



# **Dundonald Recreation Ground Management Plan 2010 - 2015**

***(2014 revised edition)***

*This document was produced with the assistance & input of the  
Friends of Dundonald Park*







## Foreword

Central Government, the Greater London Authority and partner agencies are placing an increasing emphasis on the role of open spaces in creating safe, healthy and sustainable communities in the 21st century. The London Borough of Merton enjoys an extensive network of parks and green spaces that comprises some 18% of the borough's total land area. The Council therefore recognizes the importance that open spaces play in the everyday lives and well-being of local communities and it remains committed to investing in them through the implementation of its annual business plans and delivery programmes, its strategies and policies. We are striving to ensure that we are both responsive to our communities' needs and to provide the highest quality of service, despite the very substantial challenges faced by local authorities at the current time.

The Green Flag Award is recognised by the local authority and its key partners as the quality benchmark for our open spaces and the Members of Merton Council and the Friends of Dundonald Park are therefore pleased to submit this revised and updated management plan as part of its fourth application for the Award for Dundonald Recreation Ground, one of the London Borough of Merton's premier, most popular and diverse open spaces, and following the parks' successful achievement of the Award standard in 2012 and 2013.

We firmly believe that the park already embraces the principles of a high quality urban park and, furthermore, enjoys good community participation and respect. We look forward, therefore, to the formal recognition of the investment and hard work that we and our various partners, including the friends group, have invested in the park over several years in order to secure and retain the park's Green Flag Award.

Should you require any further information with regards to the management plan or the Award application then please do not hesitate to contact Doug Napier our Greenspaces Manager on 020 8545 3657 or [doug.napier@merton.gov.uk](mailto:doug.napier@merton.gov.uk)

**Councillor Andrew Judge**

**Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability & Regeneration**

## Merton's Parks Vision

*"To provide attractive, high quality spaces with facilities that are modern, safe, clean, sustainable and accessible to all and that encourage healthier lifestyles, strong inclusive communities and an appreciation of nature".*



Image: Entrance to Rose Garden, Dundonald Road

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# 1. Introduction

Dundonald Recreation Ground is one of the London Borough of Merton's most significant sports grounds. It is located approximately 1km south of Wimbledon town centre, in the Dundonald Ward of the London Borough of Merton. The 4.86 hectare recreation ground provides for organised sports and games, children's play, and quiet enjoyment. Its open nature and well-maintained appearance greatly increase the local urban amenity of the residential area. It is undoubtedly one of the borough's most popular and well-loved open spaces.

The Recreation Ground is an important community asset and forms part of the wider structural open space network of Greater London. LB Merton recognises that its open spaces are an important community asset. They contribute to healthier lifestyles, social cohesion and safer communities. Dundonald Recreation Ground provides for a variety of active and passive leisure activities and organised sports. The space is popular and is very highly valued by local residents, the adjacent primary school and is a popular destination for both locally-based and visiting sports clubs.

This document emphasises the present condition of Dundonald Recreation Ground and its importance to the local community and others that use or live near the space. Furthermore, the aims and objectives for the sustainable future management and development of Dundonald Recreation Ground are presented and structured around the eight key criteria of 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

## Action Plan Progress Summary

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

#	Description	Objective Number	Date Completed	Funding Source	Value (£000s)
1	Install new Play Pathfinder play equipment	4	2010	Play Pathfinder	50
2	Repair damaged wet-pour in playground	11	2010	LBM Revenue	1
3	Repairs & renovations to pavilion (repair wooden boards, rendering & repainting)	11	2009-10	LBM Capital & Revenue	30
4	Install two new entrances archways	1	2010	LBM Capital	20
5	Mark out two netball courts	4	2010	LBM Revenue	0.5
6	Remove redundant fencing by pavilion & cricket pitch	1	2010	LBM Revenue	0.5
7	Repair paving area by pavilion	5	2010	LBM Revenue	0.5
8	Repair damage to tarmac footpaths	5	2008-2010	LBM Capital	25
9	Remove redundant signage (Fairlawn entrance)	1	2010	LBM Capital	0.25
10	Replant shrubs in Rose Garden	20	2010	LBM Revenue	0.25
11	Repair plinth on well	19	2010	LBM Revenue	0.5
12	Customer care & public relation training for parks staff	23	2010	LBM revenue	0.5
13	Install new boundary railings at Rose Garden	1	2011	LBM Revenue	9.8
14	Improvements to park vehicular entrance	1	2011	LBM Revenue	3
15	Repairs to Rose Garden well	19	2011	LBM Revenue	0.2
16	Boundary tree and bulb planting	19	2012	LBM Revenue	0.5
17	Installation of loggery/log barriers	19	2012	LBM Revenue	0.6
18	Improvements to park vehicular gate	1	2012	LBM Capital	9.5
19	Drainage repairs	1	2013	LBM Revenue	0.15
20	Additional standard tree planting	19	2013	LBM Revenue	0.65
21	Repainting of pavilion	11	2013	LBM Revenue	0.6
22	Additional tree planting	19	2013	LBM Revenue	0.5
23	Install Big Belly Bin	12	2013	LBM Revenue	0.12
24	Creation of wildflower areas	19	2013	LBM Revenue	0.5
25	Provide additional water supply points	19	2013	LBM Revenue	9.5



## 2. Strategic Context

### 2.1 Introduction

This management plan articulates the vision for the improvement and management of Dundonald Recreation Ground and provides detailed objectives and action plans for a 5 year period, reviewed and updated annually, to assist Merton's Greenspaces Team achieve its vision for the site. 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 for the Borough in mind. These objectives are defined in Merton's Community and Business Plans that are outlined in more detail below in Sections 2.2-2.4.

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 Merton's Community & Business Plans

**Merton's Community Plan 2009-2019**, has been developed and implemented by the Merton Partnership (the Local Strategic Partnership), which sets out what will happen over the next 10 years to improve the quality of life for everyone in Merton. 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:

- Sustainable Communities
- Safer and Stronger Merton
- Healthier Communities
- Older People
- Children and Young People

The Community Plan 2009-19 includes such relevant actions as E10: Manage parks and green spaces to protect and enhance local biodiversity by integrating biodiversity management methods into parks management regimes.

For further information go to: <http://www.merton.gov.uk/community/communityplan>

**The Merton Business Plan 2010-2013**, developed following consultation with residents, aims to make "Merton - a great place to live, work and learn" by directing the overall improvement of local services. The Council's broad ambition is: "To be excellent in the delivery of the services that matter most to our residents, and to provide leadership to the community through effective citizen engagement and partnership working". The 5 key priorities for the business plan reflect the themes of the Community Plan. The day-to-day work of the Council and the key targets for services are addressed in the separate

service plans of each service division. The current corporate business theme is "service transformation" and is being developed and refined through a "Target Operating Model" process

at the time of writing. The current transformation exercise in Greenspaces focuses on achieving a reduction in operating costs of some £700k over the period to the financial year 2017/18, whilst maintaining or improving resident and customer satisfaction levels with its services". Performance measures include satisfaction data gathered from the annual Residents' Survey and the number of Green Flag Awards secured.

For further information go to <http://www.merton.gov.uk/community/businessplan>

### **2.3 Cultural Strategy**

Our parks and open spaces are central to the variety of cultural activities offered by the Council. Merton's Cultural Strategy 2007-2010 supports and directs the Merton Partnership on the value of culture in achieving the objectives of the Community Plan as well as being a key driver in ensuring a range of local cultural aims and ambitions are delivered.

Although the original Cultural Strategy document has now expired, and there are no plans to update it at the present time, many of the principles and aims of the Strategy remain valid and have been enshrined within the approach that both the local authority and its partners have adopted in respect of the local cultural offer.

A corporate Cultural Framework document was developed in 2013 and will replace the Cultural Strategy from its implementation during 2014.

The primary benefits of cultural services are:

- Bringing together diverse communities to participate in sports, arts, learning, heritage, events and activities
- Developing a greater understanding of each other
- Showing mutual respect, recognising different customs
- Heritage and beliefs and ensuring we live in harmony with each other
- Contributing to personal growth and the quality of life

For further information go to <http://www.merton.gov.uk/leisure/culturalstrategy.htm>

### **2.4 Merton Open Space Strategy (MOSS)**

Below the Community and Business Plans and the Cultural Strategy, under the "sustainable communities" theme, sits the Merton Open Space Strategy (MOSS). The range of sub-strategies can be viewed in Figure 2.1 below. The MOSS was developed from detailed studies of the borough's open spaces and after consultation with local residents. First released in 2004, the MOSS identified the key open space issues and defined a vision for the future.

The MOSS was revisited in 2010-11 in order to provide a more up to date audit of Merton's open space facilities and their spatial distribution. Unlike the 2005 study, the refresh included publicly accessible private land and was undertaken in the context of revised demographic and population predictions. This refresh study was published in 2011 and comprises an action plan that will enable the local authority to deliver a network of accessible recreational spaces that will meet the Borough's future needs.

The MOSS will be delivered by a number of means, including the Merton Local Development Framework, and corporate strategies such as the Climate Change Action Plan and sub-regional open space partnership aspirations such as the proposed Wandle Valley Regional Park and the All London Green Grid (Area Framework 8).

One of the principal benefits of the recent MOSS study was to highlight the relative deficiency in children's play provisions in the Dundonald Ward and the importance, therefore, of Dundonald Recreation Ground in that respect.

For further information on the MOSS go to:  
<http://www.merton.gov.uk/living/environment/openspaces/moss.htm>

The 2010/11 refresh of the MOSS can be found at:  
[http://www.merton.gov.uk/environment/openspaces/moss/2010-2011\\_moss\\_final.pdf](http://www.merton.gov.uk/environment/openspaces/moss/2010-2011_moss_final.pdf)

## 2.5 Significance of Dundonald Recreation Ground

Dundonald Recreation Ground is an important component of the overall Merton open space network. It also has an important role to play in assisting the local authority meet its wider strategic objectives. Merton’s Community and Business Plans articulate the key social, environmental and economic themes around which Merton Council is seeking to improve the quality of life for its residents.

The table below illustrates how Dundonald Recreation Ground contributes to Merton’s strategic objectives.

