

# BELMONT RECREATION GROUND



**Parks Management Plan 2020**  
(minor amendment January 2021)

**Haringey**  
LONDON

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## Foreword

Dear residents and park users,

I am pleased to share with you the management plan for Belmont Recreation Ground. This plan has been developed by Haringey Council, in partnership with the Friends of Albert Road Recreation Ground, stakeholders in and around the park and with input from your local ward councillors.

Residents have told us that our parks and green spaces are one of the things they love the most about Haringey, and as a council, we agree. We are proud of our green spaces and are committed to doing all we can to make our parks the very best they can be.

Most of Haringey's district and local parks have been nationally recognised through the Green Flag Award scheme, and we continue to work with Friends groups to maintain and improve our parks for our community and visitors alike. In a recent resident survey 80% of people told us they were satisfied with parks and greenspaces in the borough.

It is no secret that Haringey – like all local authorities – has been affected by austerity, but we continue to work hard to fund and maintain our parks, as well as bringing in external investment to provide a much-needed boost.

Green spaces in Haringey play so many different roles - from a retreat from the busy city, or a place for sport and play, to sites for nature conservation and world-renowned events. Each management plan seeks to balance the many competing demands for each park to allow our community to enjoy the park their way.

This management plan looks to show how the council is meeting and addressing the criteria of the Green Flag Award scheme and sets out the priorities for action and improvement of the park over the coming years.

I hope you find this document useful and I would encourage you to make the most of your local park. If you want to get more involved in the future management of the park why not consider joining a Friends group, attending an event or simply just send us some of your thoughts?

Thank you,



Cllr Kirsten Hearn  
Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Equalities and Leisure

## **Draft open space vision in Haringey.**

Our draft vision is that by 2023 Haringey's parks and green spaces will be places where:

- Residents' lives are being improved by access to quality green space.
- Communities take an active role in the decisions about the future of parks and green spaces.
- Civic pride and community ownership of parks are encouraged, through a diverse range of volunteering opportunities.
- A diverse range of events is offered, providing a backdrop for communities to celebrate together and enhance the borough's cultural offer.
- Wildlife flourishes and habitats are maintained, expanded and connected.
- Spaces are protected and future proofed for the next generation.
- Funding for parks is sustainable.

The strategy is in development and will be subject to consultation with a range of partners and stakeholders before the Council is asked to formally adopt it later in 2020. More details are set out in sections 10.4.

## **Purpose of the Management Plan**

This management plan detail and guides the management, maintenance, development and improvement of Belmont Recreation Ground now and over the next three years.

In developing this management plan, we particularly want to stress the importance we place on our commitment to involve the whole community in shaping the future of Belmont Recreation Ground. This is because we recognise that open space affects the lives of almost everyone who lives and works near the park. We believe that the combination of effective management and community involvement of all our open spaces offers considerable potential for helping to make Haringey a thriving and more cohesive community.

This management plan should be treated as a living and evolving document. It is open to review and adaption in an ever-changing environment.

This document is the primary location where all those with a connection to Belmont Recreation Ground, Friends and community groups, partners and residents, Members and Council staff - should be confident that everything about Belmont Recreation Ground can be found and is set out here.

It also tells a little of the history of the park, how it is today and details future plans and aspirations and how these are to be achieved.

## 1. Setting the scene

### 1.1 Haringey in a nutshell

Haringey is one of 33 London boroughs, and is located to the north of the capital covering 11 square miles in total.



Image 1: London Borough of Haringey shown in London context

It is home to some famous landmarks including Alexandra Palace, birthplace of television, that can be seen from all over London perched high up on its hill, Bruce Castle Museum and Park, ancestral home of Robert de Bruce and Tottenham Hotspur Football Club.

The borough has extreme contrast areas such as the high hilly communities of Highgate, Muswell Hill and Crouch End in the west being some of the most prosperous locations to live, while some wards in the east are classified as being amongst the 10% most deprived in the country.

One of the main thoroughfares through Haringey is Green Lanes, which runs north to south, through the centre of the borough.

#### 1.1.1 The demographics of Haringey

The Haringey website has detailed information about the population of the borough and individual wards within the borough. This can be found at <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/local-democracy/about-council/state-of-the-borough>

#### 1.1.2 Population

- Haringey has a total population of almost 283,000 people, an increase of 15% in the last 10 years
- Just over half (50.7%) are female and 49.3% are male
- There are 66,500 young people (aged 0-19) living in the borough. This is almost a quarter (24.5%) of the total population.<sup>i</sup>
- Two thirds of the population – over 178,000 people - are aged 20-64
- A tenth of the population – 26,600 people are aged over 65
- Belmont Recreation Ground is in West Green ward. The ward has a population of 13,918 people of which about a quarter are aged 0-19 and just under a tenth is aged over 65.
- The population density of West Green ward is similar to the Haringey average. It has a population density is over 10,504 residents per km<sup>2</sup> (compared to an average of 10,264 in Haringey and 8,697 in London).

## 1.2 Ethnicity and religion

Haringey is a highly diverse borough. Almost two thirds (38%) of residents are from (black, Asian or minority ethnic) BAME groups and 26% identify as “white other”.

The Haringey website has detailed information about the population of the borough and individual wards within the borough. Belmont Recreation Ground is located in West Green Ward. Information on ward ethnicity can be found at <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/local-democracy/about-council/state-of-the-borough>

## 1.3 Deprivation

The Indices of Deprivation are widely used for identifying areas with high levels of deprivation. These figures are used to provide evidence for regeneration policy in England and to help target often limited resources more effectively.

Haringey is the 30<sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority area in England (out of 326 local authority areas) and is the 6<sup>th</sup> most deprived in London (out of 33 boroughs). These figures take into account a range of deprivation types, including income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing and services and living environment.

## 1.4 Open space provision in Haringey

Haringey is a relatively green borough in comparison with London as a whole. An open spaces study conducted in 2005 identified 382.9 hectares of open space in Haringey, representing 12.8% of the total area.

This green space is made up of:

- public parks
- commons
- heaths and woodland
- cemeteries
- nature reserves
- green rail corridors
- private open space (with restricted access)

Haringey Council manages and continues to provide grounds maintenance for the majority of the public open space within the borough, with the exception of Alexandra Park, Highgate Woods and Tottenham Marshes.

Although much greener than some other London boroughs, the 2005 assessment noted that Haringey was deficient in all types of open space. This fact underlines the importance of improving and maintaining sites like Belmont Recreation Ground to enable more intense and diverse use.

In 2014 West Green ward (in which Belmont Recreation Ground is located) comprises 21.8% open space. This is below the Haringey (25.2%) and London (27.2%) averages.

## 2. About Belmont Recreation Ground

*Boundary Road / Downhills Park Road, N22*

### 2.1 Site Location and Description

Belmont Recreation Ground covers 30,975m<sup>2</sup>. It is in the ward of West Green, one of 19 wards within the London Borough of Haringey and is located within a densely populated and developed area.

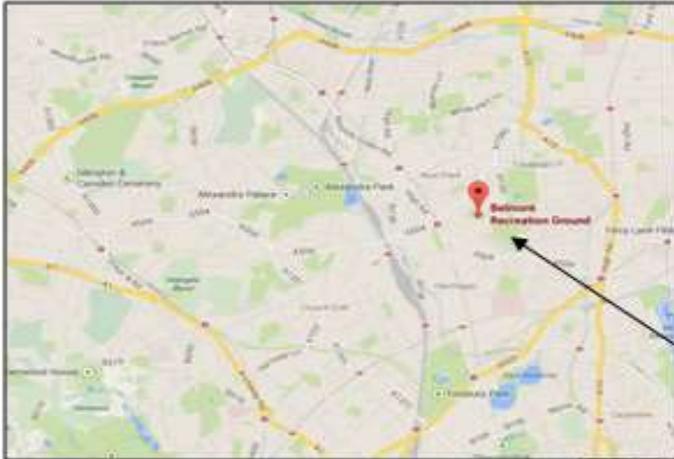
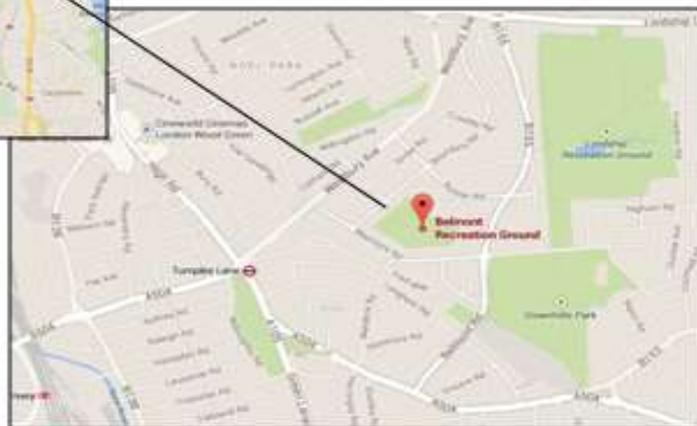


Image 2 above: Map of Haringey  
Image 3 right: Belmont Recreation Ground and surrounding area



It is designated as a Local Park, as defined by the GLA Hierarchy as open space of 2-20 hectares in size.

Belmont Recreation Ground can be found just a ten-minute walk away from the bustling streets of one of the borough's busiest commercial districts of Turnpike Lane and Wood Green High Road.

That said the local area is very green. Including Belmont Rec there are four parks all within approximately 1km<sup>2</sup>, providing locals with over 400m<sup>2</sup> of green open space to enjoy.

It is thought that Belmont Recreation Ground and the other parks were once part of a grand estate, with the main house located in nearby Downhills Park. This was sold at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and developed, but the parks of today were saved by the then Tottenham District Council. Some of the features of this estate have been preserved in Downhills Park.

The Rec is bounded by the residential roads of Downhills Park Road, Downhills Way, Boundary Road and Mannock Road. The back gardens of some of these houses back onto the Rec, as well as Belmont Infant and Junior Schools.

## 2.2 Facilities



**Image 4: Map of Belmont Recreation Ground showing its facilities**

Belmont Recreation Ground covers a total of 30,975m<sup>2</sup> (3.1 hectares).

Along the northern perimeter sits Belmont Infant and Junior Schools, with their playgrounds backing onto the park. Around the rest of the perimeter of the Rec to the west, east and south are gardens from the neighbouring houses in Downhills Park, Boundary and Mannock Roads.

The majority of the Recreation Ground space is an open area of mown grass. There are a few mature trees close to the boundary of the gardens. A number of younger trees were planted around the periphery in 2009 when the site was improved.

To the east of the Rec lies the dog free picnic area that is separated from the open field by a hawthorn bush and to the north sits the playground aimed at children up to 11 years of age.

