

Parks Management & Development Plans

Supplementary Document - Tree Strategy 2021-2031, Action Plan: Objective 2 & 4.

Park/Greenspace: Anchorsholme Park



Contents

Parks Management & Development Plans	1
Contents	2
1.0 Introduction	3
2.0 Objectives.....	3
3.0 Open Space Assessment	4
4.0 Parks and Green Spaces	4
5.0 Friends of Groups and Volunteers	4
6.0 Parks Management Plans.....	5
7.0 Parks Development Plans.....	6
7.1 Parks Development Plans Schedule	7
8.0 Finance	13
8.1 Budgets and Funding.....	13
8.1 Friends of Groups.....	13
9.0 Appendices.....	14

1.0 Introduction

Anchorsholme Park is the third biggest Park in Blackpool reopened in July 2020 after been closed for six years to allow for the essential construction of £100 million drainage and pump network to help protect local beaches from pollution from sewage outfall pipes. The Park has a brand new Cafe, Play and Sports Zones as well as a large amphitheatre making it a very popular Park with residents and tourists alike especially with its own Tram stop direct to Blackpool and Fleetwood. The Park has full support of a number of local councillors, two sit on its Friends Central Committee and are active members. The Park has had a successful two years since it reopened culminating in one of the largest Jubilee events in 2022, combining Trams, Bands and Royal celebrations. It moves in to 2023 in a very strong position with weekly entertainment planned as well as continued investment in to its planting and sporting activities.

2.0 Objectives

The objectives of the plans is to further improve the parks and green spaces within Blackpool by aligning targets and criteria's with Green Flag Award, Green Flag Community Award and Green Heritage Site Accreditation where applicable. The Green Flag Award Scheme is a national standard for quality in green space management in England and Wales. In order to achieve the objective several criteria's are required depending on which parks are to be associated with one of the three types of awards. The criteria's are as follows:

		
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A Welcoming Place2. Healthy, Safe and Secure3. Well Maintained and Clean4. Environment Management5. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage6. Community Involvement7. Marketing and Communication8. Management		<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Condition of Historic Features2. Use and Enjoyment of Historic Features3. Maintaining Historic Character and Appearance

3.0 Open Space Assessment

The open space assessment was completed in April 2019 and its purpose was to assess the quantity, quality and accessibility of existing provision of open space in Blackpool. It was built on and updated existing studies, assessed future needs and aims to develop locally derived standards. Relevant to this document, the following types of open space have been assessed:

Parks and Gardens	Includes urban parks and formal gardens. Parks usually contain a variety of facilities, and may have one of more of the other types of open space within them
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	Includes country parks, nature reserves, publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, wetlands and wastelands.
Amenity Greenspace	Most commonly but not exclusively, found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.
Green Corridor	Green corridors including towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycle ways, rights of way and disused railway lines.
Provision for Children and Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction specifically designed as equipped play facilities.
Allotments and Community Gardens	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion
Outdoor Sports Facility	Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for sport and recreation.

4.0 Parks and Green Spaces

Anchorsholme Park is a unique Park on the Fylde Coast situated directly on the coastline, surrounded by the Sea on its western side and the tram tracks on its southern and eastern side. Its unique location generates unique coastal conditions meaning planting for nearly most of the park is restricted to Coastal species, with a small area near one of the eastern entrances enjoying some traditional planting schemes. Whilst a challenge it provides the opportunity to embrace all things coastal and work with nature to establish the Park as a hub of coastal trees and wild flowers. The Park has a Pond which is fed from water from the Park's Swale, rebranded as the African River Bed with over 30 multi stemmed *Cordyline australis* planted to create an exotic feel as the path alongside the river bed works its way around the Eastern side of the Park. The Western side of the Park has the main promenade entrance with a stone entrance with hundreds of sea thrifts connecting across to a biodiverse area of grasses. The centre of the Park contains the Parks Cafe, play zone, entertainment area and sports zone, allowing for the opportunity for everyone regardless of which entrance they use to cross by some kind of planted area to reach their intended destination if they are looking to play or eat.

5.0 Friends of Groups and Volunteers

The Friends Group was established in 2014 and currently has two Cllrs in its central committee with a strong community leader as its Chair. The Group is a community group currently applying for charity status. Under its central committee sits a number of sub groups including a Litter Picking Group, a Gardening Group and a Craft Group. It organises entertainment in the Park, sports coaching for young people as well as fund raising to buy new play equipment and plants for the Park.

