3.3					
Objective 22. Protect the historical features and horticultural heritage of the park and educate the public on their value						
6	Provide more interpretive signs for historical features – working with the John Innes Society and friends	2008 Complete	In House / Friends	3	Capital	Yes
7	Refer to Action 7 – 5.1.3					
Objective 23. Continue to restore park features in line with the principles and objectives of the Historical Management Plan						
8	<i>Drinking Fountain</i> Select replacement for 3m high drinking fountain through design competition. A new plaque to provide information on the original	Deferred, no date	External Artist	40	Capital	No
9	<i>Conservation of existing walls</i> Detailed survey of walls and repairs as necessary. (See existing survey and refer to Glasspoole Thompson Historical Management Plan) Refurbishment programme will be developed from review of Historical Management Plan recommendations	2006/07	In house / Contractor	NA	Capital	No
10	Rebuild wall by croquet lawn	2007/08 Complete	Contractor	NA	Capital	Yes

6.6 Community involvement

Park management authorities should actively pursue the involvement of members of the community, with representation of as many park user groups as possible. Management should be able to demonstrate:

- Knowledge of the user community and levels and pattern of use;
- Evidence of community involvement in park management and / or development and results achieved; and
- That there are appropriate levels of provision or recreational facilities for all sectors of the community.

Current condition and issues

First and foremost, John Innes Park is a community space that provides opportunities for local people to take part in a number of open space activities. The support of local people, user groups, partners and other stakeholders is recognized by the Council as fundamental to the success of the facility as a safe, healthy, clean and sustainably managed open space.

There are two main stakeholder groups in John Innes Park. The John Innes Society has 660 subscription paying members who contribute to publicity and improvements within the wider Merton Park area. They produce a newsletter every two months, hold guest speaker events, and organize social gatherings for the wider community (including the annual “Music in the Park” at the John Innes Bandstand and the Easter egg hunt on the front lawn. The Society has been involved with:

- Consultation with the LB Merton on future improvement priorities
- Developing funding applications for improvements with LB Merton
- Local fundraising
- Assisting with maintenance including painting, clearing graffiti and updating notice boards
- Regular workdays
- Events

The Friends of John Innes operates as a sub-committee of the Society and does not charge a separate membership fee. The Society and Friends strongly believe that the park should be conserved for the benefit of all, in a way that is consistent with the original intentions of the trustees in order to reduce maintenance costs. Many improvements have reflected the desires of the friends group:

- Engaging Rutlish School to reduce vandalism
- Maintaining links to John Innes Research Centre in Norwich
- Working in partnership with Wimbledon School of Art to produce the new pond sculpture.

In 2008 the ‘Friends’ group paid for and project managed the installation of a series of interpretive boards around John Innes Park and has carried out a detailed consultation exercise that established residents’ and users’ views of the Park.

There are also other stakeholders and volunteers who are involved in the use, management and promotion of John Innes. Rutlish School, the Merton Cricket Club, Merton Park Bowls Club and the croquet club are all involved in the regular management and maintenance of the park. Merton Council works closely with the police to discourage anti-social behaviour and protect the users and facilities of the park. Improving the coordination, communication and cooperation between different stakeholders in the park is vital to the success of this management plan. A dedicated forum to encourage closer working relationships between the various user groups could be a useful development.

One such issue that needs addressing by the stakeholders is the need for additional, appropriate, facilities for young people within the park. In order to

develop a sustainable and respected facility, young people should be consulted and involved in the process.

This may involve consultation on a play area in future if funding becomes available.

The John Innes Society held an event on 1st August 2009 in the John Innes Park to mark the Centenary of the gifting of the park to the people of Merton. The organising committee consisted largely of non-JIS committee members which was a lovely way to engage the local community in the celebrations. The event was a not-for profit occasion with teas and cakes provided in the bowling pavilion by the local brownie pack, the bowls club put on a 'taster day' which was a great success, there was a ride-on steam railway from the Sutton Model Railway Club, a children's entertainer, strawberries and cream, a raffle and a special guest appearance from John Innes himself. The event was very well supported and was a huge success. Funding raised was spent on plants for the park.

On Monday 28th September 2009 Davinia Miln (JIS) secured a visit to Rutlish School by the BBC's Radio 4 "Gardeners' Question Time" team. A strong team of volunteers led by Ms Miln were successful in hiring a venue, Rutlish School, inviting an audience and providing a wonderful buffet for both the audience and the GQT team. Clive Whichelow, local historian was interviewed on the history of Merton Park as part of the programme.

The friends group have also formed a gardening group to help maintain the 'Friends' wild life area within the park. This was a spin-off from the successful "Gardeners' Question time" recording.

User patterns

The questionnaire issued to residents and users in 2008 by the Friends of John Innes Park has established information about the user base:

- 91% (n=77) walk to John Innes Park, with 6% (n=5) and 2% (n=2) travelling by bicycle and car respectively;
- 55% (n=47) of respondents said that they used the Park occasionally. 9% (n=8) said they used the Park occasionally and 1% (n=1) said that they never used the Park.
- The "Music in the Park" concert is the most popular event in John Innes Park with 41% (n=35) of respondents saying that they enjoy it. Walking (32%, n=27) and tennis (29%, n=25) are also popular.
- The horticultural features are appreciated most by respondents: 94% (n=77) of respondents appreciate the trees and 90% (n=74) appreciate the planted beds. Physical features such as the rose arbour, pond and bandstand also score highly.
- Respondents value 'peace and quiet' highest of all the characteristics listed about the Park in the questionnaire.

Objectives

24. Work closely with existing stakeholders and partners to address local residents' needs, aspirations and concerns and encourage a sense of ownership.
25. Identify users and encourage them to participate in the development and management of the park.
26. Consult the wider Merton community about future plans, proposals and current projects in the park.
27. Provide support to the Friends of John Innes Park to ensure successful grant applications for improvements.
28. Foster closer relationships with local schools and institutions.
29. Encourage a complementary working relationship between the council and community volunteers.

