The Management Actions described in the following section include likely timeframes, responsibility for implementation, cost estimates and funding sources. Most of the Management Plan objectives have specific actions against them. In some cases the objective relates to how we work. In these cases there will be no related actions.

This information will be reviewed regularly and is expected to evolve as opportunities arise.

NB: NA in Action Plans = Funding Not currently Assigned.

Photograph: Future Cricket Stars Train at Sir Joe (June 2006)
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

Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field’s location is accessible to the West Barnes and wider community using a variety of transport modes. There is a parking area for 100 cars within the park grounds accessible from Marina Avenue. Visitors travelling by rail on South West Trains have a 10-minute walk from Motspur Park Station. The nearest bus stops, towards either Raynes Park or New Malden are approximately five minutes walk from the main entrance. Bus route K5, which services the Playing Field, only runs between 0700 and 2000 at a frequency of one per hour, Monday to Saturday. However an expanded bus priority network borders the local area.

A pedestrian crossing on West Barnes Lane, near the junction with Marina Avenue, allows safe access to the main entrance to the Playing Field. Pedestrians can enter the park through 2 entrances. The main entrance, off Marina Avenue is attractively presented with mature trees and the newly planted shrub beds. There is also pedestrian access on the eastern boundary of the site via the adjacent Morden Cemetery and on the southern boundary from Worcester Park.

To ensure visitors know where they are and what is available there are currently 3 main interpretive panels and a Friends notice board in the park. They are located inside the Marina Avenue entrance. These signs provide a map of the site with facilities and features of interest, policies on litter, dogs, and motorcycles in the park and contact details. The Friends’ Notice Board provides information about matters affecting the playing field and information on the site’s history, flora and fauna. The Playground has separate signage informing users on the playground’s age restrictions and safety precautions.

Tarmac footpaths link all areas and points of interest in Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field. The sporting facilities, horticultural areas and features of biodiversity importance are all accessible to varying degrees for visitors with pushchairs or those in wheelchairs or with other mobility impairments. Pedestrian access was re-established to the Memorial Wood from the main playing field in 1990. The path system in the woodland is bark and may be difficult to access by some users during winter months. Sealing this walkway would not be within the principles of the Conservation Management Plan.

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 Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field and other parks are accessible and that appropriate facilities for people with disabilities are available.

The northwest side of the local area forms part of a cycle route running across the centre of the Borough. (info Merton cycle network).

In 2007 approval was given to implement a new cycle route through the park. This will include retarmacing and widening of the parks to 3m and installation of signage.
### 6.1.3 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, 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>Plant New Shrub Border at Marina Avenue Entrance</td>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>S106 Fund</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Plant New Shrub Borders outside Pavilion</td>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>S106 Fund</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>New gates for Pavilion Garden</td>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>S106 Fund</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Two new gates leading to the Cemetery</td>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>S106 Fund</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Replace old chainlink fencing along boundary between the car park and tennis courts.</td>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>S106 Fund</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>New wearing course along main pathway between car park and play area</td>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>S106 Fund</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

| 7  | New interpretive Panel at Park Entrance                                    | 2006/2007   | In house       | 1.5           | Capital      | Yes     |
| 8  | Work with Transport for London (TFL) to provide directional information at Rail Stops. | Ongoing     | In house | NA | Revenue | Yes |
| 9  | Install more signage in surrounding neighbourhood leading to Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field | Ongoing | In house | 1 | Revenue | Yes |
|    | Move Conservation Area to Memorial Woodland Entrance                        | 2007         | In house       | NA            | Revenue      | Yes     |

Objective 3. Meet the accessibility requirements of all users

| 10 | New footpath, entrance way and railway sleeper bridge to Memorial Wood      | 2007/08     | Contractor     | 2.5           | Nature Conserve | Yes |
| 11 | Tarmac footpath improvements and responding to tree root damage            | Ongoing     | Contractor     | 40            | Revenue        |        |
| 12 | Extend car park to create an overflow area using “grasscrete” paving, and mark out disabled bays. | 2006/07 | Contractor | 10 | Capital | Yes |
| 13 | Install new cycleway around park                                           | 2008         | Contractor     | 40K           | TFL           | Yes     |