It has an annual turnover of £22,000, 20 members and a Facebook Page with 1700 members.

6.0 Parks Management Plans

The parks management plan is to ensure that our parks are managed in accordance with best practice, horticultural, arboricultural and sward management standards, health and safety practices, park bylaws and retain the cultural or heritage value that they may have.

Blackpool Council's Parks and Green Open Spaces are maintained by Enveco North West environmental services, which is a local company created in 2019. Maintenance requirements and development projects are discussed with Enveco on a regular basis to ensure high standards and to allow maintenance considerations to be factored in for future works.

The following is a list of existing practices and standards currently in place:

- The park management plans provide clear guidance to Enveco on how the park is to be maintained, taking into account its features, topography, recreational use, play areas, sports facilities, trees and habitats. The map located at **Appendix 1** identifies the green features within the park and provides a basic list of maintenance requirements currently in place for sward management, shrub pruning and bowling greens etc., whilst taking into account the works required managing trees, if present, in accordance with the tree survey.
- The management of sports pitches will be in line with best practice and be maintain in line with the available budget.
- When considering habitats and biodiversity, an effective practice is to leave long grassed areas. In doing so, existing and dormant seed banks have a chance to flower allowing for a diverse mix of plants benefiting pollinators and local wildlife. Planting for amenity, which generally includes bedding plants, is also another way to increase biodiversity and therefore, our plant species is continually assessed to gain the best possible outcome. This also includes diversifying our tree species when carrying out tree planting projects, leaving deadwood within canopies (where possible) or deadwood piles. Many other practices to increase biodiversity will be factored in and will be based on the type of park as to what practices will add the most benefit.
- Memorial trees and benches will be placed in locations depending on suitability, the size and layout of the park or green space and these criteria will also provide a quantity on how many can be installed. Therefore, this will be unique to each park or green space.
- Works identified on an adhoc basis are assessed on an individual basis and can be further discussed at the friends of groups meeting. This may include additional maintenance requests, planting, bedding plants, path work, bins or/and benches etc.
- Play area equipment checks, these are assessed on a regular basis with a full inventory identified annually and in accordance with the standards set by The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). Enveco cordon off any defects identified on our parks with replacement parts ordered, if unfortunately, the equipment cannot be fixed, it would be removed. Then the Parks and Green Open Spaces Service will look to replace the item depending on budgets/funding availability.
- On occasions, contractors will attend parks and green spaces to carry out works or installations such as new play equipment, grey infrastructure, building renovation and deliveries etc. In order to ensure we comply with health and safety, the following documents are adhered to by Occupational Health and Safety and the Parks and Green Open Spaces Service (which can be provided upon request):
 - Managing Health and Safety in Construction
 - Control of Contractors
 - 5 Step Guide to Managing Contractors
 - Vehicle Access Policy
 - Health and Safety at Events
 - Play Area Installations

7.0 Parks Development Plans

As discussed previously, the criteria set within the Green Flag awards will be utilised in order to develop our parks or enhance their existing characteristics. Therefore, a summary is provided below to highlight our key aims within each Green Flag criteria:

A Welcoming Place	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To enhance the existing levels of horticulture, landscape and amenity value. 2. To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment, whilst enhancing the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity. 3. To ensure the safety of our user groups and staff working on site.
Healthy, Safe and Secure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment, whilst enhancing the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity. 2. To ensure the site management works comply with best practice and the relevant health and safety requirements, whilst ensuring our legal obligations. 3. To ensure the safety of our user groups and staff working on site. 4. To ensure all required surveys are in place to highlight safety issues.
Clean and Well Maintained	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations.
Sustainability	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure policies, procedures, management practices and operations are carried out in accordance with our sustainability aims and targets.
Conservation and Heritage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish clear locations of conservation and areas of biodiversity. 2. To protect what we already have and increase the biodiversity value of the site. 3. To investigate and action ways of protecting and conserving all features of cultural significance and heritage value.
Marketing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To actively promote the appropriate use of the park to all potential users. 2. To engage with our marketing coordinator, to look at new ways to promote the parks. 3. Promote events and community activities to promote the use of the park.
Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure policies, procedures, management practices and operations are carried out in accordance with our sustainability aims and targets. 2. To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations. 3. To engage with the local community, friends of groups, volunteers and third parties encouraging active participation in decision making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource.