Management actions

#	Description	When	Who	Budget	Source
Objective 24. Work closely with existing stakeholders and partners to address local residents' needs, aspirations and concerns and encourage a sense of ownership.					
1	Annual Questionnaire survey of members of bowling and cricket clubs	Annually	In house	0.5	Revenue
2	Meeting with bowls clubs bi-annually	Biannually	In house	NA	Revenue
3	Consultation exercise/questionnaire	November 2008 Complete	Friends		
4	Participate in Borough-wide Friends Forum	Annually	In house	NA	Revenue
5	Series of workshops for Friends Groups organised	Ongoing	LB Merton	0.5	Revenue
Objective 25. Identify users and encourage them to participate in the development and management of the park.					
5	Questionnaire survey of park users	Every 2-3 years	Friends	0.5	
6	Monitor visitor levels in park and using tennis courts and other facilities	On going	In house	NA	Revenue
7	Undertake staff training in public relations/customer care	2010 Complete	In house	NA	Revenue
Objective 26. Consult the wider Merton community about future plans, proposals and current projects in the park					
8	Consultation on Merton Open Space Strategy progress and projects. Reporting to friends groups, press releases, progress update newsletter.	Annually/Ongoing	In house	1	Revenue
9	Consultation from Planning Department on the development of the Local Development Framework	Ongoing	In house	NA	Revenue
Objective 27. Provide support to Friends of John Innes Park to ensure successful grant applications for					

#	Description	When	Who	Budget	Source
improvements					
10	Organise Friends Forum to raise awareness about available funding sources and encourage networking	Annually	In house	NA	Revenue
Objective 28. Foster closer relationships with local schools and institutions					
11	Continue to engage Rutlish School in development projects and maintenance activities	Ongoing	In house	NA	Revenue
12	Engage with the congregation of St Mary's Church at Merton Park regarding activities and developments in the park	Ongoing	In house	NA	Revenue
Objective 29. Encourage a complementary working relationship between the council and community volunteers					
13	Community involvement in planting the Rockery, under supervision and guidance of LB Merton gardeners	2008 Complete	In house / Friends	NA	NA
14	Tour of park and celebration of centenary event. Plant small rose bed and signage.	2009 Complete	In house / Friends	NA	Friends funding
15	Series of workshops organised by LBM and London Parks and Green Spaces Forum to engage Friends groups and offer advice on capacity building, volunteer recruitment, financial issues, case studies etc.	2015/2016	LPGSF	2k	Revenue



John Innes Park - Main Pond. Photo taken 28/07/04.

6.7 Marketing

Is there:

- A marketing strategy in place? Is it in practice and regularly reviewed?
- Good provision of information to users e.g. about management strategies, activities, features, ways to get involved?
- Effective promotion of the park as a community resource.

Current condition and issues

John Innes Park is currently promoted, along with the Borough's other parks and leisure facilities, through the various Council initiatives including signage outside the park, pamphlets for potential users and information on the Council website. Word of mouth is also important. The Council's 24 friends groups produce a number of newsletters to publicise their specific park.

Marketing of the park currently concentrates on effective signage leading potential users to the park and the promotion of specific events and sports facility availability. An informal marketing strategy addresses the marketing of all parks and recreation grounds in the Borough. Efforts are increasingly focused upon web-based methods and the use of local press and media, such as the Council's in-house magazine "My Merton" which regularly features parks and leisure activities and events.

Huge improvements have been made to the design and functionality of the Council's website over the last 3 years. It is crucial that Merton Council and its partners idverde takes full advantage of this medium to promote facilities and events in John Innes and other parks and open spaces in the Borough. Sports pitch bookings (E Booking) has been available since 2008 on the Merton website and now through idverde, streamlining the booking and charging process for potential users. Active monitoring of website activity provides managers and users with useful feedback to improve the information on the website and ensures that the information remains up to date.

A review of the current literature on the park will take place with the co-operation of the John Innes Society and the Friends of John Innes Park.

Well-informed and trained members of staff are vital to provide guidance to park visitors. New notice boards and signage was installed in 2005 to improve the information available to visitors. The service will continue to support and encourage the local community to use the park as a venue for appropriate community events.

A parks marketing and Communication plan was developed in 2007. The key objectives of the plan are to:

- Raise awareness of parks and open spaces to ensure a high level of service profile
- Increase publicity through press releases and PR opportunities
- Improve the monitoring of the effectiveness of marketing procedures
- Ensure that the strategy links into LB Merton's overall vision and values

Some examples of the marketing materials used to promote the park are provided in Appendix 4.

Objectives

31. Develop and implement borough-wide park marketing strategy
32. Provide information about the park in a variety of media both on and off site
33. Actively promote the features and facilities of the park and encourage community ownership.

Management actions

#	Description	When	Who	Budget	Source
Objective 31. Develop and implement Borough Wide Park Marketing Strategy					
1	Develop park marketing strategy	Ongoing	In house	NA	Revenue
Objective 32. Provide information about the park in a variety of media both on and off site					
2	Promote John Innes Park by advertising successes, events and issues through Council publications and local media via press releases	Ongoing	In house	NA	Revenue
3	Implement internet E-booking system for the sports pitches	Spring 2008 Complete Upgraded system from April 2012	In house	E govt funding	Revenue
4	Develop "Virtual Community Notice Board" for the Council website. Publicise Green Flag success.	2007/08 Complete	In house	NA	Revenue
5	Email communication list and 'Facebook' site (John Innes)	2008 Complete	Friends		
Objective 33. Actively promote the features and facilities of the park and encourage community ownership					
6	Implementation of parks marketing strategy	Ongoing	In house	NA	Revenue
7	Produce an Environment & Regeneration Newsletter	Deferred	In house	NA	Revenue
8	Publicise parks events and activities in 'My Merton'	Ongoing	In house	NA	Revenue
9	Promote JIP centenary event & associated activities	2009 Complete	In house/ Friends	NA	NA
10	Promote achievement of Green Flag Awards with photo opportunity with Friends group	Annually	In house/ Friends	NA	NA
11	Hold ongoing 1:1 meetings with Friends regarding the future promotion of John Innes Park	Ongoing	In house/ Friends	NA	NA



Photograph: Rhododendron at John Innes Park

6.8 Management

A Green Flag site must have a management plan. It must set out the balance between all the priorities, policies and partners that apply to a particular green space. It should establish a timescale for putting the objectives into practice. It should also identify the contribution the site is making towards an area's wider strategic aims. It must be actively implemented and regularly reviewed.