**Table 2.1 Dundonald Recreation Ground & Merton’s 5 Strategic Objectives**

1. Sustainable Communities	2. Safer, Stronger Merton	3. Healthier Communities	4. Older People	5. Children & Young People
Active friends group	Safe & accessible open space	Various sports provisions - football, tennis, cricket, netball		Good quality & range of play equipment
Recycling facilities	Popular venue with good natural surveillance	Good footpath network - popular with joggers and "buggy fit" types	Safe & accessible footpaths throughout	Sports provisions, including out-of-school clubs & activities
Local biodiversity features	Regular site inspections & well-maintained facilities	Play equipment	Good quality & frequent park benches	Playgroups (pavilion)
Good public transport links combined with limited parking on-site & restrictions off-site	Good liaison & engagement with local community & safety agencies, including the police		Rose garden	Various evening clubs & activities (pavilion)
Landscape/green infrastructure improvement projects	Popular, safe walking route to local services/destinations, e.g. Wim College of Art			Safe car-free environment

### 3. Dundonald Road Recreation Ground

#### 31 Site Details

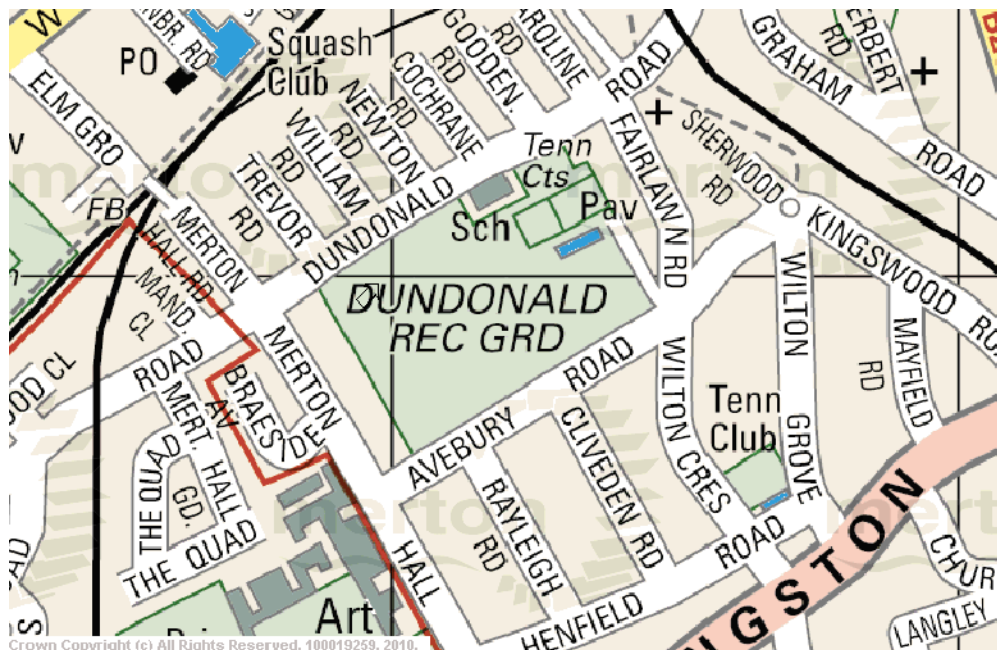
<b>Name</b>	Dundonald Recreation Ground
<b>Address</b>	Dundonald Road, SW19
<b>Contacts</b>	General enquiries: 020 8545 3677 <a href="mailto:leisure@merton.gov.uk">or leisure@merton.gov.uk</a> Friends Group: <a href="http://www.dundonaldpark.org.uk/">http://www.dundonaldpark.org.uk/</a>
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.merton.gov.uk/leisure/parks">www.merton.gov.uk/leisure/parks</a>
<b>Grid Reference</b>	Easting and Northing 524581,169959
<b>Designation</b>	Key Park; potential Green Flag Park
<b>Ownership</b>	London Borough of Merton
<b>Size</b>	4.86 hectares
<b>Type</b>	Recreation Ground
<b>Legal Interest</b>	Acquired 1893.
<b>Byelaws</b>	See Appendix 6.
<b>Access</b>	Access from: Fairlawn Road; Avebury Road; Merton Hall Road; and Dundonald Road. Opening hours: Monday to Friday: 08.00 hrs until dusk Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays 09.00 hrs until dusk
<b>Local Facilities</b>	Bowling Green (now closed) 2 cricket pitches Children's play area 3 football pitches 2 tennis courts/ball courts Ornamental garden (Rose Garden) Pavilion (including changing rooms, hall, toilets)
<b>Transport</b>	Tram: Dundonald Road Train: Wimbledon Station; Wimbledon Chase Station. Underground: District Line - Wimbledon Station. (2 minutes walk). Buses: 152, 163 & 164
<b>Parking</b>	Restricted parking on-site for contractors, ground staff and people with disabilities (3 spaces); on-street parking (subject to local restrictions).

## 4. Description

### 4.1 Location

Dundonald Recreation Ground is located on Dundonald Road, in the Dundonald Ward about 1km south of Wimbledon Town Centre. The main vehicular entrance to the playing field area is in the eastern corner of the site at the Fairlawn Road/Avebury Road junction. There are two pedestrian entrances further along the southern boundary of the playing fields along Avebury Road, one on Merton Hall Road and three on Dundonald Road. There is also an entrance to the park from Dundonald Primary School.

Figure 4.1 Location of Dundonald Recreation Ground



### 4.2 Soils

Dundonald Recreation Ground is located on River Terrace Gravels.

### 4.3 Hydrology

No available data.

### 4.4 Flora & Fauna

Dundonald Recreation Ground has no statutory nature conservation designations and no comprehensive surveys of the site's fauna or flora have been undertaken to date. As a relatively small urban recreation ground with a strong sporting component, its capacity to support a diverse range of wildlife species and habitats is somewhat limited. It does, however, support a

range of birds commonly found in urban parks and gardens and provides a most useful venue for relaxation and some contact with the natural environment which is what many parks users are looking for.

Within these constraints there is, nevertheless, considerable scope for some small-scale projects that will enhance the wildlife interests of the site without compromising its sporting and other recreational activities. Colourful annual wildflower beds were added in the spring of 2013 and mainly aimed at encouraging insect life. Loggeries have also been created in recent years for urban species such as the Stag Beetle *Lucanus cervus*, a BAP species that is relatively common in the wider Wimbledon area.

#### 4.5 Trees

The last full tree survey was carried out in summer 2006 and resulted in major cyclical tree management work throughout the Recreation Ground. There are a little over 150 database items listed, exclusively single-specimen items.

The key features of the tree stock in the park are:

- An almost exclusive concentration of trees at the margins of the site, along either well-used roads (Dundonald Road and Avebury Road) and residential rear garden boundaries (Merton hall Road and Fairlawn Road).
- An intimate mixture on these boundaries of what are commonly referred to as forest type' trees – large specimens often found as woodland dominants and co-dominants - with smaller, often flowering, ornamental types.

The larger trees are mainly European Lime *Tilia x europaea*, Poplar *Populus serotina* and Corsican Pine *Pinus nigra*.

The smaller ornamental varieties include Pillar Apple (*Malus tschonoskii*), Flowering Cherry (*Prunus* "Kanzan" and others).

These features present advantages and disadvantages:

The poplars are subject to a pollarding regime at a frequency of around 3-4 years. While this is relatively expensive, it is straightforward and allows the retention of significant large trees. The limes require more moderate pruning at a slightly lesser interval. This permits a continuity of cover as the timing does not always coincide with work on the poplars.

The presence of large pines is very unusual for a park in Merton and gives winter interest and species and visual variety.

The disadvantage here is in the difficulty of selecting a pruning option compatible with risk management and long term tree retention. The solution is very fine thinning of upper portions of the crowns and of long laterals to reduce the risk of major branch failure.

The ornamental element in the tree stock requires little proactive attention at present but is inspected at the high frequency demanded by the larger trees.

The condition of the tree stock is broadly good. There are a number of features (large trees) providing suitable habitat for birds and with good longevity. Recent planting has

included fruiting and flowering varieties to improve the potential for bees and other invertebrates and for birds. There is a lack of shade cover in the central parts of the park dominated by the sports pitches. Shade for relaxation activities is the major lack. Sports activities preclude major developments to augment the existing tree stock.

The tree data, history and works are recorded on a computer-based system (EasyTreev) with mobile electronic data collection. Residents are welcome to request information on the tree stock and individual specimens by contacting the arboricultural section.

#### **4.6 Facilities & Features**

Dundonald Recreation Ground provides a range of facilities and services for formal and informal play, sport, recreation and educational opportunities for all ages. A broad layout plan of the site is reproduced as Appendix 3. This illustrates the location of its main features.

##### **Car Park**

There is a small car park accessible from the Fairlawn Road entrance. There is space for a maximum of three vehicles. The parking spaces are provided for use predominantly by visitors with mobility difficulties. These arrangements are enforced by the park's staff.

##### **Toilets**

Public toilets are available in the pavilion complex. A toilet for people with disabilities is available and is accessible from both inside and outside the pavilion.

#### **4.7 Youth Facilities**

There are no youth-specific facilities at Dundonald Recreation Ground at the current time.

#### **4.8 Children's Facilities**

There is a fenced children's playground situated adjacent to Dundonald Primary School. The play area provides a variety of play equipment for 0-14 year olds, that was substantially upgraded in 2010 as part of Merton's Play Pathfinder initiative. The equipment is installed on tiled, wet-pour and bark safety surfacing. All equipment is purchased, installed and maintained to British Safety Standards and the European Safety Standard for play equipment. The play equipment is inspected on a daily basis by the operational staff based in the park and by an annual independent inspection undertaken by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA).

The play equipment currently includes:

- SMP Flat Swings (2005);
- SMP Cradle Swings (2005);
- Husson Cosmic Unit (2005);
- Rocking Horse;
- AS & A Multi-play;
- Alpine Forest;
- Roundabout;
  
- Russell Leisure Multi-play Unit (2010)
- Sutcliffe Sunken Trampoline (2010)
- Sutcliffe Scramble & Slide (2010)
- Sutcliffe Sand & Pull Multi-play Unit (2010)
- Sutcliffe Sand Digger & sand pit (2010)
- Caledonian Boulders (2010)

Other features:

- Signs, grass area seats, bins, paths, gates, fencing
- Safer surfacing

The play area is in good condition and is routinely maintained by the Greenspaces division's team of two experienced and trained play fitters who service the playgrounds across the Borough's parks and open spaces.

