6 Aims, Objectives and Management Actions

This section presents the aims and objectives for John Innes Park and Recreation Ground from 2005 – 2010. The format is closely aligned to the key criteria set by the Civic Trust and Cabe Space for the Green Flag Award. The current status of the Park, measured against the Green Flag criteria highlights current condition, recent development and areas for improvement. Objectives have been developed based on our assessment of the current status of the park. They define our intentions for achieving the vision for the park.

The Key Green Flag Criteria are:

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

The vision and objectives for the Park and Recreation Ground are aligned with and may be in addition to the Merton Partnership’s Community Plan, the Council’s corporate objectives and the 2005 Merton Open Space Strategy vision and desired outcomes.

The Management Actions described in the following section include likely timeframes, responsibility for implementation, cost estimates and funding sources. This information will be reviewed regularly and is expected to evolve as opportunities arise.
6.1 Creating a Welcoming Park

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

Features of particular importance are:
- Good and Safe Access
- Effective signage to and in the park; and
- Equal access for all members of the community.

6.1.1 Current Condition and Issues

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

Pedestrians can enter the park through two entrances. The main entrance, off Mostyn Road, welcomes visitors with attractive bedding displays, herbaceous borders, distinctive railings and gates and the historic park lodge. There is also pedestrian access by the Lodge off Mostyn Road. The park is also accessible via the recreation ground (which is accessed by an entrance on Cannon Hill Lane) by public right of way through Rutlish School. A further entrance to the Recreation ground, currently not in use due to security concerns, is located on Watery Lane.

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

Good tarmac footpaths link all areas and points of interest in John Innes Park and Recreation Ground. The sporting facilities, horticultural areas and features of historical importance are all accessible for visitors pushing pushchairs or those in wheelchairs or with other mobility impairments. Good quality benches, waste bins and dog bins are located conveniently around the site. Funding is available from the Council’s special fund for implementing the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) to ensure the buildings in John Innes and other parks are accessible and that appropriate facilities for people with disabilities are available.

To ensure visitors know where they are and what is available there are two main interpretive panels in the park. One is located at the Mostyn Road entrance and another at the entrance to the Recreation Ground from the park side. These signs provide a map of the site with facilities and features of interest, policies on litter, dogs, and motorcycles in the park and contact details.

6.1.2 Objectives

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Budget (£000)</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Secured?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Footpaths:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Wearing course and gravel to all footpaths.&lt;br&gt;Replace edging or make good stone edging where necessary.&lt;br&gt;Install new sealed gravel footpath in the playing field to complete perimeter route.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Serpentine Walk:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Install new edging to footpath</td>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Mostyn Road</strong>&lt;br&gt;Paint railings</td>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Repair wall by Croquet Lawn</strong></td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Improve screening to Bowling Club from Watery Lane</strong></td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Install new railings behind property near yard area</strong></td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Install new boundary fence and hedge in John Innes Recreation Ground</strong></td>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 1. Maintenance of boundary fencing, hedging, gates and access paths to a consistently high standard**

- Footpaths:<br>Wearing course and gravel to all footpaths.<br>Replace edging or make good stone edging where necessary.<br>Install new sealed gravel footpath in the playing field to complete perimeter route.<br>Cost: £10k for 3 years.

**Objective 2. Improve signage in the surrounding neighbourhood to the park and provide more directional and interpretive signs within the park**

- Install a Friends of John Innes Park notice board<br>Cost: £1.5.
- Work with Transport for London (TFL) to provide directional information at Tram and Rail Stops.<br>Cost: £NA.
- Install more signage in surrounding neighbourhood leading to John Innes Park<br>Cost: £1.
- Develop and implement interpretive signage for horticultural and architectural features within the park.<br>Cost: £3.

**Objective 3. Meet the accessibility requirements of all users**

- **Bowling Green Access:**<br>Provide new access gate through west wall (high priority)<br>Cost: £1.5.

**Objective 4. Provide everybody with a range of high quality, well-maintained and relevant facilities that are accessible, safe and clean.**

- **Old Tennis Courts – Play area**<br>Current used by school in derelict condition<br>Redevelop into play area with swings, sandpit and multi play area following discussions with the Rutlish Foundation. Further consultation will be necessary.<br>Cost: £45.
6.2 A Healthy, Safe and Secure Park

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

- Equipment and facilities must be safe to use;
- The park must be a secure place for all members of the community to use or traverse;
- Dog fouling must be adequately dealt with;
- Health and safety policies should be in place, in practice and reviewed; and
- Toilets, drinking water, first aid, public telephones and emergency equipment where relevant (e.g. lifebelts by water) should be available on or near the site and clearly signposted.