A tarmac path runs around the periphery of the recreation ground, linking the two entrances and the facilities.

### 2.2.1 Play facilities

The fenced off playground is incredibly popular with local children and is busy all year round. The facilities were improved in 2009 in recognition of the increasing community usage.



Images 5 & 6: Belmont Rec playground

The play opportunities are split into two areas; one aimed at the under 5s and one for the over 5s, although the area provides the opportunity for children to flow freely between the two.

The facilities offer children of a number of abilities the opportunity to play including climbing apparatus, ropes to navigate and swings.

There are a number of floor games and murals offering children structured or imaginative play, including a scooter track, snakes and ladders and hopscotch.



Images 7, 8, 9 & 10: Floor markings in Belmont Rec's playground

Benches and picnic tables are provided for parents and carers to sit and watch.

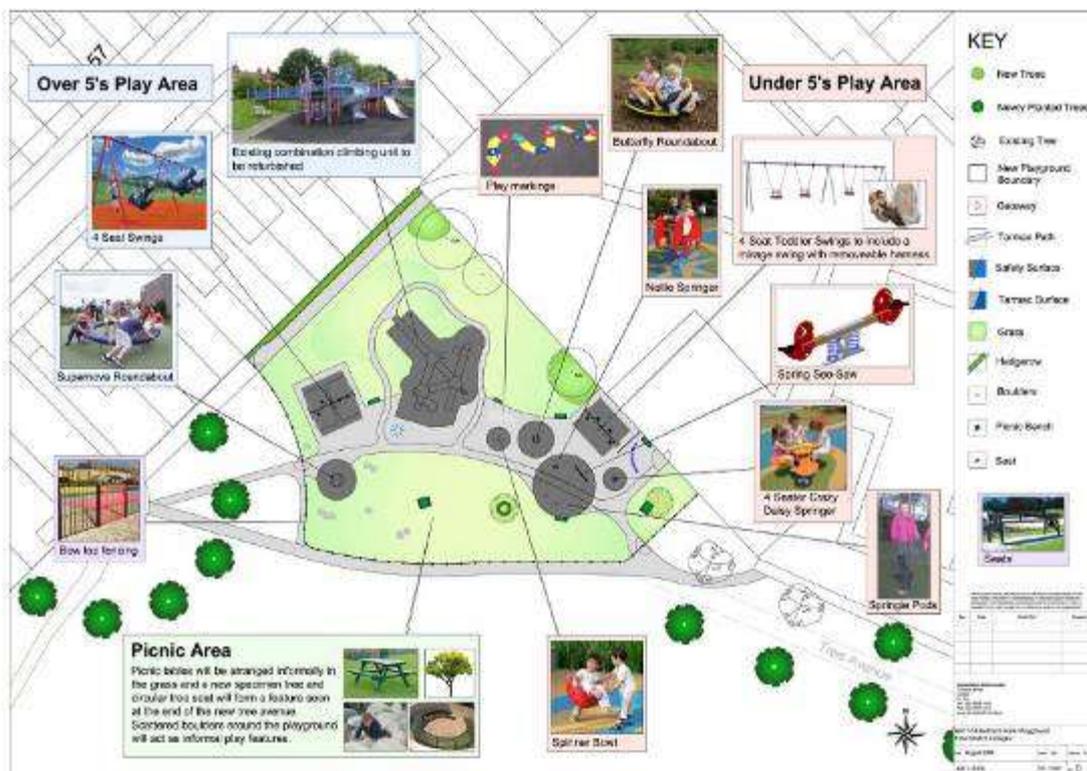


Image 11: Children’s playground design

### 2.2.2 Dog free picnic area

At the eastern end of the Rec is the dog free picnic area which is separated from the rest of the Rec by a hawthorn hedge. A number of picnic tables are provided and signage on the gates clearly states no dogs are allowed.

A number of conservation opportunities are located here, detailed further in the Conservation Action Plan later in this management plan.



Image 12: Picnic and dog free area

### **2.2.3 Grass field**

The majority of the Recreation Ground space is mown grass.

There are a few mature trees close to the boundary with gardens and a number of younger trees were planted around the periphery a few years ago.

Hawthorn hedges and bulbs have been planted around the perimeter of the Rec to increase and attract biodiversity and wildlife.

A mural designed by the school is located on the low wall at the Downhills Park Road entrance.

Belmont Recreation Ground is a site of Significant Local Open Land (SOL) in the Unitary Development Plan (UDP). It is therefore a site of local importance for nature conservation and heritage.



**Images 13 & 14: Belmont Rec playing field**

### **2.3 Trees**

Belmont Recreation Ground has a relatively low volume of trees, compared to other parks in the borough, due to the nature of the open space.

A number were planted in 2009 as part of the wider improvements as local residents wanted to soften up the landscape. Limes and Alders were planted as well as some edible fruit trees.

Tree cages were installed around the newly planted trees as locals wanted to protect them from abuse by dogs. Now the trees have matured, these cages are due to be removed as part of general maintenance of the site.

### 3 Welcoming Place

#### 3.1 Visiting Belmont Recreation Ground

##### 3.1.1 Public transport

Belmont Recreation Ground is located a five to ten-minute walk from Turnpike Lane.

Turnpike Lane Tube Station is on the Piccadilly Line. It has a bus station at ground level, above the tube station, providing buses going in all directions across the borough.

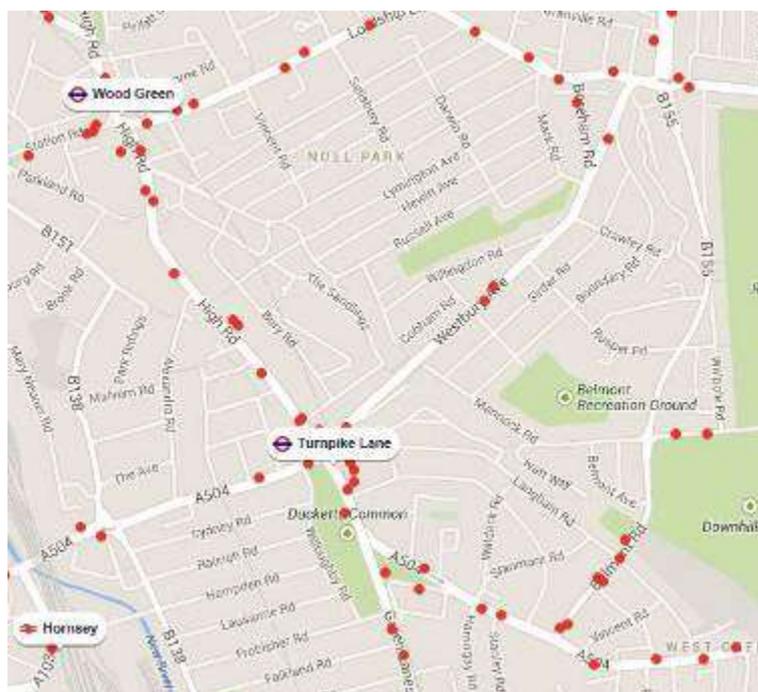


Image 15: showing bus stops around Belmont Recreation Ground

From Turnpike Lane, the 231 bus going towards Enfield Chase can be caught. Passengers would alight at Westbury Avenue and then would have to do a seven-minute walk to Belmont Recreation Ground.

The W4 bus route also stops on the other side of the Rec on Downhills Park Road.

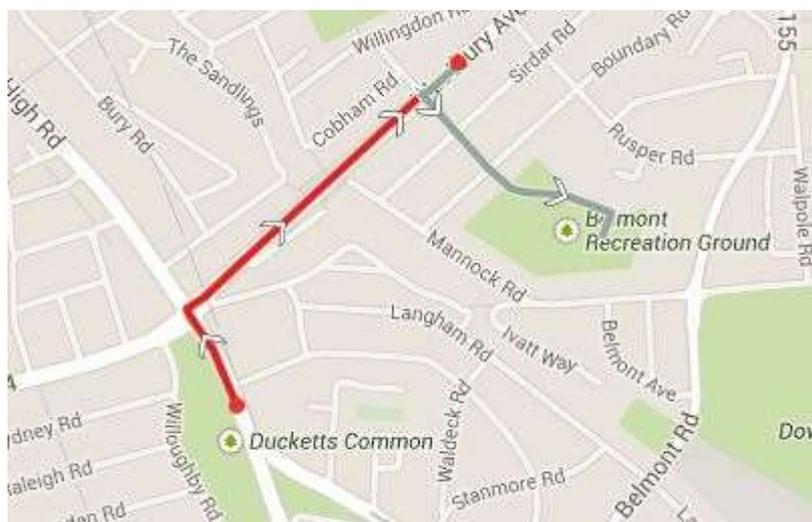


Image 16: 231 bus and walking route from Turnpike Lane

### 3.1.2 Vehicles

There is no parking onsite the park and much of the parking around Belmont Rec is controlled by the Wood Green (outer zone) Controlled Parking Zone.

A resident's or visitor's permit is needed to park here between the hours of 8am and 6.30pm, Monday to Saturday. For short stay parking without a resident's or visitor's permit there are pay and display machines located in a number of bays along Mannock, Boundary and Downhill's Park Roads.

### 3.2 Entrances

There are two entrances into Belmont Recreation Ground. Both entrances are identified by an individual gate name, making meeting points and identification for maintenance easier for the user and operative staff. Both are step free and all paths are level.



Image 17: Belmont Recreation Ground gate names

Ten years ago the entrance gates to the Rec being moved back to the junction of Boundary Road. This resulted in the cul de sac of Hawke Park Road being incorporated into the rec.

The new entrance at Boundary Road has completely removed the previous anti-social behaviour problems that were taking place there. There is now no space for fly tipping or drug dealing and the park entrance is welcoming and spacious. This has been a particularly important feature for local people living close to the park on Boundary Road as their lives were blighted for many years because of the previous problems.



Images 18 & 19: Downhills Park Road gate and welcome mosaic within the entrance

There is a gate within the northern perimeter of the Rec into Belmont Nursery School, used by parents dropping nursery children off for their afternoon session.



Image 20: Gate within the Rec leading to Belmont Nursery School

### 3.2.1 Vehicle access

Parks staff in vehicles such as the Hygiene Team access the Rec through the Boundary Road gate. Here there are bollards in place and a locked gate and is only accessible with the appropriate keys.

The only vehicle access through to the school's back playground is through this gate. Vehicles need to navigate through a vehicle access gate to the side of the playground and then through a gate located on the school boundary. This is only used once a year to accommodate vehicles assisting with the annual school fair.