#### **4.9 Sports Facilities**

The public health benefits of participating in sport and physical activity are well known and form an important component of the Merton Community Plan 2009-2019. Sports facilities at Dundonald Recreation Ground are of excellent quality and are promoted to the wider community by 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/ball Courts**

There are 2 tennis/ball courts currently.

##### **Playing Fields**

Cricket pitches x2 - regular hirers include: Battersea Ironsides Cricket Club; Mitcham Cricket Club; Spencer Cricket Club (juniors).

Football pitches x3 - regular hirers include: Fulham FC Foundation; AFC Battersea; Queens Park Rangers Supporters FC; Durban United FC.

##### **Bowling Green**

This is currently redundant and closed in 2012 pending redevelopment as part of the expansion of the local primary school.

##### **Pavilion**

*Location:* The pavilion is located in the eastern sector of the site, close to Fairlawn Road, and is served by an access road that leads to the park entrance at the Fairlawn Road and Avebury Road junction.

*History:* Unknown, but possibly dating to 1960s/70s. The building has been subject to ongoing renovations and improvements at intervals over a number of years.

*Description:* Main hall; changing rooms; showers; toilets (internal & external); secure play space.

*Main users:* Dundonald Childminders; Merton Concert Band;; Dundonald School PTA; Dundonald Church; private parties

The pavilion is currently scheduled to be demolished and replaced in 2014-15 as part of the expansion of the nearby primary school.

#### **4.10 Future facilities**

There are substantial plans to improve the park's current facilities, particularly the pavilion and its environs as part of an expansion of the adjacent primary school. These proposals were granted planning approval by the local planning authority in January 2013. The plans include a revised and upgraded pavilion and changing rooms, new green gym equipment, an improved playground and enhanced tennis and ball courts (increased from two courts to three in total).





Image: Tennis/ball courts at Dundonald Recreation Ground

#### **4.11 History of Dundonald Recreation Ground**

Dundonald Recreation Ground has been a recreation ground or park for more than 100 years. The area was developed from the 1880s onwards, forty years after the opening of the London and South Western Railway which forms the northern boundary of Dundonald Ward. Like many streets and areas of Wimbledon, the name Dundonald could have a naval connection. The park and Cochrane Road could be named after Admiral Lord Thomas Cochrane, 10th Earl of Dundonald who lived from 1775 to 1860. He had a spectacular and colourful naval career, including commanding the Chilean, Brazilian and Greek Navies and is buried in Westminster Abbey.

During the Second World War, Dundonald Recreation Ground was handed over to local residents to use as allotments for food growing purposes with very little space left for sports or play. There were several bomb shelters situated around the park at this time.

#### **Archaeology**

No archaeological finds have been recorded in the Greater London Sites and Monuments Records for Dundonald Recreation Ground.

#### **4.12 Present Use**

Dundonald Recreation Ground is very popular with parents and children especially during the summer months. During weekends the playing fields are busy with football and cricket matches and people enjoying the open space, tennis courts, bowling green and the small formal garden. During the week the facilities are widely used by parents with young children, walkers and local residents keeping fit and active.

The pavilion is available for hire on a regular or casual basis for a range of activities including playgroups, child and adult parties, community groups, sports groups and meetings according to Merton's conditions of hire. Hire charges are variable according to the nature, time and frequency of use.

### **Play Groups**

Dundonald Childminders, who provide play facilities for children between the ages of 0-5 years, commenced regular use of the pavilion in December 2004. The group currently uses the building Monday to Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dundonald Primary School, which borders the park, is one of the principle stakeholders and uses of Dundonald Recreation Ground. The park is used by the school for a variety of purposes, including physical education and sport. Much of this activity is focused upon the ball courts.

### **The Bowling Green**

The bowling green at Dundonald Recreation Ground was closed at the end of the 2012 season due to the low and failing membership of the incumbent club, the Wandgas Bowling Club, then down to 10 members only. This was deemed unsustainable by the Council given the operational running costs of the facility. The club's members were encouraged to join nearby bowls clubs.

(Note: The green area will continue to be maintained as a temporary picnic spot until the proposals for the expansion of the school and relocation of the pavilion becomes an on-site project.

### **Organised Sports**

A range of organised sporting activities occur at the Recreation Ground. These include:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Target/User Group</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Organisers</b>
Sunday League Football	Football players	Sundays in football season	Wimbledon & District Sunday Football League
League Cricket	Cricketers	Summer evenings & weekends	Various
Football training	Children aged 3-12 years	Saturday mornings; school holidays	Fulham FC Foundation
School sports day	School children	Summer term	Dundonald Primary School; Building Blocks & Dickie Birds nursery schools



**Image: The bowling green and pavilion at Dundonald Recreation Ground**

#### **4.13 Management**

The Leisure and Culture Greenspaces team whose head office located in the Civic Centre, Morden, coordinates the management of Dundonald Recreation Ground. The current service structure was established in late 2011 following a restructure designed to improve service delivery across the open space network whilst also delivering sizeable budget savings required by the Council.

The (Leisure and Culture) Greenspaces Manager is the service head and oversees the ongoing development and maintenance of the Recreation Ground supported by two operational managers whose teams are responsible for the routine maintenance, locking and unlocking of the park, litter picking, emptying litter bins and ensuring that the site is kept in a clean and safe condition.

The Greenspaces Development Manager directs the overall development of open spaces across the borough working with two parks development officers, a small arboricultural team and an events officer based at the Council's Civic Centre headquarters.

The day-to-day management and maintenance of Dundonald Recreation Ground is straightforward and is generally carried out by the same dedicated work groups. The mobile Parks Support Team provides the security, litter picking and patrolling elements and they place particular emphasis on the interface between LB Merton and the community. A separate grounds team provides the horticultural maintenance, principally the rose garden, shrubs and sports pitches at the Recreation Ground and other key parks and open spaces in the Wimbledon and Merton Park areas (including John Innes Park, another Green Flag park), supported by a grass cutting team that operates borough-wide.

Further details of the staffing structure can be found in section 6.8 and Appendix 7

#### 4.14 Stakeholders

LB Merton works collaboratively with a wide range of partners and stakeholders in the development, improvement, maintenance and management of Dundonald Recreation Ground including: the Friends of Dundonald Park; Dundonald Primary School; national, regional and local environmental agencies; and various funding agencies.

The Friends of Dundonald Park has been involved in the development, improvement, maintenance and management of site since their formation in 2003. This involvement has included:

- Developing priorities for site improvements;
- Completing funding applications
- Organising local fundraising for site investments;
- Regular management and maintenance tasks (e.g. rose beds, tree watering);
- Supporting volunteers in various activities (replanting playground, clearing tennis courts and organising events);
- Maintaining site notice boards and liaising with the local community on issues and projects

**Dundonald Primary School** is also actively involved in the park and uses some of the park's facilities as part of its curriculum delivery, including the tennis/ball courts. The school's annual sports day is held in the park.

There are current proposals to expand the school in order to meet rising local demands for primary school places for local children. The adjacent open space, and the park pavilion in particular, are key to these plans which received planning consent in January 2013 which, when implemented, will witness the construction of a brand new two-storey pavilion/teaching block shared between the school and the park. There has been substantial liaison and cooperation between the Council's education, leisure and parks teams in planning this project, including on the shared use of the pavilion and courts between the school and park users in particular.

**Wimbledon College of Art** uses the site for art classes from time to time. The park is commonly used by the students of the college which is located close by in Merton Hall Road. Many students walk to and from the college daily via the Recreation Ground as it is on the direct route to Wimbledon Town Centre and its transport hubs.

#### 4.15 Activities & Events

Dundonald Recreation Ground is one of Merton Borough's most popular and frequently used open spaces. The site supports a number of recreational events and activities year-round.

Football and cricket occur there on almost every weekend in the appropriate season and the site represents the home venue for a number of local clubs. Mid-week evening cricket also occurs occasionally during the summer months.

The pavilion within the park is also one of the busiest in the Borough with a range of activities occurring there that support the local community's sporting and other recreational needs as outlined in Sections 4.10 & 4.13 above. Activities occur both during the day and often in the midweek evenings with indoor children's play being a major service offer, albeit these are provided by organisations from outside of the local authority.

There are regular Friends of Dundonald Park events in the park particularly in the winter months. The focus of these has in recent years been tree and bulb planting efforts, supported by the Council and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV). In the winter of 2010/11, the Friends planted some 2,000 daffodil bulbs, for example. The Friends meet at other times of the year to discuss parks issues and hold an AGM.

This is also a popular site for community group events and is well used by the local Dundonald Church which boasts a large South African congregation and holds 3-4 events in there in a typical year. The park also hosts a number of local school and nursery school fun days and sports days in the summer term.

**4.16 Leases and Covenants**

Dundonald Recreation Ground is owned by Merton Council and is managed by its Greenspaces team which forms part of the Sustainable Communities Division of the Environment & Regeneration Department of the local authority.

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.

There are no entries in the Register of Town and Village Greens



**Image: The Rose Garden at Dundonald Recreation Ground in winter**

## 5. Vision for Dundonald Recreation Ground

The vision for Dundonald Recreation Ground conforms to the broader vision for Merton's parks as a whole:

*“To provide of an attractive, high quality space with facilities that are modern, safe, clean, sustainable and accessible to all and that encourages healthier lifestyles, strong inclusive communities and an appreciation of nature”.*



**Image: Children's playground at Dundonald Recreation Ground**

Dundonald Recreation Ground is an important space for the local community. It encourages local people to engage in physical activity, social interactions and enjoy a relationship to the natural world all within their local neighbourhood and is especially important in these respects given the park's strong urban context.

Dundonald Recreation Ground is an excellent example of a high quality space that balances relaxation and recreation through innovative design and offers a mixture of facilities and activities for all ages. The park also contributes to the wider London green space network and represents a green stepping stone between the heavily built-up Wimbledon town centre, and its transport nodes, and the more numerous green spaces and tree lined streets of Merton Park and Morden to the south.

Dundonald Recreation Ground is an excellent example of a community park. The existing management and planning arrangements encourage an active interest and involvement from the local community. Working relationships with our stakeholders including the Friends of Dundonald Park and Dundonald School 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 been directly involved in promoting this unique place to other members of the community.



## 6. Aims, Objectives & Management Actions

This section presents the aims and objectives for Dundonald Recreation Ground from 2010-2015. The format of this section of the management plan has been closely aligned to the key criteria used to assess parks and open spaces as part of the Green Flag Award, which the Council aspires to achieve, and covers the current status and assets/features of the open space and recent developments and investments. A number of management objectives have been developed based upon the management's assessment of the current condition of the park and to assist the management team and stakeholders to achieve the vision for the park.



