

Report title	Englefield Green Management Plan Update
Report author	Helen Wilson, Deputy Green Spaces Manager
Department	Green Spaces, Environmental Services
Exempt?	No
Exemption type	N/A
Reasons for exemption	N/A

Purpose of report:

For information

Synopsis of report:

To provide an update to Committee on the draft Englefield Green Management Plan (EGMP) and to seek involvement from the Committee as key stakeholders.

Recommendation(s):

None

1. Context and background of report

- 1.1 A report was put forward by the Deputy Green Spaces Manager at the October 17th 2023 Committee to recommend the drafting of a management plan specific to Englefield Green. This report seeks to give information on the progress of this Management Plan.

2. The Englefield Green Management Plan – Update

- 2.1 The task to produce a template for Green Space Management Plans has fallen to the Green Space National Management Trainee, Kruti Pabari with support from Helen Wilson, Deputy Green Spaces Manager and other relevant officers and related RBC teams.
- 2.2 From this Borough-wide template, Helen Wilson and the Green Spaces team will be tailoring the plan to suit Englefield Green specifically.
- 2.3 The Management Plan is based on the CABI Space Management Plan Guidance document.

- 2.4 *It is important to note*, whilst we will be modelling our EGMP on Green Flag Award guidance, we are simply using the criteria of an award-winning green space to set the standard for management to which we aspire, we are *not* proposing that we enter the awards.
- 2.5 This document will focus on management & maintenance, supporting more tangible and practical processes. Whilst some reference to strategy & development (with signposting where appropriate) will be made, many of these elements will be covered by the Community Development team in their own park strategy documents.
- 2.6 Aims for the EGMP:
- Aiding the development of monthly and quarterly action plans with achievable targets, aligning day-to-day operations onsite with overarching goals.
 - Supporting annual budget-setting processes and identifying requirements for additional financial resources from both internal RBC budgets and the Englefield Green earmarked reserves in consultation with the Englefield Green Committee.
 - Keeping the Englefield Green Committee, elected members, the mayor and other stakeholders aware of management processes and priorities, thereby managing expectations in line with what may be deemed achievable.
 - Communicating with relevant stakeholders what their responsibilities entail surrounding their activities and the delivery of other services that may impact the site. For example; officers may request key information/input at committee meetings or by other means.
 - Monitoring development progress and success against management targets.
- 2.7 The following information is a guide to the topics covered by the Green Spaces Management Plan (GSMP) template and relates to the *draft* format of the EGMP so far:

About the Site

- Include a map to show the location and extent of the site. *This will set the scope of the plan and will encompass the Crown Estate land under the remit of the Englefield Green Committee.*
- Include a written description of the space summarising it's basic features and any relevant history.
- Refer to previous documents and any information that other relevant departments may have.

Strategy & Policy

- Refer here to any previous plans/guidance that may lend use to Green Space Management Plans (such as ecological appraisals for wildlife areas)
- It is useful to consider how the site may have fared in the Open Spaces Study, as conducted by the planning department in 2022.

- Summarise and explain the relevance of any national or RBC strategy and policy, indicating what is established or in development.

A “Welcoming Place”

- Visual appearance - *Assess current overall appearance with the intended appearance/vision for the site in consultation with the committee and stake holders.*
- Signage
- Outline what exists and what can be put into place. *To include recent audit.*
- Refer to the RBC Signage Replacement Project (which is in development - update progress as necessary).
- Appropriate range of quality facilities and activities
- Outline what exists and what the aspirations may be *in consultation with the committee and stake holders.*
- Accessibility
- Analyse the space, in person and on the map, with consideration to accessibility.
- Conduct an Equalities Impact Assessment (with either the relevant officer in the RBC legal team or someone who will actually be impacted by this)

Health, Safety and Security

- Standards of maintenance
- Outline what exists (i.e. inspection schedules) and any review of this.
- Safe equipment and facilities
- Current contract for play inspections and repairs.
- Updated Risk Assessment
- Personal Security
- JAG & community safety – consult
- Control of Dogs/Dog Fouling
- Outline specific site policy regarding leads/fouling, with relevant signage in place

Maintenance and cleanliness

- Look at current inspection rotas, update grounds maintenance (GM) maps
- Litter and waste management

- Horticultural Maintenance – GM map and Programme of Works

Relating to RBC in-house routine maintenance plus any additional works proposed by the Englefield Green Committee and the Cricket Club.

- Arboriculture Maintenance – Woodland management plan
- Building Maintenance
- Infrastructure (paths/fences/benches)
- Equipment Maintenance

2.8 The following is likely to be covered by the Community Development team as it relates to wider strategic issues but will be referenced in the EGMP with potential to add detail over time:

- Environmental Management
- Biodiversity with consideration of landscape and heritage
- Community Involvement

2.9 This section may be written in collaboration with the communications team as well as any relevant stakeholders:

- Marketing and Communication

2.9.1 Implementation of this plan:

- This section will be informed by both ideal/benchmark goals and realistic expectations in line with what is deemed achievable based on current and projected capacity (all of which will have been signposted to or explored through the document) and in line with the aims of the EGMP.
- Create a table to outline what needs doing, when across a year, with clear indication of timescales and costs *in consultation with the Englefield Green Committee and other stakeholders. This will be a key part of the plan for regular reference and review by Green Spaces management and the Englefield Green Committee.*
- Reflections on the current management of Englefield Green and its future
- Outline a 10-year plan, with metrics for measuring success/progress described and review dates suggested. – *this will need to be very well considered, with consultation with the Englefield Green Committee and other relevant stakeholders.*

3. Policy framework implications

3.1 Climate Change – We aim to reduce our impact on Climate Change by employing sustainable management practices.

Empowering our Communities - We will present the best possible arguments to external stakeholders to preserve, protect and enhance local quality of life.

Health and Wellbeing - Access to Sport, leisure and recreation improves health and wellbeing.

4 Resource implications/Value for Money

4.1 Not applicable

5. Legal implications

5.1 Notes on the legal status of the Englefield Green Crown Estate will be included within the management plan.

6. Equality implications

6.1 We will complete an EQIA to include within the management plan

7. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

7.1 We will reference Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity within the management plan.

8. Risk Implications

8.1 Any identified risks will be included in the management plan

9. Other implications (where applicable)

9.1 None.

10. Timetable for Implementation

10.1 We will update the Committee on the EGMP progress at each committee meeting with the hope to have a final draft in Summer 2024.

10.2 Once the final draft has been agreed, this will be a live document, continuously reviewed by Green Spaces Officers.

11. Conclusions

11.1 The EGMP will be a useful tool for both the Green Spaces team and the Englefield Green Committee in the management of the Crown Estate land.

12. Background papers

12.1 None

13. Appendices

13.1 None