

# PYMMES PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2007 - 2011



Version 1.2



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# 1. Introduction

## Preface

The purpose of establishing the Management Plan is to provide a guide to the principles of conservation, repair, enhancement, adaptation and use of Pymmes Park that safeguards the significance of the site whilst ensuring a sustainable future.

The Management Plan is designed to:

- Retain and protect the historic fabric and character of Pymmes Park and its role as a wildlife habitat.
- Provide a sound basis for the ongoing repair and maintenance of the landscape in keeping with the park.
- Ensure continuation of the harmony between the needs of conservation and use of the park by the public to promote more understanding.

This Management Plan examines the various management issues that arise from the present use of the park and establishes a series of action plans that seeks to ensure that the significance of the park can continue to be enhanced as a heritage, wildlife and public asset.

Pymmes Park is a very popular and well-used amenity. The park has some very pleasant views and is home to many varieties of wildfowl that have made the large lake area their home over the years.

During 2004/05, The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) provided funding for many additional features to enhance the park's horticultural interest, such as the planting of one hundred additional trees.

One area of the park that is popular with the public is the Victorian Walled Garden that is known by many local people as the Old Kitchen Garden. The area is bounded on three sides by Grade 2 listed walls and is a place where people can find peace and tranquillity.

The park boasts large flowerbed areas, which provide a pleasing display each summer and springtime. The bedding plans are reviewed each year providing the opportunity to consider new varieties of plants.

For the opening of the park in June 1906 and until the 1920s, a number of new features were introduced including 2 bowling greens, a children's playground, 2 sets of tennis courts and a network of paths and roads. Some of the paths were dug up and grassed over during World War 2 and used as allotments.

## Pymmes Park Lottery Bid Refurbishment

In 1996, The London Borough of Enfield submitted a feasibility proposal to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the refurbishment of Pymmes Park.

As a result of this study, a full application to the HLF Urban Parks Programme was submitted in 1998. Following a period of assessment and consultation, a contract was finalised between the HLF and Enfield for the refurbishment of the park.

In April 2000, Enfield appointed the Pymmes Park Co-ordinator to manage the delivery of the agreed programme.

The total project cost of the works was £3.2 M consisting of an HLF grant and match funding by the LBE.



The lake area has now been fully restored and enhanced; a thousand lorry loads of non-inert silt has been removed off-site, the lake edge re-placed and a fresh supply of water has been installed via a chalk borehole.



**Photo of the Wall Garden that dates back to the 1930s.**

The Listed Walled Garden has been restored to the 1930's design and incorporates a replacement forth wall (Completed Summer 2007) to enclose the garden, as before, ensuring the 'Old English Garden' will continue to be maintained to the highest horticultural standards.

The parks paths have been updated and rebuilt with a renewed estimated life of an extra 30 years, much appreciated by the regular 'power walkers'

Over one hundred extra heavy standard trees and thousands of plants have been planted to continue the much valued structural element of the park and will be maintained within the parks management programme.

### **Further improvements to Pymmes Park**

In 2006, as part of the park's improvement program, a new double Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) was installed at a cost of £93,000.

An Automated Public Convenience (APC), was completed at the end of 2007 to replace the toilet block removed in 1995 as a result of the North Circular Road expansion and the project was funded through Transport for London (TFL).

The Park has benefited from new signage, railings and litterbins.



The old bandstand has been updated with a new performance area (see below) in the style of a modern amphitheatre, constructed of marble, brick, and a stepped turf infill. In conjunction with the Leisure and Sport Strategy, events will be planned and developed as a daytime and early evening music and arts venue.



Pymmes Park has developed into a green oasis for the use and enjoyment of the general public, contributing to the health and well being of the local community.

### **Understanding Pymmes Park**

Pymmes Park, is a 20 hectare public open space situated immediately north of the A406 Sterling Way (North Circular Road) in Edmonton.

Pymmes Park is divided into 2 parts, with the 'Midnight Path' separating north and south. To the north the park caters for a wide variety of recreational demands with a large open area of sports pitches laid out as five football pitches. The surrounding area between the main sports field and the parks fence line is home to well established wildlife areas. The north side of the park has some fine trees with many Oak trees that were planted before the park was made available for the public. The land area is flat with good drainage making it ideal to host funfairs.

The south side of the park is formally landscaped, planted with seasonal bedding along with herbaceous beds to the total of 4.731 m sq. Main features include the large ornamental lake which supports a variety of wildlife both on and in the lake (bathing and fishing are not permitted), a Victorian walled garden, a new covered performance area with tiered seating, a children's playground, an adventure play area, a bowling club, Community and Visitors' Centres, a boating pond and a parks depot.

The Pymmes Park Catchment Area is located in the Edmonton Green Ward, with Upper Edmonton to the South, Lower Edmonton to the North and Haselbury to the West.

Properties in the surrounding areas are privately owned terraced housing with Council housing estates present to the north, east and south of the park.

Directional signs providing information on the parks history, landscape and conservation have been installed that will enhance the appreciation of the park.

### **Geology, Topography and Hydrology**

Pymmes Park is underlain with alluvial deposits of sand and gravel, which extend under the broad Lea Valley. The site is gently sloping from a high point in the north west to the south and east, with a 5 metre fall overall between 19 metres and 14 metres above ordnance datum.

Two watercourses cross the park, flowing towards the River Lea to the East. The former Moree Stream has been partly culverted and modified to form the central Pymmes Lake whilst the Pymmes Brook enters the site from below Silver Street in a culvert and flows out below Victoria Road in a straightened open channel. The road widening scheme has further modified the brook course, effectively removing the channel from view. The old pond to the south of the park is fed by discharges to Pymmes Brook, by underground culverts.

A report on Pymmes Lake from 1996 (sewerage management group), describes in detail the arrangement of storm water and water quality passing through Pymmes Lake. The water body is used by Thames Water Utilities Ltd as a balancing pond to prevent surface water flooding.



## Pymmes Park General Layout



### Legend

- |                             |                             |                                  |                                    |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 North West Entrance       | 9 Beverly Bowls Club        | 16 Walled Garden                 | 24 Children's Playground           |
| 2 Sweet Briar Walk Entrance | 10 Multi Use Games Area     | 17 Outdoor Performance Space     | 25 Public Footpath "Midnight Walk" |
| 3 Silver Street Entrance    | 11 Proposed Activity Zone   | 18 Borehole to Aquifer           | 26 Victoria Road Toilets           |
| 4 Main Entrance             | 12 Pymmes Bowling Club      | 19 Pymmes Park Lake              | 27 APC Toilets                     |
| 5 Victoria Road Entrance    | 13 Maintenance Yard & Depot | 20 Pymmes Lake Southern Inlet    | 28 Playing Fields                  |
| 6 Park Road Entrance        | 14 Visitors Centre          | 21 Pymmes Lake North West Inlet  | 29 Changing Room Building          |
| 7 North Eastern Entrance    | 15 Community Building       | 22 Pymmes Lake South East Outlet |                                    |
| 8 Tennis Courts             | 16 Walled Garden            | 23 Pymmes Park Boat Pond         |                                    |

## **2. History and Setting**

Pymmes Park has a long history, dating from 1327 when William Pymme built a mansion on the north side of Watery Lane (now known as Silver Street, Sterling Way, Edmonton). The sole remains of the original buildings are the walls surrounding the walled garden, all grade 2 listed structures.

It is believed that Watery Way was so called, because of the proximity of Pymmes Brook and until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Angel Road was known as Water Lane.

From 1327 to 1578, the Pymmes Estate changed hands several times, until Thomas Wilson, a statesman and a Member of Parliament purchased the estate in 1579. In 1582, William Cecil, the Right Honourable Lord Burleigh, Lord High Treasurer of England, purchased the Estate (6 acres of pasture and a house) for £250. Sir Robert Cecil, son of William Cecil, became the owner of Pymmes following his marriage in 1589 and the estate, which had increased to 51 acres, remained in the family.

The Ray family has had a long association with the Pymmes Estate and records show ownership dating from 1808 until 1899, when the Council purchased the 53 acres from the Ray family for £36,000. The estate was purchased to provide much needed public open space following an increase in population.

The North side was opened in 1897 and the remainder set out as a Park opened to the public in June 1906, with one of the main attractions being the Bandstand, which could seat up to 800 people. The Park was named Pymmes Park after William Pymme, one of the first owners of the original Estate.

In 1940 Pymmes House was destroyed by fire while being occupied by the Auxiliary Fire Brigade. After the war, a new building now known affectionately as the Age Concern building or the Age Pensioners Day Centre, was built on the site. It was originally used as a school kitchen and refectory for nearby schools.

The Walled Garden originally known as the Kitchen Garden or the Old English Garden is bounded on three sides by Grade 2 listed walls. An ornamental pond was restored in 1980, whilst the garden area also provides an interesting display of herbaceous and bedding plants. The Thomas Angell drinking fountain provides a calming water feature.

The Pymmes Park Walled Garden, which is available seven days a week during park opening times, is very popular with visitors who seek to have a peaceful moment and has won various awards in the London in Bloom competition.



### 3. Park Management

The management of the park has to be considered under the 3 separate headings of:

- Landscape
- Ecology
- Public use.

#### **Landscape**

To the north of the Midnight Walk, the site consists of a broad and open landscape with mature trees mainly grouped on the perimeters, providing mainly uninterrupted views.

To the south of the site, the landscape and views are more varied. The main focal points include the Pymmes Lake and bridges, the old pond, the clubhouse building and the new performance area.

The principal man-made elements in the landscape of Pymmes Park for which action plans will need to be considered:

#### **Elements for positive management that have enhanced the improvement of Pymmes Park.**

- The retention and maintenance of trees.
- The continued use of making and using our own compost that will be used here and in other park sites as required.
- The opening up of old shrub bed areas and replanting with new shrubs that will be beneficial to the wild life.
- The improvement in the quality of the water in our large lake area by the installation of an artesian well (completed in the Spring of 2006 at a cost of £16,000) that will improve the water quality for our wildlife work.
- Volunteers managed by the Outreach Officer carry out works to the wildlife area that is situated within the old Bowling Green. The works include the thinning out of the area, removal of the overgrown brambles, removal of tree suckers and a general tidy up of the total area.
- The restoration of the large pond area that is situated over-looking the North Circular Road. This has been flushed and cleaned and has had aquatic plants introduced that will assist in keeping the water clean. A budget of £1,200 was set aside to achieve this objective.
- More life buoys have been installed around the lake area and these are checked each day by the parks staff and recorded.
- Ensure that all the new herbaceous areas are maintained to the highest standard.
- Look at the proposal of wood chipping the bed areas.

**Elements for positive management that will enhance the importance of Pymmes Park and ensure the longevity of the trees in the park for future generations to appreciate.**

- Pymmes Park has many trees that are now mature specimens and regular attention will be required. The park also has many younger trees that will require much care and attention if they are to grow to maturity.
- Woodland and wildlife areas are regularly monitored for dangerous trees and poisonous plants with remedial action taken as appropriate with dead wood to remain in situ.
- All newly planted trees to be of good quality with maintenance such as watering done as required.
- All of the newly planted trees planted during the Lottery Fund Project to have a nearby water supply. Parks have installed 5 new water outlets at cost of £3,500.
- Improve public awareness of a service that is provided for planting memorial trees with, if required, memorial plaques. The location of the tree planting is consulted with and agreed by the park's management to ensure that it is complementary to the park's setting.
- All young trees are checked to ensure that they are secure with stakes and ties adjusted or removed as necessary.

