

DUCKETTS COMMON



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Foreword

Dear residents and park users,

I am pleased to share with you the management plan for Ducketts Common. This plan has been developed by Haringey Council, in partnership with the Friends of Duckett's Common, stakeholders in and around the park and with input from your local ward councillors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,



Cllr Kirsten Hearn
Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability

Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Equalities & Leisure

Open space vision in Haringey

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

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

The Parks and Green Spaces Strategy is in development and will be subject to consultation with a range of partners and stakeholders before the Council is asked to formally adopt it in 2022. More details are set out in sections 10.4 and 10.5

Purpose of the Management Plan

This management plan detail and guides the management, maintenance, development and improvement of Ducketts Common now and over the next three years.

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

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

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

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

1. Setting the scene

1.1 Haringey in a nutshell

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



Image 1: London Borough of Haringey shown in London context

It is home to some famous landmarks including Alexandra Palace, birthplace of television, that can be seen from all over London perched high up on its hill. Bruce Castle Museum and Park, the ancestral home of Robert de Bruce, and the new Tottenham Hotspur football stadium are found in the east of the borough.

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

1.1.1 The demographics of Haringey

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

1.2.1 Population

- Haringey has a total population of almost 283,000 people, an increase of 15% in the last 10 years
- Just over half (50.7%) are female and 49.3% are male
- There are 66,500 young people (aged 0-19) living in the borough. This is almost a quarter (24.5%) of the total population.¹
- Two thirds of the population – over 178,000 people - are aged 20-64
- A tenth of the population – 26,600 people are aged over 65
- Ducketts Common is in Harringay ward. The ward has a population of 14,175 of which over half (55%) are aged 20-44. Only 8% of the population is aged over 65.

- Harringay Ward, where Duckett's Common is located is a less densely populated ward with 9,563 residents per sq. km (compared to a borough average of 10,453). This is slightly higher than the London average (8,894).

1.2 Ethnicity and religion

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

In Harringay ward (in which Ducketts Common is located) there is a slightly larger proportion of residents of White Other ethnicity (31.7%) compared to the Haringey average (25.9%), and a slightly smaller proportion of residents of Black ethnicity (11.8%) compared to the borough average (18.8%).

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

1.3 Deprivation

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

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

1.4 Open space provision in Haringey

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

This green space is made up of:

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

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

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

In 2014 Haringay (in which Duckett's Common is located) comprises 44.5% open space. This is below the Haringey (25.2%) and London (27.2%) averages.

2. About Ducketts Common *Willoughby Road, N8*

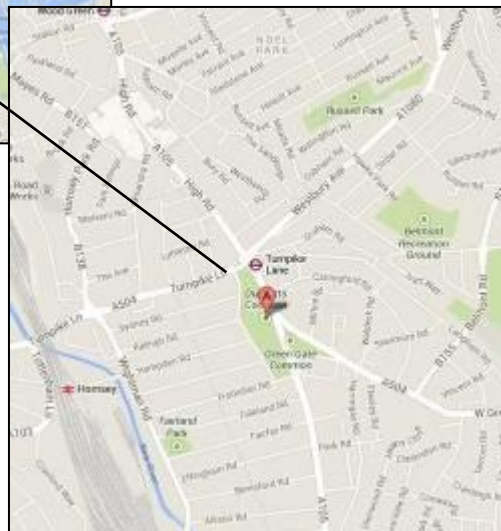
2.1 Site location and description

The grid reference of Ducketts Common is x531543.53, y189456.52.

Ducketts Common is in the ward of Harringay, one of 19 wards within the London Borough of Haringey and is located within a densely populated and developed area.



Image 2 above: Map of Harringay
Image 3 right: Ducketts Common and surrounding area



To the north and south of Ducketts Common are two distinct retail areas. Harringay Green Lanes lies to the south. It is a vibrant collection of independent shops, restaurants, cafes and Victorian pubs stretching along the main Green Lanes trunk road in between Manor House and Turnpike Lane, where the population consists of large Greek Cypriot and Turkish communities.

Wood Green High Road runs north and is one of the biggest shopping districts in Harringay, home to many large retailers.

To the east and west lie mainly residential neighbourhoods. To the west of the Common lies the area commonly referred to as the Harringay Ladder; a number of roads consisting of terraced houses acting like rungs on a ladder between Wightman Road and Green Lanes.

To the east of the High Road lies the Noel Park Estate, built between 1883 and 1893, providing housing for those fleeing the densely populated and polluted City of London, made possible by the creation of the Great Eastern Railway.

2.2 Facilities

The facilities in the park are numerous and wide ranging, encouraging a wide and varied use of the park to all sectors of the community



Image 4: Map of Ducketts Common showing its facilities

Item	Number	Unit Measure
Bench	21	No.
Bin	21	No.
Buildings	1	No.
Children's Playground	404.4	m2
Fencing	32	No.
Gates	17	No.
Grass	18388.6	m2
Hard Surface	2590.7	m2
Hedge	1827	m2
Lighting	37	No.
Signs	43	No.
Sports Courts	1514.9	m2
Table Tennis Court	1	No.
Basketball Court	2	No.
Gym Area	1	No.
Multi Court	1	No.

Image 5: Hard and soft landscape features at Ducketts Common

The Common covers a total of 24,702 square meters. Around the perimeter of the Common lie a number of trees with the majority being London Planes and a few Limes. Iron railings encompass the whole boundary of the Common. It is thought these date back to when the Common was first laid out, and were repaired and repainted in spring 2019.

The Common is laid out in three distinct sections.

The northern section is where the café is located. This has quite an urban edge and formal feel.

The central section is where the play, outdoor gym and sporting facilities are located.

To the south is the expansive open common area, which plays host to casual sporting activities, picnics and occasional events.

A hedgerow and wildflower meadows surround the common.

2.2.1 Integrated play and picnic areas

The playground is incredibly popular with local people and is busy all year round, especially since the facilities were improved in 2011.

Within the structured play area is a large wooden play apparatus which provides the main focus here. It is made up of towers to climb, bridges to cross and ropes to navigate and is set high on a mound and is incredibly popular with children aged up to 14 years.



Image 6 and 7: Ducketts Common Playground

There is also large a metal climbing frame incorporating climbing walls, ropes and bars and basket swings.

The structured play area links to a natural play space incorporating boulders, logs, grass mounds and a number of stepping stones to encourage imaginative play.

Picnic tables provide areas for parents and carers to easily watch their children playing and a number of native bulbs have been planted here by groups connected to the Common.

2.2.3 Sports areas

Ducketts Common is known for its sporting facilities throughout the borough and beyond, and provides a number of opportunities for those wanting to get active.

2.2.4 Sports courts

In 2011 the 3 existing basketball courts were redesigned to increase and improve the facilities and user experience. The area was extended by 2 meters at the southern end, and the courts spun round by 90 degrees.

There are now:

- 2 floodlit porous macadam basketball courts with a pair of additional side baskets. State of the art, see through acrylic basketball units were imported from America and installed.
- 1 floodlit porous macadam football area marked for Futsal, Netball and basketball



Image 8: Basketball courts



Image 9: Football courts

2.2.5 Outdoor gym

An outdoor 14-piece gym, comprising of 22 stations was installed onto coloured porous macadam and opened in May 2012.

The equipment is free to use by everyone in the community and is easy and safe to use without having a formal induction.



Image 10: Outdoor gym

Some of the stations use the body weight of the user to provide resistance. They include:

- cardiovascular machines - to make the user puff and pant which include skiers, cross trainers, seated rowers and walkers
- strength and toning machines - including chest press, lats pull down, shoulders press, dips/leg raise, leg press, pull ups
- core body machines - include sit up benches, side skiers, torso twist (oblique's), pull ups

The success and popularity of the outdoor gym with people from all ages, abilities and backgrounds has exceeded all expectations and the equipment is hardly ever empty.



Image 11: Ducketts Common outdoor gym shown on front cover of residents' magazine Haringey People, July 2013

2.2.6 Table tennis

A table tennis table installed in Ducketts Common in Sr 2012. The table is situated on non-porous macadam and was donated by the English Table Tennis Association as part of their national campaign to promote the game and increase and improve facilities.