Image 21: Vehicle access gate at Boundary Road and within playground to Belmont School

### **3.2.2 Bikes**

Cycle routes run along Downhills Park Road and help to encourage use of the park.

### **3.3 Disabled access**

Both entrances to the Rec are wheelchair accessible. There are also play facilities within the playground offering provision to those with disabilities including two DDA compliant dual use swings.

#### **3.3.1 Equal access for all**

The 2010 Equalities Act defines a disabled person as someone with ‘a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal, day-to-day activities’.

Haringey Council and its partners are required by law to ensure that disabled people are not discriminated against with regard to access to public places, such as Stationers Park.

This is considered whenever changes or improvements are made to the Rec. This not only benefits disabled users of the parks and their carers/companions, but also benefits those with small children and older people.

### **3.4 Signage**

The welcome signs at each entrance to the park show an individual ‘gate’ name for ease of identification. These all relate to the road from which access to the park is gained. The entrance signs also show contact numbers for the council, police emergency and non-emergency numbers.

Symbols on the newer signage also highlight initiatives and make users aware of restrictions in place. These include:

- shared use walking / cycling symbols (with pedestrian priority)
- no unauthorised vehicles
- keep your park tidy
- three dog control orders with potential penalty for failing to adhere.

The entrance signs also include the Neighbourhood Watch logo to show the partnership the Council has with the Haringey Neighbourhood Watch Association (see section 5.7).

As well as the entrance gate signs, the play areas have signs which include:

- contact details for the Council
- any relevant age restrictions
- no alcohol symbol
- no smoking symbol
- no dogs allowed
- no glass bottles
- a message that children must be accompanied at all times.

Some signage has the 'old' Haringey Council logo and branding. As signs need to be replaced or renewed the new branding will be incorporated into the signage. Signage for new facilities will carry the new branding.

### **3.5 Toilet facilities**

There are no on-site toilet facilities, however most users are local residents so there would be limited demand.

#### **3.5.1 Refreshments**

There are no refreshment facilities onsite.

### **3.6 Events**

The council welcomes and encourages events put on for the community in all its parks including Stationers Park. The [outdoor events policy](#) sets out the types of events that are encouraged and those we do not allow. Small community events and activities are particularly encouraged so we have made the application process easier and events for under 100 people are free of any charge.

Community events have been held in Belmont Recreation Ground in the past, although there has been limited demand for larger scale events due to other parks in the nearby vicinity having better transport links and on-site facilities.

The same can be said for football with Downhills Park and Lordship Rec both having football pitches and changing facilities on site, although the playing fields in Belmont Rec do host a number of casual football matches throughout the year.

Money generated from major events in any of Haringey's parks contributes to providing support for community events to take place in parks. This includes more than £20,000 from the [Parks and Open Spaces Small Grants](#) 'community events' theme which is available for anyone to apply for.

An environmental impact fee is set out within the events fees and charges. This is charged to hirers on a sliding scale with the price dependent on the size and scale of the event. This is specifically set aside for the Friends and recognised stakeholders of the park the event took place in, to bid for. Event management training is also held each year for groups who want to learn how to put on a safe and exciting event in a park

## 4. A clean and Well-Maintained Park

### 4.1 Operational and management responsibility for parks

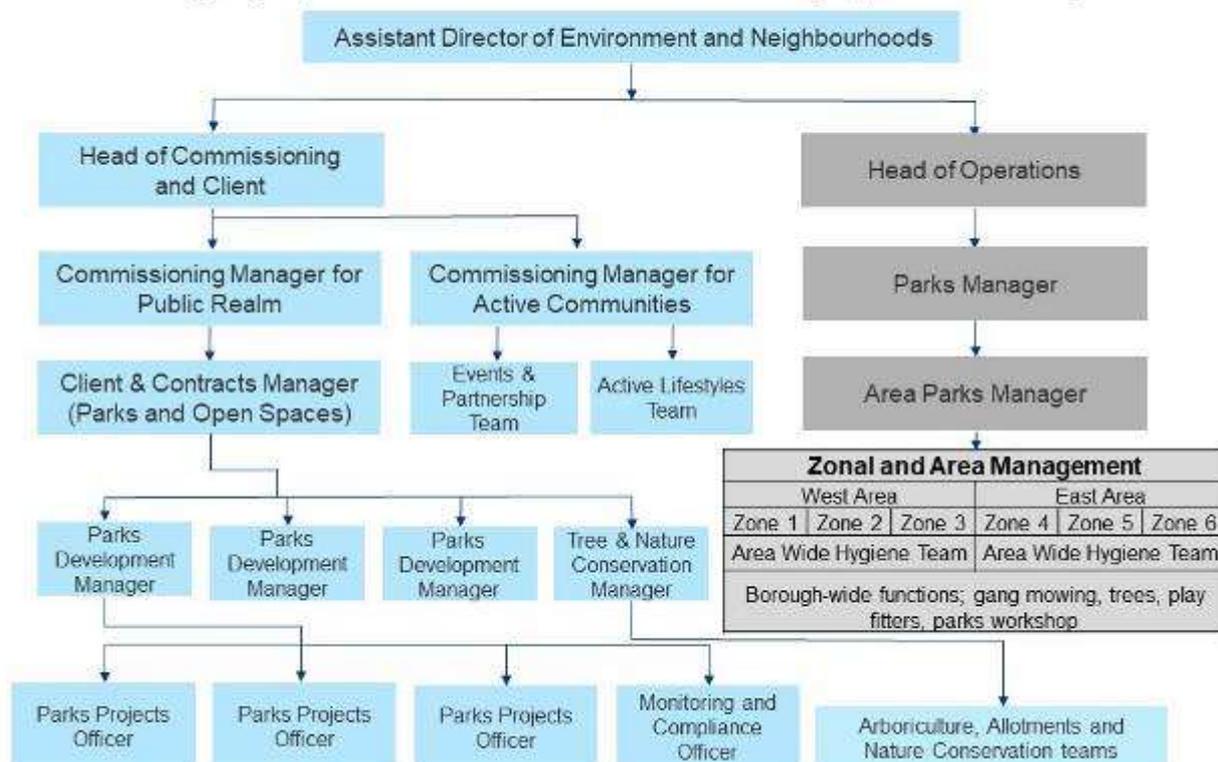
Responsibility for the management and maintenance of all the borough’s parks is split between three council teams.

The Parks Operations team is responsible for the ground’s maintenance and management of litter and hygiene within the park, while the Client and Commissioning Team is responsible for the physical assets within parks, arboriculture, allotments, nature conservation and the management of projects within parks.

The Active Communities Team is responsible for the management of events in parks, activation of parks through cycling, walking, and other fitness initiatives. The team is also responsible for the management of the council’s small grant scheme and its partnerships with Neighbourhood Watch and The Conservation Volunteers.

#### Simplified parks structure chart

### Haringey park structure chart (April 2019)



### 4.2 Current maintenance by Park Operations

The structure chart in section 4.1 shows a simplified overview of the work of the Park Operations Team.

As shown, the borough is divided into two geographic sections (east and west), each of which is divided into three zones, giving a total of six zones across the borough. The zones are shown in the map overleaf.

Each zone has a six grounds maintenance staff: a team leader, a senior operative and four gardeners, but team sizes are altered to meet operational demands by transferring staff between zones and by bringing in seasonal agency resource as necessary. Belmont Recreation Ground is in operational zone 5.

The Parks Operations structure is the total resource available for all parks and open spaces. This not only includes council parks and open spaces, but also all the Homes for Haringey sites across the borough.

In addition to the zonal operations, the hygiene function is organised at a section-wide basis, one team operating in the east section of the borough and the other in the west. The hygiene teams empty litter bins across all parks and open spaces to an agreed schedule. They also respond to emergency cleansing and hygiene requests.

At a borough-wide level there are also two play fitters who undertake maintenance and repair of playground equipment and outdoor gyms, and a team of two in-house arboricultural staff who carry out tree planting and supplement the use of external contractors for tree maintenance and responsive arboricultural work. Tractor-based mowing of larger areas of grass is also carried out as a borough-wide activity.

There are also two parks workshop fitters who carry out regular servicing of equipment and reactive repairs to parks machinery. They are based in dedicated parks workshop at Ashley Road depot.

Most park operatives work Monday – Thursday 7.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 7.30 to 1.30pm. However, limited weekend work also takes place with pitch marking and hygiene activities for example

## Map showing zones for operational management of parks in Haringey



### 4.3 Asset management and management of projects in parks

The Parks and Open Spaces team now works to the same six zones as the Operations team. One officer has been allocated to lead on projects, asset management and community liaison in each zone. Each zonal officer has responsibility for:

- Regular asset inspections
- Asset related enquiries
- Non-emergency asset repairs
- Management Plan input
- Project identification
- Friends Groups liaison
- Support for Friends-led development work
- Councillor liaison
- Identification of volunteering opportunities

The allocated officer for Belmont Recreation Ground is Stephen Crabtree, Parks Development Manager.

A Nature Conservation Officer and a Monitoring and Compliance Officer have responsibility for parks and open spaces across the whole borough, including Belmont Recreation Ground.

#### 4.3.1 Park asset inspections and Spotlight visits

In 2018 the council adopted the Mayor of London's typology for parks. Under this typology Belmont Recreation Ground is described as a local park (category A3) as it is between 2-20 hectares in area.

Since January 2019 the council has also instigated a programme of park asset inspections with the frequency dependent on the type of park. As a local park Belmont Recreation Ground is inspected every month.

The inspections cover hard assets, including (where applicable):

- Bins, benches, bollards, lighting columns
- Signage, noticeboards, interpretation
- Paths, steps, handrails, areas of hardstanding, car parking and roadways
- Railings, fencing, gates, walls
- Play area safety surfacing and minor repairs
- Outdoor gyms
- MUGAs, tennis courts, hard sports courts
- Football goalposts
- Paddling pools
- Historic/heritage features/War memorials
- Fountains, artworks, structures, pergolas
- Waterbodies, SUDs, water leaks, drain covers
- Cycle stands, raised beds
- Bird & bat boxes

Parks assets are inspected and rated according to their condition, as follows:

- A: Excellent: No action required
- B: Good: No action required
- C: Acceptable: No action required
- D: Improvement required: Defects will be addressed as budgets allow
- E: Emergency repair required: Make-safe within 24 hours. Full repair within 28 days.

From 2019-20 we will use the Confirm database system to record the outcomes of all inspections, defects and customer enquiries. Confirm Connect handheld devices will be the main tool for recording site inspections.

Defects can also be reported by the public, Friends, councillors and stakeholders online via the Council's website at [www.haringey.gov.uk/park-problem](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/park-problem) or by using the Our Haringey smart phone app or by calling the council.

