### Appendix A10 - iDverde statement on park users and staff:

**Park users**The safety of both park users and our staff is of the utmost importance. By having local teams of people who work the same areas - the public get to know and talk to the grounds staff. Being part of the community in which we operate, not only helps us understand the needs of users, and what concerns them , but the public seeing a friendly face in uniform makes the them feel confident in using the park because they have someone to share and report issues to.

For information on the Health and safety policies, please refer to Section Three of the Grounds Maintenance Specification and the Risk Assessment, Method Statement and COSHH folders available in each yard / office.

Park and green spaces are for everyone to use, whether to work, rest or play. Being aware of other people in the park and respecting each others wants and needs, is not only something we communicate to employees, it something we expect from all park users. Each green space is governed by bylaws that define what is permitted in a park or green space. The borough’s park bylaws can be found <http://www.bromley.gov.uk/downloads/file/760/by-laws_for_pleasure_grounds>

As in most communities, the majority of dog owners are responsible and that is reflected in the level of incidents that have to be dealt with. Responsible dog ownership and the consequences of the lack of training, (ie being let into a play area or fouling) is recognised as an ongoing issue and addressed by the authority with campaigns such as *Be a responsible dog owner* and where the situation warrants, intervention by the Borough security team, Ward Security who have the ability to issue Fixed Penalty Notices. <http://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/200089/street_care_and_cleaning/242/responsible_dog_ownership>

As the management agent for the Council, working with other contractors and agencies *i*dverde do their best to ensure everyone is able to use the green space as they desire.

Every day the park as a whole is inspected, but particular care is taken in the play area with equipment being visually checked. Any issues, depending on the nature and severity are dealt with by the person(s) present, reported by phone to a reactive infrastructure team or to the playground equipment contractor via the parks management system.

Each year a survey of the all the infrastructure is done, including: bins, benches, play equipment, fencing, and paths.

**Our staff**
*i*dverde prides itself on providing a safe and healthy environment for all of its employees, visitors, contractors and members of the public. All staff are adequately trained and competent for their role.

Staff receive health and safety training as part of their induction together with task specific training. A training matrix is in place and is used to track skills levels and provide gap analysis within the contract.

All staff are provided with Personal Protective Equipment and instruction on its proper use. Health and safety awareness is further supported through regular Toolbox Talks, Risk Assessments, Method Statements and Control of Substances Hazardous to Health sheets.

Matters relating to health and safety are discussed at regular meetings at which minutes are taken and any concerns are raised by employees at these meetings …

Incidents and near misses are, in the first instance recorded in the Near Miss Record Pad which are available from depots / yards and offices. The information is used to make adjustments to procedures, and inform where repairs are required – part of the drive to constantly improve, making both work environments and park as safe as they can be.

Whenever The Friends of Bromley town Parks work in any of the town centre parks, they will follow health and safety guidelines and are covered with insurance through the Friends forum.

[**http://www.bromleyfriendsforum.org/**](http://www.bromleyfriendsforum.org/)

### Appendix A11 – Idverde’s Sustainability policy

It is now expected that everything should be done to minimise the environmental impact of business, this is particularly pertinent to the grounds maintenance industry. *i*dverde should be setting an example to others.

When the contract was let, the Council challenged the company to achieve ambitious year on year reductions to the amount of green waste going to land fill. Today 100 per cent of the green waste *i*dverde generate is reused or recycled.

Green waste is collected from site and then taken for processing at the Beaverwood yard, (in Chislehurst). After processing the screened and filtered material it is taken to be further processed and then sold as a soil enhancer.

Peat is not knowingly added to the site. Conditioning is achieved through labour and reusing of green waste material. Small amounts of peat may be added inadvertently to the site when new planting is installed in shrub beds. Bedding plants are peat free.

The tree stock in parks and green spaces is monitored on a rolling three year program and routinely inspected for signs of weakness and/or disease. The local authority’s in house arboricultural team, uses a dying, dead and/or dangerous criteria under which trees work is considered and prioritised. Any works required will be done by their contractor, Gristwood & Toms.