Users are asked to bring their own bats and ping pong ball.

2.2.7 Focal social area

The northern section of Ducketts Common provides the focal point for meeting and interacting. Here is where key paths meet and form an intersection, creating the heart of the Common.

This is where the majority of the benches are positioned which provide an attractive place for people to stop and relax.

2.3 Trees

The trees on Ducketts Common are predominantly mature London plane and Lime trees, that were most likely planted at the time the Common was first laid out.

They are located around the boundary of the site and along some of the main pathways through the Common. There are also some younger trees, planted more recently near the play and sports features, which include Whitebeam, Hornbeam, Ash and Field maple.

During the St Jude's storms in October 2013 the park lost one of the mature plane trees from the avenue adjacent to Green Lanes.

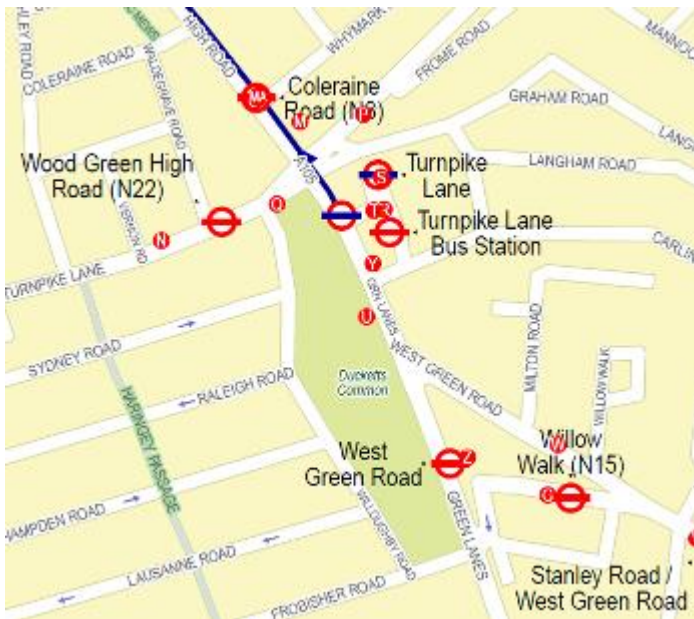
A number of fruit trees were included within the perimeter hedgerow when it was planted by the Friends of Ducketts Common.

3. A welcoming place

3.1 Visiting Ducketts Common

3.1.1 Public transport

Located at the very busy junction of Green Lanes and Turnpike Lane, Ducketts Common is served exceptionally well by public transport of all descriptions.



Turnpike Lane Tube Station lies across the north eastern corner of the Common, and is on the Piccadilly Line. One of the three entrances into the tube station is located at the northern entrance to Ducketts Common, making this a very busy part of the Common.

Turnpike Lane Bus Station lies at ground level, above the tube station providing buses going in each and every direction: south into the city, north, east and west.

Image 13: Transport map for the Ducketts Common area

Route finder

Route	towards	Bus stops
29	Trafalgar Square Wood Green	H, M, Z O, U, V
41	Archway Tottenham Hale	G, Q, U N, Y
67	Aldgate Wood Green	MA, Y G, L, U
121	Enfield Lock	O, S
123	Ilford Wood Green	MA, T O, P
141	London Bridge Palmers Green	H, M, Z L, U, V
144	Edmonton Green Muswell Hill	L, N, T M, Q, R
184	Barnet	L, S
217	Waltham Cross	T
221	Edgware	L, S
230	Upper Walthamstow Wood Green	MA, Y G, L, U
231	Enfield Chase	T
292	St Raphael's	O, S
329	Enfield Town	O, S
444	Chingford	T
W4	Ferry Lane Estate Oakthorpe Park	MA, Y G, L, U

There are two bus stops located on Green Lanes (the eastern boundary of the Common) heading north to the suburbs of Enfield and Barnet, and along Turnpike Lane (the northern boundary) running towards Muswell Hill and Crouch End.

Night buses

Route	towards	Bus stops
N29	Enfield Town Trafalgar Square	O, U, V H, M, Z
N41	Tottenham Hale Trafalgar Square	N, Y G, Q, U
N91	Cockfosters Trafalgar Square	L, N MA, Q

Hornsey mainline station is located approximately 10 minutes walk away from the Common with routes going south into Moorgate and Kings Cross and north to Hertfordshire and Stevenage.

Image 14: Bus routes for the Ducketts Common area

3.1.2 Vehicles

There is no parking on site and parking around the Common is controlled by the Wood Green (outer zone) Controlled Parking Zone. A resident's or visitor's permit is needed to park here between the hours of 8am and 6.30pm, Monday to Saturday. For short stay parking without a resident's or visitor's permit there are pay and display machines located along Frobisher and Willoughby Roads.

Green Lanes is classified as a principal road, meaning it is a major traffic highway through the borough, and no parking is allowed at any time along the stretch by Ducketts Common.

Vehicle access for parks operatives or those needing to drive into the Common with advanced permission (i.e. to set up for events) are able to gain access through the new sliding gate located on Willoughby Road, opposite Lausanne Road.

3.1.3 Bicycles

Bicycles are permitted in Ducketts Common, although cyclists are expected to be attentive to other park users on the shared use paths.

As part of the Borough Cycling Programme and following a consultation exercise undertaken in September 2018, the Hampden Road entrance to Ducketts Common was upgraded and widened in 2019 as part of a new cycling contra-flow improvement.

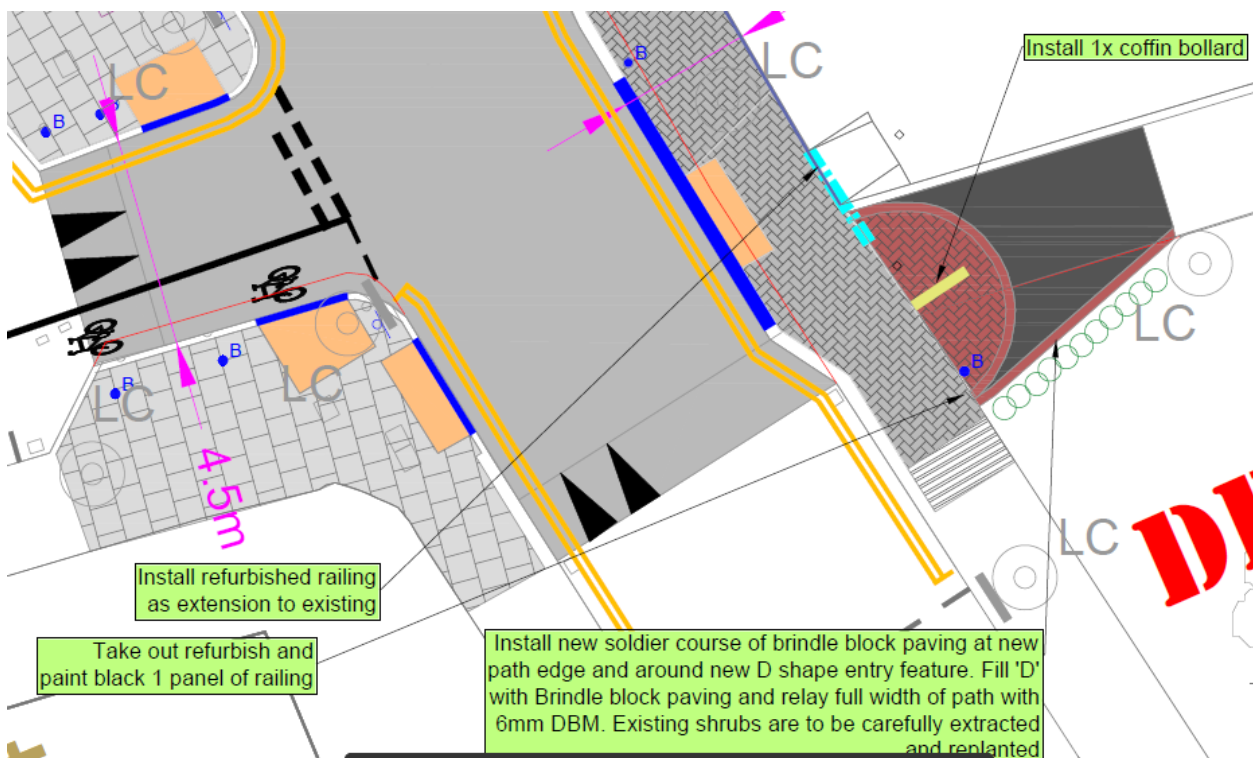


Image 15: New cycle-friendly improvements to the hampden Road entrance to Ducketts Common

3.2 Entrances

There are 7 entrances into Ducketts Common, making access from all directions possible. Each entrance is identified by an individual gate name, making meeting points and identification for maintenance easier for the user and operative staff.