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

<p>| 14 | Redevelopment of Toilets to make accessible for people with disabilities and for children. Signage, seating, lighting and internal improvements to toilets and installation of internal and external accessible toilets. | 2005/06 | Contractor | 47.5 | DDA | Yes |</p>
<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>15</td>
<td>Provision of seating throughout Playing Field</td>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Trim Trail and Signage</td>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Norlands Foundation</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Refurbishment of 4 Tennis Courts (Tarmac and Fencing)</td>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Marathon Trust and Capital</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Refurbishment of 2 Tennis Courts for dual use (Tarmac, fencing, markings, gates, and provision of basketball)</td>
<td>2006-08</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Bowling Green to be turned into a crazy golf area following further consultation with the Friends of SJHMPF.</td>
<td>2006-08</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Replace old chainlink fencing along boundary between car park and tennis courts</td>
<td>2006-08</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Low level energy efficient security lighting between car park and pavilion.</td>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Install new fencing and basketball goals in multisport area.</td>
<td>2007/8</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>35K Grant</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

Merton has developed the Sport, Health and Physical Activity Strategy to provide a plan that encourages healthier communities through getting involved in sport.

Active participation in sport, health and physical activity contributes to:

- Developing sporting, health and fitness skills for children young people and adults;
- The enjoyment of life in the borough;
- The health fitness and well being of our community.

The Sports and Physical Activity Strategy sets out the Council’s plans to:

- Improve opportunities in sports, health and physical activity for those people not activity involved in an average of 3 x 30 minutes of physical activity per week;
- Increase the number of people regularly volunteering at least one hour per week in support of sport and active recreation.
- Raise standards and improve participation in PE and sport in Merton’s schools;
- Raise standards and improve young peoples’ participation in out of school sports and physical activities;
- Improve the health of the community through our actions in improving sport and active recreation opportunities;
- Target our resources to achieve our stated aims.

SJHMPF is an important borough facility where Merton Council can promote healthy living through the practical provision of new facilities and the continuing improvement and maintenance of existing equipment. The provision of sports and play facilities and the trim trail is complemented with the many informal recreational uses that occur in the park. Dog walking, nature walks, links into the cycle network all play a role in encouraging healthy living in the area.

Following the restructure of the Culture and Greenspaces department in late 2006, the park rangers have been incorporated into the parks delivery teams that are managed by the Parks Area Managers. These important members of staff have a significant role to play in the ongoing safety and security of the open space. An ongoing staff presence in the park is important to develop and maintain links to the local community and to discourage vandalism and anti-social behaviour. The rangers also are responsible for administering the charging regime for the tennis courts and crazy golf.

Since 2007 there is now a permanent member of staff on site. Other staff may attend from time as and when required by seasonal demand. This may include grass cutting and pitch maintenance, the park manager has overall responsibility for the maintenance of the park.
In conjunction with the Friends of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field 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 Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field 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 Friends of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field (reporting vandalism, some graffiti removal & work days)
- Local Metropolitan Police Beat Manager;
- LB Merton Street Wardens
- LB Merton Tree Wardens

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

Equipment, facilities and park infrastructure are of high quality and are inspected regularly (see Inspection and Maintenance Regime – Appendices 1 & 2) by Park Staff to ensure 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.

The condition of footpaths, waste bins, benches, planting and fencing are inspected four times a year by Morden Area Park Managers and Staff. The condition of seats, litterbins, etc is undertaken on a daily basis by 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, 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. There is limited natural surveillance from properties along the northern edge of the Playing Field.

Photograph: Metropolitan Police on Patrol in SJHMPF (June 2006)

As part of London Borough of Merton, Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field 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.
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.

Dog walking is a major activity in Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field and the Council wishes to encourage responsible dog ownership across the borough. The policy of London Borough of Merton is to treat dog waste as separate rubbish. It is emptied from the 6 dog bins in the park by Environmental Services. Information 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

The children’s play area is a designated dog free area.

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

London Borough of Merton is responsible for the public toilets in the park. Male and Female toilets are located inside the pavilion. There are also toilets accessible from outside. By summer 2006 these will all include disabled access and children’s toilets. There is currently no accessible toilet for disabled visitors. The toilets are opened during the 6 summer months and when required for events in the park by the Friends.

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 and enforce park byelaws.
7. Address all safety issues promptly and effectively through timely monitoring and reporting.
8. Encourage responsible dog ownership through education, provision and maintenance of dog bins, and active enforcement by 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>Decontamination and restoration of the old bowling Green and redevelopment.</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>15K</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Refer to Tennis court works</td>
<td></td>
<td>Refer Actions 11 &amp; 12 Section 5.1.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Improved maintenance of the walking route through the Memorial Woodland &amp; handrails on bridges.</td>
<td>2007/2008</td>
<td>LB Merton and Friends</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Establish security of the site with regular assessment of site fencing and prioritise improvements to address illicit entrance points.</td>
<td>2007/2008</td>
<td>LB Merton</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 5. All park facilities and features to be maintained providing a safe, secure and inclusive space**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<th>Who</th>
<th>Budget (£000)</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Secured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Implement Park Watch Diaries in the local community</td>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Enforce no motorbike byelaw</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Police and Rangers</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<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>7</td>
<td>Implementation of the Confirm System (Computerised Parks Management Tool)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>E Govt</td>
<td>Capital / Revenue</td>
<td></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;**

