

Subject:	Parks and Open Spaces update report (includes Appendix A Not for Publication by virtue of paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.)
Reason for briefing note:	Responding to the Panel's request for an update on recent key projects in RBWM Parks and Open Spaces and improvements made during the past year.
Responsible officer(s):	David Scott, Head of Communities, 01628 796748 Anthony Hurst, Parks and Cemeteries Team
Senior leader sponsor:	Russell O'Keefe, Executive Director Place
Date:	28 th January 2020

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SUMMARY: key issues and new initiatives

The following items are a high level summary of a number of the key projects and improvements undertaken in the Borough's Parks and Open Spaces.

- **Unauthorised incursion specific site protection measures**

During 2019, various works have been carried out to strengthen and harden the boundaries of a number of parks and open spaces across the borough, in order to deter unauthorised incursions and occupations. Works have focussed on those sites considered to be potentially the most vulnerable sites, including sites previously subject to incursions, and have included the use of 'tamper-proof' locking systems less susceptible to forced entry, and various types of boundary treatments tailored to the needs of each site. The summary of sites where works have been complete have been shown in Appendix A (which is published as a Part II by virtue of paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

- **Battlemead Common**

Following the purchase of the site lying to the east of the Lower Cookham Road and Sutton Road, earlier in the year, in August 2019, a network of permitted footpaths was opened at Battlemead Common, enabling public access to parts of the site, including a linking footpath to the Thames Path National Trail. The 110 acre site includes important wildlife habitat areas, a section of the White Brook, and affords spectacular views of Cliveden House and the surrounding landscape. A planning application has been submitted for provision of a small carpark and cycle parking area at the main entrance to the site.

A stakeholder group, 'Friends of Battlemead Common', has been established, including representatives from a wide range of amenity, access and wildlife groups to help advise the Council on future management of the site.

- **Ockwells Park and Thriftwood**

During 2019, works have been carried out to enable public access to the 'Thriftwood' extension to Ockwells Park, including installation of two new footbridges across The Cut. Ongoing tree

planting works are being carried out in partnership with Groundwork South and local volunteers, funded by a £63,000 grant from Network Rail's 'biodiversity offset' scheme: this will significantly enhance the landscape and biodiversity value of the site. Major refurbishment works to the Ockwells Park children's play area are currently being prepared.

- **Clewer Memorial Recreation Ground**

Major works are currently in progress to refurbish and extend the existing pavilion, to include provision of indoor café; external seating area; indoor soft play area for young children; community meeting room; storage room for organised sports on adjacent playing fields; improved WC facilities including facilities for the disabled.

- **Shurlock Road Nature Reserve and Play Area**

In August 2019, this local nature reserve and play area was opened to the public. The site includes a small car park, 'countryside' style play equipment, a nature pond and circular walks. The site is expected to be transferred to Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council.

- **Pocket Parks'**

Works are currently in progress to refurbish two 'pocket parks' in Windsor, part funded by a £48,000 central government grant under the 'Pocket Parks' scheme:

Trinity Wildlife Garden is to be re-opened following extensive works to improve the setting of the site, including new paths, seating areas, and a wildlife pond, in partnership with Groundwork South;

Sawyers Close Play area in Dedworth is being extensively refurbished with installation of new children's play equipment, in partnership with Radian Housing Association.

In addition to these site specific improvement schemes, the many parks and open spaces located across the borough, have continued to be maintained and are very well used by local residents and visitors to the Borough.