6.2.1 Current Condition and Issues

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

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

- The John Innes Society (especially through its sub-group, the Friends of John Innes Park);
- Local Metropolitan Police Beat Manager;
- LB Merton Street Wardens.
Safety and security in John Innes Park and Recreation Ground is further enhanced by a number of wider Council-led initiatives that complement the involvement and respect between managers, users and enforcement agencies. These initiatives are very important for the continued security, effective management and enjoyment by all.

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

**Condition Monitoring and Maintenance**

The condition of footpaths, waste bins, benches, planting, fencing are inspected four times a year by Park Staff. The condition of seats, litterbins, etc is undertaken on a daily basis by Flagship park staff and Rangers. Unsafe facilities are repaired or replaced immediately to ensure user safety and discourage vandalism.

**CONFIRM Asset Management System**

CONFIRM is a software package designed for asset and maintenance management of street-based services provided by local authorities. The Leisure and Greenspaces Team use the system to manage and monitor maintenance activities, tree works and risk and customer feedback.

CONFIRM improves service delivery by allowing customers (in this case parks visitors) to log a maintenance or safety issue (e.g. litter, unsafe tarmac surface, dog mess etc) on Merton’s website, by phone or by email. The system assigns the issue a job number and assigns the task of rectifying the issue to the appropriate council officer. This is known as a confirm enquiry (an example is displayed in Figure 6.1 below). The Enquiry is closed when the job has been completed.

The system is excellent for ensuring complaints and maintenance issues are logged and followed up. Subsequent monitoring of the system allows Leisure and Greenspaces to monitor the type, location and frequency of maintenance issues and complaints. This can direct the deployment of resources.
Due to the high number of visitors, the adjacent Rutlish school and the large number of partners working visibly within the Park, security in the Park has improved remarkably in the past few years. There are however, minor problems with graffiti and vandalism that occur occasionally. These events often occur outside normal visiting hours. Natural surveillance from surrounding properties broken by trees but the entranceways are clear.

As part of London Borough of Merton, John Innes Park and Recreation Ground has a Health and Safety policy displayed in the Park Office. Risk assessments and the Health and Safety Policy are available to view at the Hill Cross Depot.

Training

Within the Parks Service there is a programme of staff training that includes:

- Chainsaw use;
- Appropriate Pesticide Use;
- First Aid;
- Safe operation of Machinery;
- Customer Care;
- Manual Handling;
- Dispute Resolution;
- The Inspection Programme.

Dogs Policy and Control

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

The policy of London Borough of Merton is to treat dog waste and separate rubbish. It is emptied from the 4 dog bins in the park by Environmental Services.
regarding the Council’s dog policies is displayed in the park on the main signs. LB Merton is implementing the “traffic light” system for dog control across all open spaces (including housing and highways land) in the borough:

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

Dogs are not permitted on the Bowling Green and croquet lawn.

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

Emergency Contacts

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

Toilets

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

Trees

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

[Risk assessments are carried out by the Arborcultural Officer.

6.2.2 Objectives

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

6.2.3 Management Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Budget (£000)</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Secured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Tennis Courts:</strong> Remove existing chain link fencing and replace with “Zaun” fencing. Extend tarmac at back of tennis courts.</td>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Objective</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Floodlighting</td>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>Install new floodlighting (subject to consultation and planning permission).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Recreation Ground: Chainlink Fencing</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Remove old chainlink fencing along Watery Lane and Cannon Hill Lane. Replace with Railings.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Recreation Ground: Safety Netting</td>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>Remove and replace 5m high post and safety netting and replace.</td>
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</table>

**Objective 6. Work with local residents, rangers, police and other stakeholders to increase informal surveillance of the park**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Work closely with the Merton Park Safer Neighbourhoods team on priorities for security for the Park</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Safer Neighbourhoods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 7. Address all safety issues addressed promptly and effectively through timely monitoring and reporting**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Implementation of the Confirm System (Computerised Parks Management Tool)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>In house</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 8. Encourage responsible dog ownership through education, provision and maintenance of dog bins, and active enforcement by rangers and park staff;**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Implementation of the traffic light dog control system in the park (Consultation underway January 2007)</td>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>Dog Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Enforce spot fines for dog control violations</td>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>Dog Ranger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 9. Enforce safe working practices to protect all park staff and visitors**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>No significant risk factors identified in John Innes Park Refer Health and Safety and CHAS policies in Appendix 5.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>In house</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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<th></th>
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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Implement Regular Tree Inspections</td>
<td>Daily visual 3 yearly Detailed inspection Last inspection 2005.</td>
<td>Arboriculture Team</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 10. Implement the Health and Safety Policy**
6.3 A Well Maintained and Clean Park

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

- Litter and other waste management issues must be adequately dealt with;
- Grounds, buildings, equipment and other features must be well maintained; and
- A policy on litter, vandalism and maintenance should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed.