<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>8</td>
<td>Implementation of the traffic light dog control system in the park</td>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>Rangers / Staff</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Enforce spot fines for dog control violations</td>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>Ranger / Staff</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Budget (£000)</th>
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<th>Secured</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Risk factors identified in Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field include: The Paddling Pool. Refer Health and Safety and CHAS policies in Appendix 5.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></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 7.

The Playing Field is used extensively by a variety of groups and individuals and litter is a serious management issue. Litterbins are emptied between 3 and 7 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. Dog bins are emptied by Environmental Services and regular inspections address the disposal of stray dog waste. Parks staff regularly undertake the collection of litter in the park in the electric powered vehicle. Waste is collected by rangers and transported to an off site waste facility.

Sustainable waste management is a high priority for the London Borough of Merton and Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field has a role in demonstrating its feasibility across the parks network. There is no green waste recycling facility on site. All green waste material is taken to the Nursery Road collection point for composting.

The Park is maintained to a very high standard. After routine inspections have ensured that the park is safe, secure and tidy, the playing field staff begins a wide range of maintenance and horticultural 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.

Trees are inspected by the parks staff and problems reported to the arboricultural manager who will organise an approve contractors to complete any necessary works. The arboricultural Manager undertook a detailed tree survey in December 2007.

Building repairs required are reported to corporate services who manage the building maintenance repair budget. They will organise approved contractors to carry out repairs. Vandalism or minor landscape works are reported to the Greenspace Development Team who will organise repairs to fencing, footpaths, seating and the play area.

6.3.2 Objectives

11. Ensure high standards of maintenance for play areas, tennis courts, lawns, playing fields, trees and shrubs, user facilities, park features and buildings.
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>Ensure all play area equipment and instalments meets European Standards B5 EN 1176 + 1177</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Maintain regular cleaning schedule for the pavilion (see Appendix 2 Maintenance Regime)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Update and refurbish pavilion (including new glass frontage with shutters).</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>20K</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

| 4  | Prune squirrel damaged trees within park                                                                                                               | 2008     | Contractor           | 3K            | Revenue | Yes     |
| 5  | Repair building damage                                                                                                                                  | Ongoing  | Corporate Services   | Ongoing       | Revenue | Yes     |
| 6  | Repair minor landscape repairs, playground damage.                                                                                                     | Ongoing  | Greenspace Development Team | Ongoing       | Revenue | Yes     |
| 7  | Summer Evenings – Additional Litter Collection                                                                                                          | Ongoing  | In house             | NA            | Revenue | Yes     |

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

| 8  | Working with Metropolitan Police Safe Neighbourhood Unit and Graffiti Team.                                                                           | Ongoing  | In house             | NA            | NA      | NA      |

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

| 9  | Joint monitoring programme Principal Park Manager and Friends Group representative evaluate the park together. (provides a good insight into management focus and maintenance programmes for the Friends) | Ongoing  | In house / Friends   | NA            | NA      | NA      |
| 10 | Friends to feedback on implementation of agreed improvements.                                                                                           | Ongoing  | Friends              | NA            | NA      | NA      |
| 11 | Reporting from regular Inspection Regime (Appendix 1)                                                                                                   | Ongoing  | In house             | NA            | NA      | NA      |
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:

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

6.4.1 Current Condition and Issues

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

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 Playing Field. Within most of the Playing Field areas weed growth is suppressed with hand weeding, hoeing and mulching.

Peat based composts are not used at Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field.

The small volume of green waste from horticultural works (shrub beds and occasional woodland work) is transported to the green waste facility at Nursery Road for composting and reuse at other sites.

Vehicle use in the Playing Field is kept to a minimum. An electric vehicle is currently used to service the Playing Field. 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. Water, electricity and gas bills are closely monitored to ensure leaks and efficiencies are addressed promptly.
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>
<th>Secured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Operate in line with Council Environmental Policies and Priorities.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pesticides are only used where absolutely necessary. Continue investigation into eliminating pesticides entirely through new management techniques</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</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>
<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>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

Although the Playing Field is made up almost entirely of sports pitches as the name suggests, SJHMPF forms an important component of the open land, in public and private ownership, in the Motspur Park area in the west of the Borough. The natural and built features of this landscape provide a sense of place and community to the area and give SJHMPF its unique character.

