

**THE LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**  
**BYELAWS FOR PLEASURE GROUNDS, PUBLIC WALKS**  
**AND OPEN SPACES**

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Byelaws made under section 15 of the Open Spaces Act 1906 and sections 12 and 15 of the Open Spaces Act 1906 by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets with respect to pleasure grounds, public walks and open spaces.

## **PART 1 GENERAL**

### **General Interpretation**

1. In these byelaws:

“the Council” means the London Borough of Tower Hamlets;

“the ground” means any of the grounds listed in the Schedule;

“designated area” means an area in the ground which is set aside for a specified purpose, that area and its purpose to be indicated by notices placed in a conspicuous position;

“invalid carriage” means a vehicle, whether mechanically propelled or not,

- (a) the unladen weight of which does not exceed 150 kilograms,
- (b) the width of which does not exceed 0.85 metres, and
- (c) which has been constructed or adapted for use for the carriage of a person suffering from a disability, and used solely by such a person.

### **Application**

2. These byelaws apply to all of the grounds listed in Schedule 1 unless otherwise stated.

### **Opening times**

3. (1) No person shall enter or remain in the ground except during opening hours.
- (2) “Opening hours” means the days and times during which the ground is open to the public and which are indicated by a notice placed in a conspicuous position at the entrance to the ground.
- (3) Byelaw 3(1) applies only to the grounds listed in Schedule 2.

## **PART 2**

### **PROTECTION OF THE GROUND, ITS WILDLIFE AND THE PUBLIC**

#### **Protection of structures and plants**

4. (1) No person shall without reasonable excuse remove from or displace within the ground:
  - (a) any barrier, post, seat or implement, or any part of a structure or ornament provided for use in the laying out or maintenance of the ground; or
  - (b) any stone, soil or turf or the whole or any part of any plant, shrub or tree.
- (2) No person shall walk on or ride, drive or station a horse or any vehicle over:
  - (a) any flower bed, shrub or plant;
  - (b) any ground in the course of preparation as a flower bed or for the growth of any tree, shrub or plant; or
  - (c) any part of the ground set aside by the Council for the renovation of turf or for other landscaping purposes and indicated by a notice conspicuously displayed.

#### **Unauthorised erection of structures**

5. No person shall without the consent of the Council erect any barrier, post, ride or swing, building or any other structure.

#### **Climbing**

6. No person shall without reasonable excuse climb any wall or fence in or enclosing the ground, or any tree, or any barrier, railing, post or other structure.

#### **Grazing**

7. No person shall without the consent of the Council turn out or permit any animal for which he is responsible to graze in the ground.

#### **Protection of wildlife**

8. No person shall kill, injure, take or disturb any animal, or engage in hunting or shooting or the setting of traps or the laying of snares.
  - (1) Feeding of wild life (e.g. pigeons, squirrels, rats) is prohibited unless with the expressed permission of the local authority, at which permission is given for feeding of ducks.

#### **Gates**

9. (1) No person shall leave open any gate to which this byelaw applies and which he has opened or caused to be opened.

- (2) Byelaw 9(1) applies to any gate to which is attached, or near to which is displayed, a conspicuous notice stating that leaving the gate open is prohibited.

### **Camping**

10. No person shall without the consent of the Council erect a tent or use a vehicle, caravan or any other structure for the purpose of camping except in a designated area for camping.

### **Fires**

11. (1) No person shall light a fire or place, throw or drop a lighted match or any other thing likely to cause a fire.
- (2) Byelaw 11(1) shall not apply to:
  - (a) the lighting of a fire at any event for which the Council has given permission that fires may be lit.
  - (b) The lighting or use, in such a manner as to safeguard against damage or danger to any person, of a properly constructed camping stove, in a designated area for camping, or of a properly constructed barbecue, in a designated area for barbecues.

### **Missiles**

12. No person shall throw or use any device to propel or discharge in the ground any object which is liable to cause injury to any other person.