As part of our zonal approach we have also started to hold 'Spotlight meetings' with councillors, Friends and key stakeholders of Belmont Recreation Ground every 2-3 months. This is an opportunity to look at the park together to identify issues and opportunities within the park and by the stakeholders.

#### **4.3.2 Capital projects**

A parks capital project commences once a project brief has been approved by the council's Commissioning and Client Board and a capital budget and project manager has been allocated. The project manager is usually but not always the zonal lead.

#### 4.4 Scheduled Maintenance

The table overleaf provides a summary of the maintenance regime within Belmont Recreation Ground.

**Table 3: Scheduled maintenance in Belmont Recreation Ground**

Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
<p><b>Grass cutting:</b></p> <p>To achieve grade A at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grass has been uniformly cut and is 35mm or less.</li> <li>• Edges are trimmed and not growing onto hard surface or bedding.</li> <li>• Litter picking prior to mowing.</li> </ul> <p>Grass remains at grade B or above prior to maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grass is 35-60mm long but looks tidy.</li> <li>• Edges are slightly untidy</li> <li>• Litter picking as per hygiene schedule.</li> </ul>	Approximately Fortnightly	During the growing season (Mar-Oct approx.). May extend into November subject to prevailing climatic conditions.
<p><b>Bulb areas in Grass</b></p> <p>To achieve grade A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas where bulbs are present should remain uncut from time of bulb emergence, until 6 weeks after flowerings ceases, or when foliage dies back or turns brown.</li> <li>• Litter picking as per hygiene schedule.</li> </ul>	One occasion plus regular litter picking	Works required where bulbs are present in grass on site.
<p><b>Meadows</b></p> <p>To achieve grade A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meadow grass is cut at correct times of year for species type.</li> <li>• Area surrounding the meadow is well maintained.</li> <li>• Litter picking as per hygiene schedule.</li> </ul>	One or more occasions subject to type. Plus regular litter picking.	Guidance on maintenance schedule to be drawn from the conservation management plan for each park.
<p><b>Shrub and Rose bed maintenance</b></p> <p>To achieve grade A at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bed free of weeds.</li> <li>• No litter.</li> <li>• Mulched where appropriate.</li> </ul>	Two to four occasions as required per location.	Herbicide application will take place on two occasions a year

Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wide variety of plants.</li> <li>• Roses deadhead as required.</li> <li>• Shrubs pruned as required.</li> <li>• Edging well maintained.</li> </ul>		via controlled droplet application.
<p><b>Summer Seasonal Flower Beds</b></p> <p>To achieve grade B at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bed free of weeds.</li> <li>• No litter.</li> <li>• Adequate variety of plants (more could be added – excluding beds that have plants that are not yet established).</li> <li>• Edging maintained.</li> <li>• No deadheads.</li> </ul>	Up to ten occasions	<p>Gapping up of bedding to take place in response to vandalism.</p> <p>Drought tolerant planting to reduce need to water.</p>
<p><b>Hedge Maintenance</b></p> <p>To achieve grade A at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well-shaped and trimmed hedge.</li> <li>• Level sides and top.</li> <li>• No missed areas.</li> <li>• Base weed free.</li> <li>• No arisings present</li> </ul>	Two occasions per year except Privet hedges requiring three occasions.	Account of bird nesting to be taken each year and site specifics.
<p><b>Staked Tree Maintenance</b></p> <p>To achieve grade B at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth is healthy and vigorous with little sign of disease.</li> <li>• Branches have been correctly pruned for species, purpose and location.</li> <li>• No dead or hanging branches.</li> <li>• Small amount of basal or sucker growth.</li> <li>• Base has been mulched where applicable.</li> <li>• Tree stake in good condition, firm in ground and</li> <li>• not rubbing tree where applicable.</li> <li>• Tree tie holding tree firmly but not tightly to stake where applicable.</li> <li>• No damage to base of tree during maintenance.</li> <li>• No dead material or cuttings left in area.</li> </ul>	One occasion per year plus watering for new trees during first two seasons	
<p><b>Sports Pitch Maintenance</b></p>		

Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
<p>To achieve grade B at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface in good condition.</li> <li>• Grass is cut to standard.</li> <li>• Line markings are well maintained and may be slightly faded.</li> <li>• Where net supports exist, in good condition.</li> <li>• Leaf fall removed.</li> <li>• Litter picking as per hygiene schedule.</li> </ul>	<p>A minimum number of visits as required to achieve the grass height required for football.</p> <p>Weekly line marking during playing season</p> <p>Winter season work as required</p>	<p>Seeding and fertilising as required.</p>
<p><b>Bins, Litter and Dog Fouling</b></p> <p>To achieve grade B at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All bins are emptied</li> <li>• The site is litter picked but may have a small amount of scattered litter in low traffic areas.</li> <li>• Predominately free of detritus except for some light scattering.</li> </ul>	<p>Daily</p>	<p>Dog fouling dealt with when reported.</p>
<p><b>Other</b></p> <p>Fly tips and other hygiene issues</p> <p>Sweeping of hard surfaces (e.g. tennis courts, hard standing etc)</p> <p>Gate locking</p>	<p>Reactive</p> <p>Reactive</p> <p>Daily</p>	<p>In response to emergency call-outs.</p>

#### 4.5 Setting and measuring service standards

The quality of grounds maintenance and cleanliness of parks and open spaces is assessed via a simple four-point assessment system, called the Parks Quality Scoring system. The scoring categories are:

- A – Excellent
- B – Good
- C – Acceptable
- D - Unacceptable

These service standards are set out in a booklet that is made available to all grounds maintenance staff. The quality of grounds maintenance and cleanliness of parks and open spaces is assessed via a simple four-point assessment system, called the Parks Quality Scoring system. The scoring categories are:

- A – Excellent
- B – Good
- C – Acceptable
- D - Unacceptable

These service standards are set out in a booklet that is made available to all grounds maintenance and hygiene operatives. The aim of the booklet is to clearly and visually illustrate the different standards. Photographs, alongside brief and simple text, provide staff with a clear means of assessing the standards they are expected to achieve.

This system has since been adopted by the London Parks Benchmarking Group who have updated the manual and are working hard to get this recognised as an industry standard within the grounds maintenance trade both on a London-wide and on a national level.

### Illustrative service standards for grass cutting

#### EXCELLENT

- ✓ Grass has been uniformly and evenly cut including perimeter edges and obstacles.
- ✓ Length is longer than 25mm and shorter than 60mm.
- ✓ Edges are trimmed and not encroaching hard surfaces, hedge lines or bedding areas.
- ✓ Adjacent paths and bedding areas are kept clear of clippings.
- ✓ There are no bare patches.
- ✓ There is no weed infestation.
- ✓ All litter was removed prior to mowing.
- ✓ No leaf fall, litter, debris or dog fouling.



EXCELLENT

#### ACCEPTABLE

- ✓ Grass is longer than 60mm and not scheduled to be cut in the next week, or has been unevenly cut.
- ✓ Edges are untidy and encroaching hard surface or bedding.
- ✓ Adjacent paths and bedding areas are mostly kept clear of clippings.
- ✓ There are some areas of bare soil.
- ✓ There are some areas of unsightly weed infestation.
- ✓ All litter was removed prior to mowing.
- ✓ Small amount of leaf fall, litter, debris or dog fouling.



ACCEPTABLE

#### GOOD

- ✓ Grass has been uniformly and evenly cut including perimeter edges and obstacles.
  - ✓ Length is longer than 25mm and shorter than 60mm.
  - ✓ Edges are slightly untidy or encroaching hard surfaces, hedge lines or bedding areas.
- or
- ✓ Grass is longer than 60mm but due to be cut or has been unevenly cut across area.
  - ✓ Edges are uniformly cut.
- and
- ✓ Adjacent paths and bedding areas are mostly kept clear of clippings.
  - ✓ There are no bare patches.
  - ✓ There is no unsightly weed infestation.
  - ✓ All litter was removed prior to mowing.
  - ✓ No leaf fall, litter, debris or dog fouling.



GOOD

#### UNACCEPTABLE

- ✓ Grass is not uniformly cut, or very long.
- ✓ Edges very untidy and grass is growing onto hard surfaces, hedge lines or bedding areas.
- ✓ Significant amounts of clippings present on adjacent paths and bedding areas.
- ✓ Significant areas of bare soil.
- ✓ Significant weed infestation.
- ✓ Litter not removed prior to mowing.
- ✓ Leaf fall, litter, debris or dog fouling present.



UNACCEPTABLE

The key performance indicators (KPIs) within this scoring system are for three main areas of activity and a fourth more seasonal category:

- Grass (which includes the grass cut height, follow up and final finish)
- Shrubs (which includes pruning, weeding of beds and general appearance)
- Hygiene (which is made up of 3 separate scores of litter and bins, detritus and graffiti)
- Seasonal and other categories (horticultural seasonal work such as hedges, leaf clearance, rose bed maintenance and seasonal bedding as well as nature conservation and some infrastructure points such as pathways).

The Monitoring and Compliance Officer visits each park and open space on a regular basis to assess these aspects of the park against the service standards.

An overall score is calculated based on the percentage of A (Excellent) and B (Good) scores achieved across all categories.

The boroughwide targets and performance for these KPIs are as follows.

Category	Target A/B	Achieved 2018-19
Grass	90%	83%
Shrubs	60%	71%
Hygiene	55%	65%
Seasonal and other	90%	n/a

#### 4.6 Monitoring the condition of equipment and physical assets

Since January 2019 a Parks Project Officer also carries out a monthly site inspection of the physical assets in Belmont Recreation Ground. The condition of each item is noted and where applicable repairs (or replacements) are requested. Any grounds maintenance or hygiene issues that are observed, such as overflowing bins or dumped rubbish are raised with the appropriate officer within Parks Operations.

The asset inspections do not include play and outdoor gym equipment which are inspected by the RPII registered Play Inspection Company on a quarterly basis. They conduct detailed quarterly inspections on all play equipment and outside gym equipment to ROSPA standards. Each item of equipment is risk assessed and a written report is provided to the council. Where equipment is deemed to represent a medium or high risk it will be repaired, and if necessary, taken out of use until the repairs are completed.

Two council officers within Parks Operations are also trained and qualified ROSPA inspectors and can sign off any repair to play and gym equipment

#### 4.7 Tree maintenance programme

From 2016 a four-year planned inspection programme was introduced to identify any necessary works. Such works are prioritised and carried out within available resources.

Tree works in parks, open spaces and woodlands are usually undertaken to mitigate risks to site users and adjacent properties. For example works to trees in Belmont Recreation Ground have in the past been carried out to improve security on site by raising the canopies of the trees to increase sight levels and reducing overhanging branches into adjacent roads.