In the park and surrounding vicinity are a variety of important heritage features including:

- Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Woodland;
- Morden Cemetery;
- Beverley Brook;
- Green Lane;
- Open space character;
- Built features.

The Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Wood, situated on the Western boundary of the Playing Field is a recognised and designated site of nature conservation importance and forms an important section of the Merton Nature Conservation Walks. The woodlands are managed under the Conservation Management Plan 2007 – 2012 prepared by London Conservation Services Ltd in 2006.

The Objectives of the SJHMPF Conservation Management 2007 – 2012 Plan include:

To conserve existing biodiversity of the reserve, and enhance it where appropriate

- To conserve the semi-natural woodland habitat;
- To manage the planted woodland to habitat to encourage its development into a mature woodland.
- To manage the grassland areas to encourage the development of a species rich sward.
- To monitor populations of the reserve's biodiversity to assess progress of conservation management.

To maintain the reserve for the quiet enjoyment and understanding by people.

- To maintain pedestrian access through the reserve in good order.
- To provide information on the ecological value of the reserve.
- To promote the reserve as an educational resource for people of all ages.

This park management plan complements the Conservation Management Plan and will assist in the enhancement, conservation and protection of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field and promotion of these features to the wider public. Copies of the Conservation Management Plan can be requested from the Leisure and Culture
6.5.2 Objectives
19. Protect and enhance the biodiversity value of the Playing Field, Meadows and Woodlands
20. Conserve the character, design, layout and relationship to surrounding environment of the playing field
21. Educate the public on the habitats, species and features of the nature conservation area of the Playing Field

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>1</td>
<td>Review the Conservation Management Plan</td>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Minimise all pesticide use</td>
<td>See Action 2</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Implement and monitor the Conservation Management Plan</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</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>10 year coppicing cycle will be implemented in the Millennium Woodland from 2009</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>In house Contractor</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Objective 20. Conserve the character, design, layout and relationship to the surrounding environment of the Playing Field
6 | Achieved through implementation of this Management Plan                      | Ongoing        | In house       | NA            | NA     |         |

Objective 21. Educate the public on the habitat, species and features of the nature conservation area of the Playing Field
7 | Woodland education programme                                                 | Ongoing        | Tree Wardens   | NA            | NA     |         |
Photograph: Bug Hunt at the Millennium Woodland and Meadow (2006)
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

Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field is a community space that provides opportunities for local people to take part in a number of open space activities. The support of local people, user groups, partners and other stakeholders is recognised by the Council as fundamental to the success of the facility as a safe, healthy, clean and sustainably managed open space.

There are 4 main stakeholder groups in Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field.

- The Friends of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field
- The Play Groups
- Sports Teams
- Nature Conservation Groups

Merton Council will also, with the assistance of the Friends of Sir Joseph Hood MPF, engage proactively with adjoining land owners and local residents and users of the Playing Field.
The Friends have been involved with:

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

In the last two years the friends group in partnership with L.B.M have been successful at raising funding over £100,000. This has been from the Bridge House Trust Fund, Marathon Trust Fund and Norlands foundation. Work has included tennis court improvements new play equipment, basketball goals, fencing and a new trim trial.

In 2007 a wildflower seed mix was sown along the boundary fence adjacent to the cemetery. The mowing regime will be returned in 2008. In autumn 2006 and 2007 the friends group planted out 5000 bulbs within the park. In 2008 a ‘Green Flag event’ is proposed for the park. This will be a joint partnership with the ‘friends’ and L.B.M tree talks, children’s events, crazy golf tournament and free tennis coaching are proposed. The arboricultural Manager and staff have worked with the ‘friends Group’ to plant trees and organised walks and Tree Talks each year.

There are also other stakeholders and volunteers in the West Barnes area who are involved in the use, management and promotion of the Playing Field. LB Merton is seeking to further develop partnership opportunities including:

- Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames;
- National, regional and local parks and open spaces, environmental and heritage agencies;
- Development organizations and agencies;
- Funding Agencies;
- Friends Groups;
- Councillors;
- Recreational and Sports Organisations;
- Private sports facility providers;
- Health organizations;
- Educational establishments including schools;
- Local businesses;
- Community and voluntary groups, particularly those for and representing children and young people, older people, the disabled and ethnic minorities;
- Neighbouring boroughs;
- Police and community Safety Agencies.

Merton Council works closely with the Police to discourage anti-social behaviour and protect the users and facilities of the park. Improving the coordination, communication and cooperation between different stakeholders in the Park is vital to the success of this management plan. 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.