**Image: Recycling bins at Dundonald Recreation Ground**

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:

- Creating a Welcoming Space
- Ensuring the Park is Healthy, Safe and Secure
- Keeping the Park Clean and Well Maintained
- Sustainable Management of Resources
- Appropriate Management of Conservation and Heritage Features
- Encouraging Community Involvement
- Marketing the Facility Effectively
- Implementation of Effective Management Strategies

The vision and objectives for the Recreation Ground are aligned with the Merton Partnership's Community Plan, the Council's corporate business objectives, the Greenspaces' Service Plan and the Merton Open Space Strategy.

The management actions described in the following section include likely timeframes, responsibility for implementation, cost estimates and funding sources. Most of the management plan objectives have specific actions against them. In some cases the objective relates to how we work.

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.

(Note: N/A in Action Plans = Funding not currently assigned or clarified)

## 6.1 A Welcoming Place

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.

### 6.1.1 Current Condition and Issues

#### Transport Options

Dundonald Recreation Ground's location is accessible to residents in the Dundonald and surrounding wards of the London Borough of Merton. The park is best reached on foot or public transport as on-site and street parking is limited and subject to local restrictions.

There is a small parking area for 3 cars within the park grounds accessible from the Fairlawn Road entrance although these spaces are strictly for visiting staff or contractors and people with disabilities.

Visitors travelling by rail on South West Trains have a 10-minute walk from Wimbledon or Wimbledon Chase Stations. The nearest bus stops are approximately five minutes walk from the main entrance on Worple Road. Dundonald Tram stop is also close by, about 5 minutes walk along Dundonald Road.

#### Pedestrian Access

There are a number of pedestrian entrances to the Recreation Ground: Fairlawn Road (1), Avebury Road (3) (1 of these is locked unless work is occurring at the small electricity substation located within the park); Merton Hall Road (1); and Dundonald Road (3).

A pedestrian crossing on Merton Hall Road links to the entrance of the park and there are also pedestrian crossings on Dundonald Road near the school.

#### Signage & Information

To ensure visitors know where they are and what is available there are currently 2 main information panels and a Friends' notice board in the park. They are located inside the Fairlawn Road and Merton Hall Road entrances. 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. The Friends' notice board provides information about matters affecting the playing field and information on the site's history, flora and fauna. The playground has separate signage informing users of the playground's age restrictions and safety precautions.



## Access

Tarmac footpaths link all areas and points of interest in Dundonald Recreation Ground. The sporting facilities, horticultural areas and other features of importance are all accessible to visitors with pushchairs or those in wheelchairs or with other mobility impairments.

## Site Facilities & Furniture

Good quality benches, waste bins and dog bins are located conveniently around the site. Capital funding has been provided from the Council's earmarked funds for implementing the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) to ensure that the buildings in Dundonald Recreation Ground are accessible and that appropriate facilities for people with disabilities are available. These provisions include ramped access to the pavilion and disabled toilets.

### 6.1.2 Objectives

1. Maintain boundary fencing, hedging, gates signage 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.

### 6.1.3 Management Actions

#	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000s)	Source	Secured
<b>Objective 1. Maintenance of boundary fencing, hedging, planting, gates, signage &amp; access paths to a consistently high standard</b>						
1A	Improve/gap up planting around boundaries of site & under trees - shrubs & bulbs	Completed 2012	GS Managers; Parks Staff	1	LBM Capital	Yes
1B	Review planting around electricity substation	Completed 2013	GS Managers; Parks Staff	1	LBM Capital	Yes
1C	Review path drainage options between school & playground. (Pending school expansion decision)	Completed 2013	GS Develop't	0	LBM Capital	Yes
1D	Repair damage to tarmac footpaths	March, annually	GS Develop't	1-2	LBM Revenue	Yes
1E	Install two new entrance archways at main park access points	Completed 2010	GS Develop't	20	LBM Capital	Yes
1F	Resolve blocked drains between school & playground	Completed 2013	GS Develop't	0.5	LBM Revenue	Yes
1G	Repaint boundary fences	March 2015	GS Develop't	14	LBM Revenue	TBC
1H	Shrub planting in "flagpole" bed	February 2014	Parks Staff	0.7	LBM Revenue	Yes

<b>Objective 2. Improve signage in the surrounding neighbourhood to the park &amp; provide more directional &amp; interpretive signs within the park</b>						
2A	Liaise with LBM Highways section to improve directional signage to park from main transport nodes	March 2014	GS Develop't	TBC	LBM Revenue	TBC
<b>Objective 3. Meet the accessibility requirements of all users</b>						
3A	Review need for revenue & capital investment in footpath network & secure if necessary	Annually, 2010-2014	GS Develop't	Minimal – staff time, plus sum TBC	LBM Revenue & Capital	TBC
<b>Objective 4. Provide everybody with a range of high quality, well-maintained &amp; relevant facilities that are accessible, safe &amp; clean</b>						
4A	Install 7 new park benches	Completed 2010	GS Develop't	5	LBM Capital	Yes
4B	Design & install new play equipment as part of Play Pathfinder initiative	Completed 2010	GS Develop't	50	Play Pathfinder Capital	Yes
4C	Mark out netball courts on tennis court area	Completed 2010	GS Develop't	0.5	LBM Revenue	Yes
4D	Work with project managers & LBM colleagues on the redevelopment of the park linked to the school expansion, including revised playground, ball court & green gym	March 2015	GS Develop't & CSF	000s	LBM Capital	Yes

## 6.2 Healthy, Safe & Secure

*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;*
- *Dog fouling must be adequately dealt with;*
- *Health and safety policies should be in place, in practice and reviewed; and*
- *Toilets, drinking water, first aid, public telephones and emergency equipment where relevant (e.g. lifebelts by water) should be available on or near the site and clearly signposted.*

### 6.2.1 Current Condition & Issues

As a consequence of the number of visitors, and partners working visibly within the park, security in the park has improved remarkably in the past few years. Minor problems with graffiti have been effectively tackled by a dedicated Council graffiti response team that is supported by Greenspaces staff.. There is also good natural surveillance around and into the Recreation Ground and a highly motivated local community who are very proud of their park and recognise its value to the local area.

A regular staff presence in the park (c.2 FTEs, albeit not dedicated to this site) is also important in developing and maintaining links with the local community and users and in discouraging vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

Just as importantly, the Council's history of investment in the park's upkeep and improvement, ensure that the park is well-used which in itself supports safety and security efforts. The local knowledge, expertise and commitment of our partners also have an important role to play and our partners in this respect include:

- The Friends of Dundonald Park
- The Metropolitan Police
- LB Merton Safer Neighbourhoods Team
- LB Merton Tree Wardens

Involvement and respect between managers, users and enforcement agencies is very important for the continued effective management and enjoyment by all.

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 that they are safe for users. Trees are visually inspected by park staff regularly whilst on patrol and more formally and at least annually by the Greenspaces Team's professional arboricultural team. Following stormy weather all trees are routinely checked by park staff to identify any risks from damaged limbs.

All parks infrastructure and equipment (seats, litter bins, footpaths, fencing, etc.) is visually inspected on a daily basis by the staff working in the park and assessed more thoroughly for its condition on a quarterly basis. Unsafe facilities are repaired or replaced immediately, or failing that, cordoned off as appropriate to ensure user safety and discourage vandalism. Those issues that require more significant financial investment or technical support beyond local means to remediate are reported up the line to the Park Manager or Parks Support Team Manager for action by the appropriate off-site team/section.

### **Management Systems**

Whereas formerly the Council utilized the CONFIRM system as a comprehensive tool for the management of its assets, performance and customer enquiries and complaints, this system has been progressively dropped over recent years in favour of alternative systems. Our tree data and management history is now managed exclusively in EasyTreev, for example. A new lettings management system has recently been procured and went live in the second half of 2012 for the purposes of ensuring online booking of sports facilities and community hall/pavilions. 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.

### **Health & Safety Training**

As part of London Borough of Merton, Dundonald Recreation Ground has a Health & Safety Policy displayed in the Park Office. Risk assessments and the Health & Safety Policy are available to view at the main parks depot at Hillcross Avenue.

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

- Chainsaw use
- Pesticides use
- First aid
- Safe operation of machinery
- Water safety
- Customer care
- Manual handling
- Dispute resolution
- The inspection programme

## **Encouraging Responsible Dog Walking**

Dog walking is a popular activity in Dundonald Recreation Ground and the Council wishes to encourage responsible dog ownership across the Borough. Dogs are allowed in the playing fields on a lead and under control. Dog training classes, organised via a local veterinary practice, have taken place on site and have make use of the pavilion for teaching purposes.

The policy of London Borough of Merton is to treat dog waste as separate rubbish. It is emptied from the 4 dog bins in the park by staff from the Council's Waste Services division. Information regarding the Council's dog policies is displayed in the park on the main signs. LB Merton has implemented the "traffic light" system for dog control across all open spaces (including housing and highways land) in the Borough:

- Red = No dogs
- Amber = Dogs on Lead
- Green = Dogs off Lead and Under Control

The Council is currently considering extending its pre-existing Dog Control orders following a community consultation exercise conducted in the last quarter of 2012. Currently there are dog free and poop scoop Control Orders that apply to all parks and open spaces across the borough. Proposed new Control Orders are anticipated to come into force during 2014, subject to formal approval by the Council.

The children's play area at Dundonald Recreation Ground is a designated dog free area.

## **Safety Information**

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

## **Public Toilets**

Male and female toilets are located inside the pavilion. There are also accessible public toilets to the exterior of the pavilion (male, female and disabled). The external toilets are opened when there is staff cover in the park and when required to support events and lettings in the park.