Current status and issues

This management plan for John Innes Park has been developed to advance the aspirations of the London Borough of Merton and those of our local communities. The management plan has been developed around our commitment to the objectives of the Green Flag Award and is key to the implementation of our Open Space Strategy (2005). It provides a clear and coordinated management strategy based on the characteristics of the site and the communities that use it. It will be a living document, updated annually to reflect new knowledge, successes and failures.

Parks management

Merton's Greenspaces service delivery has changed considerably since February 2017. Where once all services were delivered in house now the grounds maintenance and operations are now delivered by a private contractor: idverde. A small team remains within The London Borough of Merton Greenspaces Team delivering Capital investment, Site development, Events and Arboricultural management. The current team structure is outlined in Appendix 7.

The Greenspaces Manager (Doug Napier) is the service head and oversees the ongoing development of the service and its performance. The service manages over 110 separate open spaces. The Greenspaces Manager and the rest of the team oversee the idverde contract. The main duties of idverde include litter picking, sports pitch preparations, pavilion cleaning and parks locking, amongst other tasks.

The Greenspaces Manager line manages two parks development officers who are primarily involved in the delivery of the parks capital investment programme and for the upkeep and replacement of the parks infrastructure: footpaths, gates, signs, bins, fences, etc.

There is also a professional events officer and two professional arboricultural officers whose duties and responsibilities include the support of activities and conditions in John Innes and all other open spaces. Both the development and repair works and the arboricultural works are mainly undertaken by specialist contractors commissioned by, and reporting to, the relevant professional officers. The events role is mainly concerned with providing support and advice, especially in relation to safety, for small-scale outdoor events produced by the local community groups, at least insofar as the area is concerned as the capacity for larger events (fun fairs, circuses, faith group festivals and the like), is more limited there. Two officers in the team have considerable practical experience of ecological issues and the Warden of Mitcham Common, also employed within the team, is an additional biodiversity knowledge resource that is employed across the service.

The park formally opens at 8am and closes (the gates are securely locked by idverde staff) at or about dusk, unless there are lettings in the park. Under the revised operational arrangements, staff are present in the park on most midweek days due to a combination of the park's Key Park status (with daily commitments in terms of litter collection and condition inspections allied to that) and the work commitments required to prepare the various pitches on site which, together, ensure that the sporting elements of the neighbouring grounds is a year-round operation in itself. At weekends, the popularity of the site for lettings and sport also ensures that there is a regular idverde staff presence. Idverde also attends the park in support of the various evening lettings that the pavilion attracts. Overall, the staff establishment is estimated at 2 FTEs, albeit that none is actually allocated to the park specifically under the revised operational arrangements now adopted.

For complete management structure see Appendix 7

Objectives

34. To continue to bid for corporate revenue, capital and Section 106 funding for priority improvements.
35. Ensure sufficient budget allocated to maintain the park to the standards of this management plan
36. Encourage greater user ownership and involvement in facility management to promote responsible use

Refer to Appendix 2 for maintenance regime and Appendix 3 for plans of the site.

Management actions

#	Description	When	Who	Budget (000)	Source	Secured?
Objective 34. To continue to bid for corporate revenue, capital and Section 106 funding for priority improvements						
1	Liaison with S106 officer (Plans and Projects) to ensure good practice and best value in respect of securing and utilisation of S106 contributions for the park	Ongoing	In house	NA	Revenue	
2	Monitor developments in funding agencies and opportunities	Ongoing	In house	NA	Revenue	
Objective 35. Ensure sufficient budget allocated to maintain the park to the standards of this management plan						
3	Proactive participation in revenue and capital budget allocation process	Ongoing	In house	NA	Revenue	
Objective 36. Encourage greater user ownership and involvement in facility management to promote responsible use						
4	Agree & support friends work days	Ongoing as required	Friends/ Parks Manager/ Parks staff	NA	Revenue	Yes

7 Monitoring and Plan Review

This management plan was first adopted in 2006 and this updated and revised version will act as a working document for the management of the park for the forthcoming years.

The day to day management of the park and the progress of individual development projects are monitored regularly with LBM Park Staff, other stakeholders and the Friends of John Innes Park.

The action targets presented in this management plan are reviewed annually in December/January with stakeholders and updated to reflect recent developments. Information and identified action areas will inform the revenue planning and capital programme budget processes annually.

The Friends of John Innes Park have the opportunity to comment on this plan each year and have done so, adding significantly to its content and direction.

