

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

BYELAWS FOR PLEASURE GROUNDS, PUBLIC WALKS AND OPEN SPACES

ARRANGEMENT OF BYELAWS

PART [1]

GENERAL

1. General interpretation
2. Application
3. Opening times

PART [2]

PROTECTION OF THE GROUND, ITS WILDLIFE AND THE PUBLIC

4. Protection of structures and plants
5. Unauthorised erection of structures
6. Climbing
7. Grazing
8. Protection of wildlife
9. Gates
10. Camping
11. Fires
12. Missiles
13. Interference with life-saving equipment

PART [3]

HORSES, CYCLES AND VEHICLES

14. Interpretation of Part [3]
15. Horses
16. Cycling
17. Motor vehicles
18. Overnight parking

PART [4]

PLAY AREAS, GAMES AND SPORTS

19. Interpretation of Part [4]
20. Children's play areas
21. Children's play apparatus
22. Skateboarding, etc
23. Ball games
24. Ball games
25. Cricket
26. Archery
27. Field sports
28. Golf - Prohibited

PART [5]

WATERWAYS

29. Interpretation of Part [5]
30. Bathing
31. Ice skating
32. Model boats
33. Boats
34. Fishing
35. Blocking of watercourses

PART [6]

MODEL AIRCRAFT

- 36. Interpretation of Part [6]
- 37. Model aircraft - General prohibition

PART [7]

OTHER REGULATED ACTIVITIES

- 38. Provision of services
- 39. Excessive noise
- 40. Public shows, performances, political rallies and religious meetings
- 41. Aircraft, hang-gliders and hot air balloons
- 42. Kites
- 43. Metal detectors
- 44. Fundraising, and soliciting or gathering money

PART [8]

MISCELLANEOUS

- 45. Obstruction
- 46. Savings
- 47. Removal of offenders
- 48. Penalty
- 49. Revocation - General

SCHEDULE 1 - Grounds to which byelaws apply generally

SCHEDULE 2 - Grounds referred to in certain byelaws

SCHEDULE 3 - Rules for playing ball games in designated areas

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 /Schedule [1];

“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.
 - (a) 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 10(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, 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 on or in a carriage drawn by 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;

“golf course” means any area within the ground set aside for the purposes of playing golf and includes any golf driving range, golf practice area or putting course;

“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 areas

20. No person aged 14 years or over shall enter or remain in a designated area which is a children’s play area unless in charge of a child under the age of 14 years.

Children’s play apparatus

21. No person aged 14 years or over shall use any apparatus stated to be for the exclusive use of persons under the age of 14 years by a notice conspicuously displayed on or near the apparatus.

Skateboarding, etc

22. 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

23. 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.

24. 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

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

Archery

26. 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

27. 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

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

PART 5

WATERWAYS

Interpretation of Part [5]

29. 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

30. No person shall without reasonable excuse bathe or swim in any waterway.

Ice skating

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

Model boats

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

Boats

33. No person shall sail or operate any boat, dinghy, canoe, sailboard or inflatable on any waterway without the consent of the Council

Fishing

34. 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

35. 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

36. 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

37. 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

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

(1) Filming, video-recording, taking of photographs
No professionals (including students) are allowed to undertake filming, video-recording, taking of photographs without the consent of the Council.

Excessive noise

39. (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 39 does not apply to any person holding or taking part in any entertainment held with the consent of the Council.

Public shows, performances, political rallies and religious meetings

40. No person shall without the consent of the Council hold or take part in any public show, performance, political rallies or religious meetings.

Aircraft, hang gliders and hot air balloons

41. 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

42. 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

43. (1) 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.

Fundraising, and soliciting or gathering money

44. No person shall without the consent of the Council solicit or gather money for any cause whether or not such cause is charitable.

PART [8]

MISCELLANEOUS

Obstruction

45. 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

46. (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

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

Penalty

48. 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

49. The byelaws made by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets on *insert date* and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Office *insert date of confirmation* relating to the ground are hereby revoked.

