

# **Coronation Gardens Management Plan 2009 – 2014**

Index  
Timetable  
Site description  
Wandsworth Open Space Study  
Current management  
Future management  
Action plan

**Written for and on behalf of Wandsworth Council Parks Service by:**

Valerie Selby, Principal Parks Officer (Biodiversity)  
Patrick Phelan, Horticultural Development Officer  
Geraldine Kelly, Strategy and Information Officer

First round of public consultation: April / May 2009

Final version: June 2009

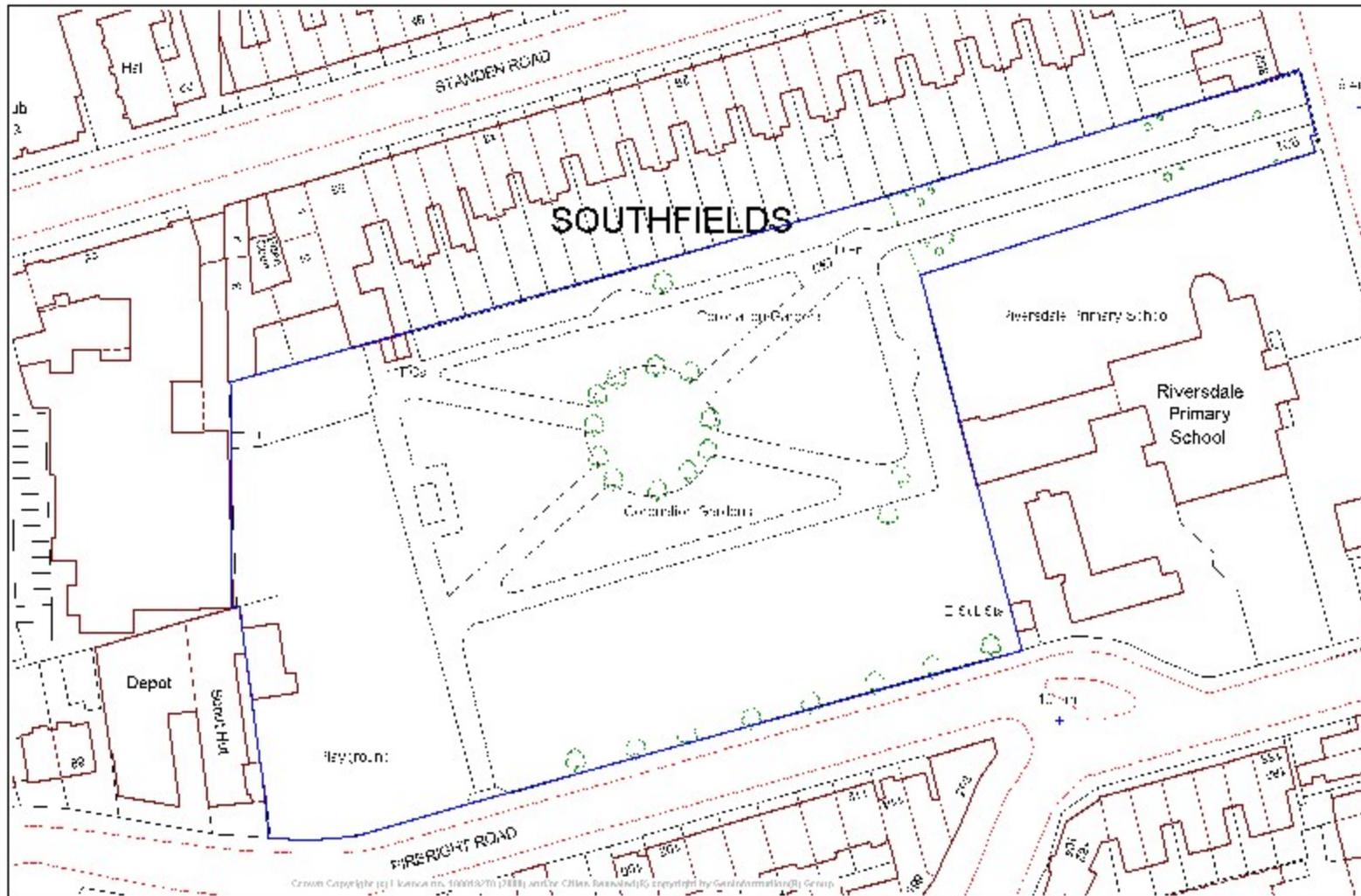
To be approved by Wandsworth Council Environment and Leisure Committee  
in June 2009

Progress against action plan to be monitored annually via the Parks Service  
AQPR.