### **Interference with life-saving equipment**

13. No person shall except in case of emergency remove from or displace within the ground or otherwise tamper with any life-saving appliance provided by the Council.

## **PART 3**

### **HORSES, CYCLES AND VEHICLES**

#### **Interpretation of Part 3**

14. In this Part:

“designated route” means a route in or through the ground which is set aside for a specified purpose, its route and that purpose to be indicated by notices placed in a conspicuous position;

“motor cycle” means a mechanically-propelled vehicle, not being an invalid carriage, with less than four wheels and the weight of which does not exceed 410 kilograms;

“motor vehicle” means any mechanically-propelled vehicle other than a motor cycle or an invalid carriage;

“trailer” means a vehicle drawn by a motor vehicle and includes a caravan.

#### **Horses**

15. (1) No person shall ride a horse except in the exercise of a lawful right or privilege.
- (2) Where horse-riding is permitted by virtue of a lawful right or privilege, no person shall ride a horse in such a manner as to cause danger to any other person.

#### **Cycling**

16. No person shall without reasonable excuse ride a cycle in the ground except in any part of the ground where there is a right of way for cycles or on a designated route for cycling, nor in such a way which may endanger the public.

#### **Motor vehicles**

17. (1) No person shall without reasonable excuse bring into or drive in the ground a motor cycle, motor vehicle or trailer except in any part of the ground where there is a right of way or a designated route for that class of vehicle.
- (2) Where there is a designated route for motor cycles, motor vehicles or trailers, it shall not be an offence under this byelaw to bring into or drive in the ground a vehicle of that class for the sole purpose of transporting it to the route.

#### **Overnight parking**

18. No person shall without the consent of the Council leave or cause or permit to be left any motor vehicle in the ground between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

### **PART 4**

#### **PLAY AREAS, GAMES AND SPORTS**

##### **Interpretation of Part 4**

19. In this Part:

“ball games” means any game involving throwing, catching, kicking, batting or running with any ball or other object designed for throwing and catching, but does not include cricket;

“self-propelled vehicle” means a vehicle other than a cycle, invalid carriage or pram which is propelled by the weight or force of one or more persons skating, sliding or riding on the vehicle or by one or more persons pulling or pushing the vehicle.

### **Children’s play apparatus**

20. No person aged over 11 years shall use any apparatus stated to be for the exclusive use of persons aged 11 years and under by a notice conspicuously displayed on or near the apparatus or entrance(s) of the parks and open spaces.

### **Skateboarding, etc**

21. No person shall skate, slide or ride on rollers, skateboards or other self-propelled vehicles in such a manner as to cause danger or give reasonable grounds for annoyance to other persons.

### **Ball games**

22. No person shall play ball games outside a designated area for playing ball games in such a manner:
- (a) as to exclude persons not playing ball games from use of that part;
  - (b) as to cause danger or give reasonable grounds for annoyance to any other person in the ground; or
  - (c) which is likely to cause damage to any tree, shrub or plant in the ground.
23. It is an offence for any person using a designated area for playing ball games to break any of the rules set out in Schedule 3 and conspicuously displayed on a sign in the designated area when asked by any person to desist from breaking those rules.

### **Cricket**

24. No person shall throw or strike a cricket ball with a bat except in a designated area for playing cricket.

### **Archery**

25. No person shall engage in the sport of archery except in connection with an event organised by or held with the consent of the Council.

### **Field sports**

26. No person shall throw or put any javelin, hammer, discus or shot except in connection with an event organised by or held with the consent of the Council or on land set aside by the Council for that purpose.

### **Golf**

27. No person shall drive, chip or pitch a hard golf ball.



**PART 5**  
**WATERWAYS**

**Interpretation of Part 5**

28. In this Part:

“boat” means any yacht, motor boat or similar craft but not a model or toy boat;

“power-driven” means driven by the combustion of petrol vapour or other combustible substances;

“waterway” means any river, lake, pool or other body of water and includes any fountain.