8 References

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9 Appendices

1. Inspection schedule
2. Maintenance regime
3. Plan of the park
4. Marketing plan and materials
5. Health and safety policy
6. Park byelaws
7. Management structure
8. Friends' activities
9. Climate change policy
10. Contacts

Appendix 1 Inspection Schedule

#	Activity	Frequency	Responsibility
1	<i>Daily Condition Assessment</i> Visual inspection of: Benches Waste bins Fencing General condition and presentation of Park and Recreation Ground	Daily	idverde
2	<i>Daily Built Feature Assessment</i> Inspect: Pavilions Report Graffiti, Vandalism, Wear and Tear to Technical Services File Malicious damage reports with Police	Daily	idverde
3	<i>Inspect sign boards</i> Remove Graffiti Report Vandalism to Park Staff	Weekly	idverde Friends Group
4	<i>Quarterly Condition Assessment:</i> Thoroughly check the condition of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpaths; • Waste bins; • Benches; • Litter in Water Features; • Flowerbeds; • Fencing and gates; • Evidence of fires. 	Quarterly. Minimum of once during winter months.	idverde & Friends
5	Bat and Nesting Boxes Inspect and clean out	Annually During winter	Friends Group
6	Annual Tree Assessment and daily visual inspection by staff on site.	Every 2 years	Arboriculture Manager
7	Gas and Electric Checks and Certification	Annually Autumn	Corporate Property Manager

Appendix 2 Maintenance Regime (Refer to Section 6.8)

#	Activity	Annual Frequency	Responsibility
1A	The Drive: Entrance		
	Plant out bedding schemes for spring and summer displays	2	idverde
	Mow and edge ornamental lawns	20	
	Maintain herbaceous border	2	
	Prune shrubs	2	
Maintain all beds and borders weed free	2		
1B	The Drive: Main Drive		
	Mow and edge grass strips	20	idverde
	Clip holly hedge	1	
Clip wall shrubs	1		
2	Clip Hedges	2	idverde
3	Croquet Lawn maintained to High Spec		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mowing 2. Scarifying 3. Spiking 4. Irrigation 5. Switching 6. Marking Out playing Surface 7. Topdressing 8. Sparing herbicide use 9. Winter activities Clip hedges	March through to October November to March 2	idverde
4A	The Lodge Area		
	Plant out bedding schemes for spring and summer displays	2	idverde
Clip holly	1		

#	Activity	Annual Frequency	Responsibility
	Clip yew	2	
	Maintain beds weed free	20	
4B	The Serpentine Walk		
	Maintain all shrub borders		
	Keep weed free	4	idverde
	Prune shrubs	2	
	Mulch borders	1	
	Irrigate new plantings	As Required	
4C	Public Toilets Keep Building clean for Public Use	Daily	Park support team
5	Tennis Courts		
	Clip surrounding yew hedge	2	idverde
	Maintain playing surface debris and litter free	Daily	idverde
	Check / Maintain nets and posts	Weekly	idverde
6A	Lawn and Bandstand – Yew Hedge		
	Clip yew hedge	2	idverde
6B	Lawn and Bandstand – Grass Sward		
	Mow lawn to required spec	20	idverde
6C	Lawn and Bandstand – The Bandstand		
	Check / maintain bandstand to required spec: Report damage (including graffiti and structural damage) immediately	Daily	idverde

#	Activity	Annual Frequency	Responsibility
7	Bowling Green Bowling Green maintained to high spec 1. Mowing 2. Spiking 3. Edging 4. Scarifying 5. Vericutting 6. Irrigation 7. Switching 8. Topdressing/Overseeding 9. Sparing herbicide use	March to October	idverde
	Bowling green enclosure borders and bedding kept weed free and shrubs pruned	20	
	Mow lawn to keep within required spec	20	
8A	Main Lawn Area: The Main Lawn Maintain shrub borders and woody / herbaceous beds weed free	6	idverde
8B	Main Lawn Area: The Fish Pond Maintain water quality by removing excess weed growth	4	idverde
	Remove debris and litter	Weekly	idverde
	Check filters in pond pump	Weekly	idverde
	Thin out water plants	1	idverde
	Inspect pond railings	Weekly	idverde
8C	Main Lawn Area: <i>Maintain Shrubbery and Surrounding Vegetation</i>		idverde
	Keep weed free	4	
	Prune shrubs	2	
	Mulch borders	1	

#	Activity	Annual Frequency	Responsibility
8D	Main Lawn Area: The Rose Walk <i>Maintain all shrub borders</i>		
	Keep weed free / dead head roses	4	idverde
	Prune roses / shrubs	2	
	Mulch borders	1	
9	Woodland Walk		
	Maintain shrub borders		idverde
	Keep weed free	4	
	Prune shrubs	2	
	Mulch borders	1	
	Maintain rockery (keep weed free)	4	
	Irrigate when necessary	As required	
	Cut back / prune as necessary	2	
	Replenish with horticultural gravel where necessary	1	
	Clean grotto pool	1	
Mow grass strips to spec	20		
10	Yew Walk		
	Clip yew hedges	2	idverde
Mow grass strip between hedges	20		
11	Remnant Orchard		
Mow grass strip	20	idverde	

12	John Innes Recreation Ground: The Cricket Pitch <i>Cricket pitch prepared to a high standard</i> 1. Mowing 2. Scarifying 3. Spiking 4. Rolling 5. Irrigation when necessary 6. Topdressing/Overseeding 7. Preparing and Repairing Wickets Mow Outfield Clip Perimeter mixed Hedge Row	 March to October 20 1	 idverde
General Activities	Litter Bins, Litter Picking, Dog Bins, Paths / Hard Surfaces, Leaf Clearing. <i>Keep site litter free</i> <i>Empty bins</i> <i>Sweep / blow paths to keep them clear of debris</i> <i>Leaves to be cleared by end of December</i>	 Daily 100 Weekly 1	 idverde
	Sign Boards - Put up / take down posters	Monthly	idverde
	Locking / Unlocking Park	Daily	idverde
	Events	When Required	Friends' Group

Appendix 3 Plan of Park

JOHN INNES PARK & RECREATION GROUND

John Innes, the "Squire" of Merton, was a wealthy property developer and benefactor who had a profound influence on the development of Merton Park as an attractive Victorian suburb. On his death in 1904 he left his private estate and most of his money for the benefit of horticulture and the local community. The world-famous John Innes Horticultural Institution was established in Merton Park, after it moved out of London in the 1940s the land was then occupied by Rutlish School and its playing fields. Most of John Innes Park as it is today was formerly the gardens of John Innes' Manor House. They were heavily planted with over 30 species of holly symbolising Innes' coat of arms and evergreen hedges and trees. The gardens were adapted by the architect Brocklesby as a public park, which was formally opened to the public in 1909. John Innes Recreation Ground, which is connected by a public footpath to the Park, was established by the John Innes Charity at the same time. The Park and Recreation Ground were transferred by way of 'deed of gift' to the Urban District Council in 1949, and they are now maintained by the Council for use of the public.