#### 4.8 Graffiti

All graffiti of an obscene or offensive nature is removed within 24 hours of being reported. We aim to remove all other graffiti within three working days. Small bits of graffiti can be removed by parks operatives who have access to specialised graffiti removal kits.

Park users can report graffiti using the Our Haringey smart phone app, and the council website. The Council also has a 'hotline' number (020 8885 7700) direct to Veolia (the council's waste management contractor) to report obscene or offensive graffiti in parks and other public places.

#### 4.9 Maintenance of buildings, equipment and landscape

Building maintenance in parks is shared between lease holders and the council. Most modern leases in the parks have been let on a full repairing and insuring basis relieving the council of this ongoing obligation.

Older leases are internal repairs only and along with the operational buildings in parks are maintained by the council's facilities management service. The budget for building maintenance is held by them and they are responsible for maintaining the buildings and ensuring compliance with legislation.

Equipment maintenance is carried out internally by the parks service for all types of equipment. Play inspections are undertaken internally and through external specialist on a quarterly basis.

Landscape maintenance is carried out by the parks service.

#### **4.10 Hygiene**

The Hygiene Team is managed by Parks Operations, covering borough wide hygiene responsibilities. Within Belmont Recreation Ground waste bins are emptied twice a week basis, and any dumped rubbish that is reported to the service will be removed. New Council policy is for the removal of all dog bins from parks.

## 5. Healthy, Safe and Secure

### 5.1 Smoking

Smoking is permitted (though discouraged) in Belmont Recreation Ground although priority 2 of the council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy identifies smoking as a key factor in reducing life expectancy.

However, there is a borough wide smoking ban in place in all children's playgrounds including in Belmont Recreation Ground. Signage at playground entrances highlights this.

### 5.2 Alcohol

Alcohol is permitted in Belmont Recreation Ground but an Alcohol Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for West Green ward includes the entire area covered by the park.

PSPOs are intended to deal with "nuisance or anti-social behaviour in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life". Failure to comply with a request from an authorised person to cease drinking or surrender alcohol within the boundary of the PSPO can result in a fine. An authorised person is a police officer, a police community support officer or an authorised member of council staff.

The West Green PSPO has been operation since October 2017 and last for three years. It may be renewed for another three years after it expires.

Further details can be found at <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/community/community-safety-and-engagement/anti-social-behaviour/public-spaces-protection-orders-pspos>

### 5.3 Walking

Walking is an excellent way to adopt a more active lifestyle and the health benefits can really make a difference. It's also a great way to get out and meet people.

The parks service in partnership with other agencies such as NHS Haringey offer regular organised walks in many of the borough's parks.

In 2018 a trim trail was installed on the circular path in the Recreation Ground as part of the above initiatives. This was part of the Walk in the Park scheme.

In 2018 a booklet called *A Walk in the Park* showcases several through Haringey parks.

Image: Walking trail information board (Fig 10)

Further details on walks and walking groups can be found at <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/travel/walking>



walks

## **5.4 Health and safety**

The health and safety of visitors to, and staff and contractors working in Belmont Recreation Ground is given the highest priority. Health and safety within the park is managed by ensuring that:

- play and outdoor gym equipment is installed safely and inspected regularly, with any repairs identified and prioritised through the inspection process.
- infrastructure items (including games areas, water features and so on) are inspected regularly as detailed elsewhere in this document.
- planting and landscaping is designed to minimise the risk to park users, and the operational maintenance programme keeps these risks managed

### **5.4.1 Raising health and safety concerns**

Anyone visiting a park, and everyone involved in the parks maintenance and management are encouraged to report any health and safety concerns.

Contact phone, email and web details for the Council appear on all welcome signage, as well as the police emergency and non-emergency numbers.

When people call the Council with a concern, these are logged, assessed and assigned to a relevant team/member of staff to deal with and respond to in an appropriate timescale, using the Confirm system.

### **5.4.2 Safety representatives**

The parks operations service holds a quarterly Health and Safety Working Group, which is chaired by a council health and safety specialist. It is attended by representatives of operational management, staff from both east and west areas, and trades unions. These quarterly meetings provide the opportunity to raise issues that have not been fully addressed elsewhere. The group is also a place to discuss health and safety issues and legislation, and their implications on working practices and plays a key role in generating continual improvement in health and safety standards.

### **5.4.3 Staff reporting**

All staff are encouraged to raise health and safety issues with their manager or with the health and safety representative who can raise concerns at the quarterly Health and Safety Forum.

## **5.5 Reporting issues with the 'Our Haringey' app**

The 'Our Haringey' app makes it quick and easy to report problems when people are out and about in the borough. Once the app has been downloaded to a Smartphone, the public can take photos of the problem and send it directly to the team responsible for fixing it using the Confirm system. They will then receive progress updates and will be told when the reported issue has been fixed.

Unlike other 'report it' style apps, 'Our Haringey' asks the user to choose from a list of Haringey specific categories for the problem, which ensures the report goes to the right team, first time and will be dealt with as quickly as possible.

## **5.6 Community safety and policing**

Parks in Haringey are relatively safe places. Over the whole of 2019 there were 728 reported crime or incidents reported to the police across the parks and open spaces in Haringey.

Over the years there have been a number of initiatives the Council has implemented to make the parks safer for all who use them. However, cuts in budgets in the last decade have hit these initiatives. The Neighbourhood Policing Team for West Green ward has strong links with Belmont Recreation Ground and aims to patrol the park each day. Police officers are in regular contact with council officers and often attend Friends meetings.

The most commonly reported crime in Haringey parks is robbery, which accounts for about 30% of all incidents. Almost a third of these happened late at night (between 9pm and 5am). There were over 50 reported thefts and almost 50 cases of possession of cannabis. Two thirds of crimes were reported in period April to September when the parks are most heavily used.

In Belmont Recreation Ground there have been only 6 reported crimes in 2019 of which four were dog related, one was a stop and search and one was a 'lewd activity'. Belmont Recreation Ground accounted for only 0.8% of all reported crimes in Haringey parks.

There is no CCTV coverage in Belmont Recreation Ground.

## **5.7 Extending Neighbourhood Watch into parks**

Neighbourhood Watch groups across the borough are encouraged to adopt a local park or green space. Members are encouraged to proactively report issue or concerns they have relating to crime or safety in the park.

The Neighbourhood Watch officer has also set up a Haringey Dog Watch scheme. This is an initiative for dog walkers to meet with other dog owners and police in an enjoyable, relaxed atmosphere.

The walks are held in a different Haringey park every month and everyone is welcome to come along.

## **5.8 Designing out crime**

It is widely recognised that key factors in ensuring park safety and the perception of safety are to ensure high usage, adequate onsite staffing presence, good maintenance of buildings and infrastructure and a high level of community involvement and 'ownership'. These matters are dealt with in other sections.

Sensitive landscape management can also assist in reducing crime. Assessing accessibility and potential crime spots, known as 'designing out crime' may result in the removal of inappropriate tall shrubs and their replacement with a more suitable low growing species. In other instances entrances may be redesigned, or lighting installed.

## **5.9 24-hour access**

Belmont Recreation Ground is locked overnight. The park is locked at dusk and opened at dawn.

## 5.10 Dogs

Dogs and dog walking are a valuable part of the park scene, and dog carers are probably the main daily user group in many green spaces. Their collective presence is a key ingredient of green spaces being populated and safe to use, especially at quieter times of the day and year. Dog walkers are often described as 'eyes and ears' of a green space.

We recognise that the vast majority of dog owners are, responsible and respectful to their local community. However, we receive complaints from residents about dog fouling and the behaviour of some dogs (and their owners).

A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is in place cross the borough to control the behaviour of dog owners. The prohibitions have been designed to be as simple as possible, giving clarity and outlining expectations.

Well behaved dogs can be walked or exercised freely off lead in all large parks (over half a hectare) including Belmont Rec recreation Ground. This promotes healthy exercise for dogs and takes into consideration the needs of the borough's dog owners and the welfare of dogs.

The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) covers five areas of dog control:

- Dog fouling
- Keeping dogs under control
- Putting dogs on a lead if directed t
- Keeping dogs out of designated areas (such as playgrounds)
- Limiting to six the number of dogs that one person can bring to the park

Failure to comply with the requirements of the order can result in a fine or to court if the fine is not paid within a specified timeframe.

The PSPO is in force for three years from October 2017 and can be extended for a further three years. Full details can be found at [www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/pspo\\_-\\_dog\\_control\\_-\\_with\\_seal\\_0.pdf](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/pspo_-_dog_control_-_with_seal_0.pdf)

These powers came into effect on the 20 October 2017, introduced under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Public Space Protection Order will remain in force for three years.

Matters relating to dangerous dogs and dog attacks on people or other dogs should be reported to the Police rather than to the Council.

## **6. Sustainability**

### **6.1 Greenest borough strategy**

Haringey's Greenest Borough Strategy was adopted in 2008 in response to growing concerns around climate change.

The Strategy sets out the Council's and its partners commitment to tackle climate change under seven environmental policies to ensure achievement of their 'green' vision over a ten-year period, and details what the council, its partners and the public can do to contribute.

- Improving the urban environment
- Protecting the natural environment
- Managing environmental resources efficiently
- Leading by example
- Encouraging sustainable design and construction
- Promoting sustainable travel
- Raising awareness and involvement

The management and maintenance of parks and how they are used relate back to many of the individual targets within the strategy. Where possible these have been instilled in everyday working practices in and relation to Belmont Recreation Ground.

### **6.2 Pesticide use**

The council uses a range of herbicides to control weeds in parks. It remains the most effective in terms of the required resources – with two treatments per year often sufficient to prevent weed growth, as opposed to regular treatment by hand or other means

Chemicals are stored, handled, used and disposed in accordance with manufacturer/supplier requirements, and a COSHH assessment is prepared for each of the substances used.

Reliance on mechanical methods of weed control (e.g. strimming) is reducing as this has an impact on both the operator and also does not address the weed at its roots.

The use of herbicides as a principal form of weed control is increasingly under scrutiny, and the parks department is routinely considering alternatives. This is particularly true of weedkillers containing the component glyphosate. This has received a lot of press coverage subsequent to court cases in the United States, but it remains licensed for use in the UK and Europe.

Officers of the council monitor developments in scientific findings. At this stage, glyphosate appears not to cause harm to humans or any animals larger than micro-organisms.

### **6.3 Sustainable use of materials**

The parks service refrains from the use of non-sustainable peat-based products and challenges nursery suppliers to provide alternative supplies. Where plants are obtained from private nurseries we request plants grown in a peat free environment.