**Bathing**

29. No person shall without reasonable excuse bathe or swim in any waterway except in a designated area for bathing and swimming.

**Ice skating**

30. No person shall step onto or otherwise place their weight upon any frozen waterway.

**Model boats**

31. No person shall operate a power-driven model boat on any waterway except in a designated area for model boats.

**Boats**

32. No person shall sail or operate any boat, dinghy, canoe, sailboard or inflatable on any waterway without the consent of the Council except in a designated area for the sailing or operation of boats.

**Fishing**

33. No person shall in any waterway cast a net or line for the purpose of catching fish or other animals except in a designated area for fishing and with prior consent of the Council and in accordance with the rules governing such consent.

**Blocking of watercourses**

34. No person shall cause or permit the flow of any drain or watercourse in the ground to be obstructed, diverted, open or shut or otherwise move or operate any sluice or similar apparatus.

## **PART 6**

### **MODEL AIRCRAFT**

#### **Interpretation of Part 6**

35. In this Part:

“model aircraft” means an aircraft which weighs not more than 7 kilograms without its fuel;

“power-driven” means driven by:

- (a) the combustion of petrol vapour or other combustible substances;
- (b) jet propulsion or by means of a rocket, other than by means of a small reaction motor powered by a solid fuel pellet not exceeding 2.54 centimetres in length; or
- (c) one or more electric motors or by compressed gas.

“radio control” means control by a radio signal from a wireless transmitter or similar device.

#### **General prohibition**

36. No person shall cause any power-driven model aircraft to:

- (a) take off or otherwise be released for flight or control the flight of such an aircraft in the ground; or
- (b) land in the ground without reasonable excuse.

## **PART 7**

### **OTHER REGULATED ACTIVITIES**

#### **Provision of services**

37. No person shall without the consent of the Council provide or offer to provide any service for which a charge is made.

#### **Excessive noise**

38. (1) No person shall, after being requested to desist by any other person in the ground, make or permit to be made any noise which is so loud or so

continuous or repeated as to give reasonable cause for annoyance to other persons in the ground by:

- (a) shouting or singing;
  - (b) playing on a musical instrument; or
  - (c) by operating or permitting to be operated any radio, amplifier, tape recorder or similar device.
- (2) Byelaw 38(1) does not apply to any person holding or taking part in any entertainment held with the consent of the Council.

#### **Public shows and performances**

39. No person shall without the consent of the Council hold or take part in any public show or performance.

#### **Aircraft, hang gliders and hot air balloons**

40. No person shall except in case of emergency or with the consent of the Council take off from or land in the ground in an aircraft, helicopter, hang glider or hot air balloon.

#### **Kites**

41. No person shall fly any kite in such a manner as to cause danger or give reasonable grounds for annoyance to any other person.

#### **Metal detectors**

42. No person shall without the consent of the Council use any device designed or adapted for detecting or locating any metal or mineral in the ground.

## **PART 8**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Obstruction**

43. No person shall obstruct:
- (a) any officer of the Council in the proper execution of his duties;
  - (b) any person carrying out an act which is necessary to the proper execution of any contract with the Council; or
  - (c) any other person in the proper use of the ground.

### **Savings**

44. (1) It shall not be an offence under these byelaws for an officer of the Council or any person acting in accordance with a contract with the Council to do anything necessary to the proper execution of his duty.
- (2) Nothing in or done under these byelaws shall in any respect prejudice or injuriously affect any public right of way through the ground, or the rights of any person acting lawfully by virtue of some estate, right or interest in, over or affecting the ground or any part of the ground.

### **Removal of offenders**

45. Any person offending against any of these byelaws may be removed from the ground by an officer of the Council or a constable.