6.3.1 Current Condition and Issues

In order to keep abreast of community attitudes toward the management and maintenance of open spaces the London Borough of Merton carried out a major review of parks and open spaces in 1999 / 2000. The results of the review led to the establishment of four distinct management groups with the overall structure of parks and open spaces. The review also allowed the Parks Manager to bring back “in house” all grounds maintenance staff. The current management structure is included as Appendix 6.

The park is used extensively by a variety of groups and individuals and litter is a serious management issue. Litterbins are emptied seven days a week by Park Rangers. Rangers also undertake litter picking across the park and recreation ground. LBH also works with our partners to address litter issues.

Managing dog waste is also a significant issue with bins are emptied by Environmental Services and regular inspections address the disposal of stray dog waste. Parks staff regularly, in the electric powered ATV, undertakes the collection of litter in the park. Waste is collected daily by rangers and transported to an off site waste facility. Litter around the borders of the park is mainly wind blown from the adjacent Rutlish School. The park ranger collects any litter around the border of the park.

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

London Borough of Merton aims to remove graffiti from Council property within 5 days and offensive or racist graffiti anywhere in the borough within 24 hours. London Borough of Merton Council, employs graffiti officers to co-ordinate the borough’s fight against graffiti, graffiti project officers are available on 0208 545 3173 / 4109 / 4777; Currently the Council also:

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

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

The rockery area and serpentine walk were relandscaped in 2004 with a living spaces grant and match funding fro LBM. There has been removal of some of the planting on the rockery in 2007. LBM ill be working with the Friends Groups to carry out some fundraising and replanting in Autumn 2008.

**Built Heritage**

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

Vandalism to buildings in the parks reported to the park manager / supervisor who phone corporate services on a hotline number. They will organise a repair through nominated termed contractors.

If the damage is to the landscape, the park manager or members of the public will contact the Green Spaces Team who will organise necessary repairs and claim costs back to insurance if the damage exceeds £500.

### 6.3.2 Objectives

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Budget (£000)</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Secured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Tree Conservation Works:</strong> 434 trees in the park. Work to include reshaping, crown reduction, thinning, removal.</td>
<td>3 year project 2006-09</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>New Shrub Planting / Herbaceous Border</strong> Replant under storey planting. To include new shrub planting in back lawn in front of wall of Rutlish School (near Rose Walk)</td>
<td>3 year project 2006-09</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Reshaping of hedges</strong> Reshaping of yew hedges and replacement where necessary</td>
<td>2006-09</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Amenity screening of Park Depot</strong></td>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Painting of Boundary Railings</strong></td>
<td>2006/07 complete</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Recreation Ground</strong> Remove leylandii hedge and replace with (Hornbeam Hedge). Remove old carpinus belulus tree stumps</td>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Playing Field Steps and Plinth</strong> Remove old concrete plinth and paint old gate and provide new brick steps off Watery Lane.</td>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 11. Ensure high standards of maintenance for bowling greens, tennis courts, lawns, bedding areas, trees and shrubs, user facilities and park and water features**

- #1 Tree Conservation Works: 434 trees in the park. Work to include reshaping, crown reduction, thinning, removal.

- #2 New Shrub Planting / Herbaceous Border: Replant under storey planting. To include new shrub planting in back lawn in front of wall of Rutlish School (near Rose Walk).

- #3 Reshaping of hedges: Reshaping of yew hedges and replacement where necessary.

- #4 Amenity screening of Park Depot.

- #5 Painting of Boundary Railings.

- #6 Recreation Ground: Remove leylandii hedge and replace with (Hornbeam Hedge). Remove old carpinus belulus tree stumps.

- #7 Playing Field Steps and Plinth: Remove old concrete plinth and paint old gate and provide new brick steps off Watery Lane.

**Objective 12. Provide adequate facilities for the disposal of visitor’s rubbish and dog waste**

- #8 Summer Evenings – Additional Litter Collection.

**Objective 13. Discourage vandalism and graffiti through education, innovative design of facilities and building community alliances**

- #9 Working with Metropolitan Police Safe Neighbourhood Unit.