**Site Description:**

- Site Name: Coronation Gardens
- Location: Coronation Gardens is bounded to the north by rear gardens of houses in Standon Road; to the east by Merton Road and Riversdale Primary School; to the south by Pirbright Road and to the west by a scout hall in Pirbright Road and a housing development in Standen Road.
- Map showing location and internal layout is shown on the following page.
- Grid reference: The grid reference of the site is TQ25157348
- Council Ward: Southfields Ward, Elected members for this area are:  
Cllr Mrs Vanessa Graham (Cons)  
Cllr Piers McCausland (Cons)  
Cllr Stuart Thom (Cons)
- Site Area: The area of the site totals 10,031 square metres (1 ha /2.47 acres).
- Tenure: The site is owned by Wandsworth Borough Council.
- Management: The site is managed and maintained by Wandsworth Borough Council, with responsibility for the site taken by the Parks Service, part of the Leisure and Amenity Services Department. The One O’Clock Centre is managed by the Play Services section of the Childrens Services Department.
- Designations: The council has adopted planning policies, which aim to protect and enhance the quality of life, and improve economic and social opportunities. They are the basis for promoting and controlling development in the borough. The current statutory development plan for the borough comprises the Wandsworth Unitary Development Plan (UDP), adopted August 2003.
- Under the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Local Development Framework (LDF) – this site is designated as “Other Larger Protected Open Space Sites”.
- The gardens are designated as “Poop Scoop / Canine Faeces Removal Area” under the Councils Dog Bye Laws with the play area designated as “Dog Ban”.
- The Multiple Dog Walking Bye Law also applies to this site. This limits the number of dogs that can be walked without obtaining a licence from the Council (Parks Police)

Coronation Gardens Park Management Plan 2009



Coronation Gardens

(c) Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Wandsworth Borough Council Licence No. LA 1000019270 2008

Scale 1/800  
Date 23/10/2008



### **Wandsworth Open Space Study**

In 2006, the Wandsworth Planning Office carried out an Open Space Study. As part of that Study, a quality assessment of all of the open spaces in the Borough was carried out. The range and condition of facilities within each open space were assessed using a scoring criterion derived from the Civic Trust Green Flag standard assessment which is also consistent with the GLA guidance.

The criteria included the assessment of the quality of natural and landscape features, conservation of buildings and structures, provision of interpretation facilities, standards of arboricultural management, whether the space was welcoming, its accessibility and safety, signage, levels of personal security, dog-fouling, cleanliness, standards of horticultural maintenance and the overall appropriateness and quality of provision of facilities for the site.

All aspects were scored between 0 and 10, with below 5 being poor, 5-6 Fair, 7 good, 8 very good, 9 excellent and 10 exceptional.

In this assessment, Coronation Gardens had an overall quality average score of **6.6**, which puts it in the 'fair' rating. There were no suggestions for improvement, although the need for repairs to the sheltered seating was noted.

**History:**

Coronation Gardens was opened to the public in 1903. The local paper described it as the Borough of Wandsworth's first park as opposed to any LCC project, and called it 'Wandsworth's new lungs'. The Gardens were not quite finished at the time.

It stand on the site of a notorious piggery, all the more noxious after the opening of Riversdale School in 1890.

Sir William Lancaster, second mayor of Wandsworth (1901-02) and grandfather of cartoonist, Osbert Lancaster, had bought the plot of land and he gave it to the people of Wandsworth in perpetuity.

The original wrought iron gate entrance remains on Merton Road with an avenue of horse chestnut trees flanking the path leading into the park. At the end of the avenue is a rough hewn granite drinking fountain with Art Nouveau-style bowl and ornamental railings on one side. This has a plaque commemorating the opening of the public gardens and the fact that the fountain was donated by the sisters of the Mayor.

The Gardens commemorate the coronation of Edward VII in August 1902 and were opened 'in state' by the Mayor William Hunt on 4 July 1903.

**Site Features:**

Coronation Gardens is a medium sized, enclosed area of mown grass, trees and rose beds. The large mature London Plane trees in the centre of the park are a major feature. A supervised "One o'clock Centre" provides play facilities for accompanied children under 5 years old.