Much of the Manor House garden survives, with winding paths, yew hedges and dense evergreen planting. The atmosphere is redolent of a Victorian private garden. This character is enhanced by the attractive buildings, particularly the Quartermain entrance lodge, cottage, the Brocklesby public conveniences and bandstand. The park includes four tennis courts, used by members of the public and the nearby Rutlish School, a croquet lawn and a bowling green which are maintained to a very high standard. In 2004 to mark the centenary of the death of John Innes the 'Friends of John Innes Park' together with the London Borough of Merton raised money to recreate features within the park including the fountain and the rockery.

CONTACT DETAILS

Enquiries and Sports Bookings 020 8545 3677
 Play areas 020 8545 3655 or 8545 3658
 Grounds Maintenance 020 8545 4114
 All Other Council Enquiries 020 8274 4901
 Nature Conservation 020 8545 3658

email: leisure@merton.gov.uk website: www.merton.gov.uk

Appendix 4 Marketing Materials

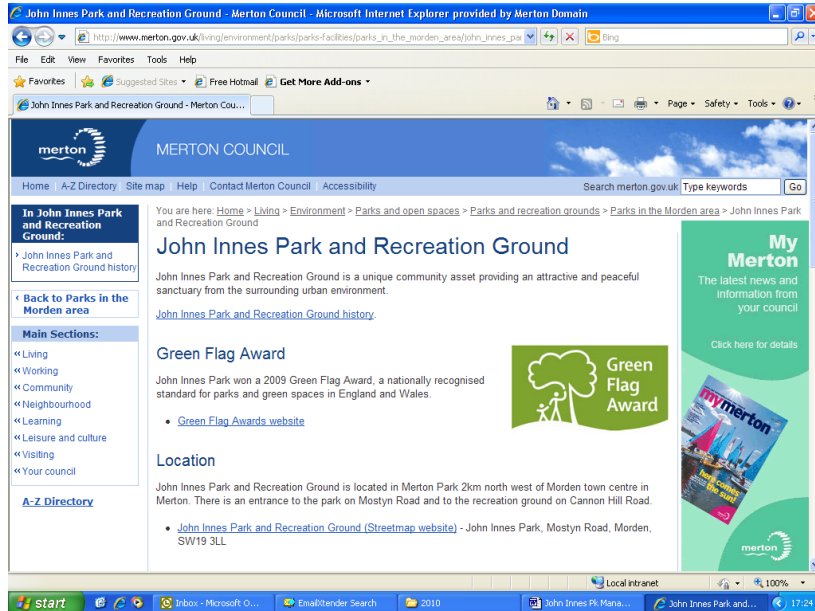


Image: London Borough of Merton and John Innes Society website screen shots.

Appendix 5 Health and Safety Policies

LB Merton's health and safety policies are available on the Council website and are displayed at the main parks depot at Hillcross Avenue.

See internet:

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/business/healthandsafety.htm>

The statement from the departmental director responsible for health and safety is posted on the Merton Staff Intranet at:

http://intranet/doc_statement_from_director_responsible_for_hs_.doc

The Contractors Health and Safety Assessment Scheme Is available to view on the Merton website at:

www.merton.gov.uk/chas

Appendix 6 Park Byelaws

LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON BYELAWS

WITH RESPECT TO PLEASURE GROUNDS

Byelaws made by the Council of the London Borough of Merton under section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875. Sections 12 and 15 of the Open Spaces Act 1906 and Section 15 of the Open Spaces Act 1906 with regard to public walks, pleasure grounds or open spaces.

INTERPRETATION

1. In these byelaws:
 - 'the council' means the Council of the London Borough of Merton.
 - 'the pleasure ground' means the pleasure grounds listed in the attached schedule 1.
2. An act necessary to the proper execution of his duty in the pleasure ground by an officer of the Council, or any act which is necessary to the proper execution of any contract with the Council shall not be an offence under these Byelaws.

OPENING AND CLOSING TIMES

3. On any day on which a pleasure ground is open to the public, provided the pleasure ground is fenced and has lockable gates, no person shall enter it before the time or enter or remain in it after the time appointed

WALLS, BARRIERS, ETC

4. No person shall in the pleasure ground without reasonable excuse:
 - (i) Climb any wall or fence in or enclosing the pleasure ground, or any tree, or any barrier, railing post or other election.
 - (ii) Remove or displace any barrier, railing, post, or seat or any part of any erection or ornament, or any implement provided for the use in the laying out or maintenance of the pleasure ground.

CATTLE, SHEEP, GOATS, ETC

5. No person shall except in pursuance of a lawful agreement with the Council, or otherwise in the exercise of any lawful right or privilege, bring or cause to be brought into the pleasure ground any cattle, sheep, goats, or pigs or any beast of draught or burden.

VEHICLES

6. (i) No person shall, without reasonable excuse, ride or drive a cycle, motor cycle, motor vehicle, or any other mechanically propelled vehicle in the pleasure ground, or bring or cause to be brought into the pleasure ground a motor cycle, motor vehicle, trailer or any other mechanically propelled vehicle (other than a cycle), except in any part of the pleasure ground where there is a right of way for that class of vehicle
- (ii) If the council has set apart a space in the pleasure ground for use by vehicles of any class, the byelaw shall not prevent the riding or driving of those vehicles in the space so set apart, or on a route, indicated by signs placed in conspicuous positions, between it and the entrance to the pleasure ground.

