Between

- A. The London Borough of Bromley ('LBB')
- B. idverde as a fully integrated and commissioned service acting on behalf of LBB
- C. Friends Forum of Bromley Parks and Green Spaces ('Forum')

Statement

This is not intended to be a legally binding document. It is a statement of a shared understanding of how LBB, *i*dverde and the Forum will work in partnership. The operation of this Partnership Statement will be kept under review and changed as necessary by agreement. The Forum will publish this Partnership Statement on the Forum's website.







1. Partnership Meetings

Whilst the agenda should reflect the changing requirements of all parties – it will usually include an LBB update, an *i*dverde update and a Forum update. Additional items may be placed upon it by mutual agreement.

LBB's Role	<i>i</i> dverde's role	Forum's role
The Parks Borough Manager will attend these meetings.	The Contract Director for idverde will attend these meetings.	The Forum Committee members will attend partnership meetings.
Other pertinent LBB personnel (including the Assistant Director for the Environment) will attend these meetings on a needs basis.	Senior Managers for idverde, as and when available, will also attend these meetings. idverde, in conjunction	Pertinent Friends Group members may be invited to join the meetings with idverde and LBB's agreement.
The Portfolio Holder for the Environment and other Councillors may join the meetings, at their discretion.	with the Forum, will set the agenda for each meeting. idverde will take minutes of the meeting and will initially issue these to the Chair for comment (and will amend as necessary). They will then be	The Forum will inform the Friends Groups that a Partnership meeting is coming up and will invite them to provide an update on any projects being undertaken prior to the meeting.
	circulated to all attendees. idverde will aim to complete this process	The Forum, in conjunction with idverde, will agree the agenda for the meeting.
	within three weeks after the date of the meeting.	Meetings will normally be chaired by the Forum and a maximum of four meetings per annum will be arranged.
		All actions arising from the meeting and a time frame by which they should be completed will be agreed by all parties.
		Draft partnership minutes will be circulated to Friends Group members.
		Once the minutes are agreed, they are a public document and the Forum will publish them on the Forum website.
		Forum reserves the right to escalate matters where the meeting is unable to resolve an outstanding item of business.

2. Administration

from input by Friends

volunteers.

LBB's Role idverde's role Forum's role The LBB will allow the idverde staff will support The Forum will organise Forum to use the Civic the facilitation of meetings and facilitate all Members' Centre for Forum by providing access to IT, meetings and be Members' and General projector equipment, responsible for the meetings (and other display materials, stands payment of the meeting similar events, by accommodation costs (if etc. agreement) free of charge. any) and the idverde will facilitate the refreshments. The Forum shall be copying and distribution of entitled to use their own paperwork such as The Forum will book the portable PC (laptop) for meeting minutes, rooms/halls and their presentations in the agendas, and other equipment required for the Civic Centre unless associated documents. Forum AGM and all other arrangements have been Forum related meetings. Directors, Community made by LBB for their Managers and other key In the main these will be equipment to be used. staff will attend the AGM held at the Civic Centre. Suitable microphones, and any other Forum though alternative including wireless meetings, as required. locations will be handheld units, will be considered, as necessary. Directors and other made available by LBB for relevant key staff will give use at Forum meetings, if reports, talks, information required. etc., as required, at the Members of the request of the Forum. Environment team (including the Portfolio Holder) will be invited to attend the Forum AGM and be expected to provide feedback on the performance of the contract during the past year as seen by LBB. They will also be invited to contribute to a general question/answer session

3. Communications with Friends Groups / Publicity and Advertising

LBB's Role	idverde's role	Forum's role
LBB will send information directly to the Friends Forum regarding Council business, policy or any other information it deems important to impart to volunteers.	idverde will send information directly to the Friends Forum regarding idverde business, policy or any other information it deems important to impart to volunteers.	The Forum will strive to ensure that individual Friends Groups are aware of and understand the work of idverde across the parks and green spaces in the Borough.
LBB will lead on any communications with the Friends Forum which concern: - contractual issues affecting parks and	 idverde will lead on any communications with the Friends Forum which concern: strategic and operational issues affecting parks 	The Forum shall be the primary contact for Friends business and will lead on any direct communications with Friends Groups.
green spaces in the Borough, including special projects;	and green spaces in the Borough, including special projects;	The Forum will receive information from external/third parties and
 management and organisational changes in staff; 	management of individual sites;training organised by	will take a view on the merit of each. If appropriate, the Forum
volunteer events;press releases.	idverde;Corporate award events delivered by the Council;	will send these third party communications to Friends Groups.
	Corporate press releases;Events organised by BEECHE.	The Forum will inform idverde of any issues individual Friends Group's may experience as they arise.
	Provide and update information about park volunteers on idverde and/or the London Borough of Bromley websites.	The Forum will communicate with LBB in terms of an escalation exercise in the event idverde does not resolve issues in a timely manner.
	Provide the Forum with other promotional /information materials from partner organisations, as appropriate e.g. from	The Forum shall retain discretion on what it sends out and what it advertises to members.
	allotments, delegated sports management.	The Forum will communicate mainly via email and also through uploading information to the Forum's website.
		The Forum may publicise events held by Friends Groups at its discretion.