SCHEDULES

This list is currently being verified against the Council's property records

SCHEDULE 1

GROUND TO WHICH BYELAWS APPLY

The grounds referred to in byelaw 2 are:

Abbott Road Gardens	Glamis Adventure Playground
Ackroyd Drive Open Space	Globe Road Open Space
Albert Gardens	Gosling Gardens
All Saints Church Yard	Great Eastern Slipway
Allen Gardens	Grove Hall Park
Allen Gardens Play Area	Hellings Street
Altab Ali Park	Ion Square Gardens
Alton Street Open Space	Island Gardens
Approach Road/Old Ford Road O. S.	Jesus Green
Arbour Square Gardens	Johnson's Drawdock
Archibald Open Space	Jolly's Green
Bartlett Park	King Edward Memorial Park
Baxendale Street Gardens	Kings Wharf
Beaumont Square Gardens	Langdon Park
Belgrave Open Space	Lenanton Steps
Bethnal Green Gardens	Leven Road Open Space
Bonner Hall Gate	Mallon Gardens
Boundary Gardens	Marsh Wall/East Ferry Road
Bow Churchyard	Mast House Terrace Playarea
Braithwaite	Meath Gardens
Bromley Recreation Ground	Mellish Street
Burdett Road Bus Terminus	Mercers Burial Ground
Canrobert Street Open Space	Middleton Green
Cantrell Road Open Space	Mile End Park
Carlton Square	Millwall Park
Carlton Square Gardens	Mudchute Farm
Cavell Street Gardens	Museum Gardens
Christchurch Gardens	Paradise Gardens
Cotton Street/Bazely Street	Pennyfields Open Space
Devons Road Ambulance Station - Grass Verge	Pollard Square
Dockers Tanner Road	Poplar High Street/Preston's Road
Fern Street Open Space	Poplar Parkway
Ford Square	Poplar Recreation Ground

Furze Green Open Space	Prospect Park
Raines Mansions	Stonebridge Wharf
Ravenscroft Park	Stoneyard Lane Open Space
Rectory Gardens	Swedenborg Gardens
Rope Walk Gardens	The Oval
Ropemakers Fields	Three Colt Street/Mitre Site
Rounton Road Open Space	Tower Hamlets Cemetery
Royal Mint Square	Trafalgar Gardens
Schoolhouse Kickabout Area	Tredegar Square
Selwyn Green	Trinity Gardens
Shacklewell Street 10'Clock Club	Trinity Square Gardens
Shacklewell Street Ball Games Area	Twelve Trees Crescent
Shandy Park	Vallance Road Gardens
Sidney Square Gardens	Vaughan Way Open Space
Sir John McDougal Gardens	Victoria Park
Spitalfields Farm	Virginia Gardens
St Annes Churchyard	Wapping Gardens
St Bartholomews Gardens	Wapping Green
St Dunstan's Churchyard	Wapping Rose Gardens
St George's in the East	Wapping Woods
St James Gardens	Warner Green Open Space
St Johns Churchyard	Waterside Gardens
St Johns Park	Weavers Fields
St Matthews Church Garden	West India Dock Road
St Matthias Church	White Horse Lane Open Space
Stepney Clock Tower	Whitehorse Road Park
Stepney Green Gardens	Wyvis Street Open Space
Stepney Green Park	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
Arbour Square Gardens
Bethnal Green Gardens
Carlton Square

Grove Hall Park
King Edward Memorial Park
Museum Gardens
Paradise Gardens
Poplar Recreation Ground
Tower Hamlets Cemetery
Tredegar Square
Trinity Square Gardens
Victoria Park
Wapping Gardens
Wapping Rose Gardens
York Square Gardens

Opening times are dawn until dusk.

SCHEDULE 3

RULES FOR PLAYING BALL GAMES IN DESIGNATED AREAS (BYELAW 24)

Any person using a designated area for playing ball games is required by byelaw 24 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.