

# Charlton Park

# Management Plan 2019-24

(Updated January 2024)



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## **PART I: WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

### **PARK ADDRESS & CONTACT DETAILS**

**Name of Site:** Charlton Park

**Address:** Charlton Road  
London  
SE7 8RE

The Strategy and Development Team can be contacted regarding this plan for any further information (using the contact details provided below).

**Address:** Parks, Estates & Open Spaces  
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Crown Woods Lane  
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SE18 3JA

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The Friends of Charlton Park group can be contacted on [friendscharltonpark@gmail.com](mailto:friendscharltonpark@gmail.com) or via the Facebook and Instagram links on their website [www.friendsofcharltonpark.org](http://www.friendsofcharltonpark.org)

## **INTRODUCTION - WHAT IS A MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Management Plans are an important aid to the efficient and effective management of any site. A Plan forms part of a process for evaluating performance, consulting and involving people, strategic planning and providing continuity. Individual plans will be specific to each park and will deliver aims and objectives specific to the needs of the local community who will be directly involved in its formulation. A Park Management Plan also provides an excellent opportunity to collate a wealth of information relating to the park that the management authority possesses, into a single comprehensive document.

### **Purpose of this management plan**

The production of individual management plans for each park is good practice and is in accordance with The Royal Borough's commitment to providing Best Value. Actions from the Management Plan feed into the Parks & Open Spaces Strategy.

This Management Plan will provide a vital resource for parks staff in maintaining and developing Charlton Park as a resource for the community and visitors to the area and as such, will be under constant informal review. This management plan will have a duration of five years, after which this plan will have a complete review with reference to its relevancy.

It is envisaged that this plan will help to encourage relationships between The Royal Borough and the community and provide access to information on the management approach to this site as well as providing a framework around which any future decisions concerning this site will be taken.

In addition, it is envisaged that the management plan for Charlton Park will assist with allocating existing and securing additional resources for developments on this site that this management plan specifies.

Future actions/priorities for this site are identified in the Action Plan to this document. This management plan therefore provides a benchmark against which progress can be measured.

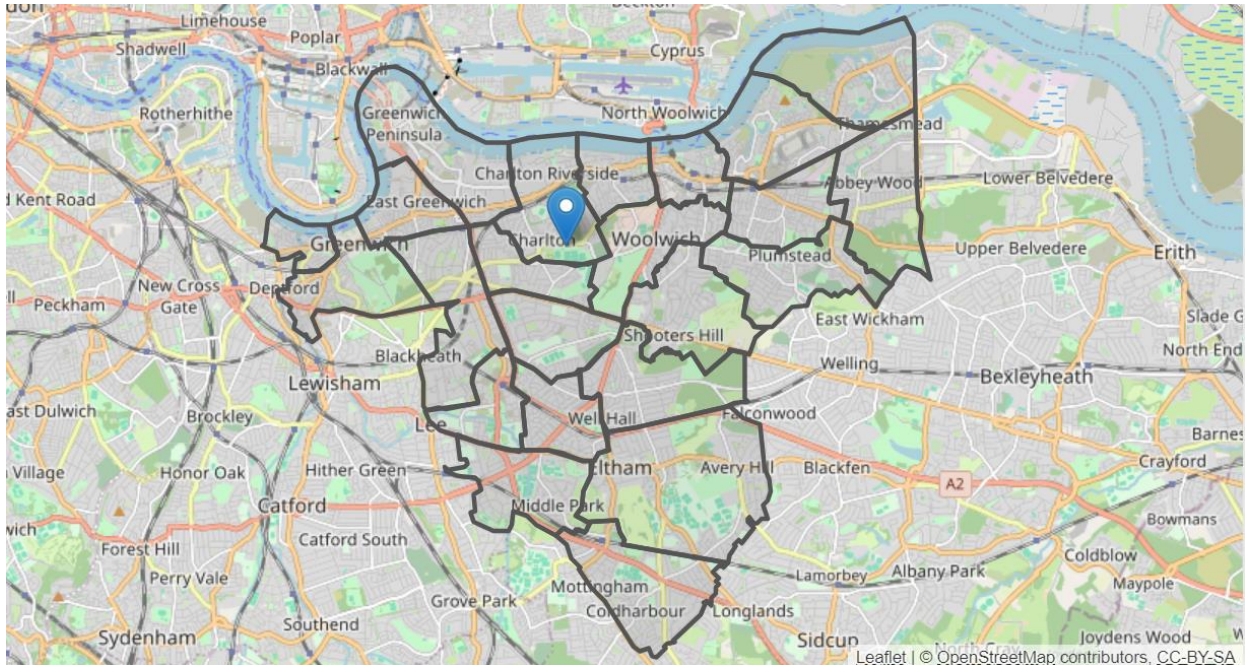
This management plan has been prepared in accordance with CABI Space guidance material.

This management plan has been written within the context of a wide framework of national, regional and local policy statements and strategies, the most significant being The Royal Borough of Greenwich's Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

The main policies and strategies that have a specific impact on this plan are listed in Appendix II of this management plan.

## **SITE DESCRIPTION AND INFORMATION BASE**

Charlton Park is a large, level, open and grassy park located in the Charlton Village & Riverside Ward of the Royal Borough of Greenwich. It is owned by Royal Borough of Greenwich and is managed and maintained by the Parks, Estates and Open Spaces department.



*Location of Charlton Park within Charlton Village and Riverside Ward in the Royal Borough of Greenwich*

The Park occupies a total area of approximately 21.8 hectares and is approximately 43 metres above sea level. The geology underlying the park is entirely Claygate, but the surface soils have been heavily disturbed over the entire area. Charlton Park is classified by the Greenwich Green Space Strategy as having the primary purpose classification of Outdoor Sports Facility.

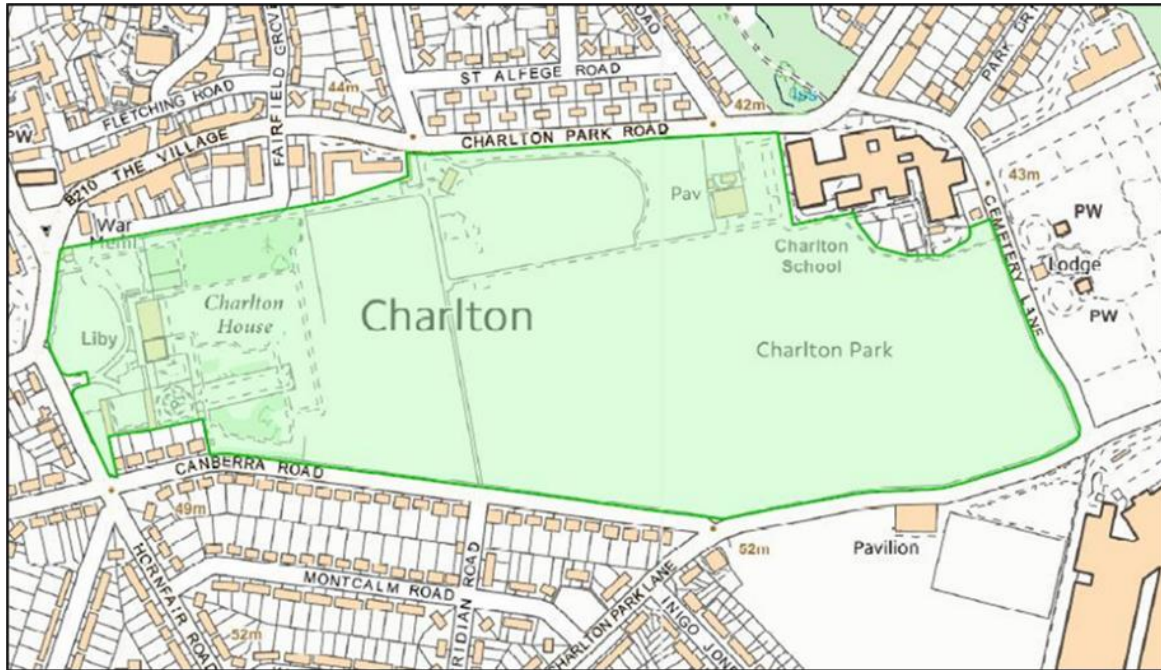
Charlton Park can be split into two areas of distinctly different character; The western part of the park - Charlton House Grounds is planted with ornamental species and maintained as gardens. Whereas the eastern part of the park provides parks users with a wide range of sports, recreation and play facilities.

Several areas and buildings within Charlton Park are leased. The leased areas include Charlton House and Grounds, the Old Cottage Café, the playground café, the Big Red Bus club – a free family well-being centre and Charlton Park Riding School for the Disabled.

Railings surround the park on most sides where there are no properties adjoining it. The northern boundary along Charlton Park Road has a two-meter Grade II listed brick wall.

The park is open 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, with the exception of the walled gardens within Charlton House Grounds, which are only open during daylight hours. The bollard to the car park accessed from Charlton Park Road is locked until 9.30am on weekdays to prevent all the spaces being used by Charlton Park Academy staff.

The park is mainly surrounded by residential roads. The north-west boundary of the park has a number of residential and commercial properties adjoining its boundary. Adjoining Charlton Park on the north-east corner is the Charlton Park Academy for children with severe and complex educational needs.



*Charlton Park and the surrounding area*

## **ACCESS TO THE PARK**

Charlton Park, as mentioned, is part of the Green Chain Walk and Capital Ring Walk and is accessible for pedestrians from entrances in Hornfair Road, Canberra Road, Cemetery Lane and two entrances Charlton Park Road.

Charlton Mainline Station is approximately a 10-minute walk away from the park. Charlton Train station is operated by the Southeastern Railway Network with regular trains running from Kent into Central London.

Buses within a 5-minute walk of the park include the 53, 54, 161, 178, 291, 380, 386, 422, 469 and 486.

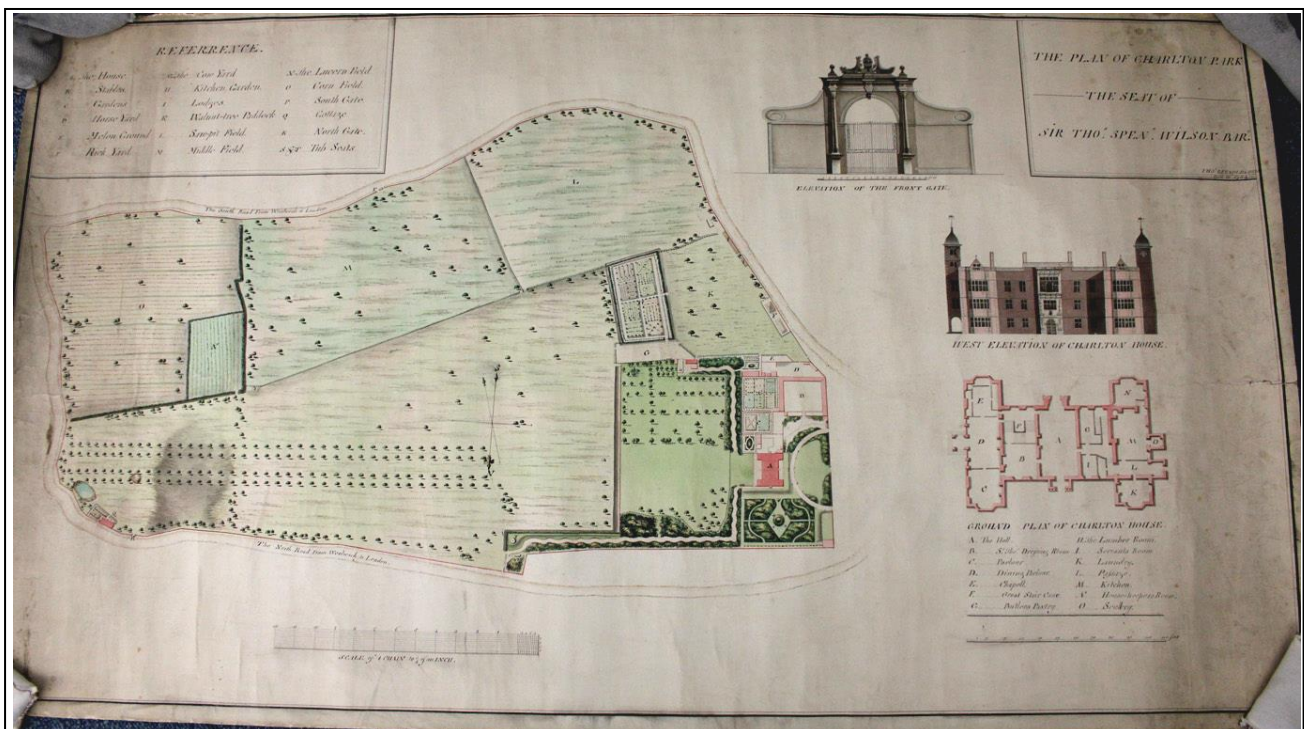
There are two car parks present within the park. The car park at the front of Charlton House is accessed from Hornfair Road SE7 8RE and requires payment. The car park at the east end of the park is accessed from Charlton Park Road SE7 8DZ and is free to use. Free parking is also available in some of the surrounding roads.