**Elements for positive management that will enhance the importance of the Walled Garden and ensure the best presentation of the horticultural features.**

- Ensure that the resource allocation is efficiently and effectively utilised in keeping with Agenda 21.
- Ensure that good horticultural practice is used in all areas of maintenance.
- Enhance the heritage value through sensitive planting and regular maintenance regimes.
- Assess the present planting arrangements for suitability in the historic context and prepare an annual replacement programme to reflect the heritage needs.
- Ensure that paths and walkways are kept weed free through cultural means.
- Ensure the protection of the horticultural features by the erection of temporary fencing and signage during events and periods of major activity.
- Ensure that all the wooden seating is maintained by means of re-varnishing.
- Ensure that the bed areas are regularly hoed to prevent any weed growth.
- Ensure that the grass areas are box cut between the third week of March and the last week of October to maintain a maximum height of 30mm and a minimum height of 20mm and are free from bents at all times.
- Ensure that all pruning is carried out in accordance with the The Royal Horticultural Society's guidelines.

## **Ecology**

The park is an invaluable ecological resource and action plans will take particular account of the wildlife.

Mature trees are very important components of parkland, but when they are old and die they become very important as habitats for insects. The park's policy is to leave them in situ as long as possible, providing it is safe to do so.

The unimproved grassland under and between the larger trees at Pymmes Park provides important nectar and breeding sites. Recent planting of the wildlife areas has been carried out in such a way, as to prevent excessive shading in parts.

The park has over the last ten years been home to wildlife areas around the north side of the park. The planting has been selected to encourage wildlife such as butterflies and bees. These areas help inform and assist our local school children that visit the park, with understanding how nature works. Volunteer groups that are run by our Outreach Service work on the wildlife areas.

## **Public Use**

### **Access**

Pedestrians can gain access via nine separate entrances, making the park easily entered from the direction of Upper and Lower Edmonton and by residents living in the roads surrounding the park.

A history of the park is on display at the Visitors' Centre.

Members of the public are free to explore the wall garden area.

The principal public transport access is via bus routes 34, 102, 444, 149 and 279 in the Hertford Road. The nearest train stations are Silver Street and Edmonton Green on the Enfield Town and Liverpool Street lines, flanking either end of the Park. Free car parking is available in several surrounding roads.

### **Passive Recreation**

Many visitors to Pymmes Park enjoy their visit by walking, exercising their dog, jogging, bird watching or feeding ducks, watching squirrels and other wildlife, playing, picnicking, meeting friends and relaxing. In meeting these needs the size of the park, as well as its landscape, is very important.

The ability of our visitors to use the full extent of the park's facilities depends on good directional signage that clearly guides people to all areas of specific interest. In addition signs providing information on the history, landscape and conservation have been installed to enhance the local knowledge and appreciation for the visitor.

The picnic area does provide a focus point and encourages park users to enjoy this social activity that is situated opposite the playground. To meet an ever-increasing demand for this area we have installed additional picnic tables and litter bins.

Provision of additional seating has enhanced the ability of the less able to enjoy the park as well as provide relaxing viewpoint opportunities. The current styles in use throughout the park will continue to be sympathetic to visitors' needs and landscape concerns.



## **Refreshments**

At present we have no permanent means of providing refreshment. Parks have released an advert 3<sup>rd</sup> week in January 2009 inviting mobile caterers to express an interest as a short-term measure and will look to establish a purpose built café in the longer term.

## **Public Toilets**

The main public toilets are located at the Victoria Rd entrance to the park and include facilities for disabled visitors. These facilities are visited every morning before the park opens and kept in a clean, safe and good working condition, with offensive and obscene graffiti being removed within 24 hours. The toilets also have a further check made at 2.00pm and a back up clean as required. These site visits are all recorded on a daily monitoring check sheet and are then signed off by the Team Leader. Any defects to the toilets are repaired normally the same day, by our own in-house mobile handy man who has a mobile phone so that he can be contacted for any emergencies.

## 4. The Management Plan

The management plan will set out the service levels and be the operational basis with which they will be carried forward by the Council for the foreseeable future.

The purpose of the Management Plan is to:

Identify, discuss and resolve issues relating to site infrastructure, site users and available resources.

Develop and cost the way in which Pymmes Park is managed and maintained, to ensure an enjoyable experience for present and future users;

Identify and address who is responsible for certain aspects of management.

Provide a benchmark against which delivery and performance of the identified service levels can be measured.

It is a 'working document' that brings together all the information relating to Pymmes Park, for use by all those involved in its management. It will be updated, revised, periodically reviewed and formally rewritten in the 5<sup>th</sup> year.

### Policy and Context

Parks are managed areas of the green environment which provide opportunities for a range of formal and informal leisure, recreation and play.

#### **The significance of parks, open space and countryside provision is clear:**

- In 1988 the Audit Commission estimated that local authorities in England and Wales maintained approximately 120,000 hectares of parks and open spaces - an area approximately the size of Berkshire.
- In 2000, the Heritage Lottery Fund estimated that there were approximately 30,000 urban green spaces in the UK, of which 5,000 were urban parks.
- in 1992 the Audit Commission suggested that there were 34,533 parks and open spaces in the UK.
- Local Government Finance Statistics indicate that over a 12 month period in the 1990's, £538 million was spent on parks and green spaces.
- Recent national MORI research indicates that 60% of people believe that the provision of open spaces is key to an ideal community.
- The recently announced Public Service Agreement on Sustainable Communities (PSA8) identifies the importance of "cleaner, greener public spaces."

It is widely recognised that the provision of high quality "public realm" facilities such as parks can assist in making an area an attractive place to live and work, and can result in a number of benefits in terms of economic development and regeneration.

**The benefits of safe and accessible parks and open spaces can be summarised as follows:**

### **Social**

- Providing safe outdoor areas that are available to all members of the local population.
- Providing opportunities for community events, voluntary activities and charitable fund raising.
- Providing easily accessible recreation as an alternative to other more chargeable leisure pursuits.
- Providing opportunities to improve health and take part in a range of outdoor sports and activities.
- Providing an educational resource or outdoor classroom.

### **Environmental**

- Providing habitats for wildlife as an aid to local biodiversity.
- Helping to stabilise urban temperatures and humidity.
- Absorbing pollutants in the air and ground water.
- Providing opportunities for the recycling of organic materials.
- Providing opportunities to reduce transport use through the provision of local facilities, and by providing walking and cycling routes through urban areas.

### **Economic**

- Providing a positive environment for businesses to locate and develop.
- Adding value to surrounding property, both commercial and residential, thus increasing local tax revenues for public services.
- Contributing to attracting visitors, including using the park as a venue for events.
- Encouraging tourism into the area.
- Helping to create an attractive local image.
- Helping to reduce social exclusion and its associated costs to society.



## 5. Consultation

A MORI survey was conducted during 2006/07 of leisure facilities in the London Borough of Enfield which included parks and open spaces. (Surveys are carried out on a 3 year cycle)

### The key findings from the survey indicate that:-

- The age of people benefiting from parks, playgrounds and open spaces was relatively evenly distributed, although the highest proportion was in the 35 – 54 range.
- 65% of people surveyed had children in the household, indicating the need for provision for younger people.
- There were no huge variations in social class, although the highest proportion was in the AB (highest) category.

### Performance ratings indicate that:-

In terms of satisfaction with their parks, playgrounds and open spaces, a net score of 75% in 2007 rated against 74% in 2005. This rated well against other services in Enfield.

### Usage ratings

The usage patterns indicate that the parks are well used with the majority using the parks at least once a week. This equates to approximately 24.2 million visits per year.

Pymmes Park being one of the 12 major parks in the Borough could expect somewhere in the region of 2 million visits.

### How frequently have you used Parks and Open Spaces in the last 12 months?

Parks and Open Spaces	2006/07 (%)	2003/04 (%)	Inner London (%)	Outer London (%)
Almost every day	15	15	11	19
At least once a week	34	34	28	36
About once a month	23	21	22	21
Within the last 6 months	13	16	14	11
Within the last year	6	5	8	4
Longer ago	4	3	7	3
Never used	6	6	10	5

**Do you think the service has got better or worse over the last three years, or has it stayed the same?**

<b>Parks and Open Spaces</b>	<b>2006/07 (%)</b>	<b>2003/04 (%)</b>	<b>Inner London</b>	<b>Outer London (%)</b>
Better	20	13		31
Stayed the same	67	72		61
Worse	13	15		8

Over the past 3 years, there has been a greater than 50% increase in the amount of residents who consider that the service has got better.

In comparison with our cluster authorities, Enfield compared well in terms of satisfaction with parks and open spaces. Only Westminster rivalled Enfield in terms of overall satisfaction.

## 6. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis

Following consultation, Friends of Pymmes Park and staff produced a SWOT analysis for Pymmes Park as shown in figure 1. It takes the form of a situational analysis of internal strengths and weaknesses and of more external (governmental, community, legislative, etc.) opportunities and threats.

**Figure 1: SWOT Analysis for Pymmes Park**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Green Flag</b></li><li>• <b>New staff structure</b></li><li>• <b>Knowledgeable staff</b></li><li>• <b>Multi-cultural usage</b></li><li>• <b>Good maintenance programme</b></li><li>• <b>Well used</b></li><li>• <b>Good range of facilities</b></li><li>• <b>7 day usage of the pre-fab building</b></li><li>• <b>Good play facilities</b></li><li>• <b>High public perception</b></li><li>• <b>Capital and revenue investment</b></li><li>• <b>General Standards</b></li><li>• <b>2007/8, Visitor Centre now open</b></li><li>• <b>2007/8, Redecoration and Community usage of the Beverley Bowls Building</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Antisocial behaviour</b></li><li>• <b>Limited Events Program</b></li></ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Probation Service Involvement</b></li><li>• <b>Raised public awareness</b></li><li>• <b>Pathfinders funding</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Further budget cuts</b></li><li>• <b>Competition</b></li><li>• <b>Change in Government policy</b></li></ul>

Key **Strengths** included the fact that Pymmes Park was awarded Green Flag status in 2006, 07/08. The recent management reorganisation had provided a much stronger and more proactive staffing presence in the form of the Outreach Team and the Safer Neighbourhoods Parks Unit.

Management have been heavily assisted by the work of the Friends group both in terms of physical improvements and in liaising with the local community.

The current investment programme for grounds maintenance (including machinery, equipment and new uniforms for staff) and planting were considered to be making a real difference to the quality of the park, and maintenance standards were seen to have markedly improved over the last 12 months.

In January 2007, following an audit of usage at our on site facilities we entered into discussion with a local group "Stroke Action" who have now taken up residence in the old prefab building alongside the "Old People's Luncheon Club" utilising the facility 7 days a week. Usage by visitors continues to be high, with good representation across a cross-section of the local community, including all age ranges and ethnic origins.

The redundant Beverley Bowls Club (weakness/opportunity in 2007) has two new groups utilising the facility for community use. The facilities the park has to offer were perceived to be varied and interesting, including the newly installed Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).



**Weaknesses** included antisocial behaviour including damage and graffiti by a minority of users. There are still relatively few events within Pymmes Park.

In terms of **Opportunities**, staff saw the chance to build on the excellent structure, buildings and landscape within the park. This Management Plan, the Green Flag initiative, and the Council's own aims and objectives were seen as an opportunity to build on.

Parks commissioned a consultant to assess the water quality of the lake with a view to installing fountains and aerators to enhance the ecological balance, but a result of the study by Dr Eaton, fountains and aerators were not considered to be of any benefit.

A feasibility study was undertaken to resite the current skatepark onto the old tarmac area, but following a meeting with youth representatives, it was deemed not suitable.

The relationship with the Friends was an area which could be built upon to draw down other resources, and to involve the local community more fully in the enhancement of the park. The Friends are particularly keen to utilise the Visitors' Centre to engage local schools and the community in future years.

Parks are currently consulting on an enhancement to the current playground with the introduction of natural play facilities funded through Pathfinders £50K.

There were a number of potential **Threats** to Pymmes Park. A change in government policy away from the current view of Parks as central to sustainable communities could affect public perception. Any change in terms of the way other public services were viewed in terms of funding could draw resources away from the park and towards other Council-run activities.