4 New Groups and Induction

LBB's Role	idverde's role	Forum's role
LBB encourage, through its publications the formation of new volunteer Groups. LBB will inform idverde of any potential new Friends Group and expect them (idverde) to take the lead on formalising that Group.	 idverde will: work closely with residents/community groups to formalise the Friends Group organise public meetings to formalise a membership and committee help with the preparation and adoption of a constitution for the group provide a dedicated Community Manager to work with the group who will attend committee meetings, and AGM's, as necessary provide support and guidance for events and fundraising inform Forum of the establishment of any new Friends Group. The dedicated Community Manager will attend and deliver work days as long as the Friends Group so desires. Once the Group is confident and competent it may decide to run some work sessions independently themselves. idverde will provide the agreed set of tools, H&S equipment and risk assessment instructions. 	The Forum will encourage and promote the formation of new groups advising idverde of any such new group and the aspirations of its volunteers. The Forum will welcome new Friends Groups into the fold and formerly complete a registration process. The Forum will attend meetings of new groups and to offer such assistance as it can to support them including making the new group aware of the toolkit and other pertinent material on the Forum website. The Forum will offer financial support to any new Group for incidental expenses. This could include items such as design work for a website or the cost of purchasing a domain name.

5 Friends Work Session and Events Insurance

6. Grounds Maintenance

LBB's Role	idverde's role	Forum's role
As a fully integrated and managed service LBB delegates full responsibility for all landscape maintenance issues to idverde.	idverde will meet with the representatives of any Friends Group, as required, to discuss the maintenance contract and any contractual issues.	If issues are raised with the Forum regarding grounds maintenance, it will raise these issues at the Partnership Meetings with idverde.
LBB sets the standards expected under its contractual arrangements with idverde and takes steps to ensure that idverde meets those standards. LBB will have the final say in any disputes arising over grounds maintenance.	idverde will work in partnership with Friends Groups to consider the production and adherence to site specific Management Plans. These will be regularly updated as necessary. Grounds maintenance will be supported by the dedicated Community Manager and other specialists, if site appropriate.	Forum will assist idverde in relaying information regarding the grounds maintenance contract and help, where possible, to bring a better understanding between Friends Groups and idverde.

7. Site Security

LBB's Role	<i>i</i> dverde's role	Forum's role
LBB shall respond to any requests regarding security issues (including fly tipping and dangerous trees) at any Friends Group site and shall seek to resolve the matter promptly either directly or through idverde. LBB shall provide idverde with the reporting figures for any security issues that have arisen from its Park Security contractor around the Borough's parks and green spaces so these can be fully reported at the Partnership Meetings.	idverde will pass on to the Council's Head of Enforcement any request from Friends Groups to discuss the extent of security arrangements at their site. idverde, shall report on the number of security issues that have arisen around the Borough's parks and green spaces and in particular make Forum aware of any major incidents.	If issues are raised with the Forum by Friends Groups regarding security matters, the Forum will raise these with idverde to forward to LBB. Forum will assist LBB in relaying incidents back to Friends Groups and making them aware of potential areas of concern within their park / green space.

8. Training and Mentoring

LBB's Role idverde's role Forum's role LBB expects that all There are three basic The Forum will conduct a Friends Groups working or aspects to training: (a) regular review to try to holding Events on Council essential Friends Group ensure that training is owned land are H&S training that idverde meeting the needs of Friends Groups. adequately trained, will be required to provide whether this is through the (b) Forum instigated The outcome of the review provision of on-site courses which will be will be communicated to manual learning or provided free of charge (5 idverde and together a classroom based training. max per annum) and (c) training programme for the chargeable courses which All training related year ahead organised. will be available to decisions are deferred to All Forum instigated members of the general idverde and the Forum. courses will be advertised public. to its membership and With regard (a) idverde will places allocated on a first prepare and run a training come first basis, with the schedule for Friends proviso that no one Group Groups. All new and monopolises the existing Groups must attendance. attend regular H&S and other essential necessary The Forum will endeavour to support new groups training to ensure through mentoring using volunteers are competent the website, the toolkit in delivering work tasks and individual contacts. and Events, if appropriate. These are subject to The Forum will, where it idverde's agreement and can, give help to Friends supervision. Groups on specific issues With regard (b) the where it knows of courses that idverde will someone with specialist knowledge who could provide will be agreed with help. Forum. This programme of courses may include other The Forum is not third party providers. expected to offer any idverde will determine the training directly but it will number of places endeavour to support available and have prior idverde fully by funding notification two weeks in and/or delivering relevant advance of the course. training i.e. securing a With regard (c) idverde will grant, utilising the Forum inform Forum of all training funding, or recommending courses and provide the an individual to host a means whereby Forum training session pro bono. can advertise these to its membership. These will be fully planned and managed by idverde and publicised on its Bromlev Parks website.