As the park is relatively flat, there is excellent access within the park. However, there are steps in some parts of Charlton House Grounds that could restrict access for mobility impaired users.

## HISTORY & HERITAGE OF THE PARK

Charlton House was built between 1607 and 1612 for Sir Adam Newton, who was tutor to Henry, Prince of Wales - the eldest son of James I. It is one of the finest surviving Jacobean manor houses in England. At about the same time as the construction of Charlton House, the long red brick boundary wall was built, enclosing a small park of approximately 100 acres.

The earliest known plan of the garden is indicated on the John Rocque plan of 1741 where three avenues of trees (probably elms) are shown radiating beyond the formal gardens to the east and south-east; aligned axially on the centre of the House. The avenues demonstrate the fashion of exploring the wider landscape, encouraging the visitor to look at and contemplate matters beyond the confines of the enclosed garden. John Evelyn wrote of deer in the park in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, which “lend their graceful form... to the beauties of the scenery”.



John Rocque plan of 1741

The Maryon Wilson family were in residence of Charlton House and grounds from 1767 – 1923. Sir Thomas Maryon-Wilson, on inheriting the estate in 1821, introduced a more diverse assortment of birds and animals into the park, including herds of Scottish deer and arctic reindeer, although the latter had very limited survival success.

Charlton Park was originally part of the grounds of Charlton House and is in part separated from the present grounds of the house by a brick-lined ha-ha of 1847. During his Baronetcy (around 1898), Sir Spencer Maryon-Wilson, a lover of outdoor sports, laid out four tennis courts, two croquet lawns and a polo field within the park.

During the First World War, and until 1923, part of the park was used as an army remount and training ground which left the place in a deplorable condition. In the period after the War, the rising

cost of living and wages made Charlton House and Estate an impractical proposition for Sir Spencer Maryon-Wilson 11 Bt. to continue. The outgoings far outstripped any income.

In June 1925, the local authority at the time purchased Charlton House, Park and Estate, comprising 108 acres for £60,000. About 43 acres were transferred to the LCC in 1926 for £22,250.

The park, with eighteen grass tennis courts, putting green, an athletic area with cinder running track and space for many football and cricket pitches and dressing rooms and public conveniences was officially opened on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 1929. The cinder running track cost around £2,000 to construct in 1929 and was the scene of many athletic records. The following year, modern baths and shower units for both sexes were installed in the pavilion/dressing rooms, and by February 1931, a refreshment hut was erected nearby at a cost of £240.

In the spring of 1942, the local authority introduced a “*Holidays at Home*” scheme and camping was allowed in the grounds.

Prior to the outbreak of the Second World War, trenches were hastily dug in the park as a deterrent to parachutes or landing aircraft. Large areas were also set aside for growing food, and some four acres were set aside for temporary buildings to be erected to house bombed out families. Several tons of iron railings were removed from the perimeter for the national war effort but were replaced in 1955.



The cinder running track in 1960

In 1969 the cinder running track underwent conversion to conform to metric and international standards, and to improve the bends, which had been a constant source of concern to the athletes. The same year, a single storey building containing changing rooms and shower baths was built to the east of the running track for the convenience of players using the cricket and football pitches. An adventure playground and accommodation for the One O' Clock Club (for young children) was sited next to this building.

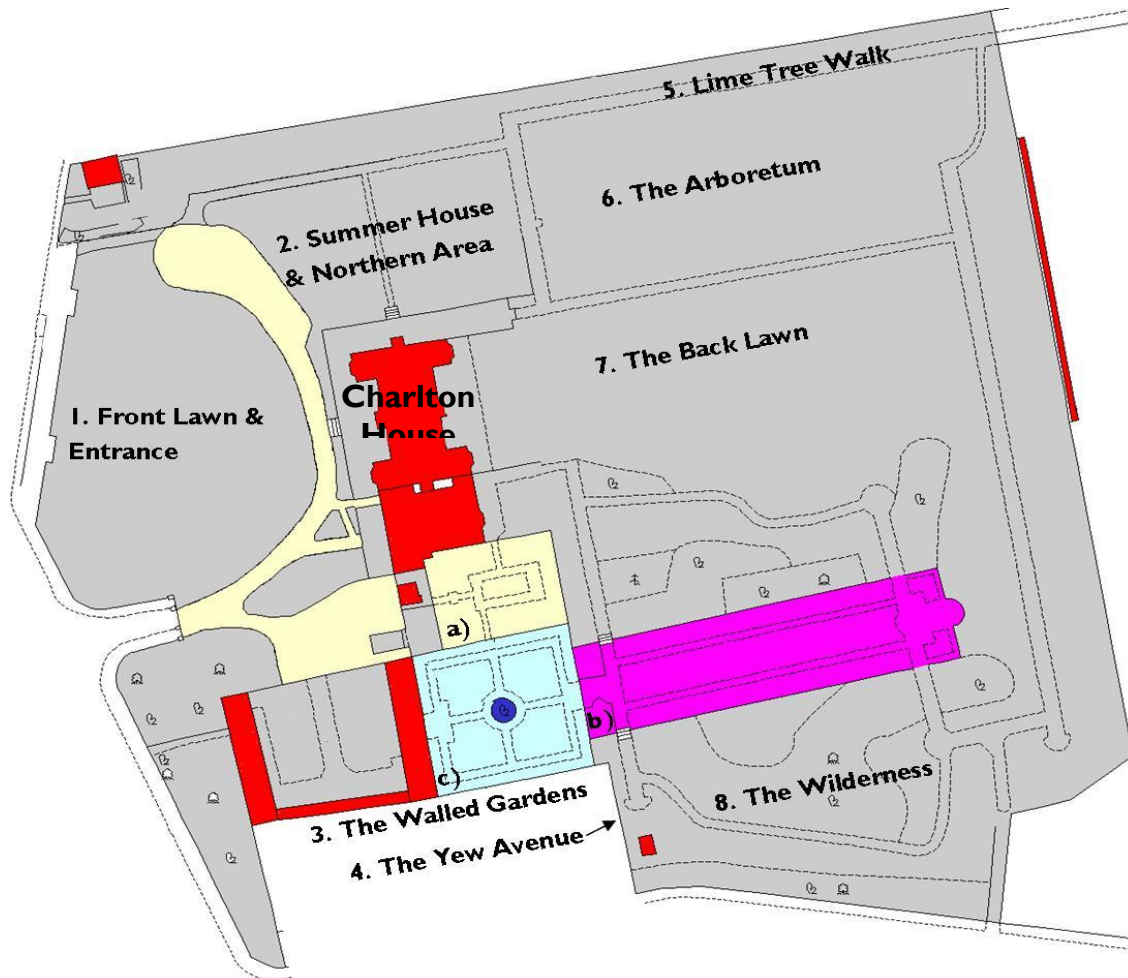
A more detailed history of Charlton House and Park can be found in Appendix I.



## LANDSCAPE OF THE PARK

### Charlton House Grounds

Charlton House Grounds are managed by Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust. The grounds are divided into a number of different sections, the overall area of which is approximately 4.6 hectares.



#### 1. Front Lawn and Entrance

The front lawn of Charlton House is maintained as amenity grass with several ornamental flower beds, and is left largely unplanted with trees, which allows the house to be viewed from the approach up Charlton Road. The most notable flower bed is the shield bed which is planted with bedding each summer. The front lawn also contains an archway which would at one time have been part of the boundary or fence around Charlton House Grounds and shares the Grade I Heritage listing with the buildings in Charlton House Grounds. The front lawn also contains a resin bonded gravel semi-circular driveway containing parking for visitors.

#### 2. The Summerhouse and Northern Area

The summerhouse sits on a dais of earth affording it good views of the gardens, also meaning that it would have dominated this section of the gardens when the trees were not as mature. This section of the gardens contains a mulberry tree that was planted in 1608 and is considered to be a major feature of the Charlton House Grounds.

### 3. Walled Gardens

There are three walled gardens to the south-east of the house, all of which are joined by Yorkstone pathways. The walled gardens would originally have been planted with fruit trees, soft fruits and vegetables, but today, each of the gardens has been dedicated to an individual purpose. The Gardens are monitored by CCTV.

#### The Amnesty International Peace Garden

Amnesty International approached the Royal Borough of Greenwich with the proposal to create a peace garden in a suitable location. Charlton House Grounds were selected as being an appropriate site and Margaret Higginson (a local sculptor) was commissioned to create an appropriate sculpture as the centrepiece for the garden. The sculpture is in bronze and was created in July 2006. The Peace Garden is laid out with bedding along the walls and another circular bed in the centre.



*Portage by Margaret Higginson, 2006*

#### The Pond Garden

The pond garden is a large rectangular formal garden surrounded by a beech hedge with herbaceous beds, rectilinear paths, and a former pond inside. It was laid out in this configuration in the 1950's and has popularly been used as a wedding venue.

#### The Sensory Garden

The Charlton House Grounds sensory garden consists of a square walled garden with raised planting beds which are planted with species that have properties that present outstanding sensory experiences. Sensory gardens were first used in the 1950's and were created to be accessible and enjoyable to both disabled and non-disabled users/visitors to provide individual and combined sensory opportunities for the user such that they may not normally experience.

#### 4. The Yew Avenue

The remnants of a Yew (*Taxus baccata*) Avenue run on a north-south axis from the north boundary wall, parallel to the eastern wall of the walled gardens and terminates just short of the back lawn. It is possible that some of the yews still present predate the house.

#### 5. The Lime Tree Walk

This avenue of Lime (*Tilia cordata*) trees runs parallel to the northern wall of the park from the summerhouse and terminates in Charlton Park, at the entrance to Charlton Park from Charlton Lane.

#### 6. The Arboretum

This area was so called because of its open nature and variety of trees and shrubs.