## 7. Vision and Objectives

The overall Vision for Pymmes Park is to:

***“Create an open space which provides a wide range of opportunities for outdoor recreation, contemplation and education in keeping with the needs of its local community, its heritage and history.”***

The key objectives for the park are to:

- Provide a park which is welcoming to visitors.
- Ensure that the Park is healthy, secure, and safe to use.
- Create a green space which is clean and well-maintained.
- Ensure that the Park and its buildings are managed sustainably.
- Ensure that the Park and its buildings are well conserved.
- Interpret its history and heritage through good signage, publicity and literature.
- Increase links with the local community and the Friends group through the planning and management of the Park.
- Monitor, review and manage infrastructure effectively.

The Council places high value on the importance of its parks and open spaces which are central to many of the Council's overall aims and objectives.

### **Council's Aims and Objectives**

There are a number of Council strategies and plans that are directly relevant to Pymmes Park's objectives and the maintaining of Green Flag status. These documents that are also on the Council website are in many cases very detailed and as such for the purposes of this Green Flag document have been summarised by selecting the appropriate sections and paragraphs and presenting them here.

### **Council Mission statement**

Enfield Council promotes the social, economic and environmental well being of our community and helps residents improve their neighbourhoods and communities. In everything it does, the Council sets high standards for quality and value for money and will meet them. We listen to our customers and citizens in delivering local democracy. We work with our partners to plan, shape and deliver services which meet real local needs in the most efficient way, reducing inequalities and protecting and enhancing quality of life in our Borough.

**Of our 6 key aims for 2007- 2010:** Aim 1 is for; A cleaner greener Enfield of which a key action is to attain and maintain a series of Green Flags.

### **Enfield's Future (A Sustainable Community Strategy for Enfield 2007 - 2017)**

The Enfield Strategic Partnership, a multi-agency partnership bringing together key agencies from Enfield's public, private and voluntary sectors, has drawn up the Borough's Community Strategy, Enfield's Future. This ten-year strategy was launched in November 2007 following extensive consultation with partners and members of the public and aims to improve the quality of life for local people by making Enfield one of the best places in which to live, work, study and do business and utilize effectively the Council's capital and revenue budgets.

The Community Strategy aims to improve the quality of life in Enfield by addressing the seven key issues/challenges of:

- Making Enfield a cleaner and greener Borough.
- Building strong neighbourhoods and strong communities.
- Increasing safety and reducing the fear of crime.
- Fostering and developing education, employment, and enterprise.
- Improving health care and access to support services.
- Encouraging resident diversity and community involvement.
- Enhancing the quality and accessibility of local public services.

The strategy states, “the quality of Enfield’s parks and public open spaces will be protected and improved, with better access to good quality public open space.”

### **Sustaining Communities in Enfield (Regeneration Strategy to 2015).**

Drafted in 2004 by the Enfield Strategic Partnership, Sustaining Communities in Enfield sets out a ten-year regeneration strategy that aims to “promote sustainable social, economic, and community development across the Borough, working in partnership to provide opportunities for all sections of the community to improve the quality of their lives and utilise effectively the Council’s capital and revenue budgets.” The Strategy has been updated to include a ten-year plan for the period 2007-2017.

The Regeneration Strategy will serve as a sub-strategy to achieve the effective delivery of the overall Community Strategy (Enfield’s Future).

The strategy identifies 11 priorities which form the basis of the Regeneration Strategy, two of which relate specifically to open spaces:

- Improving the street scene by improving access to open spaces.
- Improving the quality of life by increasing provision of leisure and cultural activities.

### **Enriching Enfield (Cultural Strategy)**

The Enfield Leisure & Cultural Partnership finalised this ten-year strategy in 2006.

It identifies Enfield Council’s vision to have “a thriving community of everyone who lives, works or studies in Enfield,” and outlines the Council’s plan for meeting the leisure and cultural needs of the Borough’s residents.

The strategy proposes that ‘leisure and culture’ should be expanded to include a wide variety of activities, amenities, and values, including:

- Sports activities, events, facilities and development.
- Children’s play and playgrounds.
- Parks, open spaces, wildlife habitats, allotments and gardening, nature conservation, and the countryside.

## **Everybody Active, Enfield Sport, Physical Activity and Physical Education Strategy, 2009 To 2013**

**Everybody Active** is about making sport and physical activity an important and valued part of everyday life. It is a five year sport, physical activity and physical education strategy for Enfield that sets out our strategic vision and aims for 2009-2013 and identifies priority actions to be resourced and delivered through public, private and third (community and voluntary) sector organisations working together. It builds on the progress made as a result of the previous 'Enfield Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2005-2008' and identifies new opportunities, including those presented by London 2012

The vision for sport and physical activity in Enfield strategic priorities and aims are:

- Everyone participating in physical activity, everyday
- Educating and inspiring young people to be active
- Providing diverse, exciting and inclusive sport and physical activity opportunities and facilities
- Community led sport and physical activity
- Growing sport and physical activity through 2012
- Creating pathways to success

The strategy is currently being consulted on with adoption programmed for 2009.

### **Putting Enfield First**

This document summarises the vision, aims and objectives of Enfield Council's three-year plan and provides indicators of its performance at the end of this three-year period.

### **The seven key aims and priority areas for Council funding and work are:**

- A cleaner greener Enfield.
- High quality education and life-long learning.
- A safer Enfield.
- Quality health and care services for vulnerable residents.
- The delivery of excellent services.
- Economic success and social inclusion.
- Improved quality of life in Enfield.

### **Fresh Fields: A Strategy for Parks and Open Spaces**

Following the Parks Best Value Review in 2001, the Parks Service developed a five-year Parks and Open Spaces Strategy for maintaining high-quality open spaces and incorporating them into wider strategic programmes.

The strategy recognises that variations in access to park amenities can be found in certain areas in Enfield and that as a result of this variation, “residents and workers in Enfield have very different parks experiences depending on where they are in the borough.” The extensive provision in the northwest region of Enfield contrasts the open space deficiencies in the southeast of the borough.

The Action Plan for the five-year period of the strategy includes such objectives as:

- Identify areas of deficiency.
- Develop a set of local Performance Indicators.
- Address crime and community safety issues in local parks.
- Research catchment areas for specific parks and open spaces.
- Upgrade and restore various key open spaces.

In April 2008 the Parks department moved from being part of Environment, Street Scene & Parks into the newly formed Place Shaping and Enterprise division.

**Enfield’s Place Shaping Strategy** has been developed in response to the changing challenges facing the borough. It reflects the determination of the Council and its partners to build on strengths and achievements, and address the needs of some key parts of the borough and the communities who live in them. The strategy is designed to better enable the delivery of targets and priorities that have already been set out in the sustainable community strategy, Enfield’s Future, and in the Local Area Agreement. It will increase focus on achieving their implementation and act as a major driver for change within the borough.

**The new Parks & Open Space 15 year Strategy** will reflect the place shaping agenda which the council has prioritised by contributing to:

- Further reducing crime and the fear of crime, ensuring that all parts of the borough are places that people feel safe to live and work in.
- Further improving our environment, offering high quality green spaces
- Addressing areas of deficiency

The 15 year Parks & Open Space Strategy was commissioned in August 2008, with a 5 year action plan for delivery which will provide the vision and overview for future years. [This will replace the previous lapsed strategy Fresh Fields. Full consultation is taking place between April and July 2009 with adoption planned for August 2009]

### **Service Centre Plan**

The Service Centre Plan for “Parks and Open Spaces 2008-2009” has as its vision:

***“To make Enfield one of the best places to live, work, study and do business.”***

Of particular relevance are the following:

- Clarification of the type and style of play equipment wanted by children.
- The Friends of the Park’s constitution has now been replaced with an agreement.
- Direction for the medium term includes a commitment to the DCLG “Cleaner Safer Greener Communities” and the Green Flag award.



It indicated that a comprehensive review of the Parks and Open Spaces service had been carried out, with the result that:

The in-house workforce now works 5 days per week but over a 7-day period.

A work rota system has been introduced to ensure that parks and open spaces are staffed during opening hours.

- New mechanical plant, machinery and uniforms have been provided.
- The business and development staffing complement has been increased.

Key improvements planned included:

- Investigating ways of saving water and reducing waste.
- Improving access and quality by implementing the Open Space Strategy
- Introducing a quality performance scheme to ensure that parks were attractive, clean, safe and welcoming.

The capital improvements to the public conveniences at Pymmes Park have been completed during 2008.

### **C19 Access and Quality Indicator**

The Council is committed to the C19 Access and Quality Indicator that forms part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) for local government.

This sets an indicative lower threshold limit of 30% of the population being within 20 minutes of a range of 3 different sports facility types of which one has achieved a quality assured standard. Enfield wishes to increase the number of facilities that have achieved a quality assured status.

To this end, it has identified Pymmes Park as the most suitable open space to achieve this status through a Green Flag award in order to meet the needs of the East of the Borough.

### **Enfield Open Space and Sports Assessment**

The Council has also completed a **PPG17 qualitative and quantitative needs assessment** of open space in the Borough. Findings from the study include responses relating to the perceived need for improvements, including:

Improved safety (22%).

Less litter (13%).

Improved maintenance and attractiveness (13%).

Recommendations relating to the quality of open space provision in the report and of relevance to Pymmes Park include:

- The fact that almost all sites would be improved by carrying out minor landscaping enhancements.
- The need to improve biodiversity by changing the way open spaces are managed, e.g. by introducing strands of grasses and herbaceous species.
- Within all areas of the borough parks and open spaces should provide a range of environments which provide opportunities for relaxation.

### **Pymmes Park's future**

A thorough examination of the SWOT analysis, consultation with the local residents and users of the site have guided the future of Pymmes Park and how the park is to respond to local needs.

The Green Flag criteria will be used as a template for the summary of the actions to be taken throughout the park.

## 8. A Welcoming Place

There are a number of improvements designed to assist in making Pymmes Park a more welcoming place during 2009/10. These are included in the Action Plan to ensure that implementation is achieved in a realistic fashion and according to an achievable timescale:

- The entrances look cared for and well managed with new planting schemes:
- To make the main entrance welcoming and interesting.
- Colour in the form of swathes of perennial herbaceous species throughout spring, summer and autumn.
- Interest in the form of attractive shapes and seed heads throughout winter.
- To educate users in relation to an interesting and unusual form of horticultural provision.
- To educate schools and members of the general public in relation to the use of colourful planting which is sustainable and requires no irrigation once established, and which needs low levels of maintenance.
- New signage for the main entrance informs the public about the facilities and the location of those facilities within the park including the following elements:
- Coloured plan of the park including footpaths and entrances.
- Facilities in the form of symbols which can be easily recognised by all ethnic groups which use the park, irrespective of language.
- Resume of the history of Pymmes Park, including its acquisition and the characters and activities associated with it.
- Contact details for enquiries.
- Symbols indicating any restrictions or unacceptable modes of behaviour.

Secondary entrances have appropriate signage in a more simplified form than that envisaged for the main entrance, but nevertheless interesting, informative, and welcoming to visitors.

The eight secondary entrances will also have provision for areas of colourful and attractive planting, either in the form of herbaceous perennials and grasses or suitable shrubbery. Horticultural Planting plans have been produced for these areas.

These improvements confirm our message that the Park is well maintained and that visitors are valued and welcomed.

## **9. Health, Safety and Security**

There are a number of improvements that have taken place which will make Pymmes Park a healthier, safer, and more secure place to use.

### **Health and safety**

The Parks Service is committed to ensuring the Health and Safety of its parks staff and users of the facilities. The Health and Safety Plans for the Council, Group and Service extending to individual parks and buildings demonstrate the following objectives:

- To eliminate or reduce to a minimum, accidents, incidents and work related ill health.
- To achieve and maintain a safe and healthy working environment for all and ensure that others who are not our staff are not harmed by our work activities.
- To strive to bring about improvements to our provisions for Health and Safety, enabling them to evolve and develop, thus meeting the needs of future activities and changes in legislation.

Appropriate monitoring systems are in place to comply with the requirement of the Corporate Policy for Health and Safety.

There is a Health and Safety Policy issued to all Managers within the Group and it is for them to ensure that all parks staff know where a copy is located and have easy access to it. Managers will monitor and enforce the standards embodied within the policy and emphasise to staff that they also bear an individual responsibility to ensure that procedures are appropriately implemented.