Original railings and gates, refurbished in 2008, form the boundary at Merton Road. Railings and gates at the Pirbright Road boundary were replaced in the 1980's, and painted red, following consultation with local users and residents. The remainder of the park boundaries are of brick walls to adjacent properties.

Tarmac paths run from an entrance in Merton Road to a second in Pirbright Road, with a central paved area surrounded by London Plane trees.

An original wooden shelter is sited to the west of the park, and an ornamental stone drinking fountain (installed soon after the park was opened but not now operating) to the east. A paved area to the north east is the remains of a small glasshouse and associated buildings, with a disused public toilet nearby.

There are 4 seats, 2 litter bins and 2 dog waste bins in the park, with a further litter bin in the One o'clock area.

There is no internal lighting and the park is locked at night.

The overall impression is of a quiet, fairly well maintained park with original features and layout.

**Safe & Secure:**

Most areas of the park are visible from both outside and inside the site, although internal hedges mask areas to some extent. The disused toilet has been a source of concern to some residents, with the building being used to aid intruders climbing from the park into private gardens.

Works have recently been carried out to alleviate the poor surface condition of some areas of paving.

The shelter has suffered vandalism in the past, but no major damage has occurred recently. Youths do congregate there occasionally, but this has not generated any adverse reports. Very occasional comments have been received regarding the playing of ball games. This has been discouraged in the past, with a "No Ball Games" sign being installed. This sign is now very faded.

The vehicle gates at Pirbright Road provides access for service vehicles and pedestrian users of the park. The lack of separation between vehicles and pedestrians could be regarded as a potential threat to users if the park were busier. Access by cars to the One o'clock Centre has recently been raised as a problem by park users. Play Services have been reminded that vehicle access is restricted to occasional visits by monitoring staff only..

The lack of control at the 2 vehicle gates leaves the park vulnerable to fly tipping, abandoned vehicles and illegal access by joy-riders.

Welcome:

Signs at the two entrances are limited to detailing dog bye laws and other restrictions. These are contained in cabinet style signs and are in fair condition. A separate sign within the boundary of the One o'clock Centre is in good condition with a further large sign relating to improvements some years ago. A hand drawn sign on the internal gate to the One o'clock Centre is in poor condition. There is a small, very faded "No Ball Games" sign at the Pirbright Road entrance.

The recently refurbished gates at the Merton Road entrance, and the show of spring bulbs just inside the gates, provide an improved welcome at this point, although the dense canopy of trees results in a very shaded area in the summer. Grass growth under these trees is very poor.

A metal bollard, replaced with the refurbishment of the gates, is very unattractive and not necessary; given vehicle access is not possible at this point, due to a roadside barrier just outside the gates.

A further bollard, at the Pirbright Road entrance, is missing, with no cover to the ground socket, resulting in a potential trip hazard

Vehicle damage to grass at the sides of some paths, signals a lack of care. Railings and gates in Pirbright Road are in good condition but with a faded red paint finish.

Only one of the two sides of the gate at Merton Road is usually opened, restricting access, if only visually.

Planted areas provide good colour and interest, but could be improved.

Clean and well maintained:

The grass is mown regularly to maintain a short dense sward. Rose beds are weeded regularly, and hedges trimmed two or three times a year. There is a regular litter collection programme for both general litter and dog waste.

Occasionally, drugs paraphernalia is found in some parks. A system has been devised to ensure safe removal and recording of each incident. This helps to ensure staff and park users are protected, and Metropolitan and Parks Police informed. Steps to minimise drug use in parks can then be undertaken using this information. Drugs paraphernalia has not been found at Coronation Gardens.

Footpaths are in fair condition, although areas affected by tree roots continue to be a problem.

A removable bollard at the Pirbright Road entrance is missing, with no cover to the ground socket, resulting in a potential trip hazard.

Entrance signs are poor and need replacement.

The seating shelter is sound but needs painting.

A stone plinth (the remains of a drinking fountain) and a tree stump both add a sense of clutter and should be removed.

Vehicle damage to grass at the sides of some paths signals a lack of care.

Routine tree inspection and maintenance is undertaken on a three-year rotation. There is no significant Pest or Disease problem and no evidence of recent vandalism.

