

The Royal Borough of Greenwich is committed to making our Borough a place where people want to live, work, learn and visit. We are dedicated to ensuring that our public places are safe and welcoming environments that are enjoyed by visitors and residents alike.

In order to help look after our public spaces, the byelaws which govern 'pleasure grounds, parks and open spaces' in Royal Greenwich were reviewed. We have now drafted a new set of byelaws which will allow the Royal Borough to address a wider range of problems, and will also include some areas not previously covered.

As our public squares, parks and spaces are there to be used by the entire community, as well as the many millions of visitors we welcome each year, we want to get your views on the proposed updated byelaws.

Key changes within the new byelaws:

Increased number of spaces covered - It is proposed that the number of spaces that the updated byelaws cover is increased to take account of significant investment in and changes to public spaces across the Royal Borough in recent years. The new byelaws will also cover other spaces that serve the same purpose as traditionally acknowledged parks and open spaces, such as greens and playgrounds within housing estates.

New Byelaws - The draft byelaws propose the introduction of new byelaws to manage the potentially detrimental impact of such things as model cars, aircraft and boats; metal detectors; interference with life-saving equipment; and overnight parking. A new byelaw is also proposed to provide greater clarity and address concerns over nuisance busking and public performances.

In line with Royal Greenwich's commitments to help reduce smoking and promote physical activities for all ages, it is proposed that smoking in children's play areas is prohibited.

Significant Changes to Existing Laws - There are proposed changes to byelaws around activities such as skateboarding and ball games in public areas. These activities will be allowed in designated areas, away from inappropriate public spaces like General Gordon Square, Beresford square and Cutty Sark Gardens, where they have in the past caused concern and potential danger to others. Obviously, there are no restrictions on these activities in areas which continue to be unaffected by byelaws.

Cycling - The Royal Borough supports cycling as an important mode of transport and an excellent way to keep fit, active and enjoy the environment. Therefore, the areas in which cycling is permitted have been expanded. However, where it might otherwise be dangerous or a nuisance, such as in Cutty Sark Gardens and General Gordon Square, the bye-laws will seek to confine cycling to designated routes; creating safer environments for bike users and pedestrians alike.

The process for introducing byelaws:

The process for introducing the new byelaws involves two consultation stages, a public consultation and a statutory period of application for confirmation of the byelaws.

Public Consultation

At this stage we welcome your comments, questions and suggestions, so that they may have influence on the final proposed byelaws. These should be directed to **Paul Stephen, The Safer Communities Team, 4th Floor, The Woolwich Centre, 35 Wellington Street, London SE18 6HQ** or alternatively email: paul.stephen@royalgreenwich.gov.uk by **Monday 13th January 2014**.

Application for approval

Once all responses have been taken into account and any changes made, the statutory stage of formal application for confirmation will begin. This application will be made on **Tuesday 4th February 2014** and will run until **Wednesday 5th March 2014**. Any objections during this time should be made by letter addressed to: **Department for Communities and Local Government Byelaws Section, 3/J1 Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU** or by emailing byelaws@communities.gsi.gov.uk (no later than one week after the closing date for inspection) before the byelaws are confirmed.