## **6.2.2 Objectives**

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

### 6.2.3 Management Actions

#	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000s)	Source	Secured
<b>Objective 5. All park facilities &amp; features to be maintained providing a safe, secure &amp; inclusive space</b>						
5A	Repair uneven/damaged paving area by pavilion	Completed 2010	GS Develop't	0.5	LBM Revenue	Yes
5B	Implement & review existing site infrastructure & equipment inspection & condition monitoring procedures	Ongoing, 2010-15	GS Mangers; GS Develop't; Parks Staff	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
5C	Resolve trip hazard by tennis/ball courts	Completed 2013	Parks GM	0.5	LBM Revenue	Yes
<b>Objective 6. Work with local residents, police &amp; other stakeholders to increase informal surveillance of the park &amp; enforce park byelaws</b>						
6A	Consult with Friends on any issues & implement Park Watch Diaries if necessary	Ongoing, 2010-2015	GS Managers; Friends	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
6B	Liaise with Friends, SNTs & police on any criminal activity, ASB incidents or patterns of misuse on site	Ongoing, 2010-15	GS Managers	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
<b>Objective 7. Address all safety issues addressed promptly &amp; effectively through timely monitoring &amp; reporting</b>						
7A	Continue to use management systems to monitor & report on and record relevant issues	Ongoing, 2010-15	GS Manager, Corporate	N/A	LBM Revenue	Yes
<b>Objective 8. Encourage responsible dog ownership through education, provision &amp; maintenance of dog bins, &amp; active enforcement by park staff and other authorized individuals</b>						
8A	Enforcement of the traffic light system and adopted Dog Control Orders	Ongoing, 2010-15	Parks Staff; LBM Animal Warden	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
8B	Consult with Environmental Services on feasibility of on-the-spot fines for dog control violations	March 2013	GS Manager; LBM	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
<b>Objective 9. Enforce safe working practices to protect all park staff &amp; visitors</b>						
9A	Apply & enforce health and safety & CHAS policies (see Appendix 5); review and update relevant operational risk assessments and practices annually	Ongoing, 2010-15; annually	All	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
<b>Objective 10. Implement the Health &amp; Safety Policy</b>						
10A	Record & review all health & safety incidents & near misses; provide feedback to corporate health & safety team; provide necessary training/re-training	Ongoing, 2010-15	All	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
10B	Provide relevant staff health & safety training	Ongoing, 2010-15	All	TBC	LBM Revenue	TBC

### 6.3 Clean & Well Maintained

*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*
- A policy on litter, vandalism and maintenance should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed.*

#### 6.3.1 Current Condition & Issues

Dundonald Recreation Ground is now classified as one of the Borough's 25 "Key Parks" whose maintenance inputs have been little affected by the resource reductions that have affected the service as a whole since April 2011, save for losing its permanent member of staff who was promoted as part of the transformation. Overall, the staff inputs in the park remain in the vicinity of 2FTEs, 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 rising 4% to 70% in the 2011 survey returns and to 72% in 2012, ahead of the London average.

#### Litter & Dog Waste

The Recreation Ground is used extensively by a variety of groups and individuals and litter is a significant management issue and challenge. Litter bins are emptied 3 times per week by the parks staff as a minimum (twice midweek and once per weekend), more often when staff are deployed in the park to support specific events and lettings and in periods of good weather during the summer. The staff also undertake litter picking across the site.

A Big Belly Bin (a solar-powered compactor bin) was installed in the playground in June 2013 as part of a borough-wide pilot project. This proved to be a most useful addition to the park, providing real-time feedback via telemetry to the Parks Support Team on the broad litter situation in the park.

Managing dog waste is also a significant issue. Dog bins are emptied twice per week by the Council's Waste Services division (there are 6 such bins at Dundonald Rec) and regular inspections address the disposal of stray dog waste.

Non-green waste generated in the park is disposed of to an off-site waste processing facility.

#### Green Waste Management

Sustainable waste management is a high priority for the London Borough of Merton and Dundonald Recreation Ground has a role in demonstrating its feasibility across the parks network. There is a small green waste collection bay on site. All green waste material that

cannot be utilised on site is taken to a local composting facility at Nursery Road Playing Field or to the sub-regional waste processing centre in Beddington.

### Maintenance

The Park is maintained to a very high standard. After routine inspections have ensured that the park is safe, secure and tidy, the playing field staff begin a wide range of maintenance and horticultural operations. These activities are described in more detail on the Maintenance Schedule outlined in Appendix 2. Local park staff work regularly with the borough-wide grounds maintenance teams and our other partners and contractors to undertake specific maintenance and refurbishment tasks.

### 6.3.2 Objectives

11. Ensure high standards of maintenance for play areas, tennis courts, lawns, playing fields, trees and shrubs, user facilities and park 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, building community alliances and prompt remedial action
14. Monitor the maintenance programme to ensure improvements can be celebrated and weaknesses addressed

### 6.3.3 Management Actions

#	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000s)	Source	Secured
<b>Objective 11. Ensure high standards of maintenance for play areas, tennis courts, lawns, bedding areas, trees &amp; shrubs, user facilities &amp; park &amp; water features</b>						
11A	Implement established site, infrastructure & equipment inspection procedures	Ongoing, 2010-15	GS Managers	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
11B	Ensure all play equipment meets the European Environmental Standard	Ongoing, 2010-15	GS Develop't	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
11C	Maintain regular cleaning schedule for the pavilion	Ongoing, 2010-15	Parks Staff	6	LBM Revenue	Yes
11D	Upgrade & refurbish pavilion as required	Annually by March 2010 -2015	GS Develop't	As required	LBM Capital	Yes
<b>Objective 12. Provide adequate facilities for the disposal of visitor's rubbish &amp; dog waste</b>						
12A	Review condition of all bins & replace as required	Annually by March, 2010-15	GS Develop't	<1	LBM Revenue	Yes
12B	Install Big Belly litter bin	June 2013	GS Develop't	1.2	LBM Revenue	Yes
12C	Install additional Big Belly litter bin	June 2014	GS Develop't	1.2	LBM Revenue	TBC
12D	Provide regular liaison & feedback to Waste Recycling team on condition/utilisation of recycling bins	Ongoing to 2105	Parks GM team	Minimal – staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes

<b>Objective 13. Discourage vandalism &amp; graffiti through education, innovative design of facilities, building community alliances &amp; prompt remedial action</b>						
13A	Liaise with Metropolitan Police, Safe Neighbourhood Team & LBM Graffiti Team.	Ongoing, 2010-15	GS Managers	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
<b>Objective 14. Monitor the maintenance programme to ensure improvements can be celebrated &amp; weaknesses addressed</b>						
14A	Liaise with Friends on implementation of agreed improvements & maintenance	Ongoing, 2010-15	GS Managers; GS Develop't; Friends	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
14B	Review all formal monitoring & inspection returns	Ongoing, 2010-15	GS Managers	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes

## 6.4 Sustainability

*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 arboricultural standards should be demonstrated; and*
- *Energy conservation, pollution reduction, waste recycling and resource conservation measures should be used.*

### 6.4.1 Current Condition & Issues

Many of Merton's environmental policies with regard to protecting local biodiversity, amenity, air, soil and water quality are contained within Merton's Local Development Framework. Over and above this, Merton's corporate vision and objectives underline the importance of environmental sustainability in the achievement of the Council's wider objectives.

#### Environmental plans & policies

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

In order to protect the health of park users, staff and the biodiversity of the park, the Greenspaces team has adopted a general policy to reduce the use of pesticides in the maintenance of all of the parks and open spaces within its portfolio to a minimum. The use of pesticides has been eliminated from all areas of the Dundonald Recreation playing field. Weed growth within the playing field areas is suppressed with hand weeding, hoeing and mulching.

Peat-based composts are not used at Dundonald Recreation Ground and the Greenspaces team no longer procures peat-based horticultural materials as a matter of policy.



The small volume of green waste from horticultural works (shrub beds and occasional woodland work) is transported to the Greenspaces team's green waste facility at Nursery Road for composting and reuse at other sites if it cannot be reused at Dundonald Rec.

Vehicle use in the park and on the playing field is kept to a minimum. The service utilises some electric vehicles within its fleet as these 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 is made from sustainable and recycled resources where available. The emphasis is on maintaining existing facilities to a high standard to avoid waste. Water, electricity and gas bills are closely monitored to ensure leaks and efficiencies are addressed promptly.

### 6. 33.2 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.

### 6.4.3 Management Actions

#	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000s)	Source	Secured
<b>Objective 15. Ensure environmental policies are in place, implemented and reviewed annually</b>						
15A	Comply with all Council environmental policies & priorities	Ongoing, 2010-15	All	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
<b>Objective 16. Reduce on site pesticide use</b>						
16A	Apply team pesticides policy: using pesticides only as a last resort & having considered all other possible management techniques	Ongoing, 2010-15	GS Managers; Parks Staff	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
<b>Objective 17. Recycle green waste</b>						
17A	Review local procedures for storage & disposal of green waste generated on site & increase volumes being re-used on site. Consider opportunities to refresh arrangements/facilities as part of proposed park/pavilion reconfiguration	Annually, 2010-15; 2014/15	GS Managers	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
<b>Objective 18. Review the use of energy, water &amp; other materials on site</b>						
18A	Undertake formal review of all utilities usage on site	Ongoing, 2010-15	GS Managers	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
18B	Consider & adopt suitable energy efficiency & waste reduction measures as part of proposed pavilion redevelopment	March 2014	GS Managers; LBM Energy & Climate Change Manager	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue; LBM Capital	TBC

## 6.5 Conservation & 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.*

### 6.5.1 Current Condition & Issues

The Recreation Ground contains relatively few assets of significant conservation and heritage interest owing to its relatively young age in historical terms. The well, situated within the centre of the Rose Garden, is one of few features of any historical interest although little is currently known about that feature. The history and development of the site has received little research attention to date and is poorly understood at this time. The period of the Second World War when the park was given over to the war effort appears to offers some interpretation value and, perhaps, with some potential for a local social history project therein.

Both its management and usage has, since the middle years of the 20th century at least, focused upon a variety of sporting activities that have impacted to a significant degree on both the landscape and biodiversity of the site. The development and improvement of the landscape (principally, tree planting, the restoration of the Rose Garden and bulb planting) have been key projects in recent times.

Merton's Community Plan 2009-19 includes a relevant action: E10, Manage parks and green spaces to protect and enhance local biodiversity by integrating biodiversity management methods into parks management regimes. Significant strides were made in this respect from the spring/summer period of 2011 across the service with, for example, additional areas of parks grassland converted to meadows in appropriate locations and the introduction of dead wood and loggeries and wildflower beds into parks such as Dundonald Rec. Merton borough achieved second overall in the biodiversity category of the London in Bloom Awards in 2013 and such developments undoubtedly contributed to that success.