#### 7. The Back Lawn

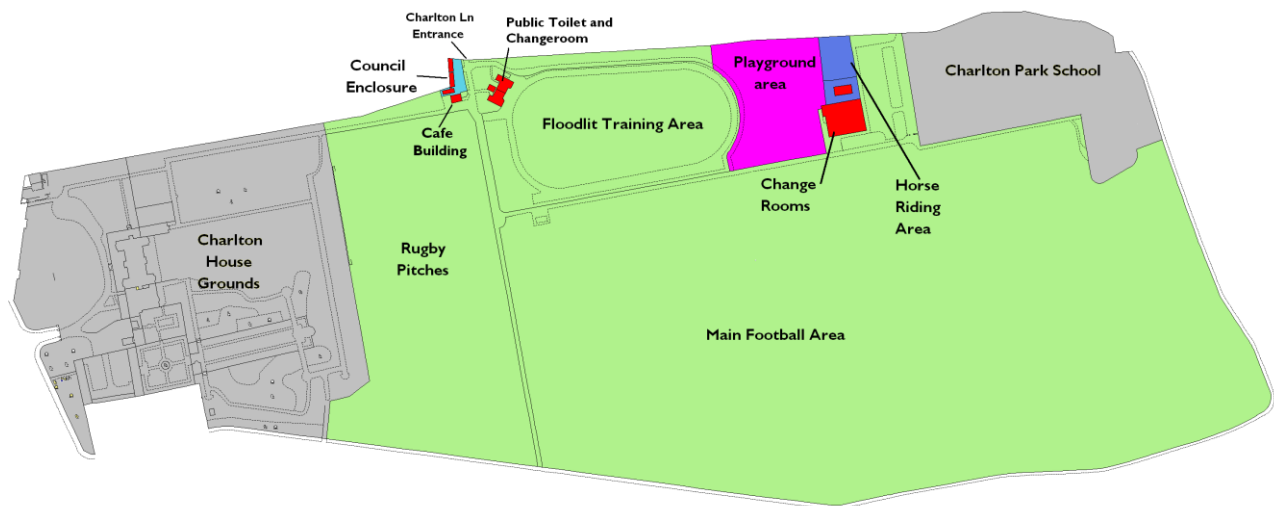
The design of Charlton Park was originally laid out along a central axis, designed to be viewed from the house, or the back lawn, with the Ha-ha. The lawn is often hired out for marriage ceremonies as it is particularly picturesque, but there is a policy that no marquees be erected on the lawn.

#### 8. The Wilderness

The Wilderness consists of the area between the walled gardens and Canberra Road, and consists of a variety of deciduous and coniferous planting that forms a reasonably dense canopy in parts.

### Charlton Park

Charlton Park consists of a large area of land of approximately 17 hectares that can be divided into three main sections by two pathways.



The main pathways are in part lined by 1-meter-higher high iron hoop railing and lovely avenues of mature lime trees.

Most of this expanse is amenity mown grass that provides areas for sports and recreation within the park. The grass is left long over the eastern side of the park and is now designated as conservation / natural area and is delineated by large tree trunks.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN THE PARK**

### **Charlton House**

Charlton House is a large Jacobean mansion and is the largest of its type remaining within the greater London area. It is of brick construction and dates back to 1608. It is currently run as a community centre and library. The Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust is responsible for the management and maintenance of Charlton House.



*Charlton House and Front Lawn*

### **The Stable Block**

The Stable Block is the building located next to Charlton House and is currently used as offices for the Royal Greenwich Neighbourhood Services department. The stables are of red brick construction with slate roofing.

### **Summer House**

The summer house is found in the extreme north-west corner of the park. It is raised on a dais of earth in order to afford a better view of the gardens and grounds; initially it would have had a good view of the River Thames as well. It is constructed of red brick and has a slate roof. It was last used as public amenities and is currently closed, but there are plans to renovate the building.



*The Summerhouse*

Charlton House, the Summer House, the Stable blocks and the free-standing gateway arch at the front of Charlton House all share a Grade I Heritage listing by English Heritage.

### **Charlton Park Brick Walls**

Charlton House grounds are divided up into a number of individual walled gardens and open spaces. The walls separating the individual walled gardens in the area to the south-east of the house are constructed of red brick and are approximately 8 foot high.

As already mentioned, the north and eastern perimeter of the park is separated from the adjoining land by a foot high red brick wall, varying in height in some areas. The brick Grade 2 heritage listed. The fencing where it separates the park from residential properties is the responsibility of the adjoining property owners.

### **Public Toilet Block**

The public amenities in the park are located in a building at the Charlton Park Road / Charlton Lane entrance to Charlton Park. The building is constructed from tiles and rendered brick. The other half of this block is used as sports changing rooms.

### **Staff Messroom and Yard**

The staff yard consist of two buildings and two storage containers within a walled enclosure at the Charlton Park Road / Charlton Lane entrance to Charlton Park. One building contains the messroom and the other is used for storage. The containers house tools and machinery.

### **Football Changing Rooms**

The changing block is found in the north-east of the park and is adjacent to the playground and the horse riding facility. It is constructed from brick and has cactus fencing around the perimeter of the roof to prevent vandalism. The changing rooms were renovated in 2022 and now have a ground source heat pump and solar panels to make the building more energy efficient. A small section of this building is currently being leased as a kiosk café.

### **The Old Cottage Cafe**

Adjacent to the staff yard is a building known as the cottage café. It is leased to a Café operator and constructed of rendered brick with a tile roof.

### **Charlton Park Riding for the Disabled Facility**

A riding school for disabled children can be found next to the football changing rooms and playground in Charlton Park. There is a small building and a fenced off area which has been under surfaced with pine bark. This area is leased to the Riding for the Disabled Association and provides a safe enclosure for disabled children to learn to ride. The ponies used for riding lessons are kept in the animal enclosures at nearby Maryon Wilson Park.

### **The Big Red Bus Club**

A small building and grounds located to the east of the Charlton Park Road car park is leased to the Big Red Bus Club which is a free family wellbeing centre, which provide free and fun activities for the local community.

### **Charlton Park Ha-Ha**

Charlton Park is separated from Charlton House Grounds by hoop railing as well as a ha-ha which is around three foot deep and lined with red brick. The ha-ha originally extended the entire boundary between Charlton House Grounds and Charlton Park.

### **Fencing**

Many of the pathways within the park have metal hoop railings separating them from the adjacent lawn/sports/garden areas.

### **Signage**

Signage within Charlton Park is currently limited mainly to directional signage. There are welcoming signs at several of the park entrances and Green Chain signage where the Green Chain Walk enters and exits the Park. The playground is signposted with emergency numbers and indicates that it is a dog free area.

### **Seats and Litter Bins**

Seats and bins are provided around the park. The Borough offers a memorial bench dedication scheme whereby people can purchase a 10-year dedication for a plaque to be put on to an existing park bench or have a new bench installed at an agreed location.

### **Pathways**

There are a mixture of surfaces used for paving within the park, including York stone paving, tarmac, resin bonded gravel and concrete. The York stone paving is primarily used in the south-eastern section of Charlton House Grounds, around the walled garden and Charlton House itself. The resin bonded gravel has only been used in the front driveway for the house and was installed in early 2007. Tarmac has been used extensively around the entire park, with sections of concrete used for some small sections.

## **SPORTS & RECREATION**

### **Children's Playground**

The children's playground can be found next to the football changing rooms within the park. The playground is open all year round is approximately 5000m<sup>2</sup> in size. The playground was refurbished in 2021 after extensive consultation with the Friends of Charlton Park and the local community. The vision for the playground was to provide additional play facilities in a safe and inclusive environment that will encourage outdoor recreation in an area of high-density housing.

The playground offers exciting and inclusive play for all abilities. A children's trim trail and zip wire were installed as part of the improvement works in 2021 to offer more challenging equipment in a more natural environment. The trail can also be followed to learn about nature, with post rubbings, insect homes, and nature inspired seating.

The play equipment conforms to European Union standards EN1176 and EN1177 regarding installation and surfacing. The equipment is inspected and maintained by the Parks, Estates & Open Spaces team who visually inspect daily, with a more detailed written inspection undertaken on a bi-monthly basis and an independent inspection is carried out on an annual basis.



The zip wire in action in the playground

Within the playground is a sculpture called Squeaky Clean donated by the Freeze Foundation and artist Gary Webb, as part of an Olympic Legacy initiative. The sculpture is at the end of its life and a decision is being made about its removal.

The Friends of Charlton Park applied for Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Funding in 2022 to provide a new picnic area within the shaded part of the playground.



### **Outdoor Gym Equipment (Adizone)**

There is an outdoor Adidas gym zone in Western end of the floodlit area. The equipment consists of a fitness bike, ski machine, basketball and climbing wall etc. Adidas paid for the gym as one of the 2012 Olympic sponsors, as part of an Olympic Legacy within the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

The equipment conforms to European Union standards EN1176 and EN1177 in regard to installation and surfacing. The equipment is visually inspected on a daily basis, with a more detailed inspection undertaken on a bi-monthly basis and an independent inspection on an annual basis. The gym zone is maintained and inspected by the Parks, Estates and Open Spaces Department.

### **Cricket**

An artificial cricket pitch was installed in Charlton Park in 2023 and was funded by Kent County Cricket. The Blackheath Cricket Club are regular users of the cricket field every Saturday. Use of this area on other days can be booked online via the Royal Boroughs website.

### **Skateboard Park (Wheeled Sport Facility)**

In October 2017 a brand-new skate park was opened in Charlton Park. The near £400k project was funded with section 106 money from a nearby development along with a contribution from the parks budget. The Skate Park was designed following extensive consultation with focus groups including local residents, park users and skaters of all ages and incorporates a series of elevations and dips designed to suit fans of skating, cycling, and scooting no matter what their age or ability.



A viewing mound was also created to give spectators a better look at the 900m<sup>2</sup> facility which curves around the Addizone outdoor gym area. The facility is free to for casual use. Skateboarding lessons (individual and group sessions) can be booked via the “School of Skate”.



The Skate Park

### **Football**

The South-eastern football fields consists of a large linear open space running east / west which had previously provided up to 11 full size football pitches. An area was taken out of football use and is now managed to provide increased biodiversity within the park.

There are currently 7 full senior and 1 junior football pitch in use. football Team regularly use the Park for matches and training.



View of the Football Pitches

### **Table Tennis**

Two Table Tennis tables are installed in the park and are located on the other side of the main pathway opposite the skate park. The table tennis is free for park visitors to use.

### **Old Track Area**

The floodlit training area was used as a running track until around the mid 1990's. The track was removed, and the track lighting was left in place. The fenced track area is now used predominantly as an evening, floodlit football training facility and for community events in the park.

### **Park Run**

The 5K park run course at Charlton Park takes place every Saturday and consists of three laps of the park and is run on a mixture of grass and permanent paths. The run is marshalled by volunteers.

### **Park Events**

A number of community events are held in the park during the year. The Friends of Charlton Park organise a free family fun day in July to celebrate Charlton's local talent and to celebrate the local park. The event is run in collaboration with School of Skate. Activities include skate lessons, dog agility, skateboarding for your dog, music from local DJ's, spoken word performance, street art and a BBQ & juice bar.

The biggest event in the park is the 'Together' event organised by the Royal Borough of Greenwich. The free summer extravaganza in June has free activities and entertainment for families to enjoy. It includes live music and performances, arts and crafts, community stalls, marketplace and street food, 'have a go' sports and kids' activities, and funfair rides.



"Together 23" Event at Charlton Park in 2023

## **WILDLIFE & ECOLOGY**

Parks, Estates & Open Spaces aims to promote Charlton Park for recreational use whilst protecting and enhancing the natural habitats it offers. Parks, Estates & Open Spaces is accredited to the ISO 14001. Working to this Environmental Standard allows the Royal Borough of Greenwich to minimise its environmental impact and increase biodiversity and the presence of wildlife at this park. The Royal Borough of Greenwich and The Friends of Charlton Park aim to maintain, conserve and promote the biological assets within the park to achieve an appropriate balance between nature and other recreational uses. Although the formal design, sports and recreational use of the park limits the amount of biodiversity on site, good sustainable management practices have ensured that biodiversity within the park has increased.

Sustainable management practices include:

- Minimising pesticide use
- Recycling green waste into a mulch
- Increased mulching of beds and reduced mowing during drought periods.
- Increased use of rechargeable battery-operated hand-held equipment.
- Creation of a meadow area for butterflies, bees and bugs
- Leaving dead wood on site



Deadwood standing at Charlton Park

In 2019, the Friends of Charlton Park obtained ward budget to carry out an ecological survey on the eastern part of the park which was at the time closely mown amenity grass. The area, approximately 1.2 hectares has since been rewilded and is delineated by a row of large tree trunks. In 2021, meadow volunteers turned over the grass in the meadows to make scrapes & mounds to create a varied habitat for butterfly's, bees and other bugs. Joe Beale, a local botanist, reported that at the last Blackheath intersect more butterflies were spotted on the varied habitat of scrapes and mounds than the swathes of 'wildflower' borders.