In 2008 a Health & Safety Manager for the whole of Parks was appointed to ensure a co-ordinated approach and to ensure that standards are maintained.

### **Visitors**

The Council has a duty of care to all visitors and users of the park. The managers and staff pay particular attention to this aspect of Health and Safety regulations.

Notices are displayed at appropriate places indicating where help and information is available.

Where staff become aware of the existence of a particular item or situation which may be hazardous to users and which cannot be dealt with immediately, those who are likely to be in the vicinity of the risk are advised and informed of any necessary precautions. Additionally, suitable warning notices and, where appropriate, physical barriers and/or alternative routes and means of access and egress will be advised.

### **Parks staff**

All staff are aware of their responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 Sections with regards to:

- Take reasonable care for the Health and Safety of themselves and others who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work.
- Co-operate with the Council insofar as is necessary to enable that duty or requirement to be performed or complied with to assist clear understanding of staff duties while at work.

Incidents involving near misses, accident, injury or damage are recorded on site and copies of the records are forwarded to managers and the Council's central Safety Unit. When such incidents occur, the Park Manager will assess the situation and work with the Parks overall Health and Safety Manager to ascertain whether any modifications to existing practice are required, and ensure that any action required is expedited.

### **Premises Controllers**

In the summer of 2008 Tony Mann was appointed as Premises Controller for Pymmes Park. Tony's role is to look after all aspects of Health and Safety on the site and retain records in the Premises log book. The Council's Corporate Health and Safety Team inspect the records on a regular basis.

All aspects of site Health and Safety are covered including Fire equipment and procedures, maintenance and condition of buildings, maintenance of boilers and being responsible for keeping up to date incident logs.

The Premises Controller works very closely with the Manager for Health and Safety in Parks to make sure that Health and Safety is an absolute priority within Pymmes Park.

Planned improvements on Health and Safety matters in 2009 include a total overhaul of the Pymmes mess room to provide the staff with conditions, equipment and furniture that complies with Health and Safety requirements. Specifics include fire retardant furniture and PAT tested electrical equipment. There are also major works to be carried out to the workshop area including the fitting of Skylights to improve the natural light.

### **Contractors**

A proportion of the services provided in Pymmes Park are carried out through, or supported by Contractors. The Council fully accepts its obligations under the law, both as an operator of an undertaking, an employer and as an occupier of premises, to try to eliminate hazards and, failing that, to take all reasonable steps to minimise the risks that may arise from its own and its Contractors' work activities that may affect our employees, those who enter the park (for what ever purpose), our residents and members of the public. It is the firm policy to take all reasonable steps to minimise risks that may arise from its own undertakings that may affect its Contractors, their employees and others.

The Council makes it clear to all Contractors who carry out services in the Borough that they are expected to comply fully with the spirit and intent of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

### **Method Statement and Risk Assessment**

All contractors who carry out work in our parks and open spaces are required to supply a method statement and risk assessment, with reference to the works that they will be carrying out on our property, and in what manner the work will be done. No work is allowed to start until we are fully satisfied with the statement provided to us from the Contractor.

Risk assessments are carried out for Pymmes Park and the associated works carried out within the site.

### **Smoking Ban**

Enfield has had a policy now for some time where smoking in mess room areas and park vehicles has been forbidden.



## **Annual survey**

An annual survey of all infrastructure, including footpaths, buildings, car parks, railings, fences, etc. has been conducted by parks staff to identify condition and to ensure that:

- Immediate health and safety risks are identified.
- Longer-term potential health and safety risks are identified.
- Features are fit for purpose (is the path in the right position? constructed of suitable materials? etc).
- Visual and amenity considerations are accounted for i.e. is the design appropriate, should a more, attractive wearing course be applied to surfaces.

## **Personal security and safety**

### **Safer Neighbourhood Parks Unit (SNPU)**

Enfield Council and the Borough Police set up the unit in response to growing public concern over anti-social behaviour in Enfield's parks and open spaces.

The SNPU commenced duty on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2005 and has been particularly successful since its introduction.

The staffing of this unit comprises of 1 Sergeant, 2 PC's and 15 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). They are dedicated to Enfield's parks and open spaces where they enforce the byelaws and provide a reassuring presence for park users.

The unit provides the following:

- High visibility patrols and proactive intelligence-led operations to combat anti-social behaviour.
- A reassuring presence for park users.
- Liaising with key stakeholders in relation to crime and antisocial behaviour.

Residents who witness anti social behaviour in the Borough's parks and open spaces are requested to call Enfield Council's 24 hour Customer Service Centre on 020 8379 1000. Incidents of a serious nature should still be reported direct to police via 999.

As of 2008 all Park staff, managers, and concessions within Parks now have access to a Duty Phone number that will be answered by an on duty member of the SNPU. This has greatly improved the response time to incidents and has made parks and concessions staff feel safer.

The unit provides high visibility patrols seven days a week between the hours of 10.00a.m. and 10.00p.m, although the unit does operate outside these hours when there is an operational need or whilst conducting proactive intelligence-led operations to combat anti-social behaviour.

Incidents occurring in parks are logged by both the Council and the Police with data shared and analysed so that patrols can be posted in the areas of greatest need. The tasking of the SNPU is then carried out at the bi-weekly multi partnership Street Action For Enfield (SAFE) meeting.

Pymmes Park in terms of crime is the most prolific in the Borough, and therefore represents a real challenge to the SNPU. Patrols are very high in number and the issues dealt with are vastly different to the quieter Parks within the Borough. The majority of issues centre around groups of youths, vandalism and aggressive dogs.

The SNPU have been authorised to use Enfield Council's fixed penalty notices for such offences as littering and dog fouling.

### Safer Neighbourhoods Parks Unit statistics for Pymmes Park for 2008

Fixed penalty notices issued:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	4

Arrests:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

Verbal warnings:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
8	15	14	16	11	15	24	12	5	22	15	2	161

In addition, the SNPU attends liaison meetings with the Friends group for Pymmes Park. This is particularly important in order to ensure that intelligence about antisocial behaviour and the potential perpetrators of such behaviour is shared to assist in the targeting of resources.

### Enfield Council's Dog Control Orders (effective from the 1st of November 2007):

- **Removal of dog faeces** - Dog faeces must be picked up and removed by the owner.
- **The exclusion of dogs from certain areas** - Dogs are not allowed in fenced areas within the park such as children's playgrounds, multi use games areas and tennis courts.
- **The keeping of dogs on leads by direction** - Dogs must be placed on a lead if asked to do so by an authorised officer.

Offences against any of the Orders are punishable by way of a **£80 fixed penalty notice**. Authorised officers are Police officers, PCSOs, and certain Council officers including the Safer Neighbourhoods Parks Unit who patrol the parks every day.

A zero tolerance approach is adopted in relation to all offences against the Orders.

Full details of the Orders are available on the Council's website, [www.enfield.gov.uk](http://www.enfield.gov.uk).

### Alcohol Controlled Area

Pymmes Park now falls within Alcohol Controlled Areas. This means that a Police Constable, or a PCSO can request that the person refrains from consuming alcohol in a park. If the person does not comply with the request to stop drinking the maximum fine is £500. This has proved effective with the result that fewer young people are drinking in the Park and causing nuisance and disturbance.

### **Feeling safe (7 day park staff rota)**

Impressions of safety are considerably enhanced by the presence of park staff. To this end a new staff rota has been established to ensure that instead of the previous Monday to Friday day cover, this is extended to include a rotating shift to allow cover to be provided for seven days per week, i.e. to include the busy weekend period and evenings. This will be reviewed to ensure that it meets the needs and demands of visitors.

The public respond positively to smart staff who project a positive impression of high standards of care and professionalism. Members of the horticultural maintenance staff are issued with new uniforms including protective boots. Uniform is worn at all times whilst the park is being maintained.

### **Proposed Byelaws for all parks**

Enfield Council is currently seeking to introduce new Byelaws for all parks within the London Borough of Enfield as the existing Byelaws are very dated both in terms of wording and punishment.

The introduction of the new Byelaws will further help Enfield Council tackle anti-social behaviour within the parks. The Safer Neighbourhoods Parks Unit will be responsible for enforcing the new Byelaws, for which the maximum penalty for offences against the Byelaws will be £500.

The proposed new Byelaws have now had three public consultations over a three year period, but finally all objections have been settled. This process has taken a long time, but a fully agreed set of Byelaws should finally be in place by early Autumn 2009.

The new Byelaws cover a multitude of potential problems within the parks, but certain byelaws will ultimately make our parks safer places. For example, the Council have received complaints regarding older children intimidating younger children in playgrounds. This type of situation will be able to be dealt with under the new Byelaws, by way of the fact that it will be an offence for children over the age of 14 to enter or remain in a children's playground unless they are in charge of a child under the age of 14.

### **Secure**

To deter individuals from gaining access and damaging the roof, Parks have upgraded the previous wooden fencing by installing palisade fencing around the Beverley Bowls Club at a cost of £6,000, which has improved the security of this facility.

Security of the yard and workshop building is currently being reviewed and money has been agreed for significant improvements to prevent access to the soon to be installed skylights.

## 10. Maintenance of Equipment, Buildings and Landscape

### Improving management of grounds maintenance standards

A review of quality standards has ascertained that they are adequate for Pymmes Park. However, work sheets are to be introduced to tighten the management of those standards, particularly in relation to litter collection and weed control. This will ensure better delivery of these standards, by ensuring that they are completed to timescales and in a satisfactory manner.

The schedule is also categorised into priority types indicating the importance attached to tasks and the precedence they take.

### Well Maintained

Pymmes Park (From East Area Sites Summary)	
Area of Activity	Total Annual Hours
Bedding	640
Herbaceous	285
Hedges	138
Grass Cutting	580
Grass Edging	132
Grass Leaf Clearance	230
Litter Bins Emptying	95
Path Sweeping	1,820
Playground sweeping/ inspection	182
Water Courses/ Ponds/ Streams	103
Public Conveniences	182
Football	272
Tennis Courts	271
<b>Pymmes Park Summary:</b>	<b>4,930</b>

## **Building maintenance**

Buildings are assessed through a condition survey every 3 years by the Council's Property Group and identified works are added to the repair and maintenance programme. The results are then prioritised and funding allocated.

Day-to-day reports of vandalism or wear and tear are dealt with through predetermined response times and prioritised e.g. safety – immediate

The Park manager periodically reviews progress of works with the Area Surveyor.

## **Annual Repair and Maintenance of playgrounds**

These are undertaken by an external company and this prioritises the repair and maintenance of playgrounds year on year. The Council in 2007, as part of the capital investment allocated £400K as additional monies for playground works.

## **Infrastructure**

An annual survey of all infrastructures is conducted by the parks technical officer to identify condition and to ensure that:-

- Immediate health and safety risks are identified
- Longer-term potential health and safety risks are identified Features are fit for purpose (is the path in the right position, constructed of suitable materials, etc)
- Visual and amenity considerations are accounted for (is the design appropriate, should a more attractive wearing course be applied to surfaces, etc)

Visual and amenity considerations are accounted for (is the design appropriate, should a more attractive wearing course be applied to surfaces, etc.)

A further 6 Monthly inspection is carried out to ensure that our fence line and footpaths are in good order.

Day to day maintenance and cleaning of footpaths and the playground equipment are all part of the duties of the grounds maintenance staff.



## 11. Litter, cleanliness and vandalism

Enfield's record on cleanliness places it as one of the top performers in London. The maintenance regime for the park of daily bin emptying, daily litter patrols and regular path sweeping ensure that continued high standards are maintained. In addition, edging is considered essential to the contribution to this indicator and also to the appearance to the park.

Cleanliness is measured in terms of two key indicators, litter and detritus. The BVPI 199 (Best Value Performance Indicator) grading system is designed to reflect the way that a member of the public would perceive the local environment.

The park contributes to the Council's overall open space portfolio and as such is subjected to assessment under BVPI 199. Regular litter picking, bin emptying and refuse collection assures that appropriate cleanliness standards are maintained.