### 6.5.2 Objectives

19. Protect and enhance the biodiversity and other heritage assets of the Recreation Ground
20. Conserve the character, design and layout if the park and its relationship to surrounding environment
21. Educate the public on the habitats, species and other heritage features of the Recreation Ground

### 6.5.3 Management Actions

#	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000s)	Source	Secured
<b>Objective 19. Protect &amp; enhance the biodiversity &amp; other heritage assets of the Recreation Ground</b>						
19A	Conduct necessary repairs to conserve the Rose Garden well	Completed 2011	GS Develop't	TBC	LBM Revenue	Yes
19B	Identify & designate a mini-meadow area to encourage wildflowers & insects and manage as appropriate with appropriate (reduced) mowing regime	Completed March 2013	GS Managers	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
19C	Establish a "loggers" within a discrete area of the park to encourage deadwood fauna & flora	Completed 2012	Arbor. Manager	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
19D	Install bird and bat boxes in mature trees around park periphery	Completed 2012	Arbor Manager	Minimal - staff & Friends	LBM Revenue	Yes
19E	Provide additional water points for young trees and other biodiversity features	Completed December 2013	GS Develop't	9.5	LBM Capital	Yes
<b>Objective 20. Conserve the character, design, layout &amp; relationship to the surrounding environment of the playing field</b>						
20A	Additional tree planting to gap up boundary tree lines & copses & provide additional shade	Completed 2012; further planting works completed in early 2013	Arbor. Manager; Friends	<1	LBM Revenue	Yes
20B	Additional bulb & shrub planting around perimeter of the site	Completed 2011; phase 2 in winter 2013/14	GS Managers; Friends	<1	LBM Revenue	Yes
<b>Objective 21. Educate the public on the habitat, species &amp; other heritage features of the Recreation Ground</b>						
21A	Utilise practical volunteering projects on site as educational opportunities: nature conservation, trees, woodland, etc.	Ongoing, 2010-15	Tree Wardens; (B)TCV	Minimal - staff & volunteer time	LBM Revenue	Yes
21B	Explore potential for a social history project based upon WWII	From 2013	Friends; local history society	TBC	TBC	No
21C	Produce on-site information/interpretation materials to support all visible nature conservation initiatives on site	Ongoing, 2010-15	GS Develop't	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	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.*

### 6.6.1 Current Condition & Issues

Dundonald Recreation Ground 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 recognised by the Council as fundamental to the success of the facility as a safe, healthy, clean and sustainably managed open space.



**Image: Swings in the children's playground with sports pitches beyond**

There are 4 main stakeholder groups at Dundonald Recreation Ground.

- The Friends of Dundonald Park
- Play groups
- Sports teams (principally football and cricket clubs)
- Dundonald Primary School

Merton Council will also, with the assistance of the Friends of Dundonald Recreation Ground, engage proactively with adjoining landowners and local residents and users of the Recreation Ground.

The Friends have been involved with:

- Consultation with the LB Merton on Open Space Strategy and 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 including tree & bulb planting

### **Working with other Partners**

There are also other stakeholders and volunteers in the local area who are involved in the use, management and promotion of the site. Merton Council is seeking to develop or further develop its partnering with groups including:

- National, regional & local parks, environmental and heritage agencies
- Development organisations & agencies
- Funding agencies
- Friends groups
- Councillors
- Recreational & sports organisations
- Private sports facility providers
- Health organisations
- Educational establishments, including schools (over & above Dundonald Primary)
- Local businesses
- Community & voluntary groups, particularly those representing children and young people, older people, people with disabilities and ethnic minority groups;
- Neighbouring local authorities
- Police and community safety agencies

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. The Greenspaces team recognises the importance of tapping into existing community networks to achieve this.

### **Facilities for Young People**

One such issue that needs addressing by managers and stakeholders is the need for additional, appropriate, facilities for young people within the park, albeit this is often a controversial topic. In order to develop a sustainable and respected facility, young people should be consulted and involved in the process.

The proposed new green gym will, based upon experiences elsewhere in the borough, be of great appeal and benefit to this age group.

### **User & Non-user Needs**

Data on users and non-users of the Council's services is collected annually via its Residents' Survey, the most recent statistics being published in February 2014. Currently, the Greenspaces service satisfaction level scores are:

Residents' satisfaction (users and non-users) with parks, open spaces & playgrounds - 70%

Park users reporting the service as excellent/very good/good - 76%

The detailed information gleaned from this exercise is used to inform future planning and investment across the parks portfolio as a whole.

## 6.6.2 Objectives

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

## 6.6.3 Management Actions

#	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000s)	Source	Secured
<b>Objective 22. Work closely with existing stakeholders &amp; partners to address local residents' needs, aspirations &amp; concerns &amp; encourage a sense of ownership</b>						
22A	Undertake service quality survey of members of regular football & cricket clubs	June 2014	B&Q Manager	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
22B	Organisation of Friends Forum events & workshops	Biannually, 2010-2014	GS Managers	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
<b>Objective 23. Identify users needs &amp; encourage them to participate in the development &amp; management of the park</b>						
23A	Implement questionnaire survey of park users' needs & views	July 2014	GS Support Team	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	No
23B	Undertake staff training on customer care & public relations	Completed 2010	Corporate L&D	0.5	LBM Revenue	Yes
<b>Objective 24. Consult the wider Merton community about future plans, proposals &amp; current projects in the park</b>						
24A	Consult with Friends & other key stakeholders on major development projects in their early planning stages; provide/post relevant information on the Council & Friends of Dundonald Park websites.	Ongoing, 2010-15	GS Managers; GS Develop't	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
<b>Objective 25. Provide support to Friends of Dundonald Park to ensure successful grant applications for improvements</b>						
25A	Liaison with parks friends groups to raise awareness of current capital & revenue funding opportunities, both within & outside of the Council	Ongoing, 2010-2014	GS Managers	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
25B	Support individual groups with advice & any information required to complete grant applications	Ongoing, 2010-2014	GS Managers	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes

<b>Objective 26. Foster closer relationships with local schools, the local art college &amp; other institutions</b>						
26A	Direct promotion of the site, its facilities & potential uses to schools in the neighbouring area. Work with Dundonald Primary School on joint marketing & utilisation of new community facilities/pavilion	From April 2014	GS Support Team; Corporate Marketing	<1	LBM Revenue	No
26B	Liaison with Wimbledon College of Art on potential joint-working projects in the park	From July 2014	GS Manager/ Arts Officer	TBC	LBM Revenue	No

#	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000s)	Source	Secured
<b>Objective 27. Encourage a complementary working relationship between the Council &amp; community volunteers</b>						
27A	Agree practical projects and/or inputs for the Community Payback Team to deliver on site	Ongoing, 2011-15	GS Managers; LBM Comm. Waste P'ships Team	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue & Capital	Yes

## 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?; and*
- *Effective promotion of the park as a community resource.*

### 6.7.1 Current Condition & Issues Marketing Strategy

The marketing and promotion of Dundonald Recreation Ground as a local facility and destination is coordinated through the Merton Open Spaces Marketing Strategy (2007). The objectives of this strategy are:

1. To increase usage of parks and open spaces by providing timely and accurate information about, their features, facilities and management;
2. To effectively advertise events in Merton's parks and open spaces and attract other activities appropriate to individual spaces and the surrounding community;
3. To promote positive news about Merton's parks and open spaces to a wide audience;
4. To ensure all parks staff and volunteers receive adequate marketing training;
5. To regularly review customer satisfaction with the condition of the facilities, features and management within the parks.

The Marketing Strategy is implemented across the borough's parks and leisure facilities, through the various Council initiatives, including signage outside of the park, leaflets for potential parks users and pavilion hirers and information on the Council website - the latter being an increasingly important information and promotional vehicle. Word of mouth and the PR skills and abilities of the site staff also important in this regard. The Council's 25 parks friends groups produce a number of newsletters to publicise their specific park and a number, including the Friends of Dundonald Park, have developed their own website (see Appendix 4 which also illustrates other current marketing materials).

The Council's corporate communications team instigated a "Love Your Parks" promotional campaign in the summer of 2013 to raise awareness of the borough's open spaces and their

benefits and facilities in the local press. Parks and leisure issues feature in almost every edition of the Council magazine “My Merton” that is distributed to every household in the borough three times per annum.

### Marketing of Dundonald Recreation Ground

Marketing of the park currently concentrates on effective signage leading potential users to the park and on the promotion of specific events and sports facilities; and on improving and developing the relevant pages of the Council’s website.

Huge improvements have been made to the design and functionality of the Council’s website over the last 4 years. The Greenspaces team is committed to taking full advantage of this medium to promote facilities and events in Dundonald Recreation Ground and other parks and open spaces in the Borough. The electronic booking of sports pitch bookings via the Council website was implemented from 2006 and was substantially updated and improved in 2012, thereby streamlining the information, booking and charging process. Active monitoring of website activity provides managers and users with useful feedback to help improve the information posted on the website. During the latter part of 2011, for example, information on the key maintenance inputs in Merton’s parks was included on the Council’s website for the very first time in order to improve community understanding and in response to local requests and enquiries. The Greenspaces team’s website increasingly offers links to its partners’ and other relevant websites information and is often able to secure the same in return.

New notice boards and signage were installed (Friends notice board in 2005; main interpretive panel in 2006) to improve the information available to visitors. The service will continue to support and encourage the local community to use the park and its pavilion as a venue for appropriate community events.

### 6.7.2 Objectives

- 28. Develop and implement a Borough-wide parks marketing strategy and specific campaigns
- 29. Raise awareness of the park, its facilities and services via a variety of media both on and off site

### 6.7.3 Marketing Actions

#	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000s)	Source	Secured
<b>Objective 28. Develop &amp; implement a Borough-wide parks marketing strategy</b>						
28A	Produce & implement a revised parks marketing and promotional strategy specifically in relation to the proposed redevelopment of the park and its planned new community facilities	Partially completed 2011-12; further work in 2013-14	GS Manager/ Corporate Marketing Team	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	No
<b>Objective 29. Raise awareness of the park &amp; its facilities &amp; services via a variety of media both on &amp; off site</b>						
29A	Promote successes (e.g. Green Flag Award) & community events in local media & Council publications such as “My Merton”	Annually, 2010-15	In house	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
29B	Re-distribute copies of the existing “Merton’s Parks and Nature Conservation Areas” leaflet to key information points in the Borough (e.g. libraries, community centres)	Completed 2011	GS Support Team	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes



29C	Continue to update Friends notice board & other information boards in & around the park	Ongoing, 2010-15	Friends; GS Managers	Minimal - volunteer & staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
29D	Continue to develop the Friends website & relevant pages of Council website	Ongoing, 2010-15	Friends; GS Support Team	Unknown/ Minimal - staff time	Revenue	Unknown /Yes
29E	Create Facebook account for Merton's parks to improve awareness & information on relevant and up-to-date issues	May 2014	GS Develop't; Corporate Comms team	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes



**Image: Standard metal park bench at Dundonald Recreation Ground**

## 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.*

### 6.8.1 Current Status & Issues

Dundonald Recreation Ground is owned and managed by the London Borough of Merton and is accessible to the general public year-round. This management plan for Dundonald Recreation Ground 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 Green Flag Award and is key to the implementation of our open space strategy. 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. This revised version is the 2014/15 annual edition of a 5 year management plan that covers the period 2010-2015.