9. Biodiversity/Countryside Matters

LBB's Role	<i>i</i> dverde's role	Forum's role
Should LBB be made aware of any new or pending legislation concerning biodiversity matters (e.g. climate	As providers of a fully integrated and managed service, on behalf of the Council, idverde has a duty to protect and uphold	The Forum will support idverde in the fulfilment of the protection of Bromley's biodiversity.
change targets) they will immediately inform both idverde and the Forum.	all matters related to biodiversity and landscape management.	The Forum will aid communication between idverde and Friends Groups working on sites
Equally any new or changed designations of Council owned land must	idverde has a statutory obligation to ensure Sites of Special Scientific	with local or national designations. The Forum will share
be made known to all affected parties. LBB will notify idverde and	Interest (SSSIs), Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and	information from external groups/ London-wide groups to promote bio-
Forum of any planning applications that directly affects the biodiversity of a park or green space, especially where a Friends	Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAMs) sites are managed appropriately.	diversity issues. The Forum will encourage Friends Groups to share their expertise on
Group is in operation.	idverde will write formally to Friends Groups	biodiversity.
All biodiversity related decisions will be deferred to idverde and the Forum.	immediately making them aware of any changes to existing site designations, including alterations or additions. A similar approach will be adopted when management plans are updated/created.	
	idverde will support Friends Groups on biodiversity issues.	
	idverde will provide training where possible. Training may be informal such as staff-led work days.	
	idverde will advise Friends Groups on the legal issues surrounding protected species on their sites.	

10. Fundraising

LBB's Role

LBB will oversee and monitor the fundraising activity in their parks and green spaces and endeavour to ensure this is meeting targets.

Where there is a shortfall they will undertake a review and see what measures can be taken to address the situation.

These targets and any reviews to be communicated to Forum, particularly in instances where activity relates to parks and open spaces where Friends Groups operate.

idverde's role

idverde will prepare an annual Fundraising Plan for the Council which identifies all projects requiring external funding across the Borough's parks and green spaces.

This will be periodically updated as and when new projects are identified through the completion of project proposal forms by Friends Groups.

idverde will respond in a timely way to the identification of project proposals from Friends Groups which require external funding to be secured.

idverde will work in partnership with the Friends Group to develop strong business cases and to ensure all relevant permissions are obtained for physical improvements and events activities.

idverde will support and mentor Friends Groups at every stage of the fundraising process.

idverde will provide fundraising training for Friends Groups on a periodic basis.

idverde will promote suitable fundraising opportunities and best practice.

Forum's role

Forum will work with idverde to develop and enhance a set of procedures for Friends Groups to fundraise. These will cover both big and small projects and the level of complexity should be commensurate with the type of project being proposed. Typically projects costing under £3k will have a simplistic approach.

Forum will encourage Friends Groups to identify and prioritise projects requiring external funding for inclusion on the annual Fundraising Plan.

The Forum has the capacity to make fundraising applications directly if there is a good rationale for this, but will advise idverde accordingly prior to any submission.

The Forum will support idverde and Friends Groups in any reasonable way regarding fundraising applications.

The Forum will offer small grants to its Member Groups, following completion of a publicised application process. The Forum Committee will review all applications and approval will be granted on a majority vote. The nature and number of grants offered per annum is at the discretion of the Forum Committee and subject to the level of Forum funds available.