Further investigation is required to establish specific use patterns for the Playing Field. The council currently monitors the use and quality of the Little League and Football Pitches. 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**

22. Work closely with existing stakeholders and partners to address local residents’ needs, aspirations and concerns and encourage a sense of ownership.

23. Identify potential users and encourage them to participate in the development and management of the park.

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

25. Provide support to the Friends of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field to ensure successful grant applications for improvements.

26. Foster closer relationships with local schools and institutions.

27. Encourage a complementary working relationship between the council and community volunteers.

6.6.3 **Management Actions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<th>Who</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Secured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Annual Questionnaire Survey Members of Little League and Football Clubs</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Participate in Friends Group Forums &amp; evening meetings</td>
<td>Bi Annually</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Questionnaire Survey of Park Users via Friends.</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Monitor visitor levels in park and use of tennis courts and other facilities</td>
<td>On going</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ranger Training for Public Relations</td>
<td>On going</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Consultation on Merton Open Space Strategy Progress and Projects.</td>
<td>Annually / Ongoing</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></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>
<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>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Objective 23. Identify users and encourage them to participate in the development and management of the park.

Objective 24. Consult the wider Merton community about future plans, proposals and current projects in the park.

Objective 25. Provide support to Friends of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field to ensure successful grant applications for improvements.

Objective 26. Foster closer relationships with local schools and institutions.

10 See Education Action 5 – Section 5.5.3

Objective 27. Encourage a complementary working relationship between the council and community volunteers.

Implement partnership working through the Merton Volunteer Compact.
6.7 Marketing

Is there:

- A marketing strategy in place? Is it in practice and regularly reviewed?
- Good provision of information to users e.g. about management strategies, activities, features, ways to get involved? and
- Effective promotion of the park as a community resource.

6.7.1 Current Condition and Issues

Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field is currently promoted, along with the borough’s other parks and leisure facilities, through the various council initiatives including signage outside the park, pamphlets for potential users and information on the council website. Word of mouth is also important. The Council’s 24 Friends Groups produce a number of newsletters to publicise their specific park.

Marketing of the park currently concentrates on effective signage leading potential users to the park and the promotion of specific events and sports facility availability. A marketing strategy is required to address the effective marketing of all Parks and Recreation Grounds in the borough and will need to be implemented and reviewed in conjunction with this management plan.

Huge improvements have been made to the design and functionality of the Council’s website over the last 2 years. It is crucial that Leisure Services takes full advantage of this medium to promote facilities and events in Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field and other Parks and Open Spaces in the Borough. Sports pitch bookings (E Booking) will be available in 2006 on the Merton website streamlining the information, booking and charging process for potential users. Active monitoring of website activity will provide managers and users with useful feedback to improve the information on the website.

A review of the current literature on the park needs to take place with the co-operation of the Friends of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field.

Well-informed and trained members of staff are vital to provide guidance to park visitors. New notice boards and signage were installed (Friends notice board 2005, Main Interpretive Panel 2006) to improve the information available to visitors. The service will continue to support and encourage the local community to use the park as a venue for appropriate community events.

The Parks Marketing and Communication Plan is currently being developed. The key objectives of the plan are to:

- Raise awareness of parks and open spaces to ensure a high level of service profile;
- Increase publicity through press releases and PR opportunities;
- Improve the monitoring of the effectiveness of marketing procedures;
- Ensure that the Strategy links into LB Merton’s overall vision and values.

6.7.2 Objectives

28. Develop and implement Borough Wide Park Marketing Strategy
29. Provide information about the park in a variety of media both on and off site
30. Actively promote the features and facilities of the park and encourage community ownership
## 6.7.3 Marketing Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Secured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Develop Park Marketing Strategy</td>
<td>Ongoing Expected 2006/07</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 28. Develop and implement Borough Wide Park Marketing Strategy**

| 2 | Promote Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field by advertising successes, events and issues through council publications and local media through press releases. | Ongoing            | In house  | NA     | Revenue |         |
| 3 | Implement internet E booking for the Little League and Football Pitches.     | September 2006/07  | In house  | E govt funding | Revenue |         |
| 4 | Develop "Virtual Community Notice Board" for the council website.           | 2007/08            | In house  | NA     | Revenue |         |
| 5 | Update Friends Notice Board, posters in park, dog signs etc                 | Ongoing            | Friends   | NA     | NA      |         |
| 6 | Friends Group Website                                                        | 2007/08            | Friends / in house | 0.3 | Revenue |         |

**Objective 29. Provide information about the park in a variety of media both on and off site**

**Objective 30. Actively promote the features and facilities of the park and encourage community ownership**

![Notice Board @ Sir Joseph Hood MPF](image)