Image 16: Entrances to Ducketts Common

3.3 Access for all

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

Haringey Council and its partners are required by law to ensure that disabled people are not discriminated against with regard to access to public places, such as Finsbury Park. The council is also committed to meeting its obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty with regard to ensuring that those with and without protected characteristics under the Equality Act are able to enjoy the park’s facilities.

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

3.4 Signage

Welcome signs at each entrance to the park show an individual gate name for ease of identification as well as contact numbers for the council, police emergency and non-emergency numbers and for the Friends of Ducketts Common.

Symbols are also shown to highlight initiatives and make users aware of restrictions in place. These include:

- Shared use walking / cycling symbols (with pedestrian priority)
- No unauthorised vehicles
- Keep your park tidy
- Three dog control orders with potential penalty for failing to adhere

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

- *Contact details for the Council*
- *Any relevant age restrictions*
- *No alcohol symbol*
- *No smoking symbol*
- *No dogs allowed*
- *No glass bottles*
- *A message that children must be accompanied at all times*

3.5 Toilet facilities and refreshments

Café Roj (which means Café Sun in Turkish) is a small café kiosk facility at the northern end of Ducketts Common, on the Turnpike Lane boundary.

The existing kiosk will be replaced with a new café with indoor seating and a new publicly accessible toilet, which will be managed by the café leaseholder.

Works to create the new café commenced in October 2021 following delays because of Covid and Brexit, starting with the creation of a new sewer connection. The main café build will be from January 2022 with completion planned for the end of March 2022.

Much of the northern end of the site will be a construction site for most of this duration.



Image 17: Concept model for proposed café and extension, shown in context with tube station entrance

3.6 Events

The council welcomes and encourages events put on for the community in Ducketts Common. The [outdoor events policy](#) sets out the types of events that are encouraged and those we do not allow.

Small community events and activities are particularly encouraged so we have made the application process easier and events for under 100 people are free of any charge.

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

An environmental impact fee is set out within the events fees and charges. This is charged to hirers on a sliding scale with the price dependent on the size and scale of the event. This is specifically set aside for the Friends and recognised stakeholders of the park the event took place in, to bid for.

Event management training is also held each year for groups who want to learn how to put on a safe and exciting event.

The events programme for Ducketts Common over the last few years has included events such as:

- Events for up to around 200 people included: A gospel community event, a school cycling event, an Easter harvest event, a TUC diversity festival and a basketball tournament

- Events for up to 2,000 people included: a Russian circus and a worldwide beer festival and a fun fair

There are no other planned events for 2022 and although there are currently no bookings for 2023 it is anticipated that events such as the basketball tournament and fun fair are likely to be replicated.

4. A Clean and Well-Maintained Park

4.1 Operational and management responsibility for parks

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

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

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

Haringey park structure chart (April 2019)

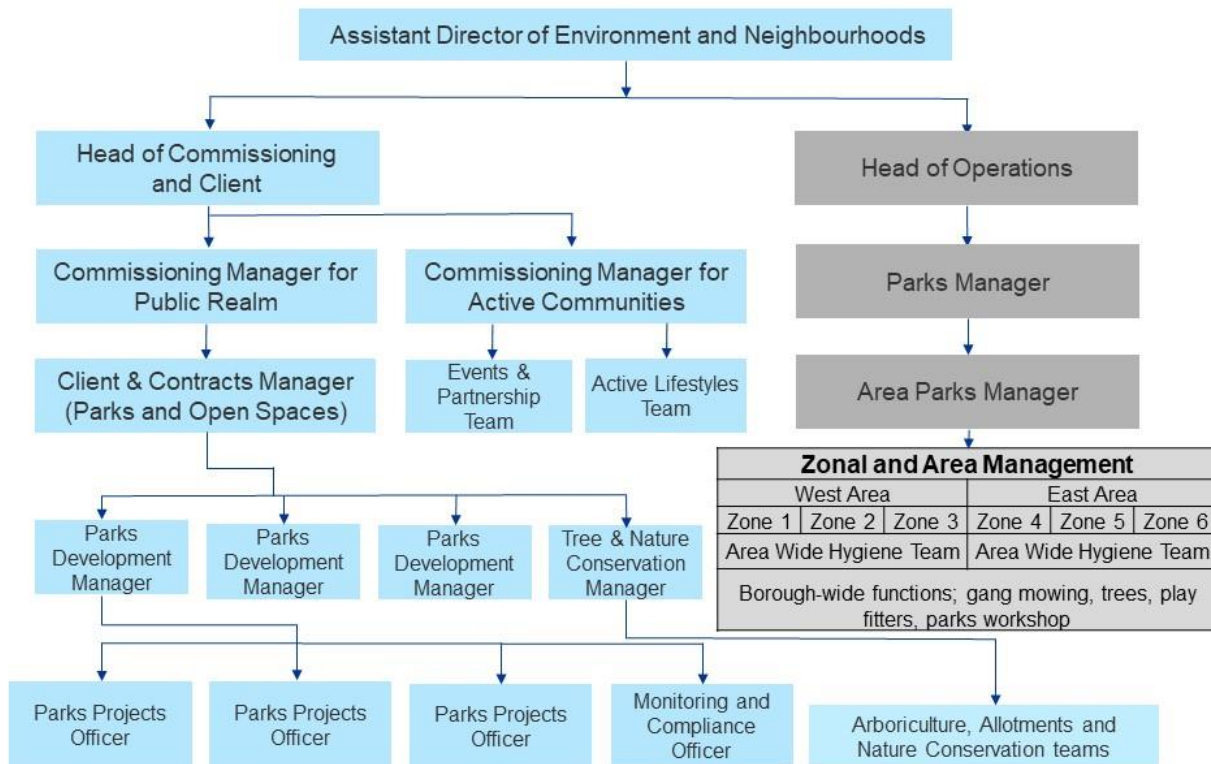


Image 18: Simplified parks structure chart

4.2 Current maintenance by Park Operations

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

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

Each zone has a six grounds maintenance staff: a team leader, a senior operative and four gardeners, but team sizes are altered to meet operational demands by transferring staff between zones and by bringing in seasonal agency resource as necessary. Finsbury Park is in operational zone 1.