### **Penalty**

46. Any person offending against any of these byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

### **Revocation**

47. The Byelaws made by the Greater London Council on 1 November 1932 (in operation as from and including 1 April 1933) and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Office on 20 March 1933, 15 June 1936, 6 May 1938, 12 February and 16 July 1952, 18 March and 17 April 1953, 13 September and 29 December 1954, and 9 June and 29 November 1955 relating to the following grounds are hereby revoked:

Bartlet Park (12 September 1961) (now known as Bartlett Park)  
Bethnal Green Gardens  
Grove Hall Park  
Ion Square (11 May 1964)  
Island Gardens  
King Edward Memorial Park  
King George's Fields (a part of what is now known as Mile End Park)  
Langdon Park (12 July 1963)  
Limehouse Churchyard (now known as St Anne's Churchyard)  
Meath Gardens  
Millwall Recreation Ground (e) renamed Millwall Park (16 December 1952)  
Rope Walk Gardens (2 September 1960)  
Shandy Park (14 December 1959)  
Stepney Green (23 May 1963)  
Stepney Churchyard (now known as St. Dunstan's Churchyard)  
Victoria Park  
Wapping Recreation Ground (h) renamed Wapping Gardens (16 December 1952)  
Weaver's Fields (12 July 1963)

# SCHEDULES

## SCHEDULE 1

### GROUNDS TO WHICH BYELAWS APPLY

The grounds referred to in byelaw 2 are:

Aberfeldy Millennium Green
Ackroyd Drive Open Space
Albert Gardens
All Saints Churchyard
Allen Gardens
Altab Ali Park
Alton Street Open Space
Approach Road/Old Ford Road Open Space
Arbour Square
Archibald Public Open Space
Bartlett Park
Baxendale Street Gardens
Beaumont Square Gardens
Belgrave Street Open Space
Bethnal Green Gardens
Bonner Hall Gate
Boundary Gardens
Braithwaite
Bromley Recreation Ground
Brussels Wharf Slipway
Canrobert Street Open Space
Cantrell Road Open Space
Carlton Square and Gardens
Carron and Continental Wharf
Castor Lane / Poplar High Street
Cavell Street Gardens
Chicksand Street Open Space (Chicksand Ghat)
Christchurch Gardens
Cotton Street / Bazely Street
Devons Road Ambulance Station - Grass Verge
Dockers Tanner Road Open Space
Fern Street Open Space
Ford Square
Furze Green

Glamis Adventure Playground
Globe Road Open Space
Gosling Gardens
Great Eastern Slipway
Grove Hall Park
Hellings Street
Hermitage Basin
Ion Square Gardens
Island Gardens
Jesus Green
Johnson's Drawdock
Jolly's Green
King Edward Memorial Park
Kings Wharf
Langdon Park
Leven Road Open Space
London Yard
Mallon Gardens
Marsh Wall / East Ferry Road
Mast House Terrace Play Area
Meath Gardens
Mellish Street Open Space
Mercers Burial Ground
Middleton Green
Mile End Park
Millwall Outer Dock
Millwall Park
Mudchute Park and Farm
Museum Gardens
Paradise Gardens
Pennyfields Open Space
Pollard Square
Poplar High Street / Preston's Road
Poplar Parkway
Poplar Recreation Ground
Prospect Park
Raines Mansions
Ravenscroft Park
Rectory Gardens
Rhoda Street Open Space
Ropemakers Fields

