



**Friends of  
North Sheen  
Recreation Ground**



# Our Vision for North Sheen Recreation Ground

September 2016



## Community Day

*Activities for children*  
WW1 local history exhibition  
*Dog Show*  
Free Entry - all welcome!



- ❖ Art activities and face painting for children
- ❖ Talks from local historian for children 12pm and 1.30pm
- ❖ Dressing up in Edwardian children's clothes
- ❖ Dog Show - registration (£1 per entry) 12.30; show 2pm
- ❖ Exhibition about the 129 servicemen who lived near to North Sheen Recreation Ground who lost their lives in WW1 including map showing where they lived





## *Overall Vision*

**To be an excellent multi-use local park we are all proud of, playing a positive role for local users and the environment**

**Multi-use** = answering the varying needs of different user groups, e.g. children, teenagers, adults, footballers, players of basketball /table tennis and dog-walkers; no single user group dominating usage to the detriment of others; using feedback from Rec user survey

**Local** = appealing to users in the local vicinity; users arriving on foot; not seeking users from further afield (apart from sports fixtures)

**Environment** = positive, visible role for flowers and trees, enhancing the Rec's stress-busting qualities and supporting habitats for bees, butterflies and birds

**Excellent** = as good, if not better than the best multi-use local parks (evaluated by Richmond Council user satisfaction surveys)

**Playing a positive role** = being an uplifting place to visit – improving the quality of local users' lives; being good neighbours to those who live near the Rec

**We are all proud of** = we all enjoy visiting the Rec and want to keep it as good as it can be



## *Vison: Events*

### **Major Event =**

- Event with over 50 attendees going through Richmond Events process
- Broad appeal to all age / interest groups
- Example: FWW Commemoration Family Day
- Avoiding competing (timing etc) with other local events
- Co-ordinating with any Richmond Council events e.g. Mini-Fest
- Obtaining relevant sponsorship

Events to act as a focus for our activities, local awareness and Friend recruitment – 1 major event every 2 years; minor event 1 per year

### **Minor Event =**

- Event with under 50 attendees
- More focused appeal with particular groups
- Example: Easter Egg Hunt in playgrounds
- Obtaining relevant sponsorship

### **All Events**

- Free entry / voluntary contributions only (unless exceptional need to charge for specific activity)
- Promote all Friends activities in sport, playgrounds, environment, etc
- Recruit new Friends





## ***Vision: Environment***

Positive, visible role for flowers and trees, supporting butterflies, bees, birds and other wildlife; promoting this via education

### **Flowers**

- Have a definite positive effect on how uplifting the Rec is for users
- Encourage engagement with our environment
- Provide food for bees, birds, butterflies, etc

### **Trees**

- Sustaining the current tree population: 87 @ July16
- Ensuring diversity and wildlife habitats
- Mainly located on Rec edges

### **Tree Planting Plans for Autumn 16: (to be agreed)**

- Fruiting trees for N.W. Corner
- 2-3 sorbus for Marksbury entry
- New trees to have cage protection from strimmers/ dogs

### **Wildlife**

- Record butterfly, bee, bird and other wildlife species
- Install bird nesting boxes
- Encourage habitats

### **Flower Planting Plans Autumn 16 (*timing TBC*)**

- Perennial flowers by North Rd entrance
- *Flowering shrubs by Darell Rd entrance*
- *Flowering shrubs by Marksbury Ave entrance*
- Bulbs by Dancer Rd entrance, S.E. corner and daffodils in grass margins (planted by Friends)
- Keep FWW memorial poppy flowerbed

### **Education** for local school children + other user groups

- Themed walks on trees /wildlife
- Leaflets / info available via café + website



## ***Vision: Sports / Fitness***



### **Sports activities - current**

- Table tennis (bats / balls available in café)
- Basketball hoop
- Football via Kew Park Rangers
- Informal ball games / other sport usage

Encouraging informal / free-to-access sport and fitness activities

### **Sports activities - planned Outdoor Gym – 2017**

- 95% grant from London Marathon Trust
- On-going activation plan to encourage use
- Sited in Senior playground (fenced off)
- On grass with matting
- Subject to successful consultation and grant application



## ***Vision: Playgrounds***



### **Junior Playground**

Including:

- equipment for under-3s
- equipment for disabled children
- paddling pool - lining to be renewed in next financial year (?April 17 onwards) – capable of being used for 3+ months without gaps of more than 1 day

Encouraging:

- Imaginative play
- Agility
- Co-operation
- Activity

Encouraging play for all children that is active, fun, safe, inclusive, social ; with paddling pool

### **Playground ancillaries**

- Include benches for parents
- Increased number of rubbish bins in Junior playground
- Be fenced off with gates
- No dogs, no smoking
- Drinking fountain (sited on Pavilion wall)

### **Senior Playground**

More challenging equipment including:

- Zip wire
- Climbing wall
- Tunnel slide
- Balance log trail
- Spidernet
- Swings



## *Vision: Dogs*



### **Responsible dog-walkers**

- Complying with Richmond Council's "Responsible Dog Ownership" leaflet:
  - Picking up after their dog
  - Complying with dog-free areas (i.e. the playgrounds)
- Increasing awareness of this leaflet with activities / display

Encouraging responsible dog-walkers to enjoy the Rec in harmony with other Rec users

### responsible **DOG OWNERSHIP**

You're responsible for the non barking end tool



### **Enjoy the Rec**

- Form a Rec dog-owners club
- Run a Rec dog-show (in conjunction with Friends' event in Summer 2017)
- Start / link with existing activities for dog-owners, as required e.g. puppy-training classes
- Always have water available for dogs to drink – thanks to café for doing this!



## ***Vision: Friends Organisation***



### **Organisation**

- With a published constitution that details Friends':
  - Objectives + Scope
  - Committee elections
  - Conditions of membership

### **Catalyst**

- Not actually running the Rec (that is the responsibility of Richmond Council), but seeking to represent users' views on future developments and improvements

Inclusive organisation that acts as a catalyst working with Richmond Council to achieve our Vision for the Rec

### **Working with Richmond Council**

- Aiming to improve communications with Richmond Council
- One main point of communication between Friends and Richmond Council

### **Inclusive**

- Free membership
- All Rec users can become a member, subject to Friends Constitution
- Expanding membership; particularly more active members willing to join in events etc
- Working with sub-groups and a Champion in each area reporting back to the Committee

### **Friends' Vision**

- Based on survey of users' views (as conducted in 2013 – to be repeated approx every 3 years)





## ***Vision: Communications***



### **Transparency of operation**

- Constitution and minutes published on Friends' website
- Friends' details only used for Friends organisation purposes

Transparency of operation via inclusive communications with Friends and other local organisations

### **Inclusive Communications**

- Website
- Email
- Facebook Page
- Twitter account
- Notices on the Rec gates
- Friends' noticeboard in café and in Rec
- Local magazines
- Target is primarily local users living in immediate vicinity of the Rec

### **Other local organisations**

**- finding out what they want from the Rec / how they could help us**

- Darell School
- Other schools as appropriate
- Café (café lease is managed by Richmond Council)
- Kew Park Rangers
- Kew Gardens
- Kew Society / Kew TW9
- SWLEN / other local parks
- Other local social organisations