There is a wide mix of tree species on site, most of which are mature specimens. The oldest trees on site are the Yew trees in Charlton House Grounds, as they may predate Charlton House itself. The Mulberry Tree (*Morus nigra*) at the front of Charlton House is of considerable note as it was planted in 1608 making it one of the oldest in Great Britain.



Mulberry Tree at Charlton Park.

The Mulberry tree is the only visible remnant of the silk charter that Charlton House acquired in the early seventeenth century (refer to Appendix I). It is listed as one of the fifty Great British Trees, listed by the Tree Council in 2002 to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee. It is also listed by Trees for Cities as one of the fifty Great Trees of London.

In the Wilderness section of the Charlton House Grounds is a north American Nettle Tree (*Celtis occidentalis*), which is also listed by Trees for Cities under the Great Trees of London

The largest trees in Charlton Park are in the avenue of Limes (*Tilia cordata*) that runs east / west through Charlton Park sports area.

There are two Community Orchards within the park which are maintained by volunteers from the Charlton Community Gardens group. The group's aims are 'to promote cooperation and support for everyone interested in sustainable and organic growing and wildlife diversity'.

## **PARK USER INFORMATION**

### **Demographics of the Charlton Ward**

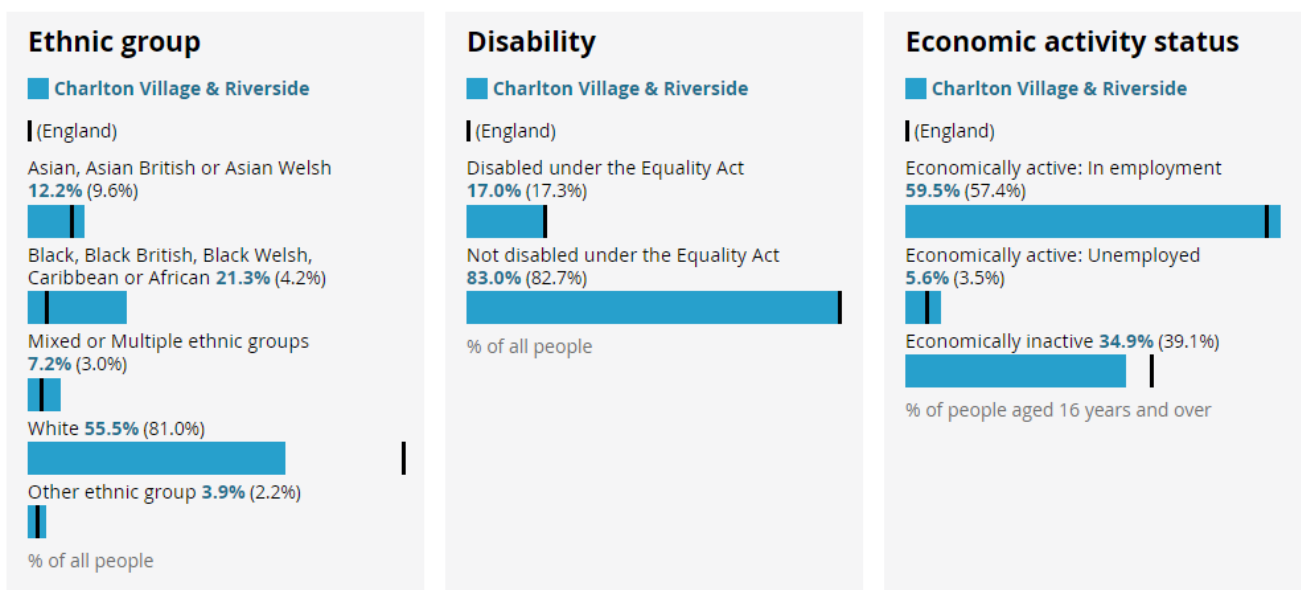
Users of the park come from a very wide catchment area, due to the sports teams and user groups presently using the sports pitches and recreation facilities. As it is not possible at this stage to identify the exact demographics of these visitors, the demographic information contained in this section is gathered from the 2021 Census Information for the Charlton Village and Riverside Ward.

The resident population of the Charlton Village & Riverside Ward is 10,500.

The percentage of children between the ages of (0 -14) is 19%

The percentage of people aged 15 – 64 is 70%

The percentage of people aged 65 and over is 11%



## **Stakeholders**

### **Royal Borough of Greenwich**

- Communities, Environment & Central (PE&OS, Sports)
- Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust
- Directorate of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills (Property Services, Planning)
- Chief Executives (Communications, Community Engagement)
- Neighbourhood Services (Neighbourhood Panels/Representatives)
- Children's Services

### **Community**

- Friends of Charlton Park
- Friends of Charlton House
- Charlton Society
- Thornhill Residents Association
- Anchor & Hope Residents Association
- Riding for the Disabled Association

- Charlton Community Gardens
- The Big Red Bus Club
- Charlton Park Academy
- Café Operators
- Charlton Park Skate User Group
- Park Run
- Blackheath Cricket Club and other sports clubs

### **Agencies**

- Police, Fire & Rescue Service

### **Business**

- Businesses in local shopping parade (Charlton Village)

### **Politicians**

- Ward Members (Charlton Village and Riverside)
- MPs

## **MANAGEMENT OF THE PARK**

### **Management Structure**

The management of Charlton Park is the responsibility of the Parks, Estates & Open Spaces service within the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Exceptions to this are the management and maintenance of Charlton House and its car park and driveway, the hiring out of areas of Charlton House Grounds for weddings and functions and locking and unlocking gates to the grounds, all of which are the responsibility of the Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust.

The Parks, Estates and Open Spaces Senior Management Team are accountable for the overall management responsibility of the Service. The Management Structure can be found in [Appendix III](#). Individual management functions and key functions are identified as follows:

- Horticultural Grounds Maintenance
- Park Rangers Service
- Arboricultural Maintenance
- Parks Strategy and Development Team
- Business Support – Sports lettings, complaints monitoring.

### **Horticultural Grounds Maintenance**

The grounds maintenance for Charlton Park is carried out by the Royal Borough's own workforce. The grounds maintenance team carries out the work such as grass cutting, weeding, leaf clearance, pruning and mulching of shrub beds. The team follow a work programme for the site and the District Manager is responsible for the grounds maintenance staff initially inspects standards. Senior management carry out random checks. Since 2023 a team of volunteers from the Greenwich Heritage Trust maintain the flower beds and shrub beds with Charlton House Grounds.

### **Park Ranger Service**

A park ranger is based at Charlton Park and performs a range of duties to ensure the safety and security of members of the public visiting the park. The duties include locking and unlocking the car park gates, emptying the litter bins, and maintain the park free of litter. The park ranger will visually inspect the children's playground, the outdoor gym and hard infrastructure within the park. Part of their role is to regularly review and monitor the condition of infrastructure and report items requiring repair or attention. The park rangers will also provide assistance to member of the public where appropriate. Anti-social behaviour is reported via ASB reports and any recurrent problems are dealt with via increased patrols by the park rangers and Police Community Support Officers.

### **Arboricultural Maintenance**

Charlton Park has a comprehensive tree management plan which is approached on a proactive basis and is updated every five years. Tree work within the park is carried out according to priority.

Tree management of the site will: -

- Undertake the work identified within the Tree Survey
- Preserve and enhance the existing landscape by replacing a tree should one be removed and reviewing capacity for additional planting.

### **Parks Strategy & Development Team**

The Strategy & Development Team work closely with the Friends of Charlton Park to make improvements to the park. Recent projects have included the playground improvements, refurbishment of the Football Changing Rooms and disabled access improvements. The park has been part of the "Fields in Trust" historic protection programme under the Queen Elizabeth II Fields and has been protected since November 2012.

### **Community Groups**

#### Friends of Charlton Park

The Friends of Charlton Park were founded in 2018 and are a community group for users of the Park. They are an open public group with the aim of helping everyone get the most from this great public facility. The group is always keen to hear from different user groups about how they use the park and collaborate to make it better for everyone.

The group, supported by the Royal Borough of Greenwich, organises events, helps the environment and shares information about the park. The Group encourages community involvement and usage of the park and organises events and further promotes the park within the wider community. The Friends Group have organised tree planting and bulb planting and also organise an annual "Beat, Boards and BBQ" event for the local community. There are regular updates on the Groups website to keep member informed about volunteer days planned and any improvements within the park.

#### Other Groups of the Community

The Charlton Community Gardens group maintains two community orchards within the park. The group's aims are 'to promote cooperation and support for everyone interested in sustainable and organic growing and wildlife diversity'.

Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust volunteers help maintain Charlton House Grounds and also working hard to restore the walled gardens and long borders at Charlton House. This project is a collaboration between Greenwich Heritage Trust and Charlton & Blackheath Amateur Horticultural Society.

Charities such as The Big Red Bus Group and Riding for the Disabled are located within the park.

## Marketing and Events

Information about Charlton Park can be found on the Royal Borough of Greenwich's website and on the Friends of Charlton Park website. Activities and events that occur in parks are marketed and advertised in a range of mediums for example, in the Greenwich Time, and on the Council's website and social media, depending on the nature of the activity or event.



Flyer for "Together 23" Event



### **Environmental Management**

Parks, Estates & Open Spaces horticultural and arboricultural work is managed in conjunction with an Environmental Management System that conforms to the internationally respected EN ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Standard. Parks, Estates & Open Spaces is externally audited and certified against the ISO 14001 to ensure the service is delivered in an environmentally sustainable manner and to reduce any negative effects on the environment that may be caused by grounds maintenance operations. A copy of the Environmental Policy can be found in Appendix II. All staff have completed an Environmental Induction and have access to a copy of the Environmental Management System which is in the Red Folder at each depot.

The Parks, Estates and Open Spaces department recycles as much of its green waste as possible. Green waste from the Charlton Park is shredded and turned into mulch which is re-used on shrub beds. Mixed waste is taken to the Council's Material Recycling Facility (MRF) where it is separated and then sent for recycling. Other mixed waste which can't be recycled is sent to a local incinerator which produces heat and energy for the adjacent housing estate.

Rechargeable battery-operated hand-held equipment is used within Parks and has started to replace the existing hand-held petrol driven equipment. On-site gardeners and park rangers reduce the need for travel and fuel consumption. Low energy bulbs are used in lighting and external lighting is photo-sensitive and only comes on during hours of darkness.

### **Health and Safety**

Staff are able to access Health and Safety information via a 'Red Folder', which is located at staff depots. The contents of the Red Folders include a list of first aiders, list of PA1 PA6A certificate holders, COSHH and Risk Assessments. The Directorate's Health and Safety Policy is available on staff notice boards and on the Council intranet. COSHH assessments are carried out on all new substances before use and risk assessments are carried out for any new activities or machinery introduced to the park and appropriate control measures are implemented to minimise any associated risk.

The vehicles used by the Parks, Estates and Open Spaces department are maintained by The Royal Borough's Fleet Management Service. The Borough is accredited to the Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS). FORS is a voluntary accreditation scheme for fleet operators which aim to raise the level of quality within fleet operations, and to demonstrate which operators are achieving exemplary levels of best practice in safety, efficiency, and environmental protection. In addition to this, staff perform routine checks on all machinery before use.

### **Budget Information**

The budgets used to maintain parks and open spaces are currently split into two areas.

Horticultural / Park Ranger Operations and Property Services.

#### **Horticulture / Park Ranger Operations**

The revenue spend for 2022-23 was £116,463

The capital spend for 2022-23 was £1,133,133.70 (includes capital works to changing rooms)

#### **Property Services**

The corporate budgets for both planned and responsive maintenance of the Council's property infrastructure are held by the Royal Borough of Greenwich Property Services in the Directorate of

Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills. Planned works are carried out on a strict basis of corporate priorities. Responsive repairs are carried out for minor items as and when they arise.