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

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

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

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

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

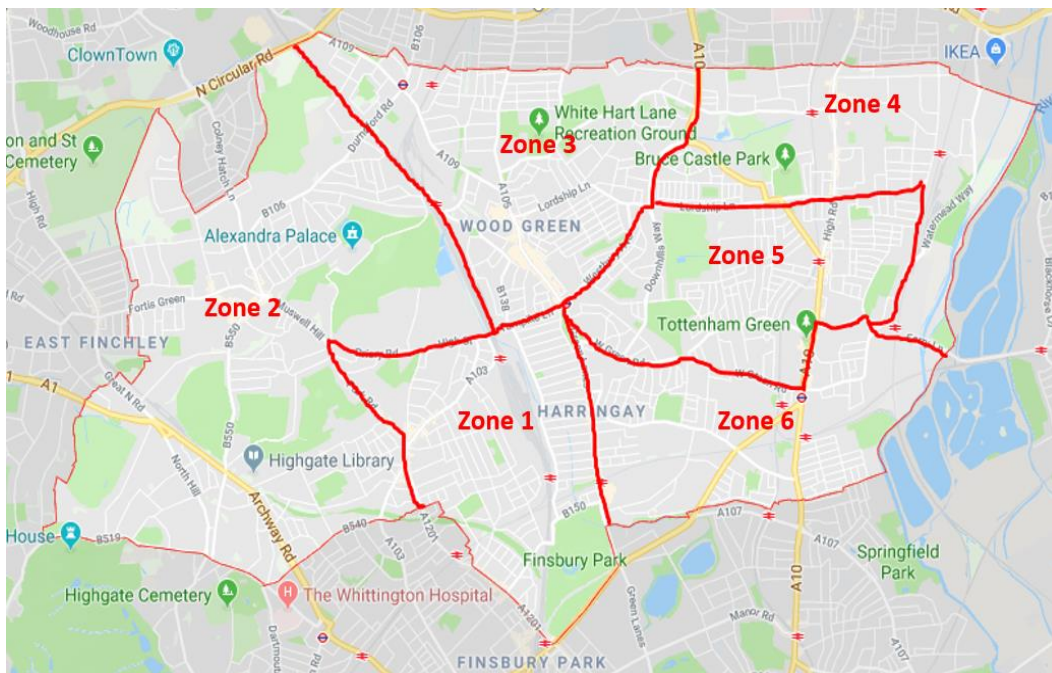


Image 19: Map showing zones for operational management of parks in Haringey

4.3 Asset management and management of projects in parks

The Parks Development team now works to the same six zones as the Operations team. Each member of the zonal team has been allocated two zones covering the following duties:

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

The allocated officer for Ducketts Common and Zone 1 is Glynis Kirkwood-Warren, Parks Zonal Manager.

A Nature Conservation Officer has responsibility for parks and open spaces across the whole borough, including Ducketts Common.

4.3.1 Park asset inspections and Spotlight visits

In 2018 the council adopted the Mayor of London's typology for parks. Under this typology Ducketts Common is described as a local park site (A3) as it is under 20 hectares in area.

Since January 2019 the council has also instigated a programme of park asset inspections with the frequency dependent on the type of park. As a district park Ducketts Common is inspected every month.

The inspections cover hard assets, including:

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

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

A: Excellent: No action required

B: Good: No action required

C: Acceptable: No action required

D: Improvement required: Defects will be addressed as budgets allow

E: Emergency repair required: Make-safe within 24 hours. Full repair within 28 days.

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

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

As part of our zonal approach we have also started to hold 'Spotlight meetings' with councillors, Friends and key stakeholders of Ducketts Common every quarter. This is an opportunity to look at the park together to identify issues and opportunities within the park and by the stakeholders. The first of these was held in July 2019 (although a similar meeting had previously taken place in March 2018).

Because the spotlight meetings are a site walkabout and involve other stakeholders and councillors rather than just the Friends, we feel that this adds considerable value over and above the regular Friends meetings.

4.3.2 Capital projects

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

Capital projects for at Ducketts Common, also listed in the Action Plan in section 12 are summarised here:

- Replacing the existing Café Roj kiosk with a new café with indoor seating and publicly accessible toilet

4.4 Scheduled Maintenance

The following table provides a summary of the maintenance regime within Ducketts Common.

Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
<p>Grass cutting:</p> <p>To achieve grade A at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass has been uniformly cut and is 35mm or less. • Edges are trimmed and not growing onto hard surface or bedding. • Litter picking prior to mowing. <p>Grass remains at grade B or above prior to maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass is 35-60mm long but looks tidy. • Edges are slightly untidy • Litter picking as per hygiene schedule. 	<p>Approximately Fortnightly</p>	<p>During the growing season (Mar-Oct approx.). May extend into November subject to prevailing climatic conditions.</p>
<p>Bulb areas in Grass</p> <p>To achieve grade A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas where bulbs are present should remain uncut from time of bulb emergence, until 6 weeks after flowerings ceases, or 	<p>One occasion</p>	<p>Works required where bulbs are present in grass on site.</p>

Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
<p>when foliage dies back or turns brown.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter picking as per hygiene schedule. 		
<p>Meadows</p> <p>To achieve grade A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meadow grass is cut at correct times of year for species type. Area surrounding the meadow is well maintained. Litter picking as per hygiene schedule. 	<p>One or more occasions subject to type. Plus regular litter picking.</p>	<p>Guidance on maintenance schedule to be drawn from the conservation management plan for each park.</p>
<p>Shrub and Rose bed maintenance</p> <p>To achieve grade A at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bed free of weeds. No litter. Mulched where appropriate. Wide variety of plants. Roses deadhead as required. Shrubs pruned as required. Edging well maintained. 	<p>Two – four occasions as required per location.</p>	<p>Herbicide application will take place on two occasions a year via controlled droplet application.</p>
<p>Summer Seasonal Flower Beds</p> <p>To achieve grade B at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bed free of weeds. No litter. 	<p>Up to ten occasions</p>	<p>Gapping up of bedding to take place in response to vandalism.</p> <p>Drought tolerant planting to reduce need to water.</p>

Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate variety of plants (more could be added – excluding beds that have plants that are not yet established). • Edging maintained. • No deadheads. 		
<p>Hedge Maintenance</p> <p>To achieve grade A at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well shaped and trimmed hedge. • Level sides and top. • No missed areas. • Base weed free. • No arisings present 	<p>Two occasions per year except Privet hedges requiring three occasions.</p>	<p>Account of bird nesting to be taken each year and site specifics.</p>
<p>Staked Tree Maintenance</p> <p>To achieve grade B at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth is healthy and vigorous with little sign of disease. • Branches have been correctly pruned for species, purpose and location. • No dead or hanging branches. • Small amount of basal or sucker growth. • Base has been mulched where applicable. • Tree stake in good condition, firm in ground and • not rubbing tree where 	<p>One occasion per year plus watering for new trees during first two seasons</p>	

Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
applicable. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree tie holding tree firmly but not tightly to stake where applicable. • No damage to base of tree during maintenance. • No dead material or cuttings left in area. 		
Bins, Litter and Dog Fouling To achieve grade B at each maintenance visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All bins are emptied • The site is litter picked but may have a small amount of scattered litter in low traffic areas. • Predominately free of detritus except for some light scattering. 	Daily	Dog fouling dealt with when reported.
Fly tips and other hygiene issues	Reactive	In response to emergency call-outs
Sweeping of hard surfaces (e.g. tennis courts, hard standing etc)	Reactive	

Image 20: Scheduled maintenance in Ducketts Common

4.5 Setting and measuring service standards

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Image 21: Illustrative service standards for grass cutting

Category	Target A/B	Achieved 2018-19
Overall Site Standard	90%	61%
Grass	90%	83%
Shrubs	60%	71%
Hygiene	55%	65%

Image 22: Boroughwide targets and performance for the above KPIs

4.6 Monitoring the condition of equipment and physical assets

Since January 2019 the Zone 1 Parks Project Officer also carries out a monthly site inspection of the physical assets in Ducketts Common. The condition of each item is noted and where applicable repairs (or replacements) are requested. Any grounds maintenance or hygiene issues that are observed, such as overflowing bins or dumped rubbish are raised with the appropriate officer within Parks Operations.

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

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

4.7 Tree maintenance programme

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

Removal of dead, dying and/or dangerous trees has also been undertaken.

4.8 Graffiti

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

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

4.9 Maintenance of buildings, equipment and landscape

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

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

There are only two buildings in Ducketts Common. One is the café kiosk on the boundary with Turnpike Lane, the other is a timber-clad electricity sub station south of the play area to the southern end of the site.

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

Landscape maintenance is carried out by the parks service.

4.10 Hygiene

The Hygiene Team is managed by Parks Operations, covering borough wide hygiene responsibilities. Within Ducketts Common waste bins are emptied on a daily basis, and

any dumped rubbish that is reported to the service will be removed. New Council policy is for the removal of all dog bins from parks.

The bins in the northern end of the common have been upgraded to a new style of bin on a hard base. Upgrading of bins in the central and southern sections will follow in due course as budgets allow.

5. Healthy, Safe and Secure

5.1 Smoking

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

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

5.2 Alcohol

Alcohol is permitted in Ducketts Common but an Alcohol Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Harringay ward includes the entire area covered by the park.

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

The Harringay PSPO has been in operation since October 2020 and lasts for three years. It may be renewed for another three years after it expires.