(iii) This byelaw shall not extend to invalid carriages.

(iiii) In this byelaw:

“cycle” means a bicycle, a tricycle, or cycle have four or more wheels, not being in any case a motorcycle or motor vehicle.

“invalid carriage” means a vehicle, whether mechanically propelled or not, the unladen weight of which does not exceed 150 kilograms, the width of which does not exceed 0.85 metres, and which has been constructed or adapted for use

“motor cycle” means a mechanically propelled vehicle, not being an invalid carriage, intended or adapted for use on roads

“trailer” means a vehicle drawn by a motor vehicle and includes a caravan.

7. No person who brings a vehicle into the pleasure ground shall wheel or station it over or upon:-

- (i) any flower bed, shrub, or plant, or any ground in course of preparation as a flower bed, or for the growth of any shrub or plant:
- (ii) any part of the pleasure ground where the council by a notice board fixed or set up in some conspicuous position in the pleasure ground prohibit it being wheeled or stationed.

KEEPING OFF THE GRASS

8. No person shall in the pleasure ground walk, run, stand, sit or lie down

- (i) Any grass, turf or other place where adequate notice to keep off such grass, turf or other place is exhibited;

Provided at such notice shall not apply to more than one fifth of the area of the pleasure ground;

- (ii) Any flowerbed, shrub pr plant, or any ground in course of preparation as a flower bed, or for the growth of any tree, shrub or plant.

PLANTS

9. No person shall in the pleasure grounds remove any soil or plant

ORNAMENTAL LAKES, PONDS, STREAMS ANY OTHER WATERS

10. No person shall in the pleasure ground:-

- (i) Bathe, wade or wash in any ornamental lake, pond, stream or other water or areas set aside for toy boats;

Provided that this byelaw shall not be deemed to prohibit wading in any water which, by a notice set up in a conspicuous position near thereto, shall be set apart by the council for use as a paddling pool or a water activity area.

- (ii) Without reasonable excuse foul or pollute any such water

FISHING

11. No person shall without lawful excuse or authority in the pleasure ground kill, molest or intentionally disturb any animal or fish or engage in hunting, shooting or fishing or the setting of traps or nets or the laying of snares.

This byelaw shall not prohibit any fishing, which may be authorised by the council at Canon Hill Common.

FIRES

12. No person shall light a fire in the pleasure ground or place or throw or let fall a lighted match or any other thing so as to be likely to cause a fire. Provided that this byelaw shall not apply to any events held in pursuance of an agreement with the council.

GAMES

13. Where the council set apart any such part of the pleasure ground as may be fixed by the council, and described in the notice board a fixed or set up in some conspicuous position in the pleasure grounds, for the purpose of any game specified in the notice board, which, by reason of the rules or manner of playing, or the prevention of damage, danger, or discomfort to any person in the pleasure grounds may necessitate at any time during the continuance of the game, the exclusive use by the player or players of any space in such parts of the pleasure grounds – a person shall not in any space elsewhere in the pleasure ground play or take parting any game so specified in such a manner as to exclude persons not playing or taking part in the game for which the space is used.
14. A person resorting to the pleasure ground and playing or taking part in any game for which the exclusive use of any space in the pleasure ground has been set apart shall:-
 - (i) not play on the space any game other than the game for which it is set apart;
 - (ii) in preparing for playing and in playing, use reasonable care to prevent undue interference with the proper use of the pleasure ground by other persons;
 - (iii) when a space is already occupied by other players not begin to play thereon without their permission;
 - (iiiv) where the exclusive use of the space has been granted by the council for the playing of a match, not play on that space later than a quarter of an hour before the time for the beginning of the match unless taking part therein;
 - (v) except where the exclusive use of the space has been granted by the council for the playing of the match in which he/she is taking part, not use the space for a longer time than two hours continuously, if any other player or players make known their wish to use the space
15. No person shall in any part of the pleasure ground which may have been set apart by the council for any game play or take part in any game when the state of the ground or other cause makes it unfit for use and a notice is set up in some conspicuous position prohibiting play in that part of the pleasure ground.

CHILDREN'S PLAY EQUIPMENT

16. No person who has attained the age of 14 shall use any apparatus in the pleasure ground which, by notice fixed on or near thereto, has been set apart for the exclusive use of persons under the age of 14

GOLF

17. No person shall in the pleasure ground, drive, chip or pitch a hard golf ball except on land set aside by the Council for use as a golf course, golf driving range, golf practice area, pitch and putt course or putting course.

PROHIBITION OF GAMES

18. No person shall play or take part in any game of cricket or football or any other organised ball game nor use a hard ball in any of the grounds known as Cannizaro Park, John Innes Park, Holland Gardens, Nelson Gardens and South Park Gardens

Provided that this byelaw shall not prohibit the playing of tennis, netball, bowls and putting in parts of the grounds known as Holland Gardens and John Innes Park, which have been set aside for these purposes.