**External Funding**

Applications for external funding are made for various improvements to the park. In recent years funding has been obtained from the Council's "£1 Million Parks Investment Scheme" to carry out improvements within the park. The Friends Group have also been successful in applications for funding for Ward Budget and Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund.

Previous funding from the 2012 Olympics created a legacy of improved infrastructure sports facilities in the Borough's Parks & Open Spaces and funding from this programme was allocated for Charlton Park and a new cricket square and improvements to the football changing rooms at the time.

## **PART 2: WHERE DO WE WANT TO GET TO**

### **VISION**

The vision for Charlton House Grounds is conserve the buildings and landscape and where possible perform restoration work to restore features to their original condition.

The vision for Charlton Park is to provide a high-quality park with a range of sports, facilities and recreational opportunities for the local community and to improve the nature and biodiversity within the park.

### **STRENGTHS**

- Charlton Park benefits from an active friend's group and other local volunteer groups.
- The Park benefits from onsite grounds maintenance and park rangers staff presence.
- Charlton Park is a well-used and popular resource for the local and wider community.
- Charlton House is a beautiful Jacobean building with significant heritage value.
- Charlton Park is a popular sports facility for football and cricket and used by many local clubs.
- Park Run provides a 5K course around the park every week.
- The Big Red Bus Club provides a free family wellbeing resource for the local community.
- The Riding for the Disabled Association provides horse riding facilities for disabled children.
- Provides well maintained facilities such as an outdoor gym equipment, skate park, table tennis tables and a children's playground.
- Three cafés operate within the park/ house grounds to provide refreshments for visitors.
- The park has an extensive and well researched history.
- Charlton Park has many mature trees, some of which are notable for the age and history.
- Areas within the park have been rewilded to support nature and biodiversity.
- Level accessible pathways throughout the park.
- Annual community events / fun days are held in the park.
- Sports changing rooms are available on site.

### **CHALLENGES**

- Funding for maintaining the heritage assets within Charlton House and Grounds is limited.
- The park suffers from anti-social behaviour.
- Planned budget cuts could impact on resources for the park.
- Biodiversity on site is limited by recreational and sports usage of the park.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Secure additional funding to maintain / improve the infrastructure and facilities, both in Charlton House Grounds and Charlton Park.
- To improve awareness and use of site by all sections of the community
- Continue to monitor anti-social behaviour within the park.
- Increase the biodiversity on site.

## PART 3: HOW WILL WE GET THERE

### ACTION PLAN 2019 - 24

Timescales as given in this document are as follows;

Short Term – Within one-two years from adoption of this plan

Medium Term – Within three-four years from the adoption of this plan

Long Term – Five years and more from the adoption of this plan

Action required	Detail of Specific action	Timescale (Long/Medium/ Short Term)	Responsibility	Status of Work
To support the new Friends Group	Regular communication and meetings with the Community Engagement Officer.	On going	Parks, Estates and Open Spaces	On-going
Maintenance and improvements to skate park	Minor remedial repairs planned in 2019 to be carried out by the skate park suppliers. Investigate lighting plan and costs for skate park	Short Term	Parks, Estates and Open Spaces	Repairs completed 2020
Carry Arboricultural Tree Assessment in 2023	Contact the Parks Tree Officer and arrange for the Tree Survey to be updated in 2023	Long Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Completed 2023
Improve children's play facilities within the park	Seek funding opportunities for refurbishment of the playground. Consult with Friends of Charlton Park.	Medium / Long Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Completed 2021
Investigates ways to improve biodiversity on site.	Assist the friend's group in securing funding for an ecology report and implement proposals to improve the biodiversity at the eastern end of the park.	Medium / Long Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces / Friends Group	Completed 2021

<b>Action required</b>	<b>Detail of Specific action</b>	<b>Timescale (Long/Medium/ Short Term)</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Status of Work</b>
Reduce two stroke petrol usage by 2023	To replace 25% of grounds maintenance two stroke equipment with rechargeable battery-operated equipment.	Long Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Completed 2023
Refurbish the football changing rooms	Work with DRES to make improvements to the football changing rooms and make the building more sustainable by installing a ground source heat pump and solar panels.	Medium Term	DRES / Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Completed 2022
Improve disabled access within the park	Install an additional ramp from the car park and down to the playground and café. Install and accessible toilet in the football pavilion. Install a new pathway in the playground.	Medium Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Completed 2022
Review Charlton House Service Level Agreement	Work with the Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust to review the Service Level Agreement for the grounds.	Medium Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Completed 2022
Replace cricket wicket	Secure funding to install an artificial cricket wicket at Charlton Park	Short Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Completed 2023
Carry out a condition survey of listed wall	Carry out a condition survey of the listed wall that runs along the park boundary on Charlton Park Road and carry out work to stabilise the wall	Long Term	DRES / Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Ongoing
Organise a weekly park run at Charlton Park	Work with Park Run to establish a new park run at Charlton Park	Short Term	Park Run / Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Completed 2021
Create a new picnic area within the playground	Install 4 new picnic benches and move the existing 4 picnic tables to a new picnic area in the shade and plant additional trees.	Medium Term	Friends Group	Completed 2022

Improve staff facilities on site	Work with DRES to upgrade staff facilities on site to provide a new messroom and storage within the existing yard.	Long Term	DRES / Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Completed 2023
Carry out repair of benches and pathways	Identify wooden benches and pathways that need repair and get costing and apply for funding from the £1 Million Parks Improvement Scheme	Short Term	DRES / Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Completed 2021
Repair the Ha Ha wall	Carry out remedial work to the Ha Ha wall after damage from tree roots	Medium Term	DRES / Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Completed 2022

**Important Note:** Improvement actions requiring investment are subject to funding being secured. There are no additional funds available from the Council unless it has been identified against a specific action.

## **PART 4: HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN WE'VE ARRIVED**

### ***MONITORING AND REVIEW***

The Management Plan will be kept up to date with issues and changes that arise. New information will be documented, and the action plan regularly reviewed and completed works documented within it as part of the Parks Service business planning process.

Upon review, the new management plan will make note of the works performed and review the success of those works in the action plan section.





## **APPENDIX I**

### **History and Heritage**

The History and Heritage information contained in this appendix was largely taken from the restoration plan that was done for the house and grounds by East Architecture in 2000.

The origin of the name Charlton is ceorle, the Saxon name for husbandman, and ton, a town. The simple meaning of the name Charlton is a country place, or village.

Early settlement in the Charlton area include a Roman settlement from c.50 to 400BC. This was located at what is now Maryon Park and Gilbert's Pit. Subsequent Anglo-Saxon and Danish settlements probably lay not far from the present day Charlton Village centre.

After the Norman Conquest in 1066, William the Conqueror granted the Manor of Charlton to his half-brother Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, who then granted it to his brother Bloett, Bishop of Lincoln. In 1093, Robert Bloett granted the Manor to the Monastery of St. Saviour, Bermondsey. Charlton was attached to the Priory of Bermondsey until the Dissolution.

Charlton became a Royal Manor when it was assigned by an act in jointure to Elizabeth, Queen of Henry VII.

In 1603, James I of England sold Charlton manor for £2000 to John Erskine, a councillor who aided him to the English throne. In 1607, John Erskine sold the property to Adam Newton for £4500.

Adam Newton was an accomplished classical scholar and was tutor to the son of James I, Prince Henry. In 1606, Newton was presented with the Deanery of Durham, and it was this that presumably enabled him to purchase Charlton Manor.

Shortly after Adam Newton had bought the property, the old buildings of Charlton Manor were razed to the ground and work began on the construction of the new Charlton House, which was situated at the southeast corner of the village green. According to John Evelyn, the House and grounds were designed as a potential residence for the young Prince Henry.

Little is known about the design of the House and grounds, although some suggest that the architect was John Thorpe (c.1560-1620). Charlton House remains one of the finest Jacobean mansions in England and is the only complete Jacobean House in Greater London. It is distinguished by some extraordinary and extravagant Flemish influenced ornamentation.

At about the same time as the construction of the house, a red brick wall was built enclosing a small park of approximately 100 acres. As yet, no early plans of the original park and gardens have been discovered, the earliest being the plan by John Rocque of 1741, which shows Charlton House on Charlton Green, next to the church and the hamlet of Charlton. However, it is possible to make certain assumptions about the layout of the former gardens by comparing evidence on the ground with certain design trends of the time.

The raised terrace walk, from which the garden can be viewed, is a typical feature of the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. The placing of the house on an earth dais allowed good views of the patterned formal gardens from the windows of the principal rooms (an example of this is shown at Hatfield House).

This suggests that the existing terraces at Charlton House are original. Furthermore, there are examples of black and white patterning of external surfaces at Audley End which suggest that the Charlton House terrace could also have been patterned, at least in part.

Gardens from the 17<sup>th</sup> century and later were frequently designed to impress the observer with the monumental splendour of the whole composition, uniting the house and garden in one design concept, unlike the earlier often ramshackle and asymmetrical designs. There was a growing desire for year-round colour, fragrance and fruit, and gardens tended to consist of flower gardens (often *knot* gardens), kitchen gardens and orchards. These were set out in squares, with each part being enclosed on all four sides by hedges or walls. John Rea (died 1677) advocated a layout of two square shaped gardens, one near the house for flowers and the second for fruit, both of which were used for recreation and entertainment. At Charlton House, we can presume that the walls around the formal gardens to the south of the house are original, and would probably have included some kind of knot garden and kitchen garden.

In 1608 James I, being anxious to further the silk industry by introducing the culture of the silkworm into Britain, issued an edict encouraging the cultivation of mulberry trees, but the attempt to rear silkworms in England proved unsuccessful, apparently because the black mulberry was cultivated in error, whereas the white mulberry is the species on which the silkworm flourishes. An example of this is the black mulberry tree that was planted at Charlton House in 1608, possibly one of the first trees to be planted in response to the James I edict. At some point early in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Charlton House was granted a royal charter for the production of silk, possibly as a result of the close connections between Adam Newton and the young Prince Henry.

Other exotic species that were much used in gardens of the time include cypresses and cedars, both of which would have been included in the early garden design of Charlton House.

By 1612, the construction of Charlton House was complete, and Adam Newton moved in. However, in November of that year, Prince Henry died, aged eighteen and it appears that much of the power that Adam Newton wielded in the royal court was lost. Despite this, in 1620, he was invested as a Baronet, and in 1626 promoted to treasurer and Receiver-General. Adam Newton Died on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 1630 and his son Sir Henry Newton inherited the house. With funds left by Sir Adam, St Luke's Church was completely rebuilt in the fashion that survives there today. His body is buried inside and there is a black and white marble monument to him.

### **1630-1767**

Sir Henry Newton appears to have had little impact on the grounds of Charlton House, although in 1630, probably on the posthumous instruction of Sir Adam Newton, the Summerhouse (often attributed to Inigo Jones) was erected. This building probably had fine views to the north looking out from the scarp slope above the Thames and enjoying a middle distance prospect of the river and boats. In this way, it acted as a gazebo, which acknowledged the wider landscape from the safety of the enclosed garden. Summerhouses are a typical feature of aristocratic Jacobean gardens and historically are descendants of the medieval arbour. The position of the building in the garden is typical, set in a corner of one of the formal quadrangular gardens, some way from the house (also seen at Castle Bromwich). Often, the summerhouse would have been reached along a terraced walkway, allowing commanding views over the garden. At Charlton House, the Summerhouse sits

on a dais of similar height to the house, but so far, no evidence has been found indicating that there was a connecting terrace.

In 1653, John Evelyn recorded the following entry in his diary: “*I went to visit my worthy neighbour Sir Henry Newton and consider the prospect, which is doubtless for city, river, ships, meadows, hill, woods and all other amenities, one of the most noble in the world; so as, had the house running water, it were a princely seat*”

Sir Henry Newton fought as a royalist in the Civil War, and when the Parliamentarians took control of London, he was forced to move to his Puckering estate in Warwickshire. The Newtons decided to sell the property, due to their political allegiances and the Parliamentary occupation of London.