Our infrastructure procurement policy is to use recycled materials where possible. We aim to acquire recycled plastic benches where possible; or where timber is required we seek to use those from sustainable sources.

## **6.4 Recycling**

Although some parks have dedicated onsite recycling bins, all waste collected from parks be it from standard waste bins, or recycling bins is taken to the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) depot. Materials that can be recycled are extracted and processed accordingly.

Where possible green waste is recycled on-site; grass cuttings are left on the grass; and hedge cuttings are mulched and placed under the hedge or in other areas of the park.

In autumn when a large amount of green waste is generated, that which cannot be used or composted on site is taken to the NLWA depot for recycling. The resulting compost is then collected for use in the parks.

A monitoring system is in place to record the amount of green waste that is mulched on site and the amount that goes to NLWA for recycling, as well as recording the percentage of green waste that is recycled. The system aims for 100% recycled green waste. Leaf litter is already composted or mulched on site.

After Christmas the borough has a number of advertised sites where people can drop off their used Christmas trees.

## **6.5 Pollution reduction**

All new machinery used in parks is required to have low vibration levels and low emissions. Machinery is serviced on a regular basis by our in-house parks workshop, helping to ensure low emission and pollution levels. Vehicles meet current emission requirements, and the fleet will comply with the requirements of the London-wide Ultra Low Emission Zone when that is introduced in October 2021 to include Haringey.

We also aim to reduce vehicle emissions through increasing the amount of on-site composting; and through reducing downtime caused by excessive travelling.

Bonfires are not used for safety reasons as well as health concerns due to the smoke.

## **6.6 Water efficiency**

Drought resistant plants and trees are increasingly being chosen by managers to ensure that they survive the drier and warmer months and require less watering during these periods.

## **7. Community Involvement**

### **7.1 Volunteering in parks**

Haringey Council actively supports and encourages volunteering in our parks and green spaces. There are a range of mechanisms to support volunteering and community involvement.

Belmont Recreation Ground has utilised volunteering in the past (for example the hedge in the picnic area). There is currently an ambition from the Council to start planning and formulating some more volunteering activities on site. Sadly there is currently no active Friends Group.

#### **7.1.1 Volunteer Partnerships**

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) Haringey are based at Railway Fields, N4. They deliver conservation volunteer days across the borough on behalf of Haringey Council. They also support delivery of training opportunities as well as development of site-specific conservation action plans.

During 2018-19, TCV delivered 155 conservation days across parks in Haringey, involving over 1,200 volunteers. In addition, 6 training days were provided for volunteers on the following subjects: leadership training, leading guided walks, winter tree identification, environmental education volunteers, wildlife garden design and hedge laying.

#### **7.1.2 Corporate volunteering**

Haringey Council actively supports companies and corporate volunteers within our parks and green spaces. Corporate volunteering provides an opportunity for employees to be involved in a different experience whilst supporting our management and improvement of green spaces.

During 2018-19, TCV supported 14 corporate volunteer days across the borough with tasks ranging from habitat creation and vegetation management, to creating countryside furniture and nature trails. Additional corporate volunteer days were delivered at parks across Haringey, facilitated by Friends groups.

Specific opportunities for corporate volunteers are included within the site Conservation Action Plan (section 8.4) to ensure that the sessions support wider management of the site whilst providing an engaging and rewarding opportunity for the volunteers.

### **7.2 Haringey Friends of Parks Forum**

Haringey residents have proved to be committed to protecting and improving open space within the borough and there over 40 separate Friends of Parks Groups, as well as a borough-wide Haringey Friends of Parks Forum which meets six times a year.

The Forum was set up by Friends Groups as an independent network in 2002, one of the first to be established in London. The Forum provides an opportunity for Friends Groups to work together for the good of Haringey's green spaces. The Forum's 'What We Do and How We Do It' document describes the work of the Friends Groups as such:

Friends Groups do a huge amount and put in thousands of hours of volunteer time to:

- help develop maintenance and management plans for our parks and green spaces
- raise funds for improvements needed

- prevent inappropriate development in parks and green spaces
- plant trees, shrubs and flowers and help create play areas, seating and other facilities
- conduct regular walkabouts with parks staff and produce maintenance updates
- organise activities that encourage local residents to safely use their local open spaces, including festivals involving up to thousands of local people

The Forum has been effective in lobbying and campaigning for:

- better planning policies as they affect open spaces
- more ambitious and effective open space standards
- greater levels of on-site staffing
- giving support to individual Friends Groups

Friends Groups communicate and co-ordinate through the Forum's email list. The Friends Groups liaise closely with all council park services, and have been key agents in helping to bring in millions of pounds in external funding to improve facilities for local people.

They have worked with the Council on achieving Green Flag status for many parks and open spaces. The Forum is supported by the Council and park Officers attend a session during the Forum's meetings to take note of each local Friends Group's issues, and to discuss wider issues of common concern. The Council is publicly committed to active partnership working with Friends Groups and the Forum, and minutes of all Forum minutes are displayed on the Council's website.

The Forum works with Haringey Federation of Residents Associations and the Haringey Allotments Forum. It also links up with similar grass-roots residents' Forums and networks throughout the UK through the London Friends Groups Network and the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces.

### **7.3 Friends of Belmont Recreation Ground**

Friends Groups across the borough do a huge amount of work and put in thousands of hours of volunteer time each year to:

- help develop maintenance and management plans for our parks and green spaces
- raise funds for improvements needed
- prevent inappropriate development in parks and green spaces
- plant trees, shrubs and flowers and help create play areas, seating etc
- conduct regular walkabouts with parks staff and produce maintenance updates
- organise activities that encourage local residents to safely use their local open spaces, including festivals involving up to thousands of local people

Although there was an active Friends of Belmont Recreation Ground group in the past, unfortunately at present there is not an active group. Target April 2020.

## 8. Conservation and Heritage

### 8.1 Biodiversity and the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

The term biodiversity refers to the variety of life around us, including plants, animals and the ecological interactions that take place in our environment. Haringey supports a wide diversity of wildlife and habitats ranging from woodland and wildflower meadows to ponds, streams and wetlands.

Haringey's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is currently under review. During 2019-20 a new BAP will be produced, aligned with the new Parks and Open Spaces Strategy. The new BAP will include detail on priority habitats, development of high value ecological corridors and the integration of biodiversity conservation into wider council initiatives.

Priorities within the BAP will help support updating or developing Conservation Action Plans for parks in Haringey including Belmont Recreation Ground. See section 8.4

### 8.2 Habitat representation and nature conservation interests

Belmont Recreation Ground covers just over three hectares of green space. The dominant habitat type is amenity grassland. Table below sets out the different types of habitat.

Habitat type	Area (ha)	Percentage
Amenity grassland	3.08	94%
Shrubbery	0.07	2%
Native hedge	0.03	1%
Non-native hedge	0.03	1%
Other	0.08	2%
Total	3.29	100%

Note: Habitat type defined as per the London Survey Methodology. Source [www.gigl.org.uk](http://www.gigl.org.uk). Total area reported in the survey does not exactly match the park area.

### 8.3 Designation status

Natural England and Local Authorities have a system of designating greenspace depending on certain characteristics and their value - locally, regionally and nationally. Belmont Recreation Ground is not a designated site.

The nearest designated site to Belmont Recreation Ground is Lordship Lane Recreation Ground which is a Site of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC):

### 8.4 Conservation Action Plan (CAP)

Conservation Action Plans (CAP) provide a framework for ongoing management of sites for their biodiversity value. They provide guidance on conservation actions and activities that can be carried out throughout the year and form a basis for the conservation work of TCV, Friends groups and other community organisations.

We plan to implement a new plan for this site when recruitment of the new conservation Officer is in place. This will be in partnership with TCV and other stakeholders. Further work will be required to reinvigorate the Friends Group at this site.

With the development of a new Biodiversity Action Plan during 2019-20, existing CAPs for parks will be updated to ensure they are aligned with the new BAP. They will detail conservation actions and requirements, including maintenance, enhancement opportunities and potential future projects.

## 8.5 Site History

The following information is extracted from the A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 5 by T F T Baker, R B Pugh (Editors), A P Baggs, Diane K Bolton, Eileen P Scarff, G C Tyack; published in 1976.

An Anglo-Saxon settlement, otherwise unrecorded, is indicated by the reference to Tottenham, 'Totta's ham', in the Domesday Book. Presumably it bordered the Roman road, the medieval Tottenham street, along which most of the population was concentrated until the 19th century. Eastward lay rich pastures on the marshes by the River Lea, while to the west stretched poorer soil, with woods whose bounds were gradually pushed back towards Muswell Hill in the course of the Middle Ages.

Except along High Road and at the Hale medieval settlement took place around a number of greens. In the west the building of a farmstead called Ducketts, north of the later Ducketts Common, by 1293. West Green, midway along the lane linking High Road opposite Page Green with Green Lanes at Ducketts, was mentioned in 1384. Beans Green, south of Ducketts at the junction of Green Lanes with Hanger Lane, was recorded in 1393 and Chapmans Green, where Lordship Lane later met Snakes Lane, in 1381, but there were probably no hamlets at either place during the Middle Ages.

A map made during the 1619 Dorset Survey shows the area of Belmont Recreation Ground to the North Western part of Hawkes Park as being one of the last sections of managed woodland in the Borough of Tottenham, the Recreation Grounds northern entrance.

In the centre of the parish of Tottenham, the West Green area still comprised no more than half a dozen houses in 1800, and no more than 20 houses in 1840. The population at this time of West Green and Wood Green was not quite 500 people. The area around Belmont Recreation Ground was not built upon to any extent until the early 1900's

The Society of Friends (Quakers) had a large influence in this area during the 1700 and 1800s. They provided many names for the area; had a large school and various meeting houses

The West Green area was largely open country during the early 1800s with the spread of housing happening in a north westerly progression from the Seven Sisters Road. The building of roads and avenues was largely reactive to the growth of houses. It was not until the early 1900's that efforts were made to ensure roads linked areas up and eased the flow of traffic. A rail line linking South Tottenham to Wood Green was opened in 1878 and the underground station at Turnpike Lane was opened in 1932 when the Piccadilly line was extended.

To keep up with the rapid increase in housing, business and factories between 1892 and 1931 Tottenham U.D.C. acquired 356 acres for public recreation. Belmont Recreation Ground was bought in 22nd October 1925 and totalled 10 acres. Apart from a loss of 2.6 acres, little has changed since then in the general make-up of the recreation ground.

## 9 Marketing

### 9.1 The marketing approach

Marketing Belmont Recreation Ground involves more than simply publicising and promoting the park, it also involves listening to the users of the park. A common phrase associated with marketing is 'putting the customer at the centre of business'.