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

5.3 Walking

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

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

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



Image 23: Walking trail information board

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

5.4 Health and safety

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

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

5.4.1 Raising health and safety concerns

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

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

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

5.4.2 Friends

Members of the Friends of Ducketts Common are able to report issues within the park in exactly the same way as members of the public, but they also have close links with the Park Projects Officer with responsibility for Zone 1, and with Operations staff, so will usually approach them directly.

Council officers regularly meet and coordinate with the Friends to enable issues to be raised and discussed.

Friends are also encouraged to report issues of anti-social behaviour and other issues through the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator who will direct these to the most relevant person within the police to deal with them.

5.4.3 Risk assessments

The Parks & Open Spaces team ensures that prior to any works being undertaken on Council land, its consultants, contractors and other organisations prepare for approval all necessary Risk Assessments and Method Statements (RAMS) covering all proposed works operations. In addition to the usual operations, the Council requires consultants and contractors to provide specific RAMS covering potentially contaminated land, underground services and other unforeseen underground matters, such as UXO (Unexploded Ordnance), and measures to protect the public during any works. Contractors are further required to undertake CAT scans prior to excavations.

The Parks & Open Spaces team ensures that, where excavations are to take place, underground services information is obtained from utility providers and the Council's Pollution team prepares contaminated land desk studies.

5.4.4 Safety representatives

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

5.4.5 Staff reporting

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

5.5 Reporting issues with the 'Love Clean Streets app

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

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

5.6 Community safety and policing

Parks in Haringey remain relatively safe places, especially during the hours of daylight. Over the whole of 2020 there were 767 reported crime or incidents reported to the police across all the parks and open spaces in Haringey – an average of 63 incidents per month.

The breakdown of stats for 2021 is only available for January to September. During this period a total of 492 incidents were reported to police across all parks in Haringey – an average of 54 per month. This is a decrease of 16% and could be due to parks being much busier and therefore deterring some criminal and asb activity.

The most commonly reported crime in parks in 2021 remains robbery, which accounts for about 22% of reported crimes, but this is a seven percent decrease from the previous year. The majority of these took place after dark. Reports nearly trebled over the spring/summer months compared to the rest of the year due to the higher footfall in parks.

Between January and April 2021 in Ducketts Common there were 34 reported crimes. Ducketts Common accounted for 6.9% of all reported crimes in Haringey parks.

Police Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs) are undertaken at Ducketts Common every few years. The Parks & Leisure team attends the monthly Turnpike Lane Joint Strategic Meeting with the Police and Community Safety team. The priority request from the most recent EVA, which has been added to the management plan, is that lighting should be installed in the northern section of the park to assist with crime prevention and community safety.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team for Harringay ward has strong links with Ducketts Common and aims to patrol the park each day. Police officers are in regular contact with council officers and often attend Friends meetings.

5.7 Extending Neighbourhood Watch into parks

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

The Neighbourhood Watch Officer has also set up a Haringey Dog Watch scheme. This is an initiative for dog walkers to meet with other dog owners and police in an enjoyable, relaxed atmosphere. Thea walks are held in a different Haringey park every month and everyone is welcome to come along.

5.8 Designing out crime

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

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

5.9 24 hour access

Ducketts Common is not a locked park.

5.10 Dogs

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

Responsible dog walking is welcomed in Ducketts Common.

5.10.1 Control of dogs

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

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

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

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

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

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

The PSPO is in force for three years from October 2017 and can be extended for a further three years. Full details can be found at www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/pspo_-_dog_control_-_with_seal_0.pdf

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

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

6. Sustainability

6.1 Greenest borough strategy

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

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

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

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

6.2 Pesticide use

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

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

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

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

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

6.3 Sustainable use of materials

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

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

6.4 Recycling

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

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

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

6.5 Pollution reduction

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

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

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

6.6 Water efficiency

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

7. Community Involvement

7.1 Volunteering in parks

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

7.1.1 Community Volunteering

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

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

7.1.2 Corporate volunteering

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

During 2018-19, TCV supported 14 corporate volunteer days across the borough with tasks ranging from habitat creation and vegetation management, to creating countryside furniture and nature trails.

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

7.2 Haringey Friends of Parks Forum

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

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

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

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

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

The Forum has been effective in lobbying and campaigning for:

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

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

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

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

7.3 Friends of Ducketts Common

The Friends of Ducketts Common were founded in 2007. The group of local residents and park users meet regularly, with the aim of improving the common, and are regularly represented on the Friends of Parks Forum.

Working with Haringey Council and partners interested in the future of Ducketts Common, the group is always on the lookout for members and volunteers.

The Friends have their own website which can be found at: <http://duckettscomonhome.blogspot.com/2010/01/history.html>

7.4 Other community involvement

7.4.1 Other community involvement: Sporting

Ducketts Common has emerged as a 'Mecca' for street basketball in London, with the courts referred to as TPL (Turnpike Lane) by users.

Haringey Sports Development Trust (HSDT) are a sports development organisation that deliver various sports activities across the borough including managing the delivery of the London Youth Games. HSDT deliver Basketball sessions each day in the school holidays (April – Oct) between 2 – 4pm. They are then commissioned by Haringey’s Leisure Client team to deliver night Basketball sessions under the floodlights in the same holiday periods. Both basketball sessions prove popular with young people in the borough, with the night sessions a great anti violent crime diversionary session.

Reach and Teach / Ball Out – Run an annual 3v3 national basketball competition at Ducketts Common every summer, with the London qualifiers and National Finals taking place on the courts.

Haringey Council – We ran a football/basketball tournament on Ducketts Common this summer holidays, which may become an annual event.

4.4.2 Other community involvement: Non-sporting

Café Roj – Included in the terms of the new Café Roj lease is a requirement that provision is made to allow local community groups and the Council to meet in the café once a week.

8. Conservation and Heritage

8.1 Biodiversity and the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

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

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

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

8.2 Habitat representation and nature conservation interests

Ducketts Common covers 2.47ha of green space with a wide range of habitat types represented.

Ducketts Common has generally low biodiversity value. The common was identified in the London Plan Implementation Report “Improving Londoners’ Access to Nature” as being a priority opportunity to reduce Areas of Deficiency in Access to Nature.

It is largely short mown in the southern section but contains a three meter un-mown area around the perimeter to encourage bulbs and wildflowers to grow, enhancing the biodiversity aspect of the Common. This is only mown twice a year.

There is a range of habitats including:

- amenity grassland
- wildflower meadow
- native hedge
- planted shrubbery
- scattered trees
- veteran trees

Habitat type	Area (2.47)	Percentage
Amenity grassland	1.08	40%
Scattered trees	0.54	20%
Shrubbery	0.03	1%
Bare artificial	0.81	30%
Ruderal	0.27	10%
Total	2.71	100%

Image 25: Habitat types

Note: Habitat type defined as per the London Survey Methodology. Source www.gigl.org.uk. Total area surveyed may not exactly match the park area.

8.3 Designation status

Natural England and Local Authorities have a system of designating greenspace depending on certain characteristics and their value - locally, regionally and nationally. Ducketts Common is:

Designation	Information
Public Open Space	Common land

Image 24: Designation status

8.4 Conservation Action Plan (CAP)

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

CAPs detail site specific opportunities as well as supporting borough wide conservation efforts and requirements, such as contributing to habitat creation targets or demonstrating the positive management of SINCs.

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

There is a CAP in place for Ducketts Common which can be found below. In 2022-23, a new CAP will be developed, which will reflect recent discussions between the Council, The Friends, stakeholders and ward Councillors and better reflect the resources available to the Parks services.

Therefore, the following plans and management timelines, which were included in the 2014 management plan, have been left in for this re-write simply as a point of reference rather than as an indication of what grounds maintenance operations the Council is able to undertake.

The plans below splits the site boundary meadow into two areas of herb-rich grassland, three areas of long grass strips and three areas of wildflower strips, each with a different maintenance regime. In addition to this there is a wetland area, a woodland pasture area and a deciduous grassland area, again each with different maintenance regimes. With the hedgerow, this makes 12 different habitat areas over and above the main amenity areas.

