



## Green Flag Award 2019

**Name of Site: Woodside Park**

**Managing Organisation: Haringey Council**

### Desk Assessment Feedback (Management Plan and supporting documentation)

| Criteria   | Strengths  | Recommendations   |
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| <b>Presentation</b>  | Document reads well and much clearer in section on open space provision in Haringey. Good use of pictures.   |   |
| <b>Health, Safety &amp; Security</b>                       | Good section, aware of issues. Plan contains a comprehensive synopsis on the core objectives and actions to promote public safety and wellbeing  | Designing out crime 5.8, if you have done any in this park, just a sentence saying we have cut down, put in lights etc.   |
| <b>Maintenance of equipment, buildings &amp; landscape</b> | Plan contains a good summary of the core priorities and actions to maintain the required standards for grounds maintenance and how these are both monitored and improved e.g, trees have regular inspections and good schedules for litter picking and horticulture maintenance. | Consider why you have 4 classification of service standers, why not acceptable, or not? Therefore only 2. Can you break down the borough wide kpi to this area or zone? Not sure at 12 you need the table about inspections, as |

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|   |  | picked that up in the reading of the plan.  |
| <b>Litter, cleanliness, vandalism</b>       | A good overview of the core actions and protocols to address litter and waste, and a good response to deal with issues like graffiti. Schedule appears to be good.                             | Important challenges such as the location, type and design of litter bins, or methods to prevent or deal with graffiti, can be included in the plan as these develop, along with evaluating their outcomes and impacts.                           |
| <b>Environmental Management</b>             | A very good description on a range of appropriate techniques and methods to reduce the park's impact upon the environment, and maximise use of sustainable resources.                          | New techniques or tools to increase sustainability on site will arise through the lifetime of the plan, and if they are applied to the site this can be reflected in it, along with assessments of how they work and what benefits they have had. |
| <b>Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage</b> | Good approach it is difficult to fully cover the numerous ecological and heritage qualities of a site and this plan does very well in providing an appropriate overview with priority actions. | As key heritage, landscape and ecological assets mature or age, plan should evaluate what changes are required in protecting or maintaining them, or what might be required to remove or replace them if this is felt to be more appropriate.     |
| <b>Community Involvement</b>                | Good community involvement. A very good summary of who is involved in the management and development of the park, and what their functions and capabilities are.                               | As new user groups become interested and involved in the park, plan, when being reviewed, to identify these and assess how they can be engaged with and what roles they can play in future management.  |
| <b>Marketing &amp; Communication</b>        | Good use of social media   |   |
| <b>Overall management</b>                   | Nice to see both structures as the dept goes through change. Consider when you may put section 10 to the start of all new management plans, because it could be now?                           | 2.2.4 talk of tennis not be offered at moment, why? Isn't the parks structure due to change?  |

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|  | <p>Good to see links to other initiatives within the council and how parks moves the corporate agenda forward.</p> <p>Nice to see action plan with comments which talk about when resources become available. Consider having a comments box and put more actions down. Have a day of identifying project wishes with friends, officers etc.</p> | <p>Basically you have 36 staff to maintain, the parks and housing areas? Would be interesting to compare that with old work study records to see what can be achieved?</p> <p>5.9 understand safety of staff, but the approach contradicts the locking of the park. You either lock and put measures in to achieve or leave open?</p> |
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**Additional comments**

This is a good management plan which gets across what happens in the park. There is some duplication which is inevitable. My major comment would be that there is very little aspiration for the park. I understand that this is difficult whilst you go through restructure and austerity, but there needs to be something for the space to aspire to.

We do like the action plan but think it could contain more. What about the railings? They should be listed even if you have no idea at present how to fund. Make it a list of all those things you need to do. To be self-financing etc. put a date and then add comments each year, update this annually and then look at rest of management plan say every 5/10 years unless something really significant happens. That will show the course you are travelled with the space.

## Field Assessment Feedback

| Criteria                               | Strengths   | Recommendations   |
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| <p><b>A Welcoming Place</b></p>        | <p>All entrances visited are inviting with good and safe access.</p> <p>A level path provides good access for people with different abilities into the site.</p> <p>The entrance signs were all clean and contained relevant information.</p> <p>All certificates showing and Flag displayed</p> <p>The Park was easy to locate and has good links to public transport. The park is open all year round</p>   | <p>Some path edging could do with bringing up to the path edge</p>  |
| <p><b>Healthy, Safe and Secure</b></p> | <p>The site felt safe and inviting for community use.</p> <p>The work programme of clearing bins appears to be adhered to</p> <p>Entrances have changed to help safer access.</p> <p>All equipment and facilities appear well maintained and safe to use.</p> <p>Under 5's play area has benefited from recent improvements and management are up-to-speed with any issues &amp; seeking resources for additional improvements.</p> <p>The park is used frequently by dog walkers and there are no dog fouling issues.</p> <p>Regular Police patrols take place and Spotlight meetings take place every 2-3 months between the Police, a local Councillor, Friends Group and stakeholders of the park.</p> <p>CCTV cameras are only found around Nursery.</p> | <p>Some trip points in play area. The edges to the play surface being re levelled</p> <p>All footpaths in need repairing had been address and repaired.</p> <p>The over 5's playground has be removed in May 2019 and plans are in place to replace the equipment after discussions with park users and stakeholders.</p> <p>A designated email address has also been set up and is regularly monitored by a member of staff.</p> |