The park is litter picked each morning on opening, and again after lunchtime. Enfield Council invests a great deal in the cleaning up of litter in terms of both time and cost, therefore, prevention is a key strategy.

Re-siting of litter bins - this will assist in the control of litter by siting infrequently used bins nearer to areas where litter tends to accumulate and where no provision has been made e.g. by the soccer pitch touch lines. It is intended that covered bins will be purchased for future provision on replacement bins.

### Enforcement

The issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices by the Safer Neighbourhoods Parks Unit is seen as vital in combating the source of the problem in parks. All enforcement staff are encouraged to operate a zero tolerance policy when encountering a littering offence.

Legally speaking, the word litter is given a wide interpretation. Litter can be as small as a sweet wrapper, large as a bag of rubbish or it can mean lots of items scattered about. ENCAMS describes litter as "Waste in the wrong place caused by human agency." In other words, people make litter. The Offence of Leaving Litter (section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990) says that if a person drops, throws, deposits or leaves anything so as to cause defacement in a public place, they could be committing a littering offence.

People who carelessly discard litter in any open place are committing a criminal offence. (Except where it is allowed by law or done with the consent of the owner or occupier of the land). This includes private as well as public land and land covered by water.

Prosecutions for littering are brought under section 87 - Offence of Leaving Litter - of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The offence is:

***"A person is guilty of an offence if he throws down, drops or otherwise deposits any litter in any place to which this section applies and leaves it."*** However, a person convicted of this offence could be liable to a maximum fine of £2,500 (a level 4 offence on the standard scale).

Parks do not want to issue Fixed Penalty Notices where the person did not know they had dropped the litter (e.g. If a tissue falls out of their pocket when they are getting their purse out) in this instance the person should be spoken to and asked to pick the litter up.

The Council recommend that tickets are only issued to offenders over the age of 16, even though legally speaking tickets can be issued to anyone over the age of 10. Offenders between the ages of 10-16 will have their details taken by the SNPU and a letter will be sent to the child's parents/guardians that essentially acts as a final warning.

### **Toilets**

Toilets are cleaned daily before the parks open and are further inspected during the course of the day by parks staff with any deficiencies phoned through to the Area Parks Officer for rectification.

Toilets were repainted by the Probation Service as part of a planned improvement programme for parks' conveniences during May 2007.

### **Dog Bins**

The Council operates a 'poop-scoop' system and encourages all dog owners to clean up after their dog. Special bins coloured red are strategically provided around the park principally by gates to facilitate disposal of collected waste.

A copy of the information leaflet (You and Your Dog) is attached at the back of the Management Plan.

The Council has a specific dog bin-emptying contract that provides for bin emptying on a once or twice a week cycle depending on volume of usage.

All materials taken away are destined for North London Waste.

### **Graffiti**

The Parks Service take their responsibility for providing a clean and tidy Borough very seriously. The removal of graffiti is seen as a key element of that objective. Graffiti is removed as soon as practicable with racist graffiti being removed within 24 hours. To achieve this ambitious target a number of parks staff have been trained in graffiti removal and the Parks Operation section has invested in specialist pressure washers specifically for the task.

## **12. Environmental Sustainability**

The Council's Strategic documents have included, as one of the policy priorities, the integration of the principals of 'sustainability' into the decision making process of the Council.

A number of specific guidelines have been set out in order to work towards an Environment Management System based on the requirements of BS EN ISO 14001:1996. These include:

- Enfield Council Travel Plan
- Green Workplace Guide
- Enfield Policy on Sustainable Design and Construction
- State of the Environment Report
- Environmental Purchasing Guide

There are a number of measures designed to enhance the sustainability and environment management in the park, including:

- The Council has adopted the principles of Local Agenda 21
- It has adopted a set of policies on environmental and sustainability matters and it is the intention to run the Park in line with these policies.
- These include the use of sustainable practices, methods and products whenever possible.

### **Planting of main entrance and side entrances**

The advantage from the point of view of sustainability is that the style of planting envisaged would involve minimal maintenance in the form of irrigation and fertilisation following establishment in the first season. For this reason it would be possible to eliminate the use of water and chemicals on these beds, unlike the culture of floral bedding which is more traditionally seen at park entrances or in other formal situations. Provision would include the erection of an information board in order to inform the public of the advantages of using similar planting in an urban or suburban private garden setting, whilst at the same time providing colour and interest throughout the year. This style is seen as an ideal blueprint for attractive planting at a time of increasing drought and public concerns about global warming.

### **Review of energy and water consumption**

The Energy Unit of the Council carried out an audit of consumption including buildings in Pymmes Park at the end of January 2007. This review has been used to assist decisions relating to buildings in the park.

### **Development of recycling area**

The maintenance yard is used as a messing facility for staff, garaging for machinery and equipment, and storage for consumables. In line with the policy to recycle as much waste as possible, an increasing amount of waste from maintenance operations is re-used on site. Five years ago a set of composting bays for parks waste were set up on site. These bays are used to process almost all green waste produced on site and the contents of these are used on planted areas.

Domestic green waste recycling is further encouraged with the shredding of Christmas trees.

## **Pesticides/Herbicides/Insecticides**

The Council has a policy of limiting the use of pesticides as far as possible. In terms of grounds maintenance, particular procedures have been written into maintenance regimes to achieve this. Within Pymmes Park treatment is normally only used on the bowling green.

For weed, pest and disease control, the parks will always pursue cultural control practices in the first instance. Chemical treatment will only be permitted, when a particular problem is exceptional, or deemed nonviable or impractical by any other methods. Parks will seek to reduce the amount of chemical applied in ground maintenance situations year on year.

## **Reducing Water Usage**

The Council takes seriously it's obligations to reduce the overall consumption of water. In this task Parks are using bedding varieties that will tolerate less watering whilst retaining a good flowering ability. In a similar way we are experimenting with drought resistant shrub and herbaceous species in bedding displays and shrub and herbaceous beds. The Council are looking to increase artesian water by installing new wells in appropriate locations within parks.

Mulching for weed control has become widely used at Pymmes Park, this has the added benefit of reducing the watering requirement. Currently some 75% of all shrub beds are mulched and all newly installed or replanted beds are mulched. This generally helps establishment and reduces water usage.

This is monitored and assessed through the annual returns made to the Local Water Authority.

## **Green Waste**

The use of day-to-day green waste such as tree clippings and leaf mulch has increased dramatically over the last three years, to the extent that the purchasing of mulch is now not required as this is now generated completely within Enfield's parks.

The Parks Service has embarked upon a wider green waste project for the purpose of composting and recycling green waste with Pymmes Park being one of the pilot sites commencing in 2000/01.

Our green waste management policy is now in effect and as the composting facility comes fully on-line the proportion of mulched beds will increase up to an estimated potential 85% of all beds.

## **Peat Usage**

No peat is used in Pymmes Park. It is a requirement of procurement procedures and our suppliers have confirmed that all bought-in bedding stock is grown with non-peat compost.

## **Sourcing Materials and Plants**

Apart from the problems of sourcing plants that have been grown in peat free mediums, we also undertake careful purchasing procedures to encourage local supply and local sourcing of materials. In particular we discourage the purchasing of imported tree and shrub stock e.g. we use local growers from the Lee Valley area where possible. This, we believe, will safeguard the environment and minimise fossil fuel use in transporting goods to and fro.

## **Utility Usage**

We are currently looking at our electricity, gas and water charges on each site. Parks are working in unison with the Council Energy Management Team on a reduction programme within each park/facility.

## **Adopting New Green Ideas and Innovations**

Enfield's parks have attained Beacon Council Status for improving Urban Green Space. We have become one of the leading park authorities in Britain in putting environmental conservation in action. We are pursuing this idea through hard work and diligence but also through the adoption of new ideas and innovations. Building on community support and enthusiasm has been the key to this.

### **Portable sawmill**

Parks have purchased a Norwood Lumbermate portable sawmill for the intention of recycling. When suitable timber becomes available during turbulent weather or trees have to be felled for any reason e.g. health and safety, dead or diseased it is proposed where possible to re-use the timber on site. We are also currently working with our engineers department to recycle wood from our parks for bridges that we have commissioned within our parks and bridleways.

The sawmill can handle logs up to 31" in diameter (77.5cm) and mill boards and beams up to 24" wide(60cm) and 13ft long (3.9m).

The sawmill is fully portable coming with a trailer that can be towed behind your car or truck on the highway or to site for cutting.

### **Sustainable management of buildings**

The Energy Team has assessed all buildings in the Park in terms of energy and water consumption during 2007. A feasibility study has been completed which indicates what measures need to be taken to reduce consumption to sustainable levels. A report has been presented to Property Services in order that they can consider and include the required works within the Repair and Maintenance works programme for 2008.

### **Maintenance**

We will maintain the site in accordance with the principles outlined in the management plan and utilise the allocated resources efficiently and effectively.

### **Review of maintenance machinery**

Following a review of standards in 2006, a funding programme was approved to purchase a range of equipment and machinery for the in-house grounds maintenance unit across the Borough. This includes an allocation of £33,000 for the Eastern area, of which Pymmes Park is part, and should do much to improve standards. In addition, it is proposed to review the sustainability of the machinery and equipment used for the grounds maintenance operation, considering:

- Fuel usage (e.g. could the machinery use bio fuels, LPG, etc.).
- Can machinery be purchased which increases the recycling of green waste, e.g. wood chippers.
- Does equipment operate in an environmentally-friendly way, e.g. can mulch mowers be used, which would reduce all grass arisings to a fine and evenly-spread mulch to reduce nuisance caused by clippings on paths at peak periods and provide a natural feed for lawn areas.



## **Reducing our Ecological Footprint**

Parks currently use 5% bio-diesel as an additive in all fuels that has been recommended for industry.

In addition Parks also add “Additone” (EC-1500 Ashless) that reduces emissions and increases efficiency. It does this by reducing the pollutant emissions from your vehicle exhaust. Emissions of hydrocarbons, particulate and nitrogen oxides (NOx) are all reduced.

Fuel consumption is also reduced. With an improvement in fuel economy there is an additional environmental gain to be seen in a reduction in greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide (CO2).

## **Other Assets and facilities**

Other facilities and users on site i.e. the Pymmes Park Bowling Club, MIND, Stroke Action and Visitor’s Centre have all be inducted in the Council policies of waste minimalisation and energy usage. The Park Manager has regular meeting with those involved to ensure compliance.