Like many parks, opportunities to install new beds are few and far between. That being said, we are fortunate in the Borough to have an active business community and Friends groups who wish to ‘*put something back’*.

Bi- monthly meetings with the Bromley Town Centre Friends group enable *i*dverde to assess the needs of the community and update or improve facilities where necessary.

*i*dverde is responsible for ensuring no material damage is done by the application of pesticides. All herbicides, fungicides, insecticides or other pesticides used shall have been approved by the Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) and used in ways which conform to all statutory regulations. Pesticides are used for and applied as prescribed by the UK Pesticides Guide www.cabi.org Records are kept where pesticides / herbicides are applied. (available on request)

### A12.Idverde’s Foreword & Introduction

**We are delighted to be expanding the Green Flag family and having approval to enter three new sites on behalf of the London Borough of Bromley.**

**The partnerships between *i*dverde, the authority’s contractor, the Council and the local community have had a demonstrable impact on the quality of the Borough’s parks, countryside and green spaces. Green Flag accreditation will further affirm that belief and give significant public recognition to the improvements made.**

**By obtaining Green Flag status we are able to demonstrate to the wider community the effort put in and the pride taken by all of the park’s stakeholders in making a difference to the environment, health and wellbeing of local people; and the prosperity of our park.**

#### Introduction

The London Borough of Bromley is the largest geographic borough in London with almost 160 publicly accessible open spaces, with nearly 50% of those having custodians in the form for Friends groups and other interested organisations. *i*dverde are committed to produce strategic management and yearly action plan(s) for each of the boroughs green spaces.

The aim of this management plan is to demonstrate how *i*dverde, in conjunction with stakeholders will implement the management and action plan(s).

*Aims and objectives*

* *i*dverde aim to create vibrant landscape and empowered communities
* *i*dverde encourage strong, inclusive and connected communities
* *i*dverde will deliver attractive, biodiverse and sustainable parks, green spaces and countryside
* *i*dverde strive to provide quality services and value for money

Good quality, well-designed parks and greenspaces make a critical contribution to our neighbourhoods, towns and cities and to people’s quality of life and play an important role in creating a sense of place. It is vital such environments are fit-for-purpose: clean, safe, attractive and well-maintained.

The benefits of safe and accessible parks and open spaces can be summarised as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Social** * providing safe outdoor areas that are available to all members of the local population.
* creating opportunities for community events, voluntary activities and charitable fund raising.
* enabling easily accessible recreation as an alternative to other more chargeable leisure pursuits.
* championing opportunities to improve health and take part in a range of outdoor sports and activities.
* securing an educational resource or outdoor classroom.
 | **Environmental** * building habitats for wildlife as an aid to local biodiversity.
* seeking to stabilise urban temperatures and humidity.
* absorbing pollutants in the air and ground water.
* granting opportunities for the recycling of organic materials.
* considering opportunities to reduce transport use through the provision of local facilities.
* designing walking and cycling routes through urban areas
 | **Economic** * growing a positive environment for businesses to locate and develop.
* adding value to surrounding property, both commercial and residential, thus increasing local tax revenues for public services.
* contributing to attracting visitors, including using the park as a venue for events.
* encouraging tourism into the area.
* helping to create an attractive local image.
* seeking to reduce social exclusion and its associated costs to society.
 |

A number of stakeholders were involved in the development of the plan, including the following:

* Bromley Biodiversity Partnership;
* Parks Greenspace and Countryside Panel (Stakeholder Engagement Forum);
* Bromley Friends Forum;
* The Friends of Bromley Parks.

**Working document.**
When creating management plans *i*dverde takes the view that the document needs to be accessible and relevant to the day to day management of the site as well as fulfilling a strategic role. To that end larger documents and files have been referred to within, rather than included in full. Copies of documents and files are readily available to staff and can be made available to third parties on request.