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| <p><b>Well Maintained and Clean</b></p>           | <p>Very well maintained and very clean &amp; tidy. Litter and other waste management issues are adequately addressed.</p> <p>Grounds, buildings, equipment and features appear well maintained.</p> <p>Paths are tidy and clean.</p> <p>The Council recognise that the boundary railings have come to the end of their life and a decision to restore, replace or remove is required.</p> | <p>Horticulture standards could benefit from some improvement e.g removal of weeds from shrub beds etc.</p> <p>A few dead branches overhang paths require removal.</p> <p>Consider whether boundary hedge sight-lines around nursery enclosure could be reduced? Allowing this area to visually connect to external play areas.</p> |
| <p><b>Environmental Management</b></p>            | <p>Good policies in place reducing the park's impact upon the environment, and maximise use of sustainable resources.</p> <p>New fleet of electric vehicles to reduce environmental impact.</p> <p>Good woodland management policies and practices in place.</p>  | <p>It would be good to see some information of environmental management improvements where these have been recorded, measured and evaluated against environmental performance.</p>  |
| <p><b>Biodiversity Landscape and Heritage</b></p> | <p>The management plan is actively implemented and regularly reviewed. A strong focus towards maintaining and restoring Heritage features e.g. fencing around park.</p> <p>All trees appear safe and in good condition.</p> <p>Bat boxes present in trees.</p>  | <p>Park Officer spoke of greater visions of linking to local partnerships and other green spaces/ corridors e.g. school ground to the park.</p> <p>And the potential for the site to form part of a network for wildlife (*same for health benefits)</p> <p>It would be valuable to update this in the Management Plan.</p>         |
| <p><b>Community Involvement</b></p>               | <p>An excellent Friends group that has obviously invested (and continues to) a great deal of time and effort into the Park grounds holding annual events (Jazz Picnic</p>   | <p>The park managers, and Officers demonstrated clear management and engagement objectives</p>  |

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|   | <p>and Folk Dance) to promote educational and health benefits around the Park.</p> <p>The Friends of Park Forum Group (an independent network for the 45 local Friends groups of Haringey residents) work closely with Haringey Council in order to protect and improve the Park.</p> <p>A Health initiative take place in the park each year called Parkrun where GPs, practice staff and patients walk, run and volunteer at the park. This is seen as a way to improve health and wellbeing and for everyone to get involved with the local community.</p> <p>During the visit we spoke to Community Safety Officers who carry out regular patrolling of the park and attend the cross park meetings with the Friends of Park Forum Group.</p> <p>The neighbouring Cypriot Community Centre frequently use the park.</p> | <p>with all users and local community groups.</p> <p>It would be valuable to see some information/data on how the Council have engaged with users of different ethnicities and those with disabilities.</p> <p>Regular input from the community is essential to maintain local support.</p>                              |
| <p><b>Marketing and Communication</b></p> | <p>Well publicised locally and well known in the area.</p> <p>The Park has a robust marketing strategy with all facilities well marketed and a good web presence with up to date information.</p> <p>Friends of Groups support and disseminate the ethos in order to facilitate the participation of the community through publicising and helping to organise the events.</p> <p>New App. For reporting issues to the Council.</p> <p>All notice boards contained posters and information for users.</p> <p>The park predominately caters for small-scale community events.</p> <p>Walking routes of the park can also be found on the council website by following this</p>   | <p>Recognising that the Council have good marketing and communication, it could also be beneficial to have “Pre-During-Post” engagement around developing areas e.g. Over 5’s play area (what’s happening next?) on the ground. For example inside notice boards, next to areas that are undergoing development etc.</p> |

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|                   | link- <a href="https://www.haringey.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/travel/walking/walking-groups">https://www.haringey.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/travel/walking/walking-groups</a>   |  |
| <b>Management</b> | <p>The Park managers manage the functional areas of the park and demonstrated not only passion but support and knowledge around community involvement in line with the Councils 2023 strategic vision report details recommended approaches where people can lead active and healthy lives in an environment that is safe, clean and green.</p> <p>Although budgets have been affected by austerity the Park hosts a number of local organisations that lease their buildings/assets with the aim of independently sustaining their green space. For example the leasing buildings to local organisations Little friends nursery, Fatisa restaurant or the Mushroom Building etc.</p> | The Councils strategic vision report has a strong focus on fundraising and maximising the commercial potential of the site based on public benefit, heritage and ecological value. |

**Additional Comments**

It is credit to all staff in the parks and Michael Corwell James Friends Chair of Woodside Park, Pauline Syddell MET for their commitment, enthusiasm and aspirations to maintain and develop a treasured park with its rich history dating back to the early 11th century, a great community asset in the heart of Haringey. Congratulations to you all and well done.