**Objective 14. Monitor the maintenance programme to ensure improvements can be celebrated and weaknesses addressed**

- #10 Joint monitoring programme: Park Manager and Friends Group representative evaluate the park.
6.4 Achieving Sustainable Spaces

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

- An environmental policy or charter and management strategy should be in place, in practice, and regularly reviewed;
- Pesticide use should be minimised and justified;
- Horticultural peat use should be eliminated;
- Waste plant material generated in the park should be recycled;
- High horticultural and arboricultural standards should be demonstrated; and
- Energy conservation, pollution reduction, waste recycling and resource conservation measures should be used.

6.4.1 Current Condition and Issues

Merton Council’s current environmental policies on sustainable resources, energy efficiency, and waste management are in various stages of development. The Draft Medium Term Waste Strategy is approaching consultation stage.

In order to protect the health of Park users, staff and the biodiversity of the Park, the Leisure Facilities and Technical Group have a general policy to reduce the use of pesticides in the maintenance of all parks and open spaces. The use of pesticides has been eliminated from all areas of the Park with the exception of the fine turf bowling green where non residual herbicides are used only where necessary. The Bowling Green is maintained using the Symbio turf management system. Symbio is a biological approach to Sports Turf Management. A copy of the management programme for the bowling green is available from the Park Manager on request. Within most of the Park areas weed growth is suppressed with hand weeding, hoeing and mulching.

Peat based composts are only being used in the park for the bedding plant contract. Merton’s current supplier is currently reducing the amount of peat used and an alternative medium is being utilised in order to eliminate the use of peat in the Park. No peat will be used in the park by 2010. Herbaceous borders are mulched with on site green waste. Improving the facilities available on site to recycle more of the green waste produced in the Park further would eliminate transport and disposal costs, reduce overhead costs and other associated detrimental environmental impacts.

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

Replacement Park furniture and fixtures is made from sustainable and recycled resources where available. The emphasis is on maintaining existing facilities to a high standard to avoid waste.
Resource use is quantified and reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that water, electricity and gas bills are closely monitored to ensure leaks and efficiencies are addressed promptly.

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

In 2008 Madison Water Technology Ltd are installing a irrigation system at the Bowling Green. This system will use the water from the Bowling Green Pavilion roof. It will incorporate a rain stat that will turn off the system when it is raining, saving water. The system will evenly distribute the correct amount of water instead of using an inefficient tool.

### 6.4.2 Objectives

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

### 6.4.3 Management Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Budget (£000)</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Operate in line with Merton’s Environmental Action Plan 2003.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pesticides are only used where absolutely necessary.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Investigate opportunities to expand existing council waste recycling scheme in parks</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ensure reports from the Inspection Schedule inform energy and resource conservation in the Park</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Install new Bowling Green irrigation system and use water from Bowling Green Pavilion roof.</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Capital</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Photograph: Rare Cephalotaxus fortunei in John Innes Park (2005).
6.5 Conservation and Heritage

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

- Natural features, wildlife and flora;
- Landscape features; and
- Buildings and structural features.

These features should serve their function well without placing undue pressure on the surrounding environment.

6.5.1 Current Condition and Issues

Natural Heritage

John Innes Park and Recreation ground is not a recognised or designated site of nature conservation importance. Due to its central function as a formally managed horticultural and recreational landscape, the park does not include suitable habitats that support native and endangered species. Also, the Park’s isolation from nearby wildlife sites such as Wimbledon Common excludes various terrestrial species from creating new habitats within the park boundaries.

However, the park does have significant potential for wildlife habitats and careful and responsive management techniques could increase the overall biodiversity of the park. Recognising this opportunity, a number of bird and bat boxes were installed in the park in 2005.

Invertebrate habitats are another area where nature conservation could be promoted in the park. The Merton Park residential area has the highest concentration of holly blue butterflies in the country. They are abundant in the John Innes Park and are dependent on the combination of both holly and ivy for the completion of their life cycle. There is a future proposal to introduce native screening to the cricket pitch to increase further native habitats for other species.

There is currently no detailed information on bird populations in John Innes Park and Recreation Ground. However, information on avifauna is available for other sites in the borough. An investigation into bird populations in the Park should be undertaken to determine species and populations and their relationship with the vegetation in the park.

Heritage Interest

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

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

In 2008 LBM will work with friends of John Innes Park to install interpretative panels on all main heritage features.