The herb-rich grassland meadow areas, at the northern part of the site, require moving every 4 weeks, with the arisings left in situ. Areas of long grass strips are to have 75% cut in late September/October and the remaining 25% cut in early spring, each with the arisings being raked off. The wetland area is cut in late September/October with arisings left in situ. The woodland pasture is hand-cut with scythes in November with arisings left

in situ. The deciduous grassland is cut in March with arisings left in situ. Additionally the hedgerow is cut in December/February and June/July.

The Council has informed Friends, stakeholders and ward Councillors that as a result of the last few years of austerity cutbacks and staff shortages this complex management schedule has been impossible for the grounds maintenance team to keep on top of or even understand and would therefore be reviewed.

The Council has stated that the outcome of this review must be to achieve a level of maintenance that the Council is able to commit to going forward and that the Friends are able to sign up to and support. This will involve a degree of simplification, with any additional aspects to either be picked up by the Friends, perhaps with the support of TCV, or to remain aspirational.

The northern end of the site will become more formal, with more of an urban edge feel, and therefore less of a meadow appearance would be appropriate here.

Wildflower Meadow Habitats



Wildflower Meadow strips
WF.a
 Existing wildflower strip plant species

ANNUALS;	PERENNIALS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Corn Cockle, ○ Corn Chamomile, ○ Cornflower, ○ Corn Marigold, ○ Common Poppy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yarrow, ○ Kidney Vetch, ○ Common Knapweed, ○ Greater Knapweed, ○ Wild Teasel, ○ Viper's Bugloss, ○ Hedge Bedstraw, ○ Lady's Bedstraw, ○ Field Scabious, ○ Meadow Vetchling, ○ Oxeye Daisy, ○ Common Toadflax, ○ Birdsfoot Trefoil, ○ Sainfoin, ○ Wild Parsnip, ○ Wild Mignonette, ○ Yellow Rattle, ○ Common Sorrel, ○ White Campion, ○ Bladder Campion, ○ Hedge Woundwort, ○ Tufted Vetch, ○ Common Spotted Orchid
BULBS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Snowdrops ○ Crocus ○ Snakeshead Fritillary 	
GRASSES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Common Bent, ○ Meadow Foxtail, ○ Sweet Vernal-grass, ○ Crested Dogtail, ○ False Brome, ○ Slender Red Fescue ○ Sheep's Fescue, ○ Wavy Hair Grass 	

FLOWERING TIMES: Feb – snowdrops (single, native)
 Mar - crocuses Yalta and Vernus Vanguard
 Apr - Snakeshead Fritillary (white and purple, mixed)
 May to Aug - wild flower meadow

- Cut 75% of the meadow in late Sept/Oct after perennial flowering has died back. The remaining 25% cut back in December. Rotate this pattern over 4 year cycle.
- Rake off cuttings

Wildflower strips - 3m wide

- **WF.b** . Clear turf and sow with summer wildflower seed. March-May
- **WF.c** Plant Snakeshead Fritillary and bulbs October
- Monitor and record plant species
- Cut 75% of the meadow in late Sept/Oct after perennial flowering has died back. The remaining 25% (allowing for overwintering species) cut back in early spring. Rotate this pattern over 4 year cycle. Rake off cuttings

Grassland & Hedgerow Habitats

All Grassland: Monitor and record fauna & flora in the growing season
G1 to G5 Manage as grassland habitats until they can be planted with wildflower meadow species

Herb rich Grassland

- **G2,G3:** To allow the development of the low growing lawn perennials along a 2m wide strip, reduce mowing to every 4 weeks. Raise cut height to 5-7cm

Long Grass strips

G1, G4, G5: Allow 2 metre wide strip of no mow long- grass border

- Cut 75% of the long grass strips in late Sept/Oct after perennial flowering has died back. The remaining 25% cut back early spring. Rotate this pattern over 4 year cycle. Rake off cuttings
- Monitor fauna and flora throughout the growing season.



Wetland area

G6: This area is in a dip which is often waterlogged

- Plant up with;
 - Pendula sedges,
 - Purple Loosestrife
 - Fleabane
 - Ragged Robin
 - Meadowsweet
- Start cutting back in the second year after planting in late Sept/Oct after the perennial flowering has died back.

G7 Deciduous Grassland

- Plant Switchgrass 'Shenondoah' April-June
- Start cutting back in the second year in March before new growth starts

Woodland Pasture

- **WL1:** Plant Spring Bulbs- Woodland species;
 - Winter/spring flowering Crocus.
 - Snowdrops.
 - Bluebells
 - Anemone
 - Primroses
- No mowing. Hand cut with Scythes in Nov

Hedgerows (H)

- Plant up the gaps along the hedgerows. Jan-March. Water March-October. Mulch and weed around new plants for first 3 years. Dec-March
- Prune by cutting back shoots to retain a naturally irregular shape
- Prune 50% of the inside hedgerow alternate years. Dec/Feb
- Trim along full length of the hedge and to the height of the fence on the Street side, twice a year. Dec/Feb and June/July

Wildflower Meadow Management Timeline								
Activity	Sow wildflower perennials and seed	Bulb Planting	Cut summer flowering meadow strips and remove cuttings to habitat piles. Cut remaining 25% after bulbs have died back	Monitor and record plant species	Reduce any strong invasive species	Rake off leaves and autumn debris	Prepare ground for sowing and planting	Monitor and record bee and butterfly species
January					All			
February				All	All			
March	WF.b, WF.c			All				All
April	WF.b, WF.c		25%	All				All
May				All				All
June				All				All
July				All				All
August				All				All
September			75%	All				All
October	WF.b, WFc		75%	All	All	WFa		All
November	WF.b, WFc			All	All	WFa		
December	WF.b, WFc		WF.a		All	WFa		

Grassland & Hedgerow Management Timeline											
Activity	Cut and rake off long grass strips and remove cuttings to habitat piles. G7 Cut March-April only	Monitor and record plant species in the long grass strips	Reduce any strong invasive species	High cut mowing	Monitor and record butterflies	Plant and Sow wildflower perennials and seed	Planting and bulb sowing	Cut and rake off herbaceous plants and dried fern stems	Plant up the gaps along the hedgerows and water	Mulching and weeding	Trim Hedges
January								WL1	H	H	Inner
February		All							H	H	Inner
March	25% G1,G4,G5	All		G1,G2	All	G1,G2,G3	G6		H	H	
April	25% G1,G4,G5	All	G1,G2,G3	G1,G2	All	G1,G2,G3	G6		Water		
May		All	G1,G2,G3	G1,G2	All	G1,G2,G3	G6		Water		
June		All	G1,G2,G3	G1,G2	All	G1,G2,G3			Water		
July		All	G1,G2,G3	G1,G2	All	G1,G2,G3			Water		Outer
August		All	G1,G2,G3	G1,G2	All	G1,G2,G3			Water		Outer
September	75% G1,G4,G5	All	G1,G2,G3	G1,G2	All	G1,G2,G3			Water		
October	75% G1,G4,G5	All	G1,G2,G3	G1,G2	All	G1,G2,G3	WL1		Water		
November		All	G1,G2,G3				WL1	WL1			
December								WL1		H	Inner

Images 26, 27 & 28: Habitat management (to be reviewed)

8.5 Site history and heritage

8.5.1: Site history

Standing in Ducketts Common today it is hard to imagine that a little over 150 years ago you would have been in the middle of a large farm extending from Hornsey to Tottenham.

The name of the Common derives from Laurence Ducket, a goldsmith who was descended from the knights who accompanied William the Conqueror in 1066. He came to own 160 acres of farmland, originally part of Tottenham Manor, in the thirteenth century.

Subsequently ownership passed to St. Bartholomew's Monastery and Hospital and was leased to various members of the court. After the reformation the land was acquired from Edward VI by Richard Cecil for just over £1,000. Then until the mid nineteenth century the farm was sold several times, staying in much the same form.

In 1862 the lease to the farm was brought by a property developer and subsequent development, encouraged by the arrival of the Great Eastern Railway through some of the land, brought an end to the farm as it had existed for hundreds of years. As had happened to many smaller towns and villages around the City of London, shortly after the railway was built, urbanisation of the rural landscape quickly followed.