#### Health and well-being

Coronation Gardens is a medium sized park with limited possibilities for exercise, but providing a useful area for users to “get a breath of fresh air” and enjoy the relative quiet.. There is a supervised play area for children under 5 years old and there is some use by dog walkers

#### Community involvement:

There is no known community involvement currently. The One o'clock area is well used by local families. There is the opportunity for picnicking on the amenity grass areas, although users are deterred by the lack of dog free areas.

#### Service delivery:

Landscape maintenance, including maintenance of seats and bins, is carried out by contractor and monitored by the Parks Operational team based at Wandsworth Common.

Structural maintenance of buildings paths and railings is the responsibility of the Premises section of the Leisure and Amenity Department. Maintenance of the One o'clock Centre is the responsibility of the Play Services section of the Childrens Services Department.

#### Staff skills & knowledge:

Skills required to manage this site include basic horticultural maintenance including the use of mowing and strimming machinery. A higher level of knowledge is required for maintenance of trees. Building and engineering skills are required to maintain structures, paths and railings.

#### Sustainable approach:

The site is generally managed without the use of pesticides or watering. Weeds are occasionally controlled with glyphosate. Organic material, collected from all sites during maintenance operations, is composted and used, when suitable, for mulching and soil improvement of ornamental planted areas.

#### Finance:

Maintenance costs are met from Parks budgets covering all small parks. There is no separate budget for this site within the Parks Service. Maintenance of the One o'clock Centre is met from Childrens Services budgets.

### **Current Management:**

All horticultural maintenance and litter clearance is as specified in the Parks Service Horticultural Maintenance contract, which includes all routine grass cutting, litter collection, weed clearance, shrub pruning and other routine horticultural tasks. All work that does not fall under this contract is carried out under additional works programmes by order, with the main contractor or outside contractors depending on the scope of the work entailed.

#### One o'clock Centre:

The building, outside play area and associated fencing and gates are managed by the Play Services section of the Childrens Services Department

The play areas have daily visual safety inspections carried out by One o'clock Centre staff, and weekly recorded inspections by designated Council staff. In addition an independent specialist carries out quarterly and annual inspections of all Council playgrounds.

#### Trees:

This site contains a double avenue of large mature Horse Chestnut trees at the Merton Road entrance and the central paved area, and a very large Chinese Honey Locust (*Gledisia sinensis*) beside the One o'clock Centre. These have been closely monitored in recent years, with remedial works being carried out as necessary. There is a mix of native and non-native tree species with a good age class diversity. Various trees were planted in 2007 /8 to supplement the aging Horse Chestnut avenues. Routine tree inspection and maintenance is undertaken on a three-year rotation, with trees being in general good health at the last inspection. There is no significant Pest or Disease problem and no evidence of recent vandalism.

#### Ornamental planting:

Privet hedges, climbing plants and ornamental rose beds are pruned or trimmed as required.

#### Seats:

The Victorian style seats were installed approximately three years ago and are now due for painting. Comments have been received about how uncomfortable the seats are.

#### Bins:

There are two litter bins and two dog waste bins, in fair condition. The bins are of steel construction with rubberised lids, model HG66 manufactured and supplied by Earth Anchors plc. Litter bins are dark green in colour (RAL 6005) and dog waste bins are red.

A wooden litter bin in the One o'clock area is in poor condition.

#### Hard / paved surfaces:

Footpaths are surfaced with black tarmac.

#### Lighting:

There is no lighting within the park.

Fencing:

Original, decorative, iron-railings and gates form the boundary at Merton Road. This was extensively restored in 2008. Metal railings along the Pirbright Road boundary are in good condition but need painting, with the red paint finish very faded. Brick walls to the adjacent school and other, private, property is the responsibility of the owners of the adjacent buildings. There are two gated entrances to the park, with no separate service gate.

Services:

A water supply to the park has been retained, although there has been no use for several years. Electricity supplies to the disused toilets have been disconnected. There are separate services to the One o'clock Centre.

## **Future Management:**

### Safe & Secure:

Routinely prune shrubs and trim hedges to maintain views through the site. The recent removal of hand rails at each side of the disused toilets has helped to prevent easy access to adjacent private property, but this area should be monitored to ensure shrubs are pruned to prevent them being used to provide access over the boundary wall.

Investigate options to deal with areas of footpaths damaged by tree roots. Monitor use of the park to establish whether the playing of ball games is a nuisance to residents.