This section outline how facilities and activities at Belmont Rec are promoted and publicised and secondly how users are positioned at the centre of the business.

### 9.2 Websites

[www.haringey.gov.uk/greenspaces](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/greenspaces)

The Haringey website contains extensive information on the borough's parks and open spaces, including Belmont Rec. Information such as locations, facilities and transport links for all Haringey parks and open spaces is available.

Policy information such as the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy which draws upon a range of information and seeks to establish a longer-term vision for the borough's parks and open spaces is also available.

Information detailing the Council's partnerships with the Friends, TCV, the Metropolitan Police and Groundwork is available online along with links to their websites.

Detailed information on the Green Flag Award with clear links to the Green Flag park pages within the LBH site can be viewed.

22% of respondents to the last residents survey carried out in 09/10 prefer to find out information via the web.

[www.harringayonline.com](http://www.harringayonline.com)

This is a community forum website which describes itself as being 'the online home of all things Haringay (you may say Haringay Green Lanes) with a good mix of Hornsey and Crouch End'. This is a well-established forum that acts as a vital communication tool for local people to share information and promote ideas, and it often used by users of Haringey's parks.

### 9.3 Social media

Social Media is now a regular way of communicating information between relevant parties and beyond. Haringey Council encourages all partners to use social media when communicating with communities.

[@haringeycouncil](https://twitter.com/haringeycouncil)

Haringey Council has now established a Twitter feed with over 5,000 followers and is used as a two-fold approach: to proactively release live information to keep people informed and updated and respond to queries and complaints posted by others. This is checked throughout the day and provides residents and visitors with another communication channel.

The Council also uses other forms of communication such as Facebook and YouTube.

[www.facebook.com/haringeycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/haringeycouncil)

[www.youtube.com/haringeycouncil](https://www.youtube.com/haringeycouncil)

## 9.4 Publications

Haringey People is the Council magazine, distributed six times a year by direct mail to all households within the borough. The magazine is produced by the Council's Central Communications Team which has editorial control over the content.

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/news-and-events/haringey-people-magazine>

Several articles are published each year promoting the borough's parks as well as the work and events that key stakeholders and partners organise in parks throughout the year.

## 9.5 Notice boards

There is a notice board at the Boundary Road gate that was installed in 2010. It is used to display information about the Council, services and campaigns. Some information about local community services are also displayed when noticeboard space allows.

A set of guidelines has been developed detailing how notice boards within parks should be used, maintained and what information can be displayed were issued with the expectation that all those with an interest and access to the notice boards will adhere to them.

In 2019 we developed a simple A2, updateable poster that gives key contact information for council and other public services.

## 9.6 Campaigns

There are several national campaigns that Haringey Council support and promote via social media to highlight key issues affecting the borough's parks and open spaces. These include:

- Litter awareness campaign – encouraging users to dispose of their litter responsibly.
- Neighbourhood Watches – encouraging creation of new watches and increased membership
- Trees Awareness – aimed at highlighting tree planting, tree identification, maintenance and removal and why. Along with National Tree Week.
- Volunteering and Friends Groups – promoting the work groups do, the benefits they bring to communities and encouraging volunteering
- Love Parks Week – Encouraging stakeholders and Friends to promote and highlight the borough's parks and the events that they put on.
- The Big Lunch- supporting and promoting via social media the Big Lunch events happening across the borough, with focus on shared picnics in our parks and green spaces.
- The Great Get Together- supporting and promoting the national campaign to celebrate and promote community cohesion. We have streamlined the application form for this event to make it even easier for residents and park users to take part.
- Play Weekend- supporting the Play Streets initiative to encourage more active play within communities
- Playday- supporting the National Summer event to promote active play for children, young people and families. We work closely with our colleagues in the Active Communities Team to support community involvement and uptake.

## 9.7 Awards

In 2018-19 a total of 22 parks managed by Haringey Council were awarded Green Flag status, an external recognition for quality parks and open spaces. Belmont Recreation Ground was one of these. However, a subsequent mystery shopping assessment found a number of concerns which jeopardised Belmont Recreation Grounds Green Flag status.

The council has responded by addressing the issues highlighted in the report and will submit a reapplication for a Green Flag assessment in the autumn of 2019.

Haringey Council is committed to the Green Flag scheme and is seeking to secure Green Flag status for at least 22 parks in 2020.

### **9.8 Tree and bench sponsorship**

A sponsorship scheme is provided where members of the public can sponsor the planting of a tree or the installation of a bench in any Council run park and open space. This can be done to commemorate a loved one or an event.

The sponsor pays for the item and planting / installation, thereafter the Council maintains it subject to certain conditions. Should sponsors wish to, they can also help in maintaining their item.

### **9.9 Consultation and market research**

Haringey is committed to listening to the views and ideas of our stakeholders, park users and residents. Council officers attend the Friends of Parks Forum on a bi-monthly basis and maintain open channels of communication with key stakeholders. This is a good way to listen to concerns and engage in a constructive dialogue about individual parks.

When planning any new project work within parks, we make sure that key stakeholders are included in discussions from the beginning of the process and where possible hold open engagement sessions so we can listen to the thoughts, needs and concerns of the wider park community.

Budget reductions have limited our capacity to undertake regular surveys of park users. We include a question about satisfaction with parks in a borough-wide survey about environmental and waste services. The survey is commissioned by Veolia.

In 2018, four in five respondents to the survey (80%) said that they were satisfied or very satisfied with parks. This is slightly down from 2016 (81%) but in 2018 parks was the service with the environmental and waste service with the highest satisfaction rating.

We are aware that we need more knowledge of user satisfaction with individual parks and local people's priorities for their local park. We are planning to survey park users in 2019-20 to ensure that we are working in the right direction for users and in line with the priorities and outcomes of the Borough Plan.

## 10. Management

### 10.1 Setting the financial scene

The parks service gross budget for 2017/18 was a total of £5.1m with a revenue income of £4.5m and operated a net deficit of £600k. According to a survey by Parks for London this represents the second lowest operating deficit in London.

Whilst the service has borne its share of austerity related budget reductions, in recent years the service has chosen to focus on generating additional income to mitigate these reductions rather than impact service delivery on the ground. The service has managed this by growing the amount of income generated through: -

- Increasing the number of park properties let
- Increasing the number paying a market rent,
- Growing the number of commercial events
- Growing the level of filming income
- Increasing the range of services offered to other organisations

A breakdown of the 2017/18 revenue budget is set out below:

- a) Revenue Expenditure – Employees, Premises, Transport, Supplies and Services, Third Party Payments, Support Services etc

Total Parks Expenditure	£5,142,184
Employees	£2,665,995
Premises related expenditure	£534,054
Transport related expenditure	£144,885
Supplies and Services	£398,471
Third Party Payments	£662,463
Support Services	£583,987
Capital Charges	£152,330

- a) Revenue Income - Customer and Client Receipts, Recharges etc

Total Revenue Income	£4,467,442
Customer and Client Receipts	£3,753,447
Recharges	£713,995

The council seeks to secure external investment from a number of sources. The council has its own ten-year capital strategy which currently includes over £11m of capital funding for parks. The services seek to add to this sum and has secured further investment from the following sources over recent years:

Section 106  
 Community Infrastructure Levy  
 National Lottery  
 London Marathon Charitable Trust  
 Environmental Funds  
 Greater London Council

## Event Income

Another important part of the overall funding mix is the fundraising carried out by Friends Groups across the borough. A wide variety of groups have been able to secure funds to deliver the priorities they identified. In 2017/18 the council directly invested the following amounts: -

b) Capital Expenditure – names of Capital schemes and expenditure on each scheme.

Park Asset Management	£377,288
Active Life in Parks	£263,477
Parkland Walk Bridges	£126,780

The Council continues to face significant financial challenges with many millions of pounds of savings to find over the coming years. A goal therefore for the service over the coming years is to maintain a stable budget position and therefore continuing with a strategy to generate additional income will be an important financial focus for the service.

## 10.2 Management structure

The Parks Service sits within the Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate and is overseen by the Director and the Cabinet Member for Environment.

The service is organised across Commissioning and Client Services and Operations business units.

Responsibility for the service falls to the respective heads of each business unit and they are supported by two commissioning managers and a parks manager.

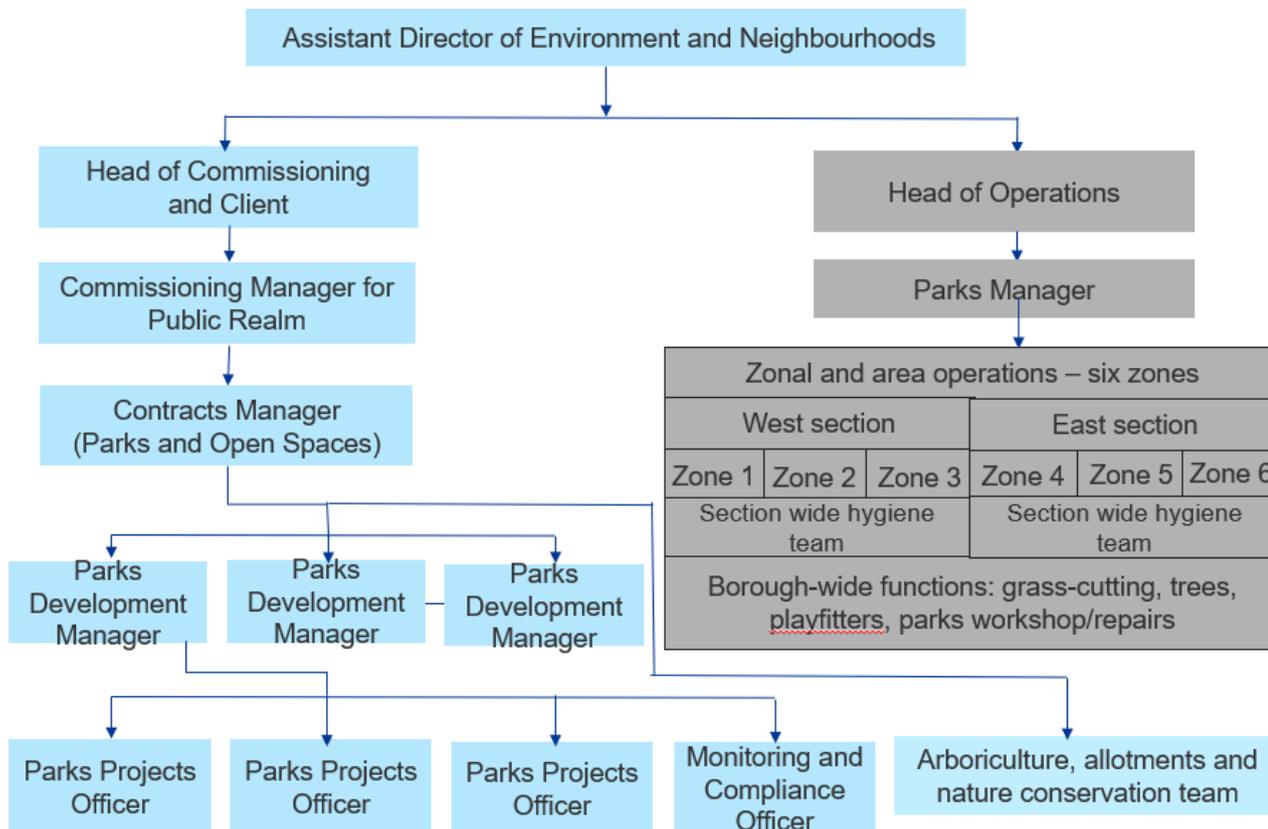
The structure chart (overleaf) shows the three core strands of the parks service which are:

- Park Operations Team – this team takes the lead on all day to day operational aspects of maintaining each green flag park.
- Active Communities Team – this team takes the lead on all event management, community activation in the park, partnership working and small grant awards. This team also secures sport related external funding
- Client and Commissioning – this team takes the lead on asset management, investment in parks, policy development, nature conservation and arboriculture.