7.1 Parks Development Plans Schedule

The table below is to help plan projects to benefit the park and achieve our aims and targets for Green Flags. This is to be completed with the friends of group and the Parks Development Service, in where a target year can be identified, a lead can be assigned and a cost estimated, which can be updated once it is known. Where applicable, the Parks Development Service has completed sections and these are items, which either fall in line with current policies or are known items, which will be discussed.

A Welcoming Place: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance the existing levels of horticulture, landscape and amenity value. To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment, whilst enhancing the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity. To ensure the safety of our user groups and staff working on site. 					
No.	Objective	Details	Year	Lead	Cost
1	Create welcoming entrances.	Create a welcoming Entrance at Little Bispham entrance to the Park with wildflower gardens and notice board as well as two flag poles to be installed to celebrate green flag status and national flag days & events	2022 - ongoing	Parks and Green Open Spaces Service and Friends of the Park	TBC
2	Development of Community Groups and uses at the Cafe	Increase use of community Groups using the Cafe creating a visitor location that supports the local community all year round.	2021-2022	Parks and Green Open Spaces Service, Friends of the Park and Catering	N/A
3	Development of Entertainment and Exhibition Offer in the Park with regular events as well as the continued investment in sports development & coaching for young people.	Creating an all year round entertainment offer, with an event on every weekend in the Park as well as free sports coaching in the evenings to young people.	2021 - ongoing	Friends of the Park and Active Blackpool	£5K per annum
4	Develop Pond Area	Invest in the Pond with wind powered water feature, additional bench &	2021-2026	Parks and Green Open Spaces Service	TBC

		Pond Info Board Resulting in a calm zone for contemplation			
5	Investigate and propose the introduction of a 7 & a quarter inch park railway in the Park to Parks and Green Open Spaces Service	Develop a business case for the introduction of a small tourist railway in the Park.	2032	Friends of the Park	Costs to be determined during business case development
Healthy, Safe and Secure: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment, whilst enhancing the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity. 2. To ensure the site management works comply with best practice and the relevant health and safety requirements, whilst ensuring our legal obligations. 3. To ensure the safety of our user groups and staff working on site. 4. To ensure all required surveys are in place to highlight safety issues. 					
No.	Objective	Details	Year	Lead	Cost
1	Ensure all play equipment is maintained in accordance with the inspection routine.	Enveco maintain our play equipment and isolate any irreparable items.	2021 and ongoing	Parks and Green Open Spaces Service and Enveco	In accordance with maintenance budgets
2	Replace irreparable play equipment alongside Installation of new equipment	Replacement ideas will be welcome, secure funding and quotes will be obtained.	2021 and ongoing	Parks and Green Open Spaces Service	TBC
3	Investment in existing Sports Zone	Rebuild of Basketball Court	2027	Parks and Green Open Spaces Service	TBC
4	Expansion of Sports Zone	Build of Cricket Net near the Sports Zone including safety Net	2026	Friends of the Park	TBC
5	Investment in Golf Zone	Development of Putting Green Gardens including investigation in to water pump & Portable Kiosk	2021-2025	Friends of the Park	TBC
Clean and Well Maintained: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations. 					
No.	Objective	Details	Year	Lead	Cost
1	Well maintained Coastal Gardens	Anchorsholme's unique position on the Blackpool Coast will be embraced by its coastal & exotic	2021 & ongoing	Friends of the Park alongside Enveco team	N/A

		gardens.			
2	Litter Free Park	Regular litter picking work by the Friends Group with the support of the Enveco team.	2021 & ongoing	Friends of the Park alongside Enveco team	N/A
3	Appropriate Signage	Signage should be appropriate and in the right places, for example "No Dog "Signs for play zone area, "Gate To Be Kept Closed At All Times".	2022 & ongoing	Public Protection	N/A
4	Well maintained toilets	The toilets both in the Cafe and for public use should be well maintained.	2022 & ongoing	Friends of the Park and DANFO	N/A

Sustainability:

1. To ensure policies, procedures, management practices and operations are carried out in accordance with our sustainability aims and targets.