11. Financial Support

LBB's Role	idverde's role	Forum's role
LBB will ensure that, within the contract with idverde, provision is maintained for Forum to receive an annual grant that allows the Forum to perform its role in supporting Friends Groups. The amount of the grant will be reviewed from time to time following production by Forum of a budget forecast for the following year.	idverde, subject to agreement and funding from the Council, will provide the Forum with an annual grant from the contract monies; subject to the provision, by Forum, of annual accounts that demonstrate both past and future expenditure at commensurate levels. The Forum grant is an agreed amount between idverde and LBB per annum within the idverde contract sum.	The Forum will work with LBB to produce and agree a financial spend each year. The Forum will provide LBB and idverde with end of year accounts that have been checked by an approved examiner. The Forum will provide LBB and idverde with a budget forecast for the year ahead. The Forum manages a bank account and any expenditure from the account will require the signatures of two authorised officers of the Forum. The Forum will be responsible for all decisions in respect of the grant and is independent of LBB and idverde in the spending decisions it makes.

12. Links with the Community

LBB's Role	<i>i</i> dverde's role	Forum's role
LBB will keep Forum informed of other known volunteering groups within the Borough and arrange to share local and pertinent knowledge where appropriate.	idverde will keep Forum informed of volunteering groups that they work with and where appropriate share like minded information.	The Forum will share with its Friends Groups any information and /or knowledge received about other volunteering groups and/or third party providers that is deemed beneficial to the membership.

13. Meetings of the Forum

LBB's Role	idverde's role	Forum's role
LBB will be expected to send at least one representative to any General Meeting of the Forum to which they are invited.	idverde will co-ordinate the attendance of its representatives at any General Meeting of the Forum to which they are invited.	The Forum will host an AGM for its membership each year to which both LBB and idverde will be invited to attend and/or participate.
LBB will also be invited to contribute to a general question/answer session at Forum's AGM.	idverde will be expected to present an update at Forum's AGM. Managers are available to assist with Forum business outside of formal meetings.	Other General Meetings will be hosted on a needs basis to which both LBB and idverde will be invited to attend. The Forum will also host up to a maximum of six Members' Meetings per annum. At the discretion of the membership a representative from LBB and/or idverde may be invited, as a guest contributor, to attend.

14. Other Formal Meetings

LBB's Role	idverde's role	Forum's role
LBB will chair and minute the Stakeholder Panel Meeting. A maximum of two such meetings will be held in any one year.	idverde will co-ordinate the attendance of its representatives at the Stakeholder Panel Meetings.	The Forum will be part of the Stakeholder Panel and a member of the Forum committee may attend those meetings.
LBB will provide interim update reports between	<i>i</i> dverde will present an update at these meetings.	Forum will present an update at these meetings.
these meetings. LBB will be expected to send at least one representative to the Biodiversity Partnership Meeting.	idverde will organise and minute the Biodiversity Partnership meeting. A maximum of three meetings will be held in any one year.	The Forum will be part of the Biodiversity Partnership and up to two members of the Forum committee may attend those meetings.
This type of meeting has a roving chair and LBB will occupy this role if elected to do so.	idverde will not be required to chair a Biodiversity Partnership Meeting.	The Forum will chair the Biodiversity Partnership Meeting when elected to do so.

15. Health and Safety Matters

LBB's Role	<i>i</i> dverde's role	Forum's role
LBB have overall responsibility for Health and Safety matters in their parks and green spaces.	idverde will provide Friends Group with an upto-date Health & Safety handbook. This will	The Forum will promote and influence health and safety best practice to Friends Groups.
Through their appointed contractors they will ensure appropriate action is taken once problems	include information, advice and guidance in relation to all Health and Safety matters.	The Forum will ensure all active members have received <i>i</i> dverde's Health & Safety handbook.
are highlighted.	idverde will help Friends Groups establish health and safety standards, risk assessments and any other related documents	The Forum will be responsible for delivering emergency first aid courses to its members.
	they might need. idverde will ensure that if Friends Groups wish to work unsupervised they	The Forum will inform idverde if any Friends Groups advise them that they are in need of health
	have the necessary competency in both Health & Safety and Emergency First Aid matters.	and safety information, guidance, advice or training or if the Forum becomes aware of this in any way.
	In order to meet the above, idverde will provide any necessary training to ensure safe working practices are adhered to.	The Forum will immediately advise idverde if they believe there are unsafe practices occurring on Council
	idverde will lead by example and instil a good health and safety culture	owned land (either by staff, volunteers, third parties or the public).
	through Bromley's parks, countryside and green spaces.	The Forum will immediately advise Friends Groups to cease activity if they believe unsafe practices are occurring within individual Friends Groups and raise the issue with idverde as soon as possible.