### **Parks Management**

Merton's Greenspaces team, whose head office is located in the Civic Centre in Morden, are responsible for the day-to-day operational management of Dundonald Recreation Ground. The current service is an entirely "in-house" service provision with all staff directly employed by the local authority, except for occasional agency staff that backfill vacant positions and some seasonal roles. The team's current structure was substantially established over the period from April 2010 to July 2011 and in response to budget cuts within the local authority which witnessed posts in its small parks development and events teams being deleted and substantial revisions to its grounds operations teams that were also designed to reduce costs. 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, including Dundonald Recreation Ground, which is one of the major sites in the Merton parks portfolio. The Greenspaces Manager is supported by a Parks Manager (Danny Lovelock) and a Parks Support Team Manager (Dave Byles) who, between them, manage the majority of the ground-based staff with the support of three supervisors/deputies. The main duties of these teams include litter picking, sports pitch preparations, pavilion cleaning and parks locking, amongst other tasks. Broadly speaking, the core duties are conducted by the same small operational teams of 3-4 staff who manage small geographical clusters of parks, but the service has been required to become more mobile and more flexible in recent years in response to resource reductions and, being a seven day per week operation, there is some flexibility in the deployment and supervision of staff too.

This operational structure arose out of a significant transformation of the grounds service that occurred during 2011 that previously had operated on a geographical basis - with teams based in Wimbledon, Morden and Mitcham - under three Area Managers. The new structure created just two operational teams which approximately half of the grounds staff in each team. One team, the core grounds maintenance team, reporting to the Parks Manager, now focuses predominantly on horticulture and sports pitch upkeep across the borough; the other team, the Parks Support Team, deals mostly with our customers and lettings duties and also with litter, pavilion cleaning and on-site cash collection. Weekend and evening tasks are therefore performed by the latter team in the main.

Large-scale grass cutting operations are carried out by a small team dedicated to that operation that operates across the borough and report to the Parks Manager. The service's technical staff (2 play technicians and one mechanical fitter) are similarly deployed across the borough or service borough-wide needs.

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 repairs 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 Dundonald Recreation Ground 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 Dundonald Recreation Ground 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.

Broad details of the personnel involved in the management of Dundonald Recreation Ground are outlined in Table 6.1 below and comprises individuals drawn from both the parks grounds team and the Parks Support Team working in tandem. The park formally opens at 8am and closes (the gates are securely locked by parks 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 staff presence from the Parks Support Team. This team 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.

Figure 6.1 Parks Management Structure

<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Parks Manager</b>	<b>Parks Support Team Manager</b>
<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Parks Supervisor</b>	<b>Parks Support Team Supervisor</b>
<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Senior Parks Operative</b>	<b>Senior Parks Support Team Operative</b>
<b>Level 4</b>	<b>Parks Operative</b>	<b>Parks Support Team Operative</b>

Appendix 7 outlines the overall management structure and posts within the Merton's Greenspaces team.

### 6.8.2 Objectives

30. Review and update park management plan annually
31. Continue to bid for corporate revenue, capital and other funding for priority improvements
32. Ensure sufficient budget is allocated to maintain the park to the standards of this management plan

### 6.8.3 Management Actions

#	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000s)	Source	Secured
<b>Objective 30. Review and update a comprehensive management plan for the park</b>						
30A	Produce, consult on & review a SMART park management plan for Dundonald Rec that sets out the management actions & development priorities	Annually in December/January, 2010-2015	GS Managers; Friends; Various partners	Staff time - approx.40 hours	LBM Revenue	Yes
<b>Objective 31. Ensure sufficient budget is allocated to maintain the park to the standards of this management plan</b>						
31A	Monitor and report on Greenspaces revenue & capital budgets & specifically the Dundonald Rec revenue cost centre	Monthly, 2010-15	GS Managers; GS Support Team; Corporate Finance	Staff time - approx. 100 hours	LBM Revenue	Yes
<b>Objective 32. Continue to bid for corporate revenue, capital &amp; other funding for priority improvements</b>						
32A	Ongoing liaison with LBM S106 Manager to identify existing funds & future opportunities & make bids from S106 schemes	Ongoing, 2010-2015	GS Managers	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes
32B	Continue to keep abreast of developments & opportunities within external funding agencies	Ongoing, 2010-15	GS Managers	Minimal - staff time	LBM Revenue	Yes

## 7. Monitoring & Plan Review

This revised edition of management plan was completed in February 2014 and will act as a working document for the management of Dundonald Recreation Ground for a 12 month period. It will be reviewed formally in the period December 2014-January 2015 and revised and updated as appropriate.

The day-to-day management of the site and the progress of individual development projects will be monitored regularly by LBM staff, other stakeholders and the Friends of Dundonald Park. Any significant feedback from these sources will be incorporated into the next revision of the management plan.

## **8. References**

Key references are outlined throughout the document within relevant sections with weblinks provided where appropriate and possible.

## **9. Appendices**

1. Site Inspection Schedule
2. Maintenance Regime
3. Plan of the Park
4. Current Marketing Materials
5. Health & Safety Policy
6. Park Byelaws
7. Management Structure

## Appendix 1: Site Inspection Schedule

#	Activity	Frequency	Responsibility
1	<b>Daily Grounds Condition Assessment</b>		
	Visual inspection of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seats</li> <li>• Waste bins</li> <li>• Fencing</li> <li>• General condition &amp; presentation of park</li> </ul>	Daily	Parks Staff
2	<b>Daily Built Feature Assessment</b>		
	Inspect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pavilions</li> <li>• Graffiti, vandalism, wear &amp; tear (report to Parks Technical Team)</li> <li>• Submit Malicious Damage Reports to police</li> </ul>	Daily	Parks Staff
3	<b>Inspect Sign Boards</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove graffiti</li> <li>• Report vandalism to parks staff</li> </ul>	Weekly	LBM Waste Services Friends Group
4	<b>Quarterly Condition Assessment</b>		
	Thoroughly check the condition of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpaths</li> <li>• Waste bins</li> <li>• Benches</li> <li>• Litter</li> <li>• Shrub bed</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Fencing &amp; gates</li> <li>• Evidence of fires</li> <li>• Graffiti</li> </ul>	Quarterly. Minimum of once during winter months	Area Park Manager Parks Staff Friends Group
5	<b>Professional Tree Assessment</b>	Annually minimum	Arboriculture Manager
6	<b>Utilities &amp; Appliance Testing &amp; Certification</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electrical &amp; appliance testing</li> <li>• Gas appliances</li> <li>• Legionella testing</li> <li>• Asbestos review</li> </ul>	Annually	Corporate Facilities Team

## Appendix 2: Maintenance Regime

#	Activity	Frequency	Responsibility
1	<b>Play Area</b>		
	Inspection	Daily/Monthly	Parks Staff; Technicians
	Report problems & make safe equipment	As required	Parks Staff
	Sweep & litter pick	As required	"
	Repairs to equipment & safety surfacing	As required	Parks Staff; Technicians
	Cut grass	10x per year	Parks Staff
2	<b>Tennis Courts</b>		
	Visual inspection	Daily	Parks Staff
	Sweep & litter pick	Weekly	"
	Erect nets	As required	"
3	<b>Pavilion, Toilets &amp; Staff Accommodation</b>		
	Lock & unlock outside (public) toilets	Daily	Parks Staff
	Inspect all areas	Daily	"
	Clean toilets, changing room & hall	Daily	"
	Provide chairs for functions/events	As required	"
4	<b>Amenity Grass</b>		
	Litter pick	As necessary	Parks Staff
	Mowing/cutting	10x per year	Parks Tractor Team
5	<b>Tarmac Paths</b>		
	Sweep & litter pick	As required	Parks Staff
	Complete quarterly inspections & reports	Quarterly	"
6	<b>Car Park</b>		
	Sweep & litter pick	As required	Parks Staff

	<b>Picnic Areas</b>		
	Litter pick	As required	Parks Staff
	Cut grass	10x per year	"
8	<b>Shrub Bed</b>		
	Prune shrubs & mulch	Annually	Parks Staff
	Weeding	As required	Parks Staff & Friends
	Litter pick	As required	Parks Staff
	Cultivate border	Annually	"
9	<b>Football Pitches</b>		
	Install football sockets & posts	As required	Parks Staff
	Initial marking of pitches	As required	"
	Over-marking of pitches	As required	"
	Reinstate pitches (after matches)	As required	"
	Top dress worn areas	As required	"
	Hang/remove nets	As required	"
	Pierce goalmouths & compacted areas	As required	"
	Repair goalmouths/worn areas	End of season	"
	Remove, clean, paint & store goal posts	End of season	"
	Support bookings/liaison with teams	Throughout season	Parks & Lettings Staff
10	<b>Gates</b>		
	Lock & Unlock	Daily	Parks Staff
11	<b>Interpretive Panels &amp; Information Boards</b>		
	Remove graffiti	As required	Parks Staff; Friends Group
	Update information	As required	"
12	<b>Mixed Hedge</b>		
	Clip hedge face	Annually	Parks Staff
13	<b>Litter &amp; Dog Bins</b>		
	Empty litter bins	Daily	Parks Staff
	Empty recycling bins	Weekly	Waste Services
	Empty dog bins	3x per week	"