No.	Objective	Details	Year	Lead	Cost
1	Continue awareness of sustainable and environmentally friendly products.	By engaging with suppliers and through corporate procurement.	2022 and ongoing	Parks and Green Open Spaces Service	N/A
2	Reduce the use of herbicides and pesticides.	Engage with Enveco on their practices and highlight new methods and practice.	2022 and ongoing	Parks Development Service and Enveco	TBC
3	Research Wind Power for the Park	Investigate Wind power to use to source the cafes electricity supply and be a pioneer for renewable energy production on the Fylde.	2025 & ongoing	Parks and Green Open Spaces Service	TBC
4	Park Ranger	Recruitment of a Park Ranger	2023 & ongoing	Parks and Green Open Spaces Service	N/A

Conservation and Heritage:

1. Establish clear locations of conservation and areas of biodiversity.
2. To protect what we already have and increase the biodiversity value of the site.
3. To investigate and action ways of protecting and conserving all features of cultural significance and heritage value.

No.	Objective	Details	Year	Lead	Cost
1	Implement Grass Cutting Management Plan.	See Appendix 1 for locations. Essential this includes all areas surrounding the Amphitheatre to encourage more people to gather and enjoy the heart of the Park.	2022 and ongoing	Parks and Green Open Spaces Service and Enveco	N/A
2	Creation of Wildflower areas in some of the uncut grasslands outside of the bio diversity areas)	See Appendix 1 for locations.	2023 and ongoing	Parks and Green Open Spaces Service	£500 per annum.
3	Promoting habitat creation.	Identify areas within the park and engage with the park Ranger to include education and nature trails.	2022	Parks and Green Open Spaces Service and Friends of Group	N/A
4	Continue to maintain tree planting, including memorial trees and record annual figure.	See Appendix 1 for locations.	2021 and ongoing	Parks and Green Open Spaces Service and Friends of Group	TBC
5	Coastal Path Development	Creating of Coastal Path plan, including Planting of Yuccas along the Coastal Path (facing the sea) using the same pattern as the trees in the River Bed to create variety, interest and natural shelters. Continue planting of thousands of Sea Thrift along the prom entrance and Install of Prom pathway feature to map parts of the coastline, from North Wales to the Lake District and install the Global Park Sign Post.	2023 and ongoing	Friends Group	TBC

Marketing: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To actively promote the appropriate use of the park to all potential users. 2. To engage with our marketing coordinator, to look at new ways to promote the parks. 3. Promote events and community activities to promote the use of the park. 					
No.	Objective	Details	Year	Lead	Cost
1	Reach out to non-Park users on Social Media Group chats	Continued Development of messaging on Social Media to reach out to non-users of the Park	2022 and ongoing	Friends of Group	N/A
2	Cafe Profile	Promotion of the Cafe and its offer as well as the community groups that use it.	2022 and ongoing	Friends of Group and Catering.	TBC
3	Partnerships	Volunteer recruitment strategy to be tied in to working with partners from Public Health to the Duke of Edinburgh scheme as well as direct adverts	2022 and ongoing	Parks and Green Open Spaces Service and Friends Group	N/A
4	Volunteer recruitment	Volunteer recruitment strategy to be tied in to working with partners from Public Health to the Duke of Edinburgh scheme as well as direct adverts	2022 and ongoing	Parks and Green Open Spaces Service and Friends of Group	N/A
5	Promotion of events	Publish lists of forthcoming park events in notice boards, local press and mail shots	2022 and ongoing	Friends Group	TBC
Management: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure policies, procedures, management practices and operations are carried out in accordance with our sustainability aims and targets. 2. To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations. 3. To engage with the local community, friends of groups, volunteers and third parties encouraging active participation in decision making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource. 					
No.	Objective	Details	Year	Lead	Cost
1	Obtain a Green Flag Award annually.	Obtain our first Green Flag	2022 and ongoing	Parks and Green Open	The cost will be a

		and raise award profile within the local community.		Spaces Service and Friends of Group	collective figure depending on the projects identified to meet the criteria.
2	Creation of a Park Steering Group	Regular meetings between friends, parks development, cafe management and Bowling Club representatives.	2023 and ongoing	Parks and Green Open Spaces Service and Friends of Group	N/A

8.0 Finance

8.1 Budgets and Funding

The budget for the parks maintenance sits with and is undertaken by Enveco. The current maintenance schedule is based in part on the existing maintenance routine, although many tasks outside of this guide are undertaken to ensure the quality of our parks. Changes are to be made within the current scope for example, reduced grass cutting, programmed tree works, sustainability and reduced maintenance of new furniture due to improved quality and therefore, time and resources can be utilised in other areas of the park.