Dovecote Farm was sold off to the General Company, who initiated the spread of urbanisation in the area, including the construction of the Noel Park Estate. The name of the farm remains to the East of the High Road, Dovecote Avenue.

Green Lanes was a thoroughfare of private houses and a link to the City of London. The road itself however is thought to have existed as far back as Roman times and where Turnpike Lane (then part of Tottenham Lane) crossed Green Lanes, a tollgate was established in 1739 as it had previously been used as a convenient route to avoid tolling on the Great North Road through Highgate.

Ducketts Common is one of the very few green spaces left from the Dovecote Farm following the huge amount of development and growth in the area that occurred during the 19th century. It is bounded by Green Lanes and Turnpike Lane as well as Willoughby and Frobisher Roads, both of which were built in 1887 as more workers from London Docklands were attracted to the area by cheaper housing and easy access to the City via the railway.

The Queens Head pub which is now a furniture store, located on Green Lanes at the south eastern corner of the Common, is where its then owner in 1856 ran an omnibus service to London and Winchmore Hill.

The history of Ducketts Common and the surrounding area is detailed in a history board, located near the basketball courts on the Common. The board was initiated and developed by the Friends of Ducketts Common in 2010 and was installed using funding from the Council.

9. Marketing and communications

9.1 The marketing approach

Marketing Ducketts Common involves more than simply publicising and promoting the park, it also involves listening to the users of the park. Our main aim is to put the needs and concerns of stakeholders, park users and residents at the centre of business marketing approach.

This section outlines how facilities and activities at Ducketts Common are promoted and publicised and how users are positioned at the centre of the business.

9.2 Websites

www.haringey.gov.uk/greenspaces

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

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

Information detailing the Council's partnerships with Friends Groups, The Conservation Volunteers and the Metropolitan Police is available online along with links to their websites.

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

Stakeholders of the park such as the Friends of Ducketts Common also maintain a website/Facebook page: <http://duckettscomonhome.blogspot.com/>

9.3 Social media

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

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

Haringey Council has a Twitter feed with just under 17,000 followers and is used as a two-fold approach: to proactively release live information to keep people informed and updated and respond to queries and complaints posted by others. This is checked throughout the day and provides residents and visitors with another communication channel.

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

www.facebook.com/haringeycouncil

www.youtube.com/haringeycouncil

We also like to keep our resident's in the loop about the events that are taking place, and regularly ask that stakeholders and park hirers submit details about their event on the Council website for FREE, on our "What's On" listings section at www.haringey.gov.uk/add-event

9.4 Publications

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

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

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

9.5 Notice boards

There is one notice boards in Ducketts Common. This is located near the play area in the central part of the common.

These are used to display information about the Friends and Council services and/or campaigns and events.

In 2014 a set of guidelines detailing how notice boards within parks should be used, maintained and what information can be displayed were issued with the expectation that all those with an interest and access to the notice boards will adhere to them.

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

9.6 Campaigns

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

- Litter awareness campaign – encouraging users to dispose of their litter responsibly.
- Neighbourhood Watches – encouraging creation of new watches and increased membership
- Trees Awareness – aimed at highlighting tree planting, tree identification, maintenance and removal and why. Along with National Tree Week.
- Volunteering and Friends Groups – promoting the work groups do, the benefits they bring to communities and encouraging volunteering
- Love Parks Week – Encouraging stakeholders and Friends to promote and highlight the borough's parks and the events that they put on.
- The Big Lunch- supporting and promoting via social media the Big Lunch events happening across the borough, with focus on shared picnics in our parks and green spaces.

- The Great Get Together- supporting and promoting the national campaign to celebrate and promote community cohesion. We have streamlined the application form for this event to make it even easier for residents and park users to take part.
- Play Weekend- supporting the Play Streets initiative to encourage more active play within communities
- Playday- supporting the National Summer event to promote active play for children, young people and families. We work closely with our colleagues in the Active Communities Team to support community involvement and uptake.

9.7 Awards

Green Flag is the UK national standard for parks and green spaces.

Ducketts Common has been awarded the Green Flag every year since XXXX.

Haringey Council is committed to the Green Flag scheme and has retained Green Flag status for 22 parks in 2021.

9.8 Tree and bench sponsorship

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

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

There are two memorial benches at Ducketts Common and the Council is in discussions with Friends, Councillors, Adult Services and the Police regarding their relocation out of the Friends' meadow areas.

9.9 Consultation and market research

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

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

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

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

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

10. Management

10.1 Setting the financial scene

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 106
 Community Infrastructure Levy
 National Lottery
 London Marathon Charitable Trust

Environmental Funds
Greater London Council
Event Income

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

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

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

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

10.2 Management structure

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

The service is organised across Commissioning and Client Services business unit.

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

The structure chart in section 4.1 shows the three core strands of the parks service which are:

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

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

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

10.3 Borough Plan 2019-2023

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

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

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

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

- Continue with partners to invest in our parks with over £15 million of improvements planned over the next five years, including new playgrounds and sports facilities.
- Develop a new Parks and Open Spaces strategy and consult with partners and local communities about how we will work together to protect, enhance and, where possible, extend green and open space in Haringey.
- Promote the use of our parks for a wide range of events and activities, including more community use.
- Plant more trees to make our streets and open spaces greener.
- Work with partners, including Environmental Community Groups, to maintain the borough's watercourses, maximising their environmental and health benefits

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

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

The Borough Plan 2019-2023 can be found at:

https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/borough_plan_2019-23.pdf

10.4 Parks and Green Spaces Strategy

The last open space strategy was adopted in 2006.

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

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

The strategy will set out the ambitions for the service over the next 15 years. It will set out approaches to the maintenance, management and usage of parks. It will also set out clear policy positions on issues relating to parks and open spaces. In some cases new policies will need to be developed (such as security in parks and licensable activity).

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

The timetable is for the 15-year strategy to be adopted by Cabinet in January 2023.

10.5 The Greenest Borough Strategy

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

More information can be found here: www.haringey.gov.uk/greenest-borough

10.6 The Health & Wellbeing Strategy

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

Those that specifically relate to parks include increasing physical activity and improving health and mental wellbeing.

More information can be found here: www.haringey.gov.uk/hwbstrategy

10.7 Finance and funding

The revenue budget for Ducketts Common sits within the overall Parks Operations budget.

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

Planned capital projects in Ducketts Common are mentioned at section 4.3.2 and listed in the Action Plan at section 12.

10.7.2 Parks and open spaces Small Grant Scheme

The Parks and Open Space Small Grant Scheme has been running for a number of years. The scheme offers community groups associated with parks and open spaces - such as Friends of Parks groups – to bid for funding of up to £1000. The funding is to support and develop community activity to help meet the council's aims and priorities for improving the borough's parks and open spaces. The budget available in 2018/19 was £40,000 and is expected to be £60,000 in 2019/20.

More information can be found here: www.haringey.gov.uk/parkssmallgrants

10.7.3 Events income

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11. Improving Ducketts Common

11.1: Improvements undertaken since the 2018 management plan

Heading	Action	Target completion
A welcoming Place	Realigned new railings (without angled supports) at the northern end of the common to a new alignment, including a dog-leg for an expanded hard-surfaced waiting area the bus stop	Spring 2020
	Repainted all the site railings in black	Spring 2020
	Upgraded outdated signage and cleansed of existing signage	September 2020
	Upgraded all the bins and benches (to include additional uprights to prevent people lying on them) in the norther part of the common and repainted all the bins and benches in the rest of the site	September 2020
	Reported the increasing number of rough sleepers to Enforcement team	2020
A clean and well-maintained park	Replaced basketball and table tennis nets	Spring 2020
	Re-marked out MUGA and basketball line marking	Spring 2020
	Repainted the play area fencing	September 2020
	Seasonal bulb planting	Spring 2020
	Seasonal hedge cutting	September 2020
	Strimming all fencelines including MUGA	September 2020
Healthy, safe and secure	Cut off the tips of all of the railings	Spring 2020
	Repaired the worst areas of damaged footpaths and tripping hazards	Spring 2020
	Repaired long-standing water leak near the electricity sub station	Summer 2020
	Undertook numerous repairs to hard assets such as play equipment, MUGA fencing, manhole covers, areas of damaged paving, play area gates, removal of obsolete and unwanted items, etc.	2018/19