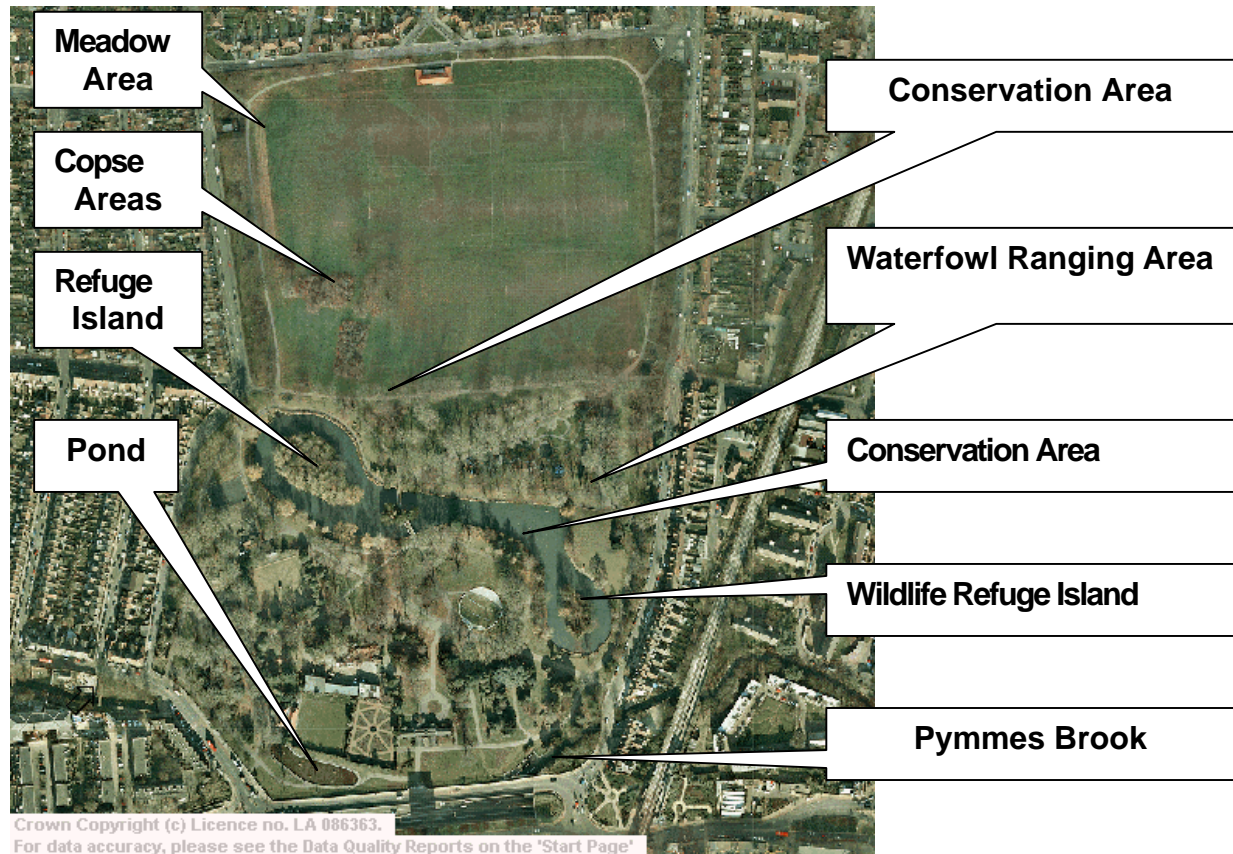
## **Office Waste**

The office waste paper is now put through a shredder and then the paper is put on to our own compost heaps here in the park, this in turn will end up on the bed areas as a part of the composting program.

### 13. Conservation of Heritage and Nature

#### General description – Nature

There are two named conservation areas in Pymmes Park. The trees are a mixture of mature and young native and introduced species. The site also boasts a copse area, a lake with two wildlife refuge islands and a waterfowl ranging area. Recent volunteer and community activities include the installation of bird boxes and an ongoing invasive species clearance and tidying project.



#### Lake

As part of the Heritage Lottery Fund improvements, the lake has undergone a de-silting programme and the rebuilding of its banks in recent years. An aeration device has also been installed to help facilitate a healthy eco-system. The lake and refuge islands support a wide range of common breeding waterfowl species that are visible throughout the year, including Pochard, Tufted Duck, Little Grebe and Canada Goose. A Grey Heron is also sighted here on a daily basis. There is some notable marginal flora, including Remote Sedge and Gypsywort. The islands also provide a home for Stag Beetles.

#### Ornamental Pond

The pond located at the south side of Pymmes Park has Smooth/Common newt (*Lissotriton Vulgaris*) and a variety of water invertebrates including Pond Skaters and Water Scorpions.

## **Grassland**

The meadow area located at the West end of the North playing field harbours and supports a variety of wildlife and invertebrates. The football pitches, amenity and ornamental areas are regularly mowed.

## **Trees and Shrubs**

Pymmes Park is partly bounded by mature trees, providing a habitat for bats, birds and invertebrates. The Southern ornamental section of the park, including the wildlife refuge islands, has a wide variety of native and foreign species, including English Oak, Silver Birch, Yew, Deodar, Incense Cedar, Hawthorn and Rowan, among many others.

## **Pymmes Brook**

The adjoining brook is a partially natural banked watercourse, harbouring trees, woodland and tall herb stands. Water plants include Reed Canary Grass and Waterweed.

## **Community Involvement**

Pymmes Park has an active Friends Group who, in partnership with Parks Maintenance, have organised an ongoing local community conservation volunteer programme. Participants meet once a month to remove invasive species, plant whips, and carry out general clearance work in the conservation and copse areas.

The Friends of Pymmes Park are currently seeking funding for equipment and materials to enhance and sustain their conservation volunteer group.

## **Management of Trees**

The broad policy of woodland management will be to maintain and improve the quality and appearance of the woodlands by ensuring continuity, encouraging a varied age structure and a mixed population of trees where desirable and encouraging natural regeneration of native species.

Elements for positive management that will enhance the importance of Pymmes Park and ensure the longevity of the treescape of the park for future generations:

- The majority of the trees are mature specimens and regular attention will be needed.
- All trees adjacent to footpaths to be crown lifted to a minimum height of 2.1m.
- Trees near footpaths that have major deadwood in the crowns to be removed.
- Newly planted trees are checked to ensure no damage is being caused to the stems by the tree ties. The bases are kept weed free with formative pruning to take place where necessary to ensure a good crown structure.
- Woodland areas to be regularly monitored for dangerous trees and remedial action taken immediately. Dead wood to remain in situ as habitats for the wide range of animals and insects.

Regular inspection by the site management and site teams are undertaken to ensure that the treescape is kept in good condition.

Any tree found to be dead, dying or in a dangerous condition are dealt with immediately, either through tree surgery or removal. The Council has a 24 hr emergency response agreement with the Arboricultural contractor for immediate action.  
Other day-to-day tree works are dealt with in a pre-programmed schedule.

In addition to the day-to-day operations a review of tree management has been undertaken entitled "Initial Arboricultural Report: Pymmes Park". This will involve identification of key features and determining action plans associated with:

- Trees bordering the Park's boundaries.
- Rows and avenues of trees defining footpaths.
- Ornamental area of the Park.
- Wildlife conservation area and children's playground.

The action plan associated with the review will be produced and included in the parks maintenance programme for 2009.

### **Management of the Parkland**

Pymmes Park has several conservation areas that are used by the wild fowl. School children visiting the park are shown these areas and informed of what the benefits are in having a conservation area and how they are managed to encourage wildlife.

The conservation grass areas are mainly left to grow during the summer months. During October the grass is cut down and raked off, this gives us a clean area free from any debris that may have been left by our visitors.

Butterfly monitoring – Following a baseline survey it is intended to survey the type and distribution of butterfly species with Friends of Parks, dog walkers and Volunteers, with assistance from Herts and Middx Butterfly and Moth Conservation with effect from the spring of 2007.

Flora and fauna survey – Following a baseline survey it is intended to institute a survey of flora and fauna species within the park with the help of the Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust with effect from the spring of 2008.

There are planned Moth and Bat evenings in July, for Friends of Parks and members of the public, with assistance from the Parks Outreach team.

Some tasks provide an ideal opportunity for practical conservation volunteer workdays.

### **GLA Survey**

During the summer of 2007 a full habitat survey of green space was undertaken within Enfield by the GLA, which included cemeteries and allotments.

## **Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)**

Parks have been leading on producing a “People and Nature in Enfield: A place shaping biodiversity action plan”. Following internal discussion and consultation with all council groups on a draft policy during June 2008, a programme included in the appendices has been produced during September 2008.

Following further meetings a consultation will take place on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009, with stakeholders and officers to agree and map out the way forward.

As part of the action plan Enfield will be signing up to joining GIGL that will also allow access to the GLA survey recently carried out across all green spaces in Enfield.

## **GIGL**

All data held for Enfield will be handed over to the Borough as GIS/Excel/Access files under a service level agreement. This will include all habitat survey data from last year's survey (all sites over 0.25ha are surveyed for habitats, open space info and plant species), species data and open space (PPG17) data too. These datasets are updated every quarter for each partner to ensure their data holdings for open space and biodiversity reflect ours. GIGL, also has a range of products and services that are relevant to biodiversity, parks and planning departments.

## 14. Community Involvement

This is crucial to the development and management of Pymmes Park and will be improved by:

### **'Friends of Pymmes Park'**

As part of the Council's policy in respect to Best Value and Local Agenda 21 it is committed to increase community participation in the management of major facilities such as Pymmes Park.

A 'Friends of Pymmes Park' group was established in 2001. Local residents, visitors and persons representing such organisations as the local Police, have become actively involved. The Group has a formal committee and meets publicly every 3 months.

The group have recently signed up to a new formal agreement to improve the level of co-operation between the Friends, the Council and other key stakeholders in the community based on a model agreed by the Council. Previously, a Council representative has chaired joint meetings however, as part of the new agreement meetings are chaired and run by the friends committee. The Friends of Jubilee Park have a strong organisation that has been in existence for several years. The agreement clearly identifies the status and aims of the group. It also seeks to ensure issues such as health and safety, open access, and management issues are correctly addressed. The new agreement covers:

- Statement of intent
- Representation
- Group attendance by other stakeholders
- Aims and objectives
- Acting in a democratic manner with no discrimination
- Involvement in decision-making
- Encouragement to assist in conservation tasks
- Encouragement to promote events and activities within its Park

Encouragement of Voluntary Friends and Conservation Groups provide opportunities for improvements for parks and open spaces without any increase in expenditure. Groups such as the 'Friends of Pymmes Park' have the chance to apply for funding not available to Enfield Council and can enhance the Council's parks and open spaces for the wider community, whilst giving those involved a sense of ownership.

A range of activities include regular meetings to discuss how the park can be enhanced; volunteer work for those interested in wildlife conservation and collecting data on wildlife, carrying out simple tasks that help keep the park clean and tidy, walks and talks and keeping the group informed of any changes affecting the park.

A number of events and activities have taken place in this past year and a planned programme of activities is being formulated for 2009 involving the Outreach Team, the SNPU and the Sport Development Team. All information will be placed on the Council website and notice boards.

Encouraging the running of a range of events and activities – as indicated in the SWOT analysis, the events and activities programme has not been extensive enough to engage the local community to full potential in the past. A new way of considering this issue for Pymmes Park will include:

- Information is now more accessible with improved signage at all main entrances to the park.
- Interpretation boards are installed where new landscapes or habitats are created.
- Temporary notices are used to advertise improvements before and during implementation.
- The style of signage consists of visual imagery rather than the overuse of text, e.g. by using symbols and pictures. This will assist those ethnic minorities with a limited grasp of written English as well as those with learning disabilities.

### **Outreach Team**

The Outreach Team was formed in the summer of 2005 following the reorganisation of the Parks Service. The team comprises of one manager and three officers whose duties include supporting “Friends” groups, park walks, volunteer & conservation work, the encouragement of appropriate shows & events and liaising with other park groups. In addition, Enfield in Bloom is part of this unit and comprises of one manager, one full time staff, one part time staff and is complemented by an active external volunteer committee.

Specific duties of the Outreach Team include:

- Liaising with the Safer Neighbourhoods Parks Unit to reduce the fear of crime within the parks and open spaces.
- Promoting appropriate events and activities.
- Encouraging the development of new “Friends” groups.
- Working with the voluntary and community sector to organise and deliver environmental and conservation projects.
- Working in partnership with schools to encourage participation in conservation and Enfield in Bloom projects.
- Organising and leading guided walks.
- Organising training courses i.e. countryside management, funding surgeries.
- Designing leaflets, maps, and interpretive information to publicise the services of the Outreach Team and Enfield in Bloom.
- Collection and collation of information relating to visitors’ needs and suggestions to assist in the planning of future services.
- Organisation of the Enfield in Bloom competition.



## **Volunteers**

There is a strong community commitment to volunteering within parks. This is primarily through the Enfield Conservation Volunteers and the Ground Force Team.

Both organisations are coordinated by the Outreach Team and undertake such works as fence repairs, hedge laying, tree planting, scrub clearance and path laying.

Further information is produced on leaflets and available on the website.

## **Probation and Young Offenders Service**

Parks engage and work in partnership with the Police and the Probation Service carrying out general maintenance within parks. Risk assessments are carried out by the relevant service prior to work being undertaken with all work being carried out through an on site supervisor.