## Appendix 3: Plan of Recreation Ground



# Appendix 4 : Marketing Strategy

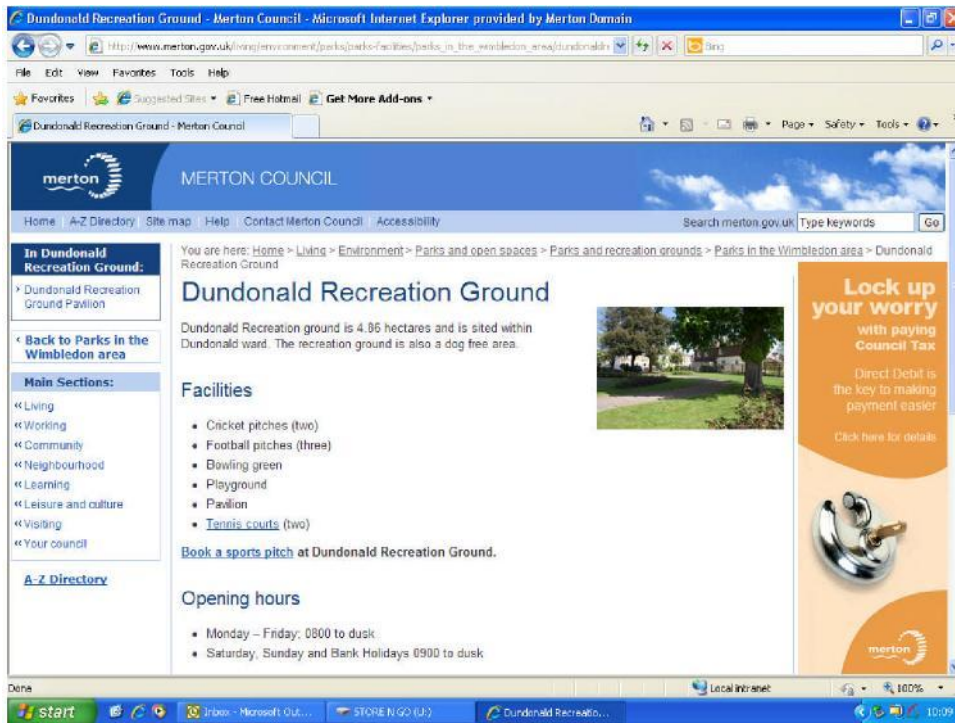


Image: Screenshot of Dundonald Recreation Ground page on Merton Council website

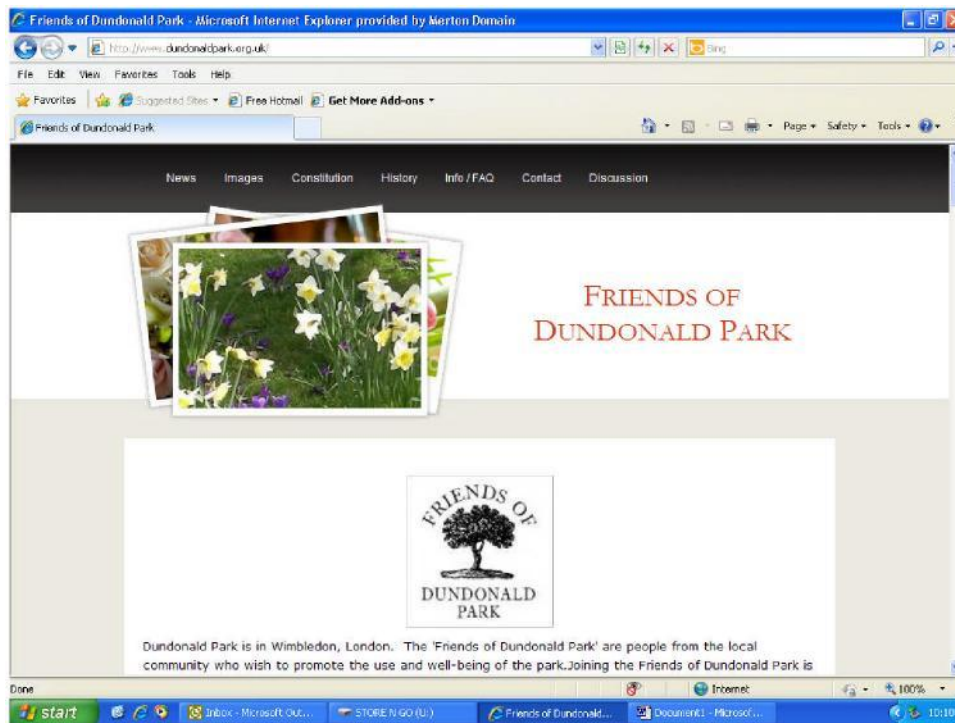


Image: Screenshot of Friends of Dundonald Park website

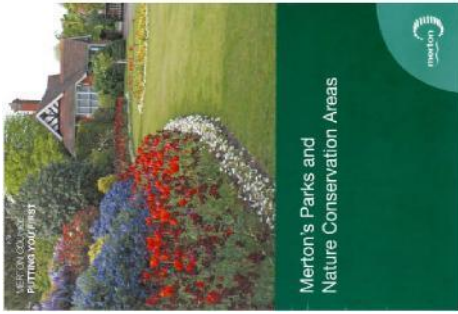


Image: Sample marketing leaflets which include details relating to Dundonald Recreation Ground

## Appendix 5: Health & Safety

LB Merton's health and safety policies are available on the Council's website and are displayed at the service's main operational depot at Hillcross Avenue/Morden Park.  
See Internet: [www.merton.gov.uk/](http://www.merton.gov.uk/)

The statement of the Director responsible for Health & Safety is posted on the Merton staff intranet at:

<http://intranet/docstatementfromdirectorresponsibleforhs.doc>

The **Contractors Health and Safety Assessment Scheme (CHAS)** is available to view at [www.merton.gov.uk/chas](http://www.merton.gov.uk/chas) on the Merton Internet site.



## Appendix 6: Park Byelaws

The London Borough of Merton's generic byelaws for its parks and open spaces, approved and implemented in 1992, apply at Dundonald Recreation Ground. These are reproduced in their entirety below.

### **LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON**

### **BYELAWS FOR PUBLIC WALKS, PLEASURE GROUNDS AND OPEN SPACES**

**September 1992**

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 erection.
  - (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

(iv) 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, with less than four wheels and the weight of which unladen does not exceed 410 kilograms;

“motor vehicle” 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 upon

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

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

(ii) Any flower bed, shrub or 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 Cannon 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 affixed 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 ground 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 part in any game so specified in such a manner as to exclude persons not playing or taking part in the game from the use of such a space.

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;
- (iv) 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 fixed 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 a 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 the 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 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 Sundays Except on the days when the ground is occupied for the purpose of the "Mitcham Fair".	18.00 – 21.30 13.00 - 16.00
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**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 therefrom;
- (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 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 Twenty fourth day of April 1968, and confirmed by the Secretary of State on the Twenty seventh day of June 1968 and subsequently amended on the Twenty fourth day of July 1975 and the Eighteenth day of February 1983 are hereby revoked.

# Appendix 7: Management Structure

Figure 1. LB Merton Greenspaces Team Structure

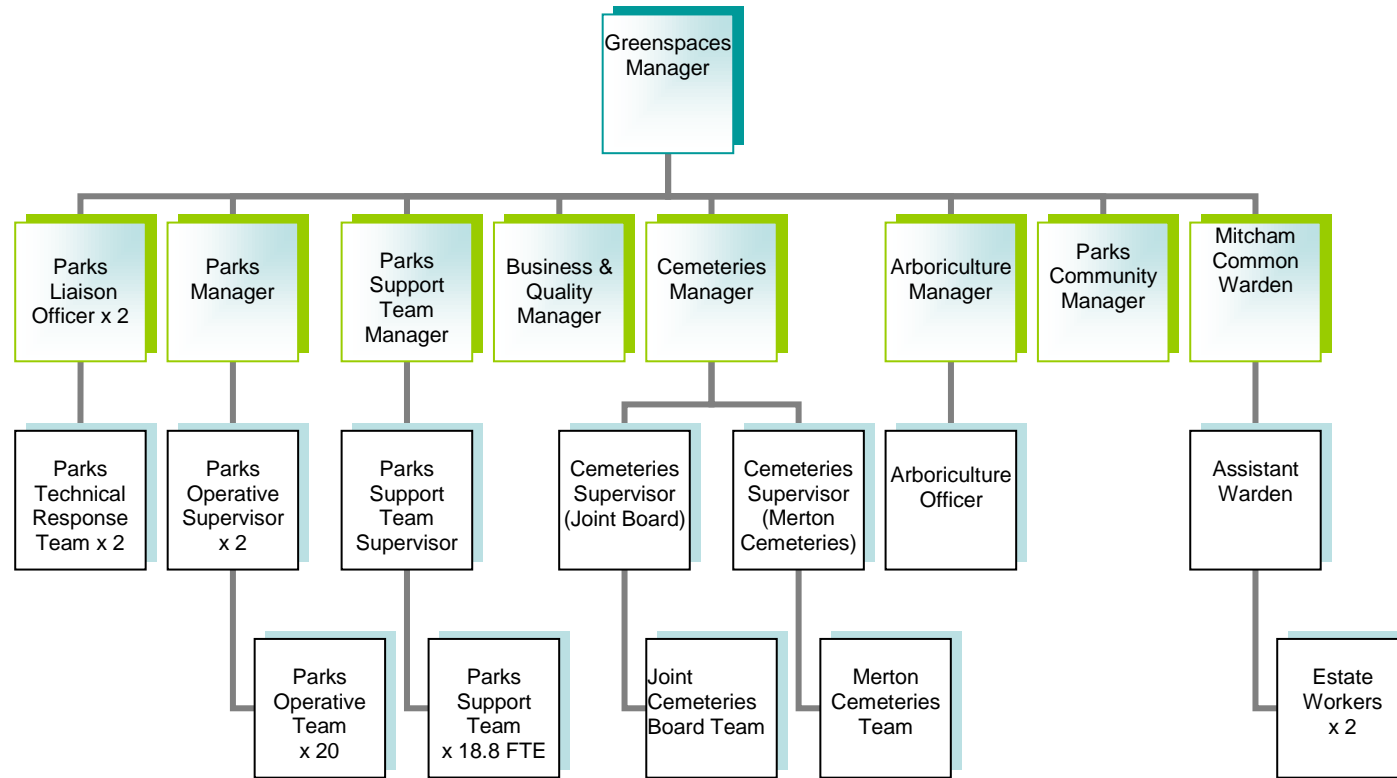


Figure 2 . Parks Management Team Structure

