



## Green Flag Award 2017

**Name of Site:** Keston Common  
**Managing Organisation:** idverde

### Desk Assessment Feedback (Management Plan and supporting documentation)

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
<b>Presentation</b>	A very well presented Management Plan which incorporates Ravensbourne Open Space and Padmall Wood. The plan is well written and nicely ties together most of the elements of the site. It is a plan designed to be understood by a wide range of audiences and is therefore well suited to analysis for Green Flag purposes	
<b>Health, Safety &amp; Security</b>	The management plan points to daily inspections of site infrastructure and indicates significant H&S documentation is in place. There appears to be a comprehensive safety training programme in place for staff	
<b>Maintenance of equipment, buildings &amp; landscape</b>	Good procedures mentioned in place for vandalism, fly tipping etc. Fix my street online reporting tool appears to be a simple and effective tool- assuming the local community know about it.	
<b>Litter, cleanliness, vandalism</b>	As above	
<b>Environmental Management</b>	There appears to be a comprehensive system in place, according to the management plan. The idverde environmental policy makes bold claims	
<b>Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage</b>	Keston Bog is internationally important	On a personal level I would like to see more "importance" given to this aspect of the site

<b>Community Involvement</b>	The management plan points to significant local engagement with an active volunteer programme, a well-structured, effective and proactive friends group all supported by idverde's "A Parks, Green Space and Countryside Strategy for the London Borough of Bromley". There appears to be a good offer of public events on site and I am particularly impressed by the level of commitment by the Friends of Keston Common.	
<b>Marketing &amp; Communication</b>	Information and marketing covered by the Bromley Parks Marketing Strategy	
<b>Overall management</b>	There is a good management plan and supporting documents for this site	

**Additional comments**

## Field Assessment Feedback

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
<b>A Welcoming Place</b>	The main car park provides adequate space for visitors and is well laid out in the standard way. Visitors can readily observe access into the site and there are several notice boards and information points	It is not completely clear from the signage what the site is or how visitors can use it. Perhaps (when funding allows) the main signage points could be revamped to incorporate more information.
<b>Healthy, Safe and Secure</b>	Robust inspection and maintenance regimes ensure the site is a safe one physically, strong local engagement means that the site is highly valued and respected	Some of the more wooded areas will always pose a risk in terms of public safety, or at least public perceptions of safety. Keep these areas safe and managed to minimise risk and provide plenty of routes in and around them.
<b>Well Maintained and Clean</b>	Litter could be a challenge around hotspot areas or along road verges but this is being dealt with well. No obvious evidence of dog fouling or dog damage, with dog bins and bags available at key locations. No evidence of graffiti or vandalism. Excellent standards of maintenance especially of natural and landscape features across site.	
<b>Environmental Management</b>	A great strength of this site	

<b>Biodiversity Landscape and Heritage</b>	Excellent approaches to balancing the needs of heritage and biodiversity, with plenty of evidence staff and volunteers understanding what is required and how. Site is being managed to ensure sensitive heritage or ecological features are protected where necessary, whilst still enabling the public to enjoy other areas and understand its rich history and natural value. Darwin's Bog (Fantastic!) and Caesar's Well are both incredible features of this site and you should be very proud of both of these elements.	As areas of dense woodland and scrub are reduced or cleared, appropriate management methods will need to be implemented to restore or maintain quality. As resources are always limited, take a focused and practical approach to how this can be managed so that the site's rich ecological and landscape value is not compromised.
<b>Community Involvement</b>	Very strong commitment to ensuring volunteering and community involvement across the whole site, with a diverse volunteer programme / friend's engagement.	Continue the excellent work. As new projects or opportunities arise, identify new ways to involve residents and volunteers in these to reinforce the sense of local ownership and responsibility, and help them gain new skills and confidence in taking and making management actions
<b>Marketing and Communication</b>	A sensible and balanced approach to how the site is marketed, with use of information on notice boards, temporary signs and on website. A good social media presence helps.  Notice boards are perhaps a little tired but this is addressed in the Management Plan under the Bromley Marketing Strategy.	Keep marketing under review, as increased interest in and use of site can create challenges that require information being passed to users to explain, protect and improve heritage, landscape and ecological features
<b>Management</b>		

#### **Additional Comments**

The site staff and volunteers are fortunate in that they have a robust management plan that sets out practical and realistic actions to protect its rich heritage, landscape and ecological qualities. It is clear site staff and the volunteer base are highly skilled, motivated and committed and have a sound attitude to what they do; they should be commended on this.