Heading	Action	Target completion
A sustainable place	Created new footpaths and wider path junctions to resolve for desire lines caused by maintenance vehicles	Spring 2020
	Widened entrance at Hampden Road/Willoughby Road for improved cycling connections	Spring 2020
Community Involvement	Repair MUGA/basketball lighting	Winter 2018
	Relocated the basket swing, create new safety surfacing and replace the swing seat	Spring 2020
	Removal of one of the benches in the norther area, to reduce the negative impact of daytime drinkers on the operation of the café kiosk	Summer 2020
	Spotlight meetings with Friends, stakeholders and Councillors to decide what priority order in which to undertake improvements to the site	2020
	Regular communication with Friends, stakeholders and Councillors to keep them up to speed with issues affecting the site, such as concerning the Winter 2018/Spring 2019 works, the September 2019 works and the proposals for the kiosk and sewer works	2018/19
Conservation and Heritage	Sewer surveys and designs, plus negotiations with Thames Water	2018/19
	Installed a new 8m deep sewer connection ready for the new cafe	October/November 2021
Marketing and communication	On-site signage to make people aware of forthcoming and future works	2018/19
	Updated website information	Summer 2020
	Discussions with Councillors, police and Adult Services about relocating memorial benches out of the Friends' meadow areas	Summer 2020
Management	Lease renewal/extension negotiations with the café leaseholder and Property Services	Throughout 2018 - 2020
	Kiosk extension discussions and meetings with the café leaseholder, Property Services, Legal, Wood Green Regeneration team, Planning	Throughout 2019/2020

Heading	Action	Target completion
	and the Parks team (including seeking Regeneration Board PID sign-off, architect procurement and brief definition, and Councillor briefings)	
	Completed the café designs, obtained Planning Permission for the new café and tendered the café build works	Throughout 2021
	Installed a new roller gate for event and maintenance access in the southern end of the common	Winter 2018

Image 29: Improvements since 2015

12. Action Plan

12.1 Maintenance and scheduled work programme

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

Heading	Action	Frequency	Responsible	When?
Clean and well maintained	Site inspection: asset condition survey	Quarterly	Parks Zonal Officer	Quarterly
	Site inspection: grounds maintenance issues	Monthly	Parks Area Manager	Monthly
	Site inspection: performance monitoring of grounds maintenance works	Monthly	Parks Area Manager	Monthly
Healthy, safe and secure	Parks to attend Turnpike Lane Joint Strategic Meeting with Police and Community Safety team	Monthly	Principal Parks Development Manager	Monthly
	Police EVA assessment & recommendations	Every 2 years	Police/Turnpike Lane Joint Strategic Meeting	2023
Management	Review the Park Management Plan annually	Annually	Parks Zonal Officer	Dec/Jan
Community Involvement	Lead 'Spotlight' meetings in the park with councillors and Friends	Quarterly	Parks Zonal Officer	Quarterly

Image 30: Maintenance and scheduled works

12.2 Ducketts Common action plan

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

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion
A welcoming Place	Improve the setting and maintenance at the northern end of the common	H	Parks Operations/TCV/Nature Conservation Officer	Tbc	- Parks - Regeneration	As part of new CAP development
	Christmas tree for community celebrations	M	Regeneration (aspiration)		Regeneration	As budgets allow
	An art feature	H	Parks/Regeneration/Friends (Aspiration)	tbc	Regeneration	Installed on the Electrical Substation
	New planting in the play area and the northern end of the site	H	Parks/Regeneration/Friends	tbc	tbc	As budgets allow
	Enforcement action to resolve the problems with rough sleepers	H	Enforcement/Outreach/Legal	tbc	tbc	ASAP (Ongoing as necessary)
A clean and	Relocation of lamp	M	Lighting team	tbc	Parks / Highways	2023

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion
well-maintained park	post GL7L from the park boundary to the other side of Green Lanes to prevent it being obscured by tree branches					
	Upgrading of all the bins and benches in the central and southern parts of the site, that weren't upgraded as part of the 2019 works	M	Parks	£25k	Parks	As budgets allow with asset management plan
	Friends aspiration: Relocation of the memorial benches to new locations	M	Parks, subject to discussions with police and Adult Services	£2k	Parks	2023
Healthy, safe and secure	Councillor aspiration: Introduction of a callisthenics/fitness area	L			tbc	2023 - 2024
	Police EVA recommendation: Add new lighting to the diagonal path in the northern section of the Common	H	Parks & Leisure	£25k	Parks & Leisure budgets, possibly supported with Police/Community Safety budgets	Ongoing discussions

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion
	'Managed play' for toddlers associated with the new café extension	M	Regeneration	tbc	Regeneration	As budgets/funding bids allow
	Regeneration aspiration to upgrade the MUGA facilities (possibly making it a covered facility)	M	Regeneration	tbc	Regeneration	As budgets/funding bids allow
	Friends aspiration: Slacklining	L		tbc		As budgets allow
A sustainable place	Works to extend the existing café to provide public toilets (that the café leaseholder will manage) and internal wet-weather covers	H	Regeneration, Parks, café leaseholder	c£300k	Contributions from Parks, regeneration and the café leaseholder	Completed
	Sewer works to facilitate the creation of a public toilet in the café	H	Highways	£50k	Parks	Completed
	Introduction of a retrofit SuDS (sustainable urban	H	Highways/Drainage team	tbc	tbc	Ongoing discussion

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion
	drainage scheme) scheme					
Community Involvement	Work with schools to develop a programme of bulb planting and maintenance	M	Nature Conservation Officer/Parks and Greenspaces Volunteering Officer	tbc	NCO	2023-24
	Install chess tables and chairs	H	Parks	£2.5k per chess table	tbc	As budgets allow (2023-2024)
	Work with schools to set up regular use of chess tables	H	Parks Projects Officer & ward Councillor	Officer time	Parks/Regeneration	As budgets allow
	Friends aspiration: Installation of logs/fallen trees for sitting etc	H	Trees/Nature Conservation Officer	Officer time	Trees/Nature Conservation Officer	As budgets allow and in line with tree management program
	Friends aspiration: New item of play equipment to fill the spot where the basket swing was	M	Parks	£5k - £10k	Parks/Regeneration	As budgets allow
	Work with Leisure team, community sports provider and Parking Services to	H	Leisure/Community Sports Providers/Parking Services	n/a	n/a	2022-23

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion
	ensure community sports providers do not have vehicle access to the site, do not drive across or park on the grass					
Conservation and Heritage	Nature Conservation Officer to discuss with the Friends about future maintenance of meadows etc	H	Nature Conservation Officer/TCV/Operations Area Supervisor	Officer time	Officer time	2022-23
	Nature Conservation Officer to rewrite the biodiversity and conservation aspects of the management plan	H	Nature Conservation Officer/Friends/TCV	Officer time	Officer time	2022-23
	Ensure a joined-up approach between biodiversity and planting improvements and improved day to day maintenance operations	H	Parks Operations and nature Conservation Officer in conjunction with Friends/TVC	n/a	PGSS and restructure	2022-23
	Ensure biodiversity		Events team, Nature	n/a	n/a	2022-23

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion
	and planting improvements do not compromise entrance areas or events space		Conservation Officer, Friends, Parks Operations			
	Ensure Friends and volunteers back-fill any gaps in maintenance provision to ensure biodiverse and planted areas are effectively managed/maintained	H	Parks Operations and nature Conservation Officer in conjunction with Friends, Parks and Greenspaces Volunteering Officer	tbc	tbc	2022-23
Marketing and communication	A new tree and wildlife interpretation board	M	Nature Conservation Officer	£2k	Parks	2022-, as budgets allow

Image 31: Ducketts Common Action Plan

The Friends and key stakeholders for Ducketts Common were asked what their top 3 priorities would be for the park. Their answers are collated here:

The Friends of Ducketts Common	1: New planting/biodiversity/flowers/colour
	2: Improved maintenance linked to biodiversity improvements
	3: As with Finsbury Park, bold decisions and vision to improve the site

Image 32: Stakeholders' top priorities