Ensure that vehicle access is kept to a minimum.

### Welcome:

Design and install more welcoming entrance signs at the entrances, detailing the features within the park and relevant contacts. This would give a greater sense of place and a better welcome. Remove faded signs.

Consider measures to improve the grass under trees and where damaged by service vehicles.

Remove the redundant bollard at the Merton Road entrance.

Ensure that both gates at the Merton Road entrance are opened when unlocked by Parks Police.

Investigate options to improve planted areas in the park

### Clean and well maintained:

Continue routine horticultural maintenance, including hedge trimming to maintain sightlines into the park.

Consider feasibility of realigning footpaths away from tree roots in areas that cannot be repaired. Replace missing bollard at Pirbright Road.

Ensure replacement signs are positioned at entrances.

Establish a work programme to paint the railings at Pirbright Road and the seating shelter.

Remove redundant concrete plinth and tree stump.

Consider measures to prevent damage to grass areas by service vehicles.

### Health and well-being

Consider features which might promote more activities in the park

### Community involvement:

Investigate whether any local groups exist.

### Sustainable approach:

Maintain restriction on use of chemicals. Use composted materials for mulching planted areas. Use recycled plastic seats etc where possible

Coronation Gardens Park Management Plan 2009

**ACTION PLAN**

Code	Aim	Objective	Action / task	Target date	Who
CG101	To make Coronation Gardens a place where people feel safe and secure	Ensure users can readily see all areas	Maintain routine pruning and hedge trimming.	Ongoing	Parks Service Premises Section
CG102		Maintain security of adjacent properties	Monitor growth of shrubs and prune as necessary	Ongoing	Parks Service
CG103		Ensure footpaths do not cause a trip hazard	Deal with section of path affected by tree roots	March 2010	Parks Service Premises Section
CG104		Prevent nuisance to local residents	Monitor complaints of nuisance caused by playing ball games or other activities	Ongoing	Parks Service Parks Police
CG105		Control vehicle access	Maintain access restriction to monitoring staff only	Ongoing	Parks Service Play Services

Coronation Gardens Park Management Plan 2009

Code	Aim	Objective	Action / task	Target date	Who
CG201	To make Coronation Gardens welcoming and define a sense of place	To provide information on facilities within the park.	Replace signs at entrances to the park.	As part of wider signage review of parks and open spaces (partial completion by April 2009)	Parks Service Graphics Parks Police
CG202		Improve visual appearance at entrances	Remove bollard at Merton Road entrance Remove redundant signs. Renew / replace hand drawn sign	March 2010	Parks Service
CG203			Investigate improvement to poor grass growth under trees	March 2010	Parks Service
CG204			Ensure both sides of gates are fully locked back when open	Ongoing	Parks Service Parks Police
CG205		Improve planted areas	Continue soil improvement works to beds. Investigate redesign of old greenhouse area	March 2010	Parks Service

Coronation Gardens Park Management Plan 2009

Code	Aim	Objective	Action / task	Target date	Who
CG301	To provide a clean and well maintained Park	Improve safety of path surfaces	Liaise with Premise section to repair or relay paths damaged by tree roots Replace missing bollard at Pirbright Road	March 2010	Parks Service Premises section
CG302		Provide clear, attractive signs at entrances	Replace existing cabinet signs	As part of wider signage review of parks and open spaces(partial completion by April 2009)	Parks Services Graphics
CG303		Repaint railings and seating shelter	Establish work programme with Premises Section	March 2010	Parks Services Premises Section
CG304		Improve visual appearance within park	Remove tree stump and redundant concrete plinth	March 2010	Parks Service Premises Section Trees Section

Coronation Gardens Park Management Plan 2009

Code	Aim	Objective	Action / task	Target date	Who
CG305		Protect grass edges from service vehicle damage	Install bollards or protective matting if appropriate	March 2010	
CG401	To provide a park which contributes to the health and well-being of all who use it.	Improve play and other facilities	Consider providing a fenced dog free area	To comply with revised Dog Control Orders May 2009	Parks Service Parks Police
CG402		To increase cycle facilities to and within parks	Investigate the potential for cycle parking	March 2010	Parks Service Technical Services Dept
CG501	To effectively engage with, and involve, the community in decisions made relating to Coronation Gardens	To carry out consultation with different user groups to influence the enhancement of this park	Contact any local residents associations and schools etc		Parks Service