- The Entrance Lodge and gates (by Quartermain)
- Ornamental brick walls separate the park from the Manor House and from the playing fields to the south
- Cottage and adjoining archway (by Quartermain);
- Public Conveniences (by Brocklesby)
- Bandstand (by Brocklesby)
Glasspoole Thompson Landscape Architects were commissioned by London Borough of Merton to carry out a study on John Innes Park and Recreation Ground in 1998. The four objectives were to:

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

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

6.5.2 Objectives

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Budget (£000)</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Secured?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Objective 19. Where appropriate, restore original heritage features aware of modern needs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduce native screening to the Cricket Pitch to encourage habitats for invertebrates</td>
<td>Refer to Action 6 – 5.3.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Minimise all pesticide use</td>
<td>Action 2 5.4.3</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Maintain bat and bird boxes (see Appendix 2: Maintenance Schedule)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Objective 20. Enhance the wildlife value of the site</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ensure the inspection regime advises the maintenance programme and highlights opportunities for future park development.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Refer to Actions 1-7 – 5.3.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Objective 21. Conserve the ornamental character, unique design and intimate layout of the park and recreation ground</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Provide more interpretive signs for historical features – working with the John Innes Society and Friends.</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>In House / Friends</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Refer to Action 7 – 5.1.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Objective 22. Protect the historical features and horticultural heritage of the park and educate the public on their value</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Drinking Fountain Select Replacement for 3m high drinking fountain through design competition. A new plaque to provide information on the original.</td>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>External Artist</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Conservation of existing walls Detailed Survey of walls and repairs as necessary. (See existing survey and refer to Glasspoole Thompson Historical Management Plan) Refurbishment Programme will be developed from review of Historical Management Plan recommendations.</td>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>In house / Contractor</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Rebuild Wall by Croquet Lawn</td>
<td>2007/08 Complete</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Refurbish roof on cricket pavilion and paint sections of pavilion walls.</td>
<td>2008 In House</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.6 Community Involvement

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

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

6.6.1 Current Condition and Issues

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

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

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

The Friends of John Innes operates as a sub-committee of the Society and does not charge a separate membership fee. The Society and Friends strongly believe that the park should be conserved for the benefit of all, in a way that is consistent with the original intentions of the trustees in order to reduce maintenance costs. Many improvements in 2004 reflected the desires of the Friends Group:

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

There are also other stakeholders and volunteers who are involved in the use, management and promotion of John Innes. Rutlish School, the Merton Cricket club, the Bowls Club and the Croquet Club are both involved in the regular management and maintenance of the park. Merton Council works closely with the Police to discourage anti-social behaviour and protect the users and facilities of the park. Improving the coordination, communication and cooperation between different stakeholders in the Park is vital to the success of this management plan. A dedicated forum to encourage closer working relationships between the various user groups could be a useful development.
One such issue that needs addressing by the stakeholders is the need for additional, appropriate, facilities for young people within the park. In order to develop a sustainable and respected facility, young people should be consulted and involved in the process. This may involve consultation on a play area in future.

Further investigation is required to establish specific use patterns for John Innes Park and Recreation Ground. The council currently monitors the use and quality of the cricket square bowling greens. Additionally, a 2001 study of individual Park Use across the borough provided detailed information about who the open space users are in the borough and their reasons for visiting or not visiting open space. Use patterns continue to evolve and visitor counts, surveys and other information should be interrogated to provide responsive management and plan future development.

6.6.2 Objectives

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

6.6.3 Management Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objective 24. Work closely with existing stakeholders and partners to address local residents’ needs, aspirations and concerns and encourage a sense of ownership.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Annual Questionaire Survey Members of Bowling and Cricket Clubs</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Meeting with Bowls clubs bi-annually</td>
<td>Bi Annually</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Participate in Friends Group Forum</td>
<td>Bi Annually</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Objective 25. Identify users and encourage them to participate in the development and management of the park.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Questionaire Survey of Park Users</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Monitor visitor levels in park and using tennis courts and other facilities</td>
<td>On going</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ranger Training for Public Relations</td>
<td>On going</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Objective 26. Consult the wider Merton community about future plans, proposals and current projects in the park.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Consultation on Merton Open Space Strategy Progress and Projects. Reporting to Friends Groups, Press releases, Progress update newsletter.</td>
<td>Annually / Ongoing</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Consultation from Planning Department on the Development of the Local Development Framework</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>When</td>
<td>Who</td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>-------------</td>
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<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Attend Friends Group Forum to raise awareness about available funding sources and agree a timetable for funding applications.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Continue to engage Rutlish School in development projects and maintenance activities</td>
<td>On going</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Engage the congregation of St Mary’s Church at Merton Park</td>
<td>On going</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 28. Foster closer relationships with local schools and institutions.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Continue to engage Rutlish School in development projects and maintenance activities</td>
<td>On going</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Engage the congregation of St Mary’s Church at Merton Park</td>
<td>On going</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 29. Encourage a complementary working relationship between the council and community volunteers.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>No specific actions</td>
<td>On going</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>