MODEL AIRCRAFT

19. (a) For the purpose of this Byelaw “model aircraft” means an aircraft which either weighs not more than 5kg without its fuel or is for the time being exempted (as a model aircraft) from the provisions of the Air Navigation Order, and “power-driven” means driven by the combustion of petrol vapour or other combustible substances.
- (b) No person shall –
- (i) In the part of the pleasure ground so set apart release any power-driven model aircraft for flight or control the flight of such an aircraft; or
- (ii) Cause any such aircraft to take off or land in the path of the pleasure ground so set apart unless it is attached to a control line and is kept under effective control in the grounds and on the days and during the hours specified in the following table

Name of Ground	Days	Hours
Cannon Hill Common	Mondays –Saturdays	10.00 - 21.00
	Sundays	10.00 - 13.00
Figges Marsh	Mondays, Wednesday and Friday	18.00 - 21.30
Morden Park	Monday – Saturday	10.00 - 21.00
	Sundays	10.00 - 13.00
Three Kings Piece	Tuesdays & Thursdays	18.00 - 21.30
	Sundays Except on the days when the ground is occupied for the purpose of the Mitcham Fair.	13.00 - 16.00

DOG PROHIBITED AREAS

- 20.
- (i) No person (other than a registered blind person) in charge of a dog shall, without reasonable excuse, permit a dog to enter or remain in any of the areas listed in schedule 2 and hereafter referred to as the “dog prohibited area”;
- (ii) Notice of the effect of this byelaw shall be given by signs displayed in conspicuous positions at the entrances to the dog prohibited area;
- (iii) An officer of the council or any constable may require a person in charge of a dog which has entered a dog prohibited area to remove the dog there from;
- (iv) For the purpose of this byelaw the keeper of the dog shall be deemed in charge thereof, unless the court is satisfied that at the time when the dog entered or remained in the dog prohibited area it had been placed in or taken into the charge of some other person; and

- (v) In paragraph (iv) above “the keeper” shall include the owner of the dog or any person who habitually has it in his possession

OBSTRUCTION

- 21. No person shall in the pleasure ground:
 - (a) Intentionally obstruct any officer or the council in the proper execution of his duties;
 - (b) Intentionally obstruct any person carrying out an act which is necessary to the proper execution of any contract with the council; or
 - (c) Intentionally obstruct any other person in the proper use of the pleasure ground, or behave so as to give reasonable grounds for annoyance to other persons in the pleasure ground

PENALTY FOR OFFENCES

- 22. Every person who shall offend against any of these byelaws shall be liable on summary of conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

REMOVAL OF OFFENDERS

- 23. Any person offending against any of these byelaws may be removed from the pleasure ground by any other officer of the council or any constable.

REVOCAION OF BYELAWS

- 24. The byelaws with respect to pleasure grounds made by the council in the 24th day of April 1968, and confirmed by the secretary of state on the 27th day of June 1968 and subsequently amended on the 24th day of July 1975 and the 18th day of February 1983 are hereby revoked.

Appendix 7 Management Structure

LBM Greenspaces Structure



Idverde Staff Structure



Appendix 8 Friends' Activities

Extract from Friends' website.

'We meet on the second Friday of every month and garden in the park with guidance from the Park's Gardeners'.

The Friends undertake a range of horticultural tasks to support the parks maintenance team and support staff.

The Friends also organise a summer music event which takes place on the nearest weekend to midsummer's day (21 June), and other events for park users from time to time.

The Bowls Club also holds occasional social activities in the bowls pavilion.

The Friends take an active role in the Friends' Forum and regularly attend meetings with other Friends groups, and with the Council.

Appendix 9 Climate change policies

Actions within the Greenspaces Team

Adaption	Actions
<p>Tree planting: Provide a tree planting budget for new tree planting in Parks New woodland areas in Parks and Open Spaces Encourage Green corridors Advice to Highways on street tree planting that may be more suitable to changing climate – changing species is premature at the present time, a greater variety is very likely a good move. Advice to Education to minimise removal of trees when creating new classrooms. BS 5837 should be followed when contractors are working in schools to minimise costs of maintenance or removal of trees in the future.</p> <p>Where tree removal is necessary, and replacement desirable, planting should be based on tree canopy area rather than like for like number replacement as a new sapling is NOT a replacement for a mature tree lost.</p> <p>Plant new trees in locations where there are higher visitor numbers. Popularise the conceptions, tree cover, tree canopy, shade tree.</p>	<p>Successful Capital bid for Tree planting in 2009/10 Woodland/hedge planting schemes have taken place in Winter 2008 at Colliers Wood, Morden Park and Wandle Park in conjunction with local residents and tree wardens. Merton Group of London Wildlife Trust have enhanced a hedgerow at Beverley Meads Local Nature Reserve. New native whip planting projects at Colliers Wood, Morden Park, Cannon Hill Common, Haydons Road and Merton Green Walks in 2009.</p> <p>New guidance given to Education and Highways to minimise removal of trees and protect existing ones. Legislative protection of school trees is advised. Tree Strategy to be produced by 2010. Tree planting in streets may reflect changing climate with more planting of a greater variety of species from a wider range of climatic zones. More shade tree planting in play areas and paddling pools where high usage by Children and parents during the summer. Successful bid for Pathfinders play funding which will include planting trees within Natural play areas in 2009 and 2010.</p>