In 1657, Charlton house was purchased by Sir William Ducie. Little is known about his occupancy, except that he made a number of repairs to the house in 1659. He died in 1679 and his representatives sold the property to Sir William Langhorne.

Sir William Langhorne was a wealthy East India merchant who also purchased the Canfield and Hampstead estates. In around 1700, he restored the stables, evidence of which can be seen in the cast iron signature *WL* ties on the north-facing gable. In 1715, Langorne died and his nephew Sir John Conyers inherited the estate. The estate was then passed down through various descendants until in 1767; the property came under the ownership of the Maryon-Wilson family, where it remained until 1923, when it was sold to London County Council.

Few details survive of changes that have been made to the gardens, although close inspection of various maps, plans and written sources gives some idea. The earliest known plan of the gardens is that of John Rocque (Dated 1741). It records a layout, which by this date was old-fashioned; the wilderness, parterres, and tight walled formal layout date from the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and can be seen in numerous well-known examples from that period (Wilton, Ham House etc.). There appears to be an avenue of trees where the *Lime Tree Walk* is now situated (along the north wall of the grounds). Radiating beyond the formal gardens to the east and south-east are three avenues of trees (probably the elms described below), aligned axially on the centre of the house. The avenues demonstrate the fashion for exploring the wider landscape, encouraging the visitor to look at and contemplate matters beyond the confines of the enclosed garden.



The main avenue of trees terminates at an unusual bastion which is situated on the high ground of the river escarpment overlooking the valley with Hanging Wood and the old Roman Camp below. It may be that the Roman camp formed a point of interest in the views out from the park. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the study of antiquity was very popular, and it was common practice to encapsulate a piece of antiquity (such as at Studley Royal), and if you did not have the real thing it could be created. The Rocque plan also shows the extent of what was probably the original boundary wall of the 100-acre park laid out by Sir Adam Newton.

By 1716, the gardens had been drastically altered. A survey plan by Hill and Bateman of 1765-7 shows that all the formally laid out gardens had been removed with the exception of the walled areas close to the house and the one quadrangular area to the north of the house. This is a clear response to the English Landscape Movement. The Dutch and French influenced geometry and formality of previous generations were removed as the fashion for Arcadian *natural* parkland predominated among the English aristocracy.

The Hill and Bateman plan and the rendered plan by Thomas Reynolds of 1784 both show an unusual serpentine walk that was laid out within the earlier formal framework, symmetrical to the central axis of the garden, centred on the house. The idea of a serpentine walk, not very wide and perhaps planted with shrubs under already existing trees (an earlier boundary or grown-out wilderness) became especially fashionable through the descriptions of the Leasowes, laid out by William Shenstone. In this landscape the walks and rides ran through the agricultural landscape allowing prospects out to either side. The idea of the prospect terrace walks has its roots in the earlier layouts by Bridgeman at Stowe, but was developed into more *natural* flowing lines. “*Nature abhors the straight line*” (Alexander Pope) was the mood of the day and it is interesting to see the rather constrained attempt at Charlton. Other more formal examples of this style of walk can be seen in plans from Audley End (c.1780), Addlestrop (Samuel Driver, 1759), and Heligan (William Hole, 1777).

The serpentine walk along the north boundary of Charlton House terminates at a tub seat (as mentioned in the Reynolds Plan), which possibly was a barrel cut in half vertically. An example of this is at Selbourne, installed by Gilbert White.

The lawn that extends eastwards, aligned on the central axis of the house, was flanked by areas of trees and shrubs that were planted without rigid formality. What is most likely is that these are the grown out remains of the old formal gardens that had been removed. Perpendicular to the axis of the house there is at least one strong north-south axis line across the lawn, most probably focussing on some feature at one or both ends. This may well be the development of a former axis running between formal gardens as seen on the Rocque plan.

The Hill and Bateman plan shows at Charlton House the semi-circular driveway in front of the house, and the kitchen gardens some distance to the south of the house.

The developments at Charlton House just after the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century can be seen in the context of the other properties in the area as following fashion but not being at the forefront. Greenwich is much grander, but also takes advantage of the river prospect and is well known for its avenues lined up on surrounding church spires. The idea of a property close to London but still very much in the country is better known at the opposite side of London in *Twickenhamshire*, beloved of Walpole and containing the spectacular collection of properties including Marble Hall, Pope's Grotto, and Ham House. Charlton House does not compare with the modern thinking of such places, but is a comfortable small property that was modernised to keep up with changing tastes.

At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Pennant published book *Journey from London to Isle of Wight* (1801) and describes Charlton as having “woods and gorsy grounds as wild as if it were two hundred miles from a great capital”. He says of Charlton House, “its situation is rendered more solemn by a row of cypress trees, perhaps most ancient of all in England.”

On the village green in front of Charlton House the often rowdy Horn Fair was held on St. Luke's day (18<sup>th</sup> October), described by Sandby in 1781 as a “disorderly annual fair or rather rout... with women on that day out vying the men”. In 1825, Sir Thomas Maryon-Wilson, unhappy with the “indecent character” of this fair, succeeded in moving it to Fairfield (a short distance to the north) and enclosing the village green as his own. For this reason, the arch, which was the original gateway to Charlton House, now curiously stands in the middle of the front lawn. At around the same time, Sir Thomas brought back from Italy a Roman stone chest that remained in the garden until the Maryon-Wilson family sold the estate in 1923. In 1828, there were apparently three cypress trees in front of the house that were the remnants of a long row of cypresses; the missing ones replaced by elm trees. In 1840, the garden in front of the house was “formerly thickly emblossomed in yew trees which have been headed down, but would be better removed.” The same source speaks of the garden being in a poor state of neglect. During this time, military review, polo matches, fetes and parties were “almost a daily event.”

In 1847, the ha-ha was constructed along the east boundary of the pleasure gardens (the southern half has now been filled in).

In 1870, Sir John Maryon-Wilson became the 9<sup>th</sup> Baronet. He was a keen botanist and was particularly noted for his interest in hardy plants, and made many improvements to the gardens of Charlton House. The following details all come from an article in the *Journal of Horticulture and*

*Cottage Gardener* of January 1885, read in conjunction with the Ordnance Survey maps of the same period. It describes Charlton House as occupying a commanding position with views of the Thames, and the counties of Essex, Kent and Surrey. It laments the fact that the surrounding landscape by 1885 was a far cry from that described by Pennant in 1801: “*the rapidly extending area of the suburbs of London is fast extinguishing the once sylvan beauty of the surroundings of the few remaining ancient baronial residences. In the gardens there were splendid examples of ancient oaks, elms and other British trees... with which the landscape is beautifully diversified*”. In front of the house there were many rhododendrons and St John’s wort.

To the east of the house an avenue of elms extended beyond the ha-ha, the trees being mentioned by John Evelyn to be large even in the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century. The article speaks of deer in the park that “*lend their graceful form... to the beauties of the scenery.*”

The interest devoted by the Maryon Wilson family to the militia, the local dispensaries, welfare organisations, hospitals and horticultural societies meant that on occasion the park was thrown open to the general public. Undoubtedly the largest gathering was in June 1897 when over 30,000 Sunday school children, teachers and friends celebrated Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee.

On either side of the lawn which stretches from the house up to the ha-ha there were informal belts of trees and shrubs planted in a *bold and free style*, with winding paths running through, which occasionally opened up at points of interest. Species mentioned are rhododendrons and giant *Aucubas in great luxuriance*. In this part an ancient avenue of yews is mentioned “*which is supposed to have been in existence long before the present mansion was built. According to Evelyn there was a fine row of evergreen cypresses then growing there, but all have disappeared save a solitary specimen.*” In the same article, mention is made of an over-mature *Robinia pseudoacacia* covered in traveller’s joy *Clematis*; also foxgloves, other “*old fashioned plants,*” and the well known horse chestnut whose branches had rooted themselves and grown into mature specimens. Sadly this chestnut had to be cut down in 1955 due to its moribund condition. Within the shrub belts, “*spring flowers come up in abundance in this sylvan garden.*”

At the margins of the shrub beds were beds planted out with herbaceous plants in the summer. Species included phlox, hostas, monkshood, *Statice cordifolia* “*and many others.*”

“*Following a winding grass walk we come to the Rose garden, sheltered on all sides from winds, in which are growing a good selection of roses.*” Exactly where this rose garden is is not clear.

Along the north wall of the grounds was an avenue of limes, within which a “*very fine*” Judas tree is mentioned.

Just to the south of the house is the walled garden which was called then the Dutch flower garden. Here, plants such as *Galliardia grandiflora*, *Phlox drummondii* Chinese pinks, *Viola* spp. and “*other showy annuals*” grew. Against the walls, a fig tree, an ‘Easter Beurre’ and ‘Duchesse d’Angouleme’ pear trees were said to be growing “*rampantly*”. From the Dutch garden, one continued into the small kitchen garden and reserve ground where seedbeds contained Penstemons, hollyhocks, Campanulas. Along the paths, clumps of old White Pink and “*other useful plants affording cut flowers*” were planted.

The large kitchen garden was set some distance to the south of the gardens. The soil was noted for its fertility and was abundant in all types of fruit trees, bushes and vegetables. Against the house itself, two pear trees were trained horizontally along the walls and were said to have reached the full height of the house.

The “glass department” was not particularly extensive but plants grown there in 1885 included *Phoenix reclinata*, *Hibiscus cooperi*, *Xylopholla falcata*, *Eucharis amazonica*, *Cereus grandiflorus* (night flowering cactus), various orchids, *Adiantum farlyense*, tea roses, *Gardenia* spp, *Stephanotis* spp, azaleas and camellias.



## **APPENDIX II**

### **Policies and Legislation affecting Park Management**

As highlighted earlier in the plan, the Royal Borough of Greenwich Parks and Open Spaces department operates within a wide framework of national, regional and local policy statements and strategies. The main documents impacting on the development of this plan are listed below.

#### **Greenwich Strategies**

##### **The Royal Borough of Greenwich Strategy**

The Royal Borough of Greenwich Strategy sets out the vision for Greenwich as being the place to live, work, learn and visit. This vision underpins all of the strategies produced by the Royal Borough of Greenwich and directly impacts on all service plans and service delivery.

##### **The Cultural Strategy**

Parks and Open Spaces is one of six 'areas' considered by the Cultural Strategy. The Strategy has five over-arching themes: - Equality and Access, Sustainability, the Cultural Economy, Achievement and Excellence and Partnerships. All of these aims are relevant to this management plan and have been considered in developing the opportunities and priorities for this site.

##### **Green Space Strategy**

The Green Spaces Strategy sets out the Borough's strategic intentions for its green assets and its vision of the positive contribution that Greenwich's open networks make to our lives.

The thematic objectives (community safety, biodiversity, education and culture, culture and events, tackling inequality, sport, health and well being) are all relevant to the management plan for Charlton House Grounds and Charlton Park.

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

The 10 year Strategy, adopted in 2017 is centred on the following seven themes:

- **Park and open spaces management:** Ensuring our parks and open spaces are well managed, maintained in good condition and are safe to use;
- **Community engagement:** Ensuring we actively engage and work in partnership with local residents to provide good quality parks that meet the needs of the local community;
- **Nature and biodiversity:** Ensuring that areas and habitats are provided for wildlife and that they are protected from inappropriate development;
- **Environmental management:** Maximise resource efficiency by increasing recycling opportunities, establish better use of essential energy sources and controlling the use of pesticides and chemicals;
- **Recreation, health and wellbeing:** Ensuring that parks provide spaces for active recreation and quiet reflection and contribute to the health and well-being of the local community;



- **Regeneration and local economy:** Ensuring our parks are well designed, attractive to visitors and encourage enterprise and employment of local people; and
- **Culture and heritage:** Ensuring our parks are places for culture and that their heritage is preserved and celebrated.