These three core teams are supported internally by colleagues across Community Safety and Enforcement, Planning Services, Regeneration, Adults and Children's services on a variety of issues from homelessness, to new cycle routes, to improvement in existing green spaces and access and activities for older and young people.

External support for the service comes through the Friends Forum, our partners within the Police and The Conservation Volunteers alongside organisations such as Parks for London, Keep Britain Tidy and APSE.

### Simplified parks structure chart



### 10.3 Borough Plan 2019-2023

Following the local elections in May 2018 the new council and its partners have developed a Borough Plan setting out their vision and priorities for the next four years. Following extensive public consultation, it was agreed by Cabinet in February 2019.

The plan sets out the council’s priorities and the outcomes it seeks to achieve. Outcome 10 of the plan is for “a healthier, active and greener place”. The plan places importance on the role of parks and open spaces in delivering this outcome through four objectives.

Objective 10a is to “Protect and improve parks, open space, and green space, promoting community use”.

The Plan identifies several ways in which this will be achieved:

- Continue with partners to invest in our parks with over £15 million of improvements planned over the next five years, including new playgrounds and sports facilities.
- Develop a new Parks and Open Spaces strategy and consult with partners and local communities about how we will work together to protect, enhance and, where possible, extend green and open space in Haringey.
- Promote the use of our parks for a wide range of events and activities, including more community use.

- Plant more trees to make our streets and open spaces greener.
- Work with partners, including Environmental Community Groups, to maintain the borough's watercourses, maximising their environmental and health benefits

Parks are also important in delivering Objective 10b of the plan. It is to “increase the levels of physical activity across the borough” by “creating healthier places, including parks and open spaces, in line with the Mayor of London’s Healthy Streets plan...”

However, we cannot achieve the priorities in the plan on our own. We trust that our partners locally and our residents will work together with us on achieving them.

The Borough Plan 2019-2023 can be found at:

[https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/borough\\_plan\\_2019-23.pdf](https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/borough_plan_2019-23.pdf)

#### **10.4 Parks and Open Spaces Strategy**

The last open space strategy was adopted in 2006.

Work has begun on developing a new strategy for parks and open spaces. The importance of a new parks and open spaces strategy is underlined by the explicit reference to it in Borough Plan 2019-2023.

The new strategy will build on the Parks Scrutiny Review that took place in March 2018. It will be co-produced with Friends, residents and councillors. As part of the process there will be a series of workshops and a period of public consultation.

The strategy will set out the ambitions for the service over the next 10 years. It will set out approaches to the maintenance, management and usage of parks. It will also set out clear policy positions on issues relating to parks and open spaces. In some cases new policies will need to be developed (such as security in parks and licensable activity).

The strategy will also describe the funding landscape. One key element of this will be to balancing revenue funding for the service against the agreed service standards. It will also provide a context to inform the long-term capital strategy including mapping out the external funding opportunities that can be used to the benefit of the service

The timetable is for a draft strategy to have been agreed, following public consultation by the end of 2019 and for Cabinet to agree the document early in 2020.

#### **10.5 The Greenest Borough Strategy**

Haringey’s Greenest Borough Strategy responds to growing concerns around climate change. The Strategy sets out the Council’s and its partners commitment to tackle climate change under a number of key environmental policies to ensure achievement of their ‘green’ vision over a ten-year period, and details what the council, its partners and the public can do to contribute.

More information can be found here: [www.haringey.gov.uk/greenest-borough](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/greenest-borough)

#### **10.6 The Health & Wellbeing Strategy**

This strategy aims to reduce health inequalities through working with communities and residents to improve opportunities for adults and children to enjoy a healthy, safe and fulfilling life, through a number of key outcomes.

Those that specifically relate to parks include increasing physical activity and improving health and mental wellbeing. More information can be found here: [www.haringey.gov.uk/hwbstrategy](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/hwbstrategy)

## **10.7 Finance and funding**

The revenue budget for Belmont Recreation Ground sits within the overall Parks Operations.

Capital expenditure on parks and open spaces is planned at a borough level rather than at an individual park level. Match funding and other sources of external funding are sought wherever possible.

### **10.7.1 Parks and open spaces Small Grant Scheme**

The Parks and Open Space Small Grant Scheme has been running for a number of years. The scheme offers community groups associated with parks and open spaces - such as Friends of parks groups – to bid for funding of up to £1000. The funding is to support and develop community activity to help meet the council's aims and priorities for improving the borough's parks and open spaces. The budget available in 2018/19 was £40,000 and is expected to be again in 2019/20.

More information can be found here: [www.haringey.gov.uk/parkssmallgrants](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/parkssmallgrants)

### **10.7.2 Events income**

At the end of 2013 a review of the parks events policy was conducted to inform and guide changes of how events would take place in the borough's parks, and also realign and invest income from parks events back into park improvements.

Income generated from events in parks and open spaces will be used in the first instance to meet the parks event income target in each year.

The application and booking fees will be utilised to fund the staffing costs of the booking and event management process.

Surplus income will initially be used to support and develop community led festivals and events in parks across the borough and offer training opportunities for community event organisers. £20,000 additional funding will be made available as part of the small grants scheme, as detailed above.

Any additional income generated will be ring fenced to be reinvested back into parks maintenance across the borough. Where significant sums of money are generated in individual parks the reinvestment needs of that park will be addressed first before redistributing the remainder of any funds to other parks.

All applicants to hold event will be charged a flat rate fee dependent on their event to cover the cost of the environmental impact on the park.

The environmental impact income will be kept separate from other income received in respect of events. This additional income can be used by the Friends of the park in which the event was held to address their immediate priorities for the park.

## **11. Improving Belmont Recreation ground**

### **11.1 Next steps**

This document plans the work we would like to carry out. Some of the listed improvement are likely to be included in the design stages as the project develops as well as potential others as the design evolves. Any repairs and maintenance requirements will be managed by a dedicated officer.

Section 12 contains an action plan has been drawn up that sets out the actions to be taken over the next three years.

There are some aspirational one-off improvements which will be contingent on identifying suitable sources of funding or resources both from within the council and from external sources.

Other listed actions are more affordable: many will be at nil or negligible cost but will require the energy and contributions of local organisations and individuals.

The plan also identifies scheduled activities that will occur on a regular basis. One of these is to update the management plan on an annual basis. This plan will next be reviewed towards during 2020.

## 12. Action Plan

### 12.1 Maintenance and scheduled work programme

**This is a schedule of annual or routine tasks which are neither developmental nor fall within the remit of routine grounds maintenance or hygiene functions**

Heading	Action	Frequency	Responsible	When?
Clean and well maintained	Site inspection to be undertaken	Quarterly	Park Projects Officer	Quarterly
Healthy, safe and secure	Play Inspection Company to inspect and risk assess all play and outdoor gym equipment	Quarterly	Play Inspection Company	Jan/Apr/ Jul/Oct
Management	Review the management plan annually	Annually	Park Projects Officer	Dec/Jan
Community Involvement	Lead 'Spotlight' meetings in the park with councillors and Friends	Quarterly	Park Projects Officer	Quarterly
A clean and well-maintained park	On-site parks operative to undertake cleaning, hygiene, maintenance and grounds maintenance tasks as scheduled.	Three-times a week	Parks Operations	Ongoing

### 12.2 Belmont Recreation Ground development plan

This plans how the work we would like to carry out. Budget availability and more urgent unplanned work may mean that it cannot be fulfilled. Other repairs and general maintenance may have to take precedence. The content will be reviewed at least annually towards the end of each calendar year.

Heading	Action	Priority	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Deadline
A welcoming Place	Updating noticeboard information	M	Dedicated PO			On-going
	Straightening, cleansing of graffiti removal of bins, renovation	M	Dedicated PO			On-going

Heading	Action	Priority	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Deadline
	Repair to welcome mosaic	M	Dedicated PO			Complete
	New bins incorporating signage for use for dog waste	H	Dedicated PO	£4500	Revenue	April 2020
	New landscaped areas as part of rationalisation requirements	M	Dedicated PO			On-going
Healthy, safe and secure	Upgrade Play area, not included in current Outdoor Facilities Strategy	M	Dedicated PO	£15000	Capital Bid	Identify funding
A sustainable place	Funding opportunities to be explored	M	Dedicated PO	Unknown		June 2020
Community Involvement	Re-engage Friends Group	H	Dedicated PO, park users			April 2020
Conservation and Heritage	Work with TCV to examine current and future nature conservation requirements.	M	Biodiversity Officer	£1000		Await new conservation Officer Jan 2020
	To explore improvements throughout the recreation ground with regard to conservation in particular entrance improvements and picnic area		Dedicated PO	£1000		On-going
Marketing and communication	All site signage to be upgraded to reflect new corporate style	M	Dedicated PO	£1500		April 2020
Management	Allocation of a dedicated member of the Client & Commissioning/Parks & Open Spaces team as a zonal lead for Zone 5; in which Belmont Recreation Ground sits, with responsibility for regular asset inspections, non-emergency asset repairs, management plan input, project identification, liaison with friends and users, councillor liaison and identification of volunteering opportunities	H	Parks management team			Complete
	Commence using Confirm Connect for site inspections, once back-office set-up is complete	H	Dedicated PO	£0	n/a	April 2020

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