<p>Grounds Maintenance</p> <p>Relax mowing regimes to reduce number of cuts. Use of electric vehicles in Parks Green waste bays and composting on site Bark chip area so that mulch can be re-used in Parks but not to suppress ground flora in established wooded areas and dense shrubberies. Reduce production of woodchip by retaining deadwood piles/ habitat in Parks Reduction in use of pesticides and herbicides Irrigation systems to preserve water and protect existing planting schemes Encourage watering in the morning Encourage staff to ensure lights; heating is turned off/down when the buildings are not in use. Investigate alternatives to peat in any future bedding contracts. De-compaction methods after heavy use in Parks Prevent vehicle use and mowing around important trees. Purchase of mulcher/composter to avoid taking vegetation off site. Ensuring drainage ditches kept clear Sun safety advice and appropriate clothing given to Grounds Maintenance staff.</p>	<p>In recent years the grass cutting regimes have been scrutinized and discussed at length. The Greenspaces management team has reduced the overall cutting of its parks and open spaces to one third of that cut in previous years. This allows for designated grass areas to be left to meadow, hence increasing biodiversity and reducing costs Many Local Nature reserves have meadows, which are only cut once a year. There are 6 electric vehicles in Parks. Team meetings held regularly to ensure unnecessary energy use. Symbio turf management system introduced on bowling greens including John Innes Park to reduce chemical use. De-compaction machinery used to reduce compaction and water logging after heavy use in Parks. i.e. Fireworks Displays and Tennis parking at Wimbledon Park. No heavy vehicles or mowing around established trees. New shredder and chipper purchased in 2009 to recycle green waste.</p>
<p>Hard Surfaces</p> <p>Reduce amount of hard surfacing in Parks</p>	<p>Where possible use free draining materials/grass Crete which reduces water problems elsewhere.</p>
<p>Internal Partnership Working</p> <p>Work with Planners and Corporate Facilities team to ensure that new buildings are constructed in an energy efficient way. These may include Green roofs Solar Panels Wind turbines Retention of all mature trees by appropriate development design Encouraging use of local contractors Waste management- separate skips for recyclable materials to avoid material being taken to landfill Re-using of existing buildings and materials Use of new, sustainable materials; masonite timber framed walls, warmcel insulation, English Oak, Natural ventilation, Larger windows to reduce lighting in buildings, Control systems, Energy efficient lighting, PVC free cables, Dual flush toilets, Miliken Earth square carpet, water based paints, rainwater harvesting.</p> <p>Work with Planners and Corporate Facilities to ensure that</p>	<p>New building proposed for Cannon Hill Common, Capital bid in 2009 to replace existing old pavilion at Abbey Recreation Ground. Project completed in Autumn 2011 with inclusion of a Green roof.</p> <p>Corporate Facilities maintain park buildings and have a programme of works to reduce energy use in buildings. These may include condensing boilers, on/off switches, upgrade heating, lighting, and reduced water requirement for toilets.</p> <p>Over £300,000 S106 improvements in Parks in 200/8/9</p> <p>Recycling bins installed in Parks.</p>

<p>where possible existing buildings have energy efficient ways of operating. These may include replacing boilers with condensing boilers, introducing on off switches on taps, lights, heating to reduce electricity, water and costs and use. Work with Planners to ensure that S106 funding is made available for enhancing our Parks and Open Spaces. Work with Planners to protect our Green spaces and increase areas of Green space with sufficient revenue funding to maintain in the future. Work with Waste Services to re-cycle waste</p>	
<p>External Partners Work with Local Friends Groups and other partners to bid for funding to enhance open spaces and priority wildlife habitats. Protect existing Green space with assistance from Partners. Gather and store biological data that will help guide land management and development control decisions.</p>	<p>L.B.M works closely with E.A, National Trust, Merton Group of LWT, London Biodiversity Partnership and Friends Groups including 24 Friends Groups including Tree Wardens Friends of Sir Joseph Hood, Friends of John Inns Park and Make Colliers Wood Happy to bid for funding and help improve Parks in Merton. A recent project included a lake restoration project at Cannon Hill Common where funding was achieved through a Heritage Lottery Bid and contribution from Cannon Hill Common Friends and the Environment Agency. LBM has entered into a service level agreement with Greenspace Information for Greater London.</p>
<p>Adaption through staff skills Timing of Operations Choices of plants Managing the soil organic matter, content and fertility Managing irrigation Managing pests and diseases Training/Conferences to learn new skills and exchange information</p>	<p>Reduction in use of herbicides and Pesticides in Parks. Training proposed for staff in 2009 include conservation skills. All staff have filled in a training requirement sheet in November 2008</p>

<p>Control input to maintain the quality of water features and irrigation systems.</p> <p>Introduction of reed beds Silt traps Removal of Invasive plants along water courses Removal of concrete channels in Parks along water courses Use of bio bombs and Barley straw to watercourses to reduce algal blooms. Introduce irrigation systems to bowling Greens to preserve water.</p>	<p>Reed beds introduced at Wandle Park and Cannon Hill Common to improve quality of water. Silt trap installed at Wimbledon Park in 2008. Barley Straw introduced at Wimbledon Park and Cannon Hill Common to reduce algal blooms. Removal of concrete channels to stream at Wandle Park. Proposed removal of some revetment and concrete channel on the River Wandle at Ravensbury Park in 2009/10. Control of invasive Pennywort in the River Wandle and Ravensbury Park Lake. New bowling green irrigation systems at Canons Recreation Ground, Joseph Hood and John Innes Park in 2008/9.</p>
<p>Sustainable transport in Parks</p> <p>Introduce shared use paths to encourage less car use Introduce bike racks in Parks Work bike</p>	<p>New shared use paths introduced at Sir Joseph Hood M.P.F, Joseph Hood and Morden Park in 2008/9. New shared use path proposed in 2009 at Wimbledon Park. Cycle racks introduced at Sir Joseph Hood and Joseph Hood in 2008. Mountain Bike available and pool car available to use from Civic Centre.</p>
<p>Recycling</p> <p>Use recycled materials in Landscape works Provide recycling bins in Parks for glass, bottles, cans and paper.</p>	<p>Recycled produced used where possible in new landscaping projects. Timber from sustainable sources. Boardwalk at fishponds Wood used English Oak for boards rather than a Hardwood. Play areas use recycled products in wet pour surfacing. Re-cycling bins at Cannon Recreation Ground and Figges Marsh. Recycling bins proposed in 2009 for paper, glass, bottles and cans at Raynes Park S.G, Sir Joseph Hood M.P.F, John Innes Park, Colliers Wood, Cannizaro Park, Dundonald Recreation Ground and Haydons Road</p>

Appendix 10 Merton Leisure Facilities & Technical Group Contact Information

Contact	Name	Telephone Number	Email address
Head of Leisure and Greenspaces Manager	Doug Napier	020 8545 3657	doug.napier@merton.gov.uk
Parks Support	idverde	020 8540 1606	Zsolt.Takacs@idverde.co.uk
Tree Officer	David Lofthouse	020 8545 3659	david.lofthouse@merton.gov.uk
General Enquiries		020 8545 3677	leisure@merton.gov.uk