### **Parks Estates & Open Spaces Service Plan**

The Parks, Estates and Open Spaces Department aims to develop, manage, ensure accessibility and maintain to a high standard the borough's Parks, Open Spaces, Woodlands, Tree Stock, Cemeteries, Playgrounds, Sports Pitches, Allotments and other outdoor facilities. To meet the needs of the community and deliver the Council's core objectives where applicable to the service, and specifically regarding the provision of a clean and well cared for environment and supporting Health and Quality of Life for the local community.

### **ISO 9001:2015- Quality Management System**

The Parks, Estates & Open Spaces arboriculture services is accredited to the ISO 9001:2015. The ISO 9001 Quality Management System is used by the Royal Borough to manage their activities and resources to guarantee a quality service. The ISO 9001 helps the Royal Borough achieve customer satisfaction because it provides a framework for service analysis and definition and for the improvement of processes. The four main parts covered under the Quality Management System are (i) management responsibility (ii) resource management (iii) process management and (iv) measurement, analysis and improvement.

### **ISO 14001: 2015 - Environmental Management System**

The Parks, Estates & Open Spaces horticultural and arboricultural services are managed in conjunction with an Environmental Management System that is accredited to the internationally respected EN ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Standard. The Royal Borough's grounds maintenance and tree maintenance activities are controlled to ensure the service is delivered in an environmentally sustainable manner and to reduce any negative effects on the environment that may be their operations. Parks, Estates & Open Spaces works towards sustainable development and continual environmental improvements.

### **ISO 45001:2018 - Health, Safety & Wellbeing Management System**

The Parks, Estates & Open Spaces arboriculture services is accredited to the ISO 45001:2018 which provides a framework for managing Occupation Health & Safety risks and opportunities. The aim is to prevent work related injury and ill health to workers and to provide safe, healthier workplaces by eliminating hazards minimizing risks by taking effective preventative and protective measures. The intended outcomes of the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Management System include (i) continual improvement of performance, (ii) fulfilment of legal and other requirements and (iii) achievement of Health & safety objectives.

### **Core Strategy**

Local Councils have a duty to prepare a Development Plan by law. The Greenwich Core Strategy sets out the vision for use of the land in the Borough and provides the main guidance for making decisions on individual planning proposals. The document is intended to cover the period up to 2028 it is a legal document with the following purposes:

- To provide a framework of acceptable uses within the Borough, defining areas where development is not desired or where it needs to be carefully directed and;
- To provide a detailed basis for the control and development

Charlton House Grounds and Charlton Park both share the same designations in the UDP. Those designations are as follows: -

- **Metropolitan Open Land (MOL)**
- **Green Chain**
- **Green Chain Walk**
- **Area of Special Character of Metropolitan Importance**
- **Conservation Area**

### **Metropolitan Open Land**

The Core Strategy designates Charlton House and Grounds and Charlton Park as **Metropolitan Open Land (MOL)**. Policy references **O1, O2, O3** and **O4** under the section 'Protecting Open Land' set out what the acceptable land uses and allowable developments are within areas designated as MOL. These policy references are too lengthy to reproduce here. The policies are broadly meant to control development or alterations to existing land that would be inappropriate to MOL and have an adverse affect on the character and usage of the open space.

### **Green Chain**

The UDP also designates the park as **Green Chain**. Policy reference **O5** under the section 'Protecting Open Land' sets out what the objectives of this designation are. The objectives are as follows:

- To improve and encourage the provision of suitable recreational facilities, with an emphasis on those serving a wide area of South East London and/or requiring open land
- To safeguard the open land from built development and maintain its positive contribution in providing a visual and physical break in the built-up area of London
- To conserve and enhance the visual amenity and ecological aspects of the landscape
- To improve public access to and through the area
- To promote an overall identity for the area in order to increase public awareness of available recreational facilities
- To encourage the collaboration and co-operation of the various public and private agencies, owners, organisations and clubs etc. in the area to achieve the above objectives

For the extent of the Green Chain Area, refer to the UDP proposals map and second draft alterations maps.

### **Community Benefits**

**O10** The Council will seek to secure improvement and enhancement of existing parks and public open spaces, where major development places increased demand on existing areas, and, where appropriate, the creation of new parks and public open spaces in line with Policies **O9** and **C3**, through planning obligations and conditions on planning permissions in line with Policy **SC2**.

### **Park Facilities**

**O12** The Royal Borough of Greenwich will seek to enhance open space by the provision and encouragement of appropriate park facilities (e.g. seating, children's play equipment, refreshment facilities, outdoor tennis courts, pitch and putt, sports pitches and changing facilities and Arts, Culture and Entertainment facilities, such as open air performance spaces, sculpture and visual imagery and areas for cultural exhibition and study) within suitable parks and public open spaces. Facilities should be of a high standard of design and quality and

respect local nature conservation interests. Such facilities should be safe to use and accessible to all. (See Policies D5, D6 and D7).

### **Green Chain Walk**

Policy O14 refers to the **Green Chain Walk**, which runs through Charlton Park.

**O15** Existing footpaths will be safeguarded and new footpaths created to and through open spaces and places of interest, where they do not adversely affect nature conservation. The Council will endeavour to create a signposted network of continuous and circular routes. In particular the 'Green Chain Walk' footpath network will be improved and extended and new links created wherever possible.

### **Areas of Special Character**

Also, the Greenwich UDP in part 2.6 refers to the parks as part of a larger area designated as Special Character of Metropolitan Character.

**D28** Within Areas of Special Character defined on the Proposals Map, special consideration will be given to the safeguarding, restoration and enhancement of character, scale and quality of open spaces and associated buildings. Skylines and distant views both to and from the Areas of Special Character will be protected.

### **The Biodiversity Action plan**

The Greenwich Biodiversity Action Plan will be the first co-ordinated approach to conserving Greenwich's biodiversity. The aim of the plan is: 'To ensure the conservation, enhancement and public appreciation of the biodiversity of the London Borough of Greenwich'.

The Biodiversity Action Plan focuses on locally important habitats and species and has actions drafted to ensure that they cover all relevant habitats and species. Initially actions may be focussed on those under the most pressure or where most advantage can be gained. However, it allows for all important habitats and species to be covered.

The Biodiversity Action Plan has been developed in partnership with local and regional groups and organisations and is currently in draft form awaiting adoption by the Council.

### **Conservation**

Both Charlton House Grounds and Charlton Park are part of a wider area designated as a Conservation Area. Section 2.6 of the UDP sets out the policies relating to Conservation areas and is too lengthy to reproduce in this document, but the main thrust of the policies is to conserve and enhance historic landscapes by use of urban design principles, design statements and ecological surveys to assess and approve any developments in a sensitive and appropriate manner.

Please see the 2006 adopted UDP part 2.6 for comprehensive details on Conservation areas, as the details are too lengthy to reproduce here.

### **Area of Archaeological Potential**

The UDP designates Charlton House Grounds up to the Ha-ha is an area of potential archaeological significance and that policy D30 in the UDP sets out provisions for planning

**D30** The Council will expect applicants to properly assess and plan for the impact of proposed developments on archaeological remains where they fall within 'Areas of Archaeological Potential' as defined on the constraints Map 10. In certain instances preliminary archaeological site investigations may be required before proposals are considered. The Royal Borough of Greenwich will seek to secure the co-operation of developers in the excavation, recording and

publication of archaeological finds before development takes place by use of planning conditions/legal agreements as appropriate.

### **Dog control**

Dog fouling has also been recognised as being a problem within many of Greenwich's open spaces. The Public Space Protection Orders, Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 makes it possible for local authorities to enforce Dog Control Orders. The Royal Borough of Greenwich has adopted 5 separate control orders which provide a fixed penalty for non-compliance.

These orders make it an offence for persons in control of their dog(s) to:

- Not cleaning up after their dog has fouled.
- Have more than 4 dogs in their control at one time.
- Not to have their dog on a lead in designated areas
- Not to have their dog on a lead and kept on a lead when instructed to do so by an authorised officer.
- To allow their dog(s) to access designated dog exclusion areas.

Police Community Support Officers are authorised to issue fixed penalties.

The playground and flood lit training areas are designated as "no dog areas".

# Royal Borough of Greenwich

## Communities & Environment

### Parks, Estates & Open Spaces

#### Use of Peat/Peat Based Product Policy

##### **Background:**

Peat is a Heterogeneous mixture of decomposed plant material (humus) that has accumulated in a water-saturated environment and in the absence of oxygen.

Peat lands play an important role in the biosphere. They affect hydrological dynamics and water quality and provide important habitats for plant and animal species.

The extraction of peat for mans use has a major negative environmental impact in the long term.

In recent decades peat has been dug in vast quantities for use by the plant nursery industry and horticulture.

Peat has particular calculable water conductive properties. Plant production in the UK is somewhat organised to use peat as an alternative to mineral soils because of its consistent qualities and PH level.

It is a non- sustainable product

##### Our Policy:

- In Parks and Open Spaces we do not use peat as a soil ameliorant or mulch.
- We do not use peat or peat based product in relation to tree or shrub planting
- We encourage our suppliers to use products other than peat in the growing of trees, shrubs and bedding plants
- We train our staff in the rationale of not using peat based products

Head of Parks, Estates & and Open Spaces

#### **Parks Estates & Open Spaces**

Oxleas Woods  
Crown Woods Lane  
London SE18 3JA

# Royal Borough of Greenwich

## Communities & Environment

### Parks, Estates and Open Spaces

#### Pesticide Policy

##### (Authorised by the Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Manager)

As part of a continual move towards better environmental practice, we aim to minimise the use of pesticide where possible and to promote the use of alternative maintenance and curative procedures in relation to Charlton Park

We aim to:-

- Eliminate the hazards of pesticides
- Reduce the dependence of pesticides
- Promote alternatives to pesticides
- Communicate good practice through membership to PAN (Pesticide Action Network).

Objectives:-

- Control the problem of worm casting, without the use of lumbricides
- To limit the use of selective herbicide to the ornamental areas only
- To not use on insecticides
- To limit the use of fungicides to Bowling Greens within Greenwich's Parks
- To use organic fertilisers.



## 4.2 Environmental Policy

The Royal Borough of Greenwich recognises that environmental issues are of fundamental importance to our customers, and to our business success.

The Royal Borough of Greenwich aims to work towards the achievement of sustainable development and continual improvement.

Under the scope of its Environmental Management Systems, The Royal Borough of Greenwich strives to:

- Promote sustainability and the use of sustainable resources
- Promote conservation and environmental awareness
- Promote activities which enhance the environment
- Achieve continual improvements in environmental performance
- Prevent the release of pollution
- Minimise the release of waste, noise and emissions
- Minimise activities which have a negative effect on the environment
- Maximise activities which have a positive effect on the environment
- Comply with applicable legal and other requirements that relate to environmental aspects
- Work in partnership with other organisations in environmental management
- Set environmental targets built into the day to day running of the service
- Use products which have a minimum impact on the environment
- Provide training in environmental issues to all persons
- Communicate the Environmental Policy to all persons working for or on behalf of The Royal Borough of Greenwich
- Review Environmental objectives, targets and policy

Signed		Head of Parks & Open Spaces
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Issue 09

Issue Date: 10/04/13

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## **Health and Safety Policy**

### **Parks & Estates Open Spaces COSHH Statement**

Parks, Estates & Open Spaces are committed to ensuring safe working practices and to minimising the negative effects on the environment from our activities.

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health within Parks, Estates & Open Spaces is through implementation of risk assessments on all substances where exposure could lead to an adverse effect on health or danger to safety, and the introduction of appropriate control measures.

COSHH assessments are undertaken by a trained member of staff and are reviewed annually

Written records are kept to demonstrate that risks have been considered

Control measures highlighted in the assessment are implemented and maintained

Parks, Estates & Open Spaces employees only use products in conjunction with a COSHH assessment

Health surveillance is used to evaluate effectiveness of control measures

An up to date inventory is kept of all hazardous substances to which staff are likely to be exposed to during their work activities

No other products may be brought into use without prior Management Review product approval

Parks, Estates and Open Spaces Environmental Policy also sets guidelines for the use of substances hazardous to health.