Ropewalk Gardens
Rounton Road Open Space
Royal Mint Square
Schoolhouse Lane Open Space (Schoolhouse Kickabout Area)
Selwyn Green
Shacklewell Street Playground (Shacklewell Street Ball Games Area and 1 O'Clock Club)
Shadwell Basin
Shadwell Upper Lock
Shandy Park
Sidney Square Gardens
Silvocea Wharf
Sir John McDougal Gardens
Spitalfields Farm
St Anne's Churchyard (Limehouse Churchyard)
St Bartholomew's Gardens
St Dunstan's Churchyard
St George's in the East
St James' Gardens
St Johns Gardens (St John's Churchyard)
St John's Park
St Mary's Churchyard (Bow Churchyard)
St Matthew's Church Gardens
St Matthias Church Garden
Stepney City Farm
Stepney Clock Tower
Stepney Green Gardens
Stepney Green Park
Stonebridge Wharf
Stoneyard Lane Open Space
Swedenborg Gardens
The Greenway
The Oval
Three Colt Street / Mitre Site
Three Mill Lane Walkway
Tobacco Dock
Tower Hamlets Cemetery
Trafalgar Gardens
Tredegar Square
Trinity Gardens
Trinity Square Gardens

Twelvetrees Crescent
Vallance Road Gardens
Vaughan Way Open Space
Victoria Park
Virginia Gardens
Wapping Gardens
Wapping Green
Wapping Rose Gardens
Wapping Wood Canal
Wapping Woods
Warner Green Open Space
Waterside Gardens
Watney Street Open Space
Weavers Fields
Western Dock Canal
West India Dock Road Open Space
White Horse Lane Open Space
White Horse Road Park
Wyvis Street Open Space
York Square Gardens



**SCHEDULE 2**  
**GROUNDS REFERRED TO IN CERTAIN BYELAWS**  
 OPENING TIMES (BYELAW 3(1))

The grounds referred to in byelaw 3(1) are:

Albert Gardens
All Saints Churchyard
Arbour Square Gardens
Beaumont Square Gardens
Bethnal Green Gardens
Carlton Square Garden
Cavell Street Gardens
Ford Square
Grove Hall Park
King Edward Memorial Park
Mast House Terrace Play Area
Museum Gardens
Paradise Gardens
Poplar Recreation Ground
Prospect Park
Selwyn Green
Sidney Square Gardens
St Anne's Churchyard (Limehouse Churchyard)
St Bartholomew's Gardens
St George's in the East
St Mary's Churchyard (Bow Churchyard)
St Matthew's Church Gardens
Stepney Green Gardens
Tower Hamlets Cemetery
Tredeggar Square
Trinity Gardens
Victoria Park
Wapping Gardens
Wapping Rose Gardens
Weavers Fields
York Square Gardens

Opening times are dawn until dusk.

### SCHEDULE 3

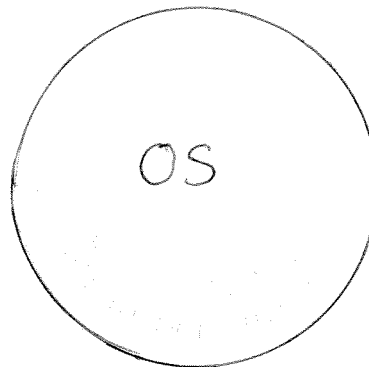
#### RULES FOR PLAYING BALL GAMES IN DESIGNATED AREAS (BYELAW 23)

Any person using a designated area for playing ball games is required by byelaw 23 to comply with the following rules:

- (1) No person shall play any game other than those ball games for which the designated area has been set aside.
- (2) No person shall obstruct any other person who is playing in accordance with these rules.
- (3) Where exclusive use of the designated area has been granted to a person or group of persons by the Council for a specified period, no other person shall play in that area during that period.
- (4) Subject to paragraph (5), where the designated area is already in use by any person, any other person wishing to play in that area must seek their permission to do so.
- (5) Except where they have been granted exclusive use of the designated area for more than two hours by the Council, any person using that area shall vacate it if they have played continuously for two hours or more and any other person wishes to use that area.
- (6) No person shall play in the designated area when a notice has been placed in a conspicuous position by the Council prohibiting play in that area.

The Common Seal of the Mayor and )  
Burgesses of the London Borough of )  
Tower Hamlets was hereunto affixed )  
By Order )

*J Bell*  
Head of Legal Services  
(Environment)



24/01/06