## **Parks Business Unit**

The Parks Business Unit comprises of one Senior Business Support Officer and 3 Parks Business Support Officers. They are responsible for the management of sports pitch lettings, events and customer service.

Specific duties include:

General administration and financial duties

- Logging of all complaints [general, corporate Stage complaints and Member Enquiries onto the M3 system and appropriately assigned to officers for action within the agreed timescales.
- Managing sport pitch booking services, including providing advice and information to users/potential users and letting sport pitches.
- Managing the events booking service, including providing information on forthcoming events and advice and guidance to first time event organisers.

## **15. Marketing**

**There are a number of ways in which Pymmes Park can be publicised:-**

- Use of local media
- On-site information
- Council website

A marketing strategy has been developed to look specifically at green flag parks and was rolled out to all parks during 2008.

### **Use of Local Media**

A significant way in which the profile of the Park can be built up and maintained is by creating newsworthy “stories” for the local media, i.e. newspapers, local radio, etc. Press releases are generated for each aspect of the improvements contained in the Management Plan, including:

- Volunteer activity
- Enfield in Bloom activity
- Events
- Sport
- New developments

To maximise the value of parks and open spaces to the residents of the Borough we will take every opportunity to promote Pymmes Park, through the use of leaflets and other public announcements, promotion of events held on the site and producing press releases.

### **On-Site Information**

There are a number of elements which should be used to publicise the Park and encourage repeat visits. These include:

- The erection of signboards at entrances.
- Erection of temporary notice boards at the site of any improvements. These should detail the objective for the works, how they will be carried out and a timescale for implementation.

### **Council Website**

Green Flag parks including Pymmes Park have associated up to the minute information maintained on site. This can be used to:

- Inform the public about key policies (including any updating or amending of the Management Plan).
- Provide information about key events and activities.
- Provide information about the facilities contained within the Park.
- Inform residents about changes which may occur in future (e.g. landscape improvements).

Those websites already contributing to the media campaign are:

- London parks discovery project – a London Parks and Gardens Trust funded project to act as a resource for schools. This can be viewed at [www.parkexplorer.org.uk](http://www.parkexplorer.org.uk) and it contains historic context and photos.
- The Enfield Conservation Volunteers website at [www.ECV.ORG.UK](http://www.ECV.ORG.UK) which sets out the events and activities of the group including Pymmes Park
- The number 1 Internet site for London [www.londontown.com](http://www.londontown.com) also includes an entry for the park with its facilities and features.

## **Park Leaflets**

A Park leaflet on Pymmes Park, together with the Parks Charter and the “You and Your Dog” are included as attachments.

## **Events**

A number of events take place in the park, some attracting large numbers of users. Before each event, the organiser is required to provide evidence of experience and planning by completing an events questionnaire and returning to the parks events officer. Certain criteria must be satisfied before the event can be authorised including adequate organisation for the event, anticipation of numbers and eventualities, health and safety factors including risk assessment where appropriate. The organisers may be required to provide a bond and/or evidence of sufficient public liability insurance depending on the nature and scale of the event.

The park has two major funfair visits from Manning’s each year in the North side of the park, with one visit in June and the other one during September. The funfair is fenced and has a staffed gated entrance and exit. Members of the public are required to pay a nominal entrance fee that is returnable on presentation of their entry ticket when they access a ride.

Parks facilitated local school children staging a concert in the tiered performance area during the Summer of 2008. The event was a great success with follow-on shows being planned for 2009.

Further events booked for the summer of 2009 include 2 community events named “Festival of Life” and the “Phoenix Horizon Community Festival”

The Outreach Team of the Parks Service organise a number of events. These include guided walks, usually with a theme, which may extend to a greater area than the park. They also organise volunteer work activities, some involving local schools and other groups.

The successful ‘Walk & Talk’ programme has a walk in the park on Fridays at 2pm which due to popularity has been extended in 2009 with a further walk on Mondays starting at 11am fortnightly (Begins 12<sup>th</sup> January) and Wednesdays fortnightly (Begins 21<sup>st</sup> January).

**Please call one to one Enfield on 020 8373-6241 to confirm dates and times.**

The walks are led by paid and voluntary walk leaders. Enfield’s Outreach Team trains voluntary walk leaders and provides support & advice. The ‘Walk & Talk’ programme began in 2003 in selected Parks working in partnership with Sports development, Age Concern, Over Fifties forum, local community groups and PCT to provide walks in the Borough. The walks provide a regular free event where people can meet others, walk at their own pace & level of fitness and be led by trained leaders – Leaflet attached to the back of the Management Plan.

There are also a number of informal activities that are undertaken in the park, these include:

- Tai Chi
- Rounder's
- Tennis coaching scheme
- Walking
- Jogging

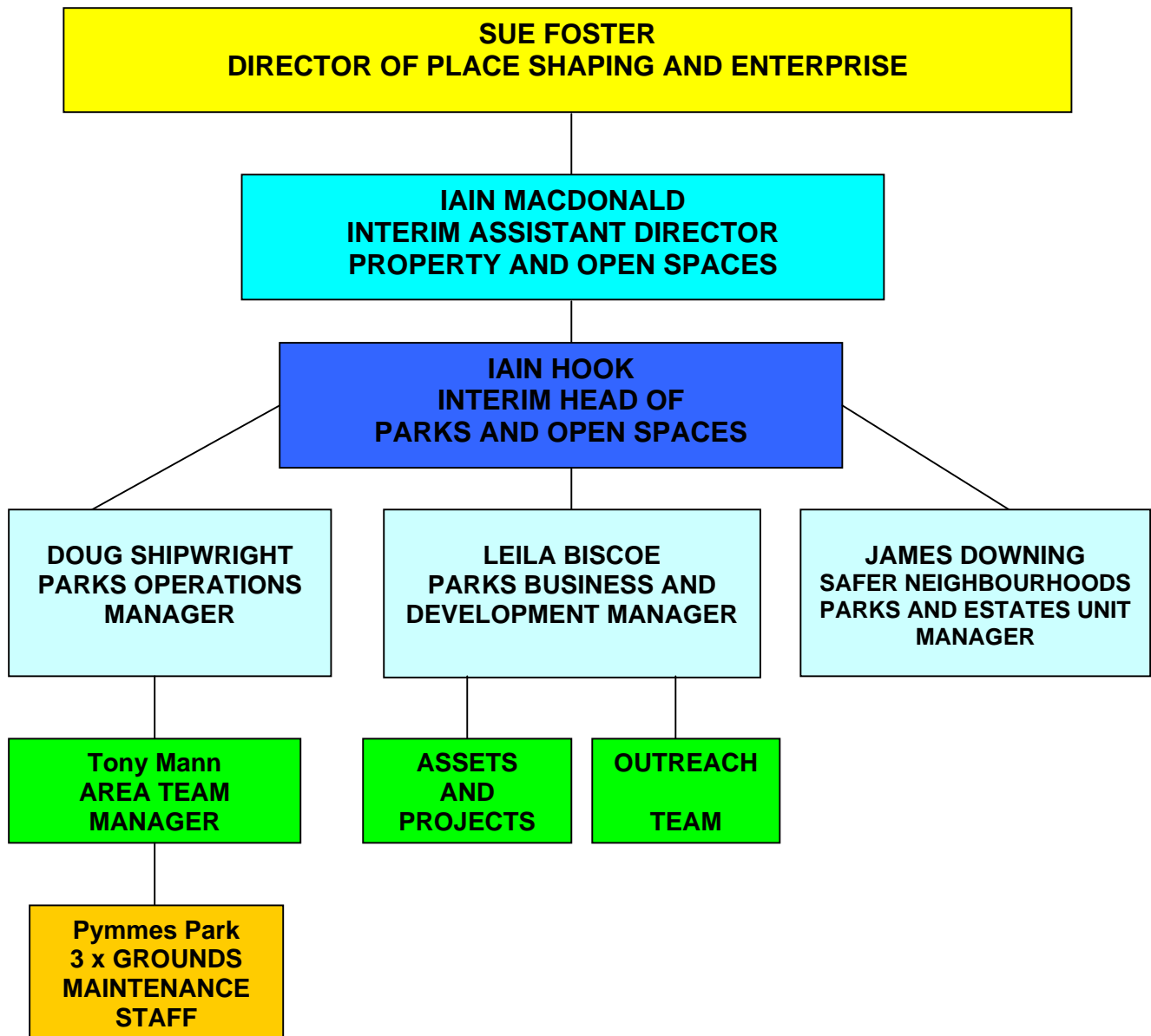
The Parks Business Unit has an officer responsible for the promotion and development of events. This includes regulation, co-ordination and publicising. The aim is to increase the number of events taking place in Pymmes Park over the period of the action plan. People who wish to hold an event in the park can book it via the Parks Business Unit based at the Civic Centre on 020 8379 1000.

## 16. Management

The objectives of the park management and staff is to develop the site in such a way as to improve the site and enhance the visitor experience whilst conserving character, heritage and ecology. This will be done through gathering as much information as possible about the site and its users and developing a plan that is robust and meaningful to all.

A structure has been put in place and resources have been provided to support actions necessary to effectively and efficiently deliver the plan.

### Parks Maintenance Staffing East area



### Management arrangements

Pymmes Park has a budget allocation of £125,090 with a compliment of three full time staff.

Management of the Park will be progressed through this Plan.

The management of the park is the responsibility of the Parks and Open Spaces Service, which is part of the Council's Place Shaping and Enterprise Group. Enfield's Parks Service is split into 3 areas, North, East and the West area. Pymmes Park is part of the Eastern area.

The area has a team leader with responsibility for 39 sites (12 sites being parks and the other 27 sites open spaces).

Seven day working now means that parks are staffed throughout the week. The Parks quality improvement programme was implemented in June 2006 and incorporates weekly inspections of performance to ensure that Parks & Open Spaces are being well maintained, with litter and graffiti being removed promptly, efficiently and effectively. All areas work towards achieving the quality improvement programme standard of acceptable performance of 75% on all inspections.

### **Improving management of grounds maintenance standards**

It is considered that standards have been improved. A review of quality standards has ascertained that they are adequate for Pymmes Park. However, work sheets are to be introduced to tighten the management of those standards, particularly in relation to litter collection and weed control. This will ensure better delivery of these standards by ensuring that they are completed to time and in a satisfactory manner. The Parks Operation Manager will undertake monthly tours to audit and assess standards.

### **Management systems**

Parks are currently piloting for the London Borough of Enfield, "systems thinking" working with the Vanguard Consultancy. This process involves reviewing and redesigning how the collective functions within Parks & Open Spaces meet the purpose of the system, that for the customer can be defined as; "an enjoyable space that meets my needs."

In taking an outside in approach i.e. we look at what matters to users of the park and what types of demand do we get e.g. cutting the grass, pruning of shrubs, organise an event, how many and how often. Having completed this exercise we can identify how effectively we currently meet that need or not, and where we don't, what do we have to do differently to meet that need? For example a change to roles, resource, plant & equipment, capital investment etc.

To date the case for change has been made and agreed at Director level and at present the park team are experimenting with work design etc. what does different look like whilst balancing the cost and or benefits in order to make an informed choice of whether to make it permanent or not.

### **Train to Gain 2009**

14 staff attended induction on Wednesday 22nd January, with another 10 due to attend on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February. The arrangement will be 2 groups of staff working with tutors from Capel Manor working in our chosen parks.

Train to gain, is a service for businesses which provides help to identify and source training that will improve the skills of our workforce and business performance. Parks are committed to investing in the development of the skills and qualifications of park staff to gain their first full Level 2 Amenity Horticulture.

The programme will be delivered over 9/10 month period with tutors attending 1 day per month on site. The high quality training will be provided by Capel Manor College primarily in the aspects of horticulture and arboriculture.

There are 7 modules of which the first 2 cover Health and Safety. The remaining 5 to be optional relating to the individuals needs linked specifically to their work. Trainees must be aged 19+, have the legal right to work in the United Kingdom and must either be employed, self-employed or working as volunteers.