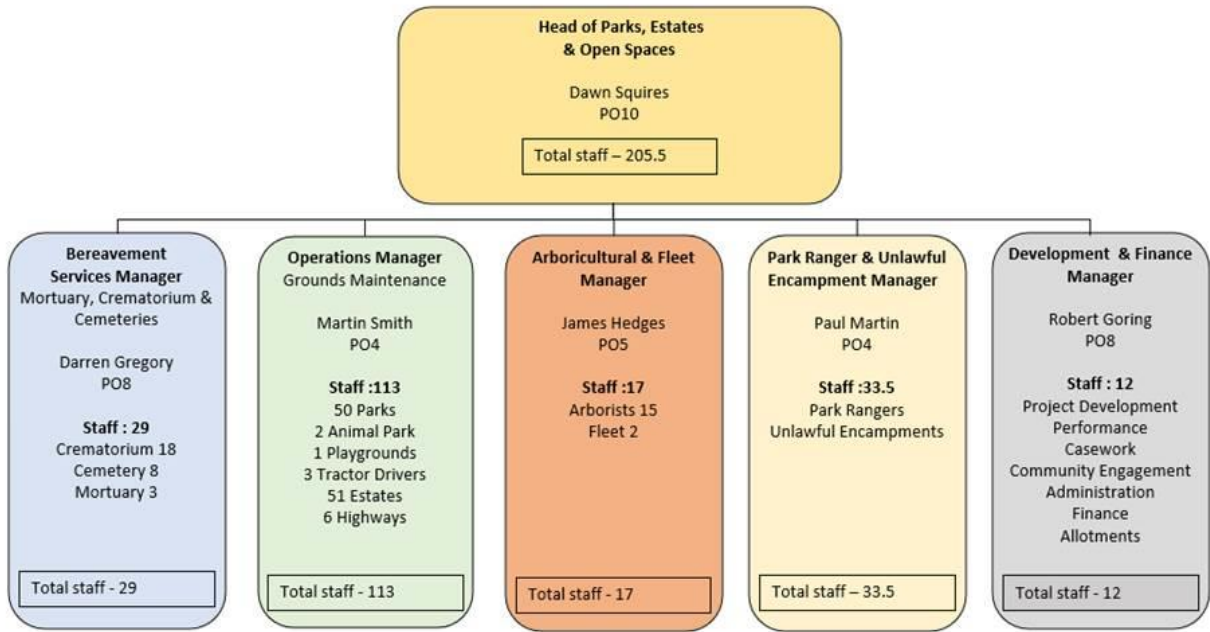
## **Legislation**

The Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Department operates within the frameworks set out by the following legislation, and therefore, the legislation may impact upon the delivery of service of the Parks, Estates and Open Spaces Department both financially, through planning and human resources. This is not a comprehensive list but is indicative of key pieces of legislation relating to P&OS.

- Alcohol Consumption in Public Places Order 2003
- Clean Neighbourhoods Act 2004
- Control of Pesticide Protection Act 1986
- Country Code 1981
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and increments
- Countryside & Right of Way Act 2000
- Disability Discrimination Act 1998
- Health & Safety at Work Act 1998
- Litter Act 1983
- Ministry of Housing and Local Government Provisional Order Confirmation (Greater London Parks & Open Spaces Act )1967
- Occupiers Liability Act 1957
- Road Traffic Act 1988 (as amended 1991)
- The 2004 Country Code
- The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003
- The National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949
- The Weeds Act 1959
- The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
- Public Spaces Protection Order 2014

In addition, there are numerous bye-laws that relate to specific parks.

**APPENDIX III**



**APPENDIX IV****Charlton Park Grounds Maintenance Works Programme****G01M CHARLTON HOUSE**

Line	Description	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	carpet bed clear/dig/prepare										1		
2	carpet bed planting						1						
3	carpet bed maint						1	2	2	2	1		
4	edging and channel maint	1			1			1			1		
5	edging half moon		1										
6	long handle shear lawns			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		
7	flower bed maint							2	2	2			
8	flower bed maint + FI	1	1	2	2	2	1				1	1	1
9	fl/bed clear dig prepare										1		
10	fl/bed clear dig prepare + FI						1						
11	flower bed planting						1						
12	flower bed planting + FI										1		
13	pedestrian grass mowing			2	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	
14	mowing			2	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	
15	herbaceous border	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
16	herb/border winter prep											1	
17	hedge cutting					1		1		1			
18	hedge base maint	1		1		1		1		1		1	
19	leaf clearing	2										2	2
20	deadheading of roses					1	1	1	1	1			
21	rose bed maint			1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
22	rose bed maint												1
23	pruning of roses			1									
24	rose bed pruning											1	
25	shrub bed maint			1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
26	shrub bed maint												1
27	sweeping paths	5	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	4	5	4
28	brushcutting & obstacles			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
29	tree feathering, stake/tie & base weeding			1				1					
30	weedkill all hard surfaces and paved areas				1								

**G01M CHARLTON HOUSE sensory garden items**

31	box mowing			2	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	
32	herbaceous border	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
33	herbaceous border winter prep.											1	
34	shrub bed maint			1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
35	shrub bed maint												1
36	sweeping paths	5	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	4	5	4

<b>G03M CHARLTON PARK &amp; TRACK (INC ONE O'CLOCK CLUB)</b>													
<b>Line</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUN</b>	<b>JUL</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEP</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>
1	clean messroom daily												
2	spray all hard standing areas & weedkill channels				1								
3	edging half moon		1										
4	erect football equipment 10									1			
5	dismantle f/equip 10				1			5					
6	football pitch initial mark 10									1			
7	football pitch remark 10	5	4	4	4					3	4	5	4
8	football contravator seeding 10					1							
9	pedestrian grass mowing			2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2		
10	leaf clearing	2										2	2
11	deadheading of roses						1	1	1	1			
12	rose bed maint			1	1		1	1	1	1			
13	rose bed maint												
14	pruning of roses			1									
15	rose bed pruning											1	
16	erect/dismantle rugby equip												
17	rugby initial mark 2												
18	rugby pitch remark 2												
19	shrub bed maint			1		1		1		1			
20	shrub bed maint												1
21	sweeping paths		2	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	4	5	4
22	brushcutting & obstacles				1		1		1		1		
23	tree feathering, stake/tie & base weeding							1					
24	track training area initial marking									1			
25	track training area marking	5	4	4	4					3	4	5	4
26	cricket table ferterliser				1					1			
27	cricket wicket mow				3	4	5	4	5				
28	mark boundry cricket				3	4	5	4	5				
29	cricket table irrigation				1	4	4	5	4	2			
30	cricket table mowing				5	6	7	5	4	4	2		
31	cricket wicket rolling				3	4	4	5	4				
32	cricket wicket reinstate				3	4	4	5	4				
33	square off table				1								
34	cricket table renovate									1			
35	cricket wicket marking				3	4	5	4	5				
36	cricket table spike									1			

## **APPENDIX V**

### **ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH**

#### **JOB DESCRIPTION**

**DEPARTMENT** COMMUNITY SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT      **POSTHOLDER**

**SECTION** PARKS, ESTATES & OPEN SPACES      **GRADE** Scale 3

**POST DESIGNATION** PARKS RANGER

**REPORTING TO:** Parks Charge-hand Ranger

#### Purpose of Job:

Carry out patrols of parks, woodlands, open spaces, cemeteries and allotments ensuring the highest standard of safety and service to the public, assisting members of the public in a polite and courteous manner. Lock and unlock Parks and Park facilities. Ensure facilities and equipment are properly used, to keep sites clean and tidy and to carry out minor repairs. Work at one or a number of sites across the Royal Borough and where appropriate to drive Royal Borough vehicles. Work in partnership with Park Friends and other Community Groups.

#### Main Duties:

1. Encourage and promote the widest possible use of parks, woodlands, open spaces, cemeteries and allotments by all groups and individuals. Provide information on Parks, Estates and Open Spaces sites to members of the public and other interested parties.
2. Actively participate in the translation of various aspects of historical knowledge, natural history and other features of parks and open spaces to park users, ensuring all communications with park users are customer focused and professional. Ensure a full understanding of relevant Byelaws.
3. Support the organisation, provision and delivery of both routine and special events in parks and open spaces.
4. Participate in the organisation and research for user surveys, feasibility studies and management plans to establish public requirements and improvement of the Service, liaising with the Communications Unit and specialist staff as necessary. Assist in the preparation of reports and relevant information and to attend public or other meetings as required.
5. Collect and receive money for use of facilities, issue receipts and to be accountable for that income. Ensure that the income is stored securely and to keep accurate records of income collected. Provide the Parks Charge-hand Ranger or Parks Senior Ranger with a statement of income and monies collected. Verify season tickets and other bookings, liaising with Parks

Business Support & Finance team as required to assist in maintaining accurate records of sports bookings.

6. Responsible for undertaking patrols and regular inspections of parks, open spaces, woodlands, cemeteries and allotments as required, visual safety and operational inspections of playgrounds, play equipment sports areas, and outdoor gyms and maintaining electronic or written record systems as required. Ensure general safety of the public and to assist in the enforcement of byelaws, dog control orders and regulations with diplomacy.
7. Assist with enquiries and undertake investigations into and respond to complaints. Assist with the implementation of corrective action or revised procedures as appropriate.
8. Advise the Parks Charge-hand Ranger or Parks Senior Ranger of items requiring repair or maintenance, preparing and submitting any necessary written or electronic report as appropriate. Use electronic devices or paperwork systems as required. Work in accordance with work programmes. Maintain sites for which responsibility is allocated in a clean and tidy state and to carry out minor repairs or maintenance of a low skilled nature. Such tasks will include:
  - a) The collection and disposal of litter (including collection of litter from water features using nets, waders or boats as required) and emptying of litter bins and dog bins.
  - b) Sweeping/blowing of paths, playgrounds, car parks, sports areas, and similar hard surfaces (including leaf clearance) and removal of fly tips.
  - c) Cleaning park furniture, removal or masking of graffiti (using appropriate chemicals, paint, mechanical and other equipment as directed and ladders and elevated platforms where required).
  - d) Preparation of bowling greens, tennis courts and other sports facilities for play and issue and receipt back of sports equipment.
  - e) Sweeping out and cleaning of changing facilities, pavilions and other Parks buildings.
  - f) Using a range of hand and mechanical tools to maintain and keep areas clean.
  - g) Pruning to ensure safe access to public areas and access to litter pick etc.
  - h) Painting fences/railings and other parks infrastructure.
  - i) Repairing fences and other parks infrastructure.
  - j) Clearance and disposal of faeces and dead animals.
  - k) Snow/ice clearing and gritting of pathways and steps.
  - l) Putting up/taking down marquees, staging, temporary signage and other event related items.
  - m) Carrying out the role of a paddling pool attendant.
  - n) To undertake legionella water temperature checks and meter readings for various utilities.
  - o) To ensure that mess rooms and offices are kept clean and tidy.
  - p) Supporting guided walks and public tours at Maryon Wilson Animal Park and other sites
9. Ensure the security of parks, open spaces, woodlands, cemeteries, allotments and other PE&OS sites by the locking and unlocking of gates, buildings, playgrounds, etc. Ensure reasonable security of public changing facilities as necessary.
10. Responsible for the summoning of emergency services following accidents or incidents, preparing a formal report and completing anti-social behaviour records for the Parks Charge-hand Ranger or Parks Senior Ranger on each occasion. Notify the Charge-hand Ranger or Parks Senior Ranger of other issues such as abandoned vehicles, fly-tipping, graffiti removal and other anti-social behaviour.

11. Wear the appropriate uniform at all times and ensure you present a smart, clean and tidy appearance.
12. Implement and maintain policies and procedures for the Parks Rangers services and measure performance against published standards/KPIs.
13. Carry out any additional duties not listed above that are commensurate with the grade of the post, as allocated by the Parks Principal Ranger.
14. Undertake all duties with due regard to the provisions of health and safety regulations and legislation, the Council's Equality and Diversity and Customer Care policies, and the New Technology agreement.