16. Neighbourhood / Community Management

LBB's Role	idverde's role	Forum's role
LBB's Neighbourhood Management Team will act as the first point of contact between idverde	idverde's Community Managers will act as the first point of contact for any Friends Group.	The Forum shall act as a point of contact (if requested) if any issues arise concerning the role of idverde's Community Managers and/or Team Leaders.
and Forum. The Neighbourhood Managers will monitor idverde's performance. Arboricultural Officers and Enforcement Officers will	The Community Team Leaders and Community Managers will attend various Friends work days and offer assistance as appropriate.	
also have a role in overseeing work at parks and green spaces and will liaise with idverde and Forum with any issues raised in their area of expertise.	They will give information, advice and guidance to Friends Groups on running events in their parks and green spaces.	
	They will deal with certain minor repairs and improvement works, including small scale graffiti removal issues.	
	They will liaise with LBB staff with regard more significant issues including fly-tipping, vandalism and other criminal activity.	

17. Policy & Procedure

LBB's Role	<i>i</i> dverde's role	Forum's role
LBB will advise and consult with Forum of any contractual change which impacts on the delivery of the fully integrated managed service.	idverde will advise and consult the Forum of any policy or procedure which impacts on the delivery of the fully integrated managed service.	Forum will be given the opportunity to make representations regarding any relevant changes to policy which might affect their supporting role.
LBB will give Forum the opportunity to make representations regarding any plans or policy changes which will affect their supporting role.	idverde will give Forum the opportunity to make representations regarding any plans or policy changes which will affect their supporting role.	Forum will support, where possible, any new and relevant LBB/idverde policy or procedure. Forum expects to be consulted over any new policy or plan that specifically affects a Friends Group member.

18. Customer Relations Management

LBB's Role	idverde's role	Forum's role
LBB will be responsible for monitoring the activity of the Fix My Street (FMS) reporting tool and escalate matters where failures occur. LBB will provide Forum with an FMS progress update prior to each Partnership Meeting demonstrating performance against Service Level Agreements (SLA's).	idverde will provide the equivalent of one full time member of staff to deal exclusively with customer facing enquiries, complaints or recommendations. In addition that post will deal extensively with the Council's FMS online reporting system.	Forum will encourage its Friends Groups to use the FMS system to record issues and items of importance. This will aid accurate recording of on- site instances. Forum will invoke escalation procedures where an FMS is either outstanding for a long period of time or has not been actioned in a manner suited to the issue raised.

19. Sales and Marketing

LBB's Role	<i>i</i> dverde's role	Forum's role
LBB will maintain a number of parks related pages on its website and ensure these are kept up to date. They will increasingly refer to both idverde's Bromley Parks and the Forum's websites as the main source of information.	idverde will appoint a Manager who will oversee the advancement of the idverde Bromley Parks website. This will be developed to include detailed information on all Bromley's key parks, events across the borough as well as online booking facilities and other interactive matters. idverde will welcome input and feedback to its website and ensure appropriate updates and corrections are made in a timely manner.	The Forum will be invited to have relevant hyperlinks to both the idverde Bromley Parks website and the parks related pages of the LBB website. Forum will act as a central link in providing LBB/idverde with constructive comments and suggestions made by its members in regard the website, sales or marketing development.

20. Promotions and Events

LBB's Role	idverde's role	Forum's role
LBB will support, promote and advertise Friends Groups' Events, wherever possible. They will continue to	idverde will produce for the Council, an Events Policy document and will encourage a greater use (where appropriate) of Events and activities to	The Forum will support the proposed pro-active role of idverde and provide local views as to the appropriateness of Events and activities.
encourage Friends to host Events in their parks and will endeavour to attend on occasion.	increase the cultural offer available to residents and visitors.	The Forum will encourage individual Friends Groups to make beneficial use of
LBB will delegate to idverde the application process and management	Friends Groups will be asked to use the interactive facilities to book their events in the	their sites to promote themselves and the recreational, educational and cultural enrichment.
overview of all other external Events in parks and open spaces, that are not hosted by Friends Groups.	Borough's parks for which there will be a nil charge; where the income will be directly expended on the development,	The Forum, where advised, will advertise Friends Groups' events on its website.
	improvement or promotion of the park itself or the Friends Group.	Forum reserves the right to have a say in relation to the holding of third party Park Events, which might have an impact on a park or open space and its volunteering activities; mindful that individual Friends Groups are consulted as part of idverde's routine engagement and application process of
	idverde will support these, where requested during normal daytime hours – where resource permits.	
	idverde will advertise all park Events booked through their system on the Bromley Parks website.	
	idverde will be responsible for the application process of all park Events whether they are hosted by Friends Groups or not. They will also be responsible for setting charging fees, where applicable.	Park Events.
	idverde will keep Forum informed of any park Event that is not hosted by a Friends Group to ensure any issues are considered.	

FOOTNOTE

All parties will endeavour to uphold all of these statements, however, these will always be subject to the availability of existing resources.