## Apprenticeships

Parks Operations has recognised and addressed the urgent need, not only for the parks maintenance staff 'self development' but also to improve their horticultural skills and knowledge. 6 Places have been secured for apprenticeship training courses at Capel Manor Horticultural College commencing in January 2008. The aim of this apprenticeship is to train learners in the basic skills appropriate to their position and to provide a platform of key skills to enable further development at advanced level.

The apprenticeship course over 20 months is tailored to help with key skills – including literacy and numeracy if applicable and extended to applicants aged 25yrs or over. Apprentices attend college one day a week term time at Capel Manor college Enfield. Candidates can progress at their own pace and are able to complete in a shorter time period. Capel Manor have been very encouraging, and have worked with parks to have an important input with specific training needs that could be built into the course ie; sports marking, ride on pedestrian mowing etc.

Success in this course leads to the nationally recognised award of apprenticeship in amenity horticulture consisting of City & Guilds 2 Amenity Horticulture, Key Skills Level 1, Emergency First Aid and two legislative or occupational tests.



Funding for new uniforms for grounds maintenance staff cost £3,200 (equates to £110 per person).

## Resourcing

There are a number of other sources of both internal and external resourcing for both improvements and the management of the park. These include:

- Property Services through their contractors maintain the park buildings.
- The buildings used by the Pymmes Park Bowls Club and the Stroke Action club are leased and aspects of the internal maintenance and surrounding land are the clubs responsibility.

- The fence lines surrounding the park are the responsibility of the parks service along with the path network. The parks technical officer on a 6 month basis assesses and arranges works as required.
- Day to day maintenance and cleaning of footpaths and the playground equipment are all part of the duties of the grounds maintenance staff.
- Management has the responsibility of the horticultural requirements for the park, along with allocation of the parks budget, staff, materials and equipment.

### **Machinery and equipment for grounds maintenance**

As part of a programme of investment during 2007, new machinery and equipment has been purchased to ensure that maintenance frequencies are adhered to and that quality standards are maximised. A total allocation of £110,000 has been made for the Borough, of which £30,000 has been allocated to the eastern area (of which Pymmes Park forms part). This will enhance grounds maintenance standards and ensure that frequency standards are met.

	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Unit cost</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Order Num</b>
Scambler	1	Gator	£6,795.00	£6,795.00	4500188185
Scambler	1	John Deere1545 rotary	£14,350.00	£14,350.00	4500188223
Fleetline	1	Spray kits (line marking)	£800.00	£800.00	4500188343
Tuckwell	2	Hedgecutter THT253	£280.00	£560.00	4500188570
Tuckwell	2	Strimmer 4200DX	£310.00	£620.00	4500188571
Tuckwell	1	Strimmer 550DX	£355.00	£355.00	4500188623
Tuckwell	1	Etesia 46PBTS	£485.00	£485.00	4500188573
Tuckwell	1	Etesia pro 51	£750.00	£750.00	4500188574
Tuckwell	2	Pro46 PBE	£395.00	£790.00	4500188572
Palmerston	1	Stihl HT75	£425.00	£425.00	4500188576
Palmerston	2	Stihl HL75	£399.00	£798.00	4500188577
Palmerston	2	Knapsack	£85.00	£170.00	4500188575
Ernest Doe	2	BR380	£300.00	£600.00	4500188579
Ernest Doe	2	BR600	£644.00	£1,288.00	4500188579
Ernest Doe	2	BR550	£614.00	£1,228.00	4500188579
				<b>£30,014.00</b>	

### **Infrastructure**

An annual survey of all infrastructure, including footpaths, buildings, car parks, railings, fences and litter bins has been completed. This is further monitored daily by parks staff to assess condition and to ensure that repairs are prioritised. Recently completed works included resurfacing and new fencing to the tennis courts.

### **Football pitch renovation works**

During spring, renovation works to relieve compaction, uneven surfaces and to improve soil fertility are carried out. This includes the use of a Vertidrain to relieve compaction, re-seeding with suitable species of hard-wearing grasses in order to provide an improved quality of surface and to reduce the risk of trip accidents. These will be continued on an annual basis at the end of the football season in May each year.



## **Arboriculture management**

A review of tree management is being undertaken entitled "Initial Arboricultural Report: Pymmes Park." This involves identification of key features including:

- Woodland
- Historical parkland trees and other significant features
- Avenues
- New planting features
- Lakeside trees

## **Buildings**

### **New Automatic Public Convenience APC (£266,000 - 2008)**

As part of agreed funding with Transport For London (TFL), works have now been completed in regards to APC toilet facilities to replace the existing facility that TFL had to remove as part of a road widening scheme.

### **Beverley Bowls Club (£3,000 - 2007)**

During the 1990`s, the Beverley Bowls Club was closed due to a decline in interest and the building gradually fell into a state of disrepair. In 2007 the building was redecorated to include a steel entrance door and roof panels to enhance security.

### **Community / Visitor Centre building**

This is in good condition with disabled access and associated toilets. The building will be further upgraded during 2008 following a fire risk assessment with 2 new fire doors and a new fire alarm system following increased usage.

## **MUGA**

The double Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) was built during 2006/07 (£93,000).

## **Tennis Courts**

The tennis courts were resurfaced and upgraded during 2007 (£44,000).

## 17. Action Plan

The five-year Action Plan is divided into a number of key areas relevant to the management and development of the park, namely:

- Actions
- Target date for completion
- Lead staff
- Outcomes against Green Flag criteria
- Resources
- Progress to date
- Review date

Objectives have been divided between short term actions to be achieved in year one, medium term actions to be achieved in years 2 & 3 and longer-term actions for years 4 & 5.

### Monitoring and Review

The Action plan identifies the allocation of tasks and the annual review dates.

In addition to the Annual Review undertaken by the Senior Management Board, periodic reviews are conducted by the site management team and the Friends to determine progress and resolution actions.

The Annual Review progress report is delivered to the Council's Performance Review for inclusion in the Council's Improvement and Best Value Performance Plan.

The Plan itself is reviewed annually and the Action Plan updated. Service standards and performance levels will be the subject of review and modification made as appropriate to maintain user satisfaction levels.

Additional items to the Management Plan and Action Plan will be the subject of consultation locally.

Green Flag criteria have been numbered in the tables, and are as follows:

1. A welcoming place
2. Healthy, safe and secure
3. Clean and well maintained
4. Sustainability
5. Conservation and heritage
6. Community involvement
7. Marketing
8. Management

### **Short Term Actions**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Lead Staff</b>	<b>Outcomes against Green Flag Criteria</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Progress To Date</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
1.	Introduce new staff rotas to improve cover	Jan 2007	Doug Shipwright	2,8	Staff time	Completed	<b>N/A</b>
2.	Introduce smart and welcoming uniforms for maintenance staff <b>N.B Action achieved by time of finalising draft plan</b>	Jan 2007	Doug Shipwright	1,8	Staff time	Completed	<b>N/A</b>
3.	Assess water and energy consumption to Park buildings	Jan 2007	Tony Corrigan	4	Staff time	Completed	<b>N/A</b>
4.	Effective utilisation of building "Stroke Action"	Jan 2007	Tony Corrigan	6	Staff time	Completed	<b>N/A</b>
5.	Purchase new aluminium boat for accessing the lake	Jan 2007	Doug Shipwright	2	Green Flag Budget	Completed	<b>N/A</b>
4.	Sign new Friends Agreement	Feb 2007	Leila Biscoe	6	Staff time/ Friends	Completed	<b>N/A</b>

No.	Actions	Target Date	Lead Staff	Outcomes against Green Flag Criteria	Resources	Progress To Date	Review Date
7.	Purchase new machinery and equipment for grounds maintenance	Feb 2007	Doug Shipwright	3,8	Improvement programme	On Target	<b>April 09</b>
8.	Clean out pond	March 2007	Tony Mann	1,2,3	Staff	On Target	<b>March 09</b>
9.	Carry out repainting of male and female toilets	Mar 2007	Tony Corrigan	1,2,3	Probation service	Completed	<b>N/A</b>
10.	Commence marketing Strategy for park	April 2007	Gary Quilter	7	Staff time	Completed	<b>N/A</b>
11.	Commence assessment survey of infrastructure	Mar 2007	George Bond	2,3,8	Staff time	On Target	<b>March 09</b>
12.	Commence surgery sessions in park (SNPU)	Mar 2007	John Bobin	1,2,8	Staff time	Completed	<b>N/A</b>

No.	Actions	Target Date	Lead Staff	Outcomes against Green Flag Criteria	Resources	Progress To Date	Review Date
13.	Complete Marketing Strategy for park	Sept 2007	Gary Quilter	7	Staff time	Completed	N/A
14.	New planting scheme at main entrance	Apr 2007	Karen Gurrey	1,4,5	Sponsorship/ Parks Revenue budget	On Target	Nov 08
15.	Erect interpretative sign at main entrance + new signs following audit	July 2007	John Bobin	1,4,5	Green Flag budget	On Target	N/A
16.	Produce report assessing improvements to water and energy consumption in Park buildings	Apr 2007	Tony Corrigan	4	Staff time Green Flag Budget	Completed	N/A
17.	Dr John Eaton to produce aquatic management report on water quality in lake	May 2007	Tony Corrigan	2,3	Green Flag Budget	Completed	N/A

No.	Actions	Target Date	Lead Staff	Outcomes against Green Flag Criteria	Resources	Progress To Date	Review Date
18.	Complete wall to garden + sign	May 2007	Tony Corrigan	4,8	Heritage Lottery Funded	On Target	N/A
19.	Following Dr Eaton`s report re No.17. Introduce new fountain and aerators to attract wildlife and enhance water quality	Jun 2007	Tony Corrigan	2	Green Flag Budget	Complete	N/A
21.	Installation of new Automatic Public Convenience (APC)	Jul 2007	Tony Corrigan		Transport for London	On Target	N/A
22.	Carry out any repair works to infrastructure	Aug 2007	George Bond	2,3	Parks Revenue budget	On Target	June 09
23.	Move litter bins to reflect needs of visitors	Aug 2007	Trevor Richards	3	Staff time	On Target	N/A

### ***Medium Term Actions***

<b>No.</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Lead Staff</b>	<b>Outcomes against Green Flag Criteria</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Progress To Date</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
1.	Commence regular audit and remedial works to tree stock	Jan 2008	Alex Campbell	2,3,5,8	Parks Revenue Budget	On Target	<b>Jan 09</b>
2.	Introduction of opening hours at visitor centre	Jan 2008	Shirley Scott	1,7	Friends of Pymmes Park Volunteers	On Target	<b>N/A</b>
3.	Repeat survey of infrastructure (annual occurrence)	Mar 2008	George Bond	2,3,8	Staff time	On Target	<b>Every Year</b>
4.	New community group in Beverley Bowls	March 2008	Tony Corrigan	6,8	Repairs and Maintenance Budget	On Target	<b>N/A</b>
5.	Introduce sustainable planting at secondary entrances	Apr 2008	Karen Gurrey	1,4,5	Parks Revenue Budget	On Target	<b>Every Year</b>
6.	Carry out flora and fauna survey	May 2008	Alan Mitellas	4,8	Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust Friends	On Target	<b>Every Year</b>

### ***Long Term Actions***

<b>No.</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Lead Staff</b>	<b>Outcomes against Green Flag Criteria</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Progress To Date</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
1.	Review playground and adventure playground area for play value and introduce new equipment	May 2008	Tony Corrigan	3,6,8	Capital Grant  Pathfinders	On Target	<b>July 2009</b>
2.	Introduce “green” grounds maintenance machinery	Feb 2010	Doug Shipwright	4,8	Capital Programme	On Target	<b>Feb 2010</b>
3.	Demolish and rebuild 1940 prefab building with eco friendly efficient building	Apr 2011	Tony Corrigan	2,3,4,6,8	Capital Grant	On Target	<b>Apr 2011</b>
4.	Introduce further new activity to Park	Jun 2011	Gary Quilter	6,8	Staff time	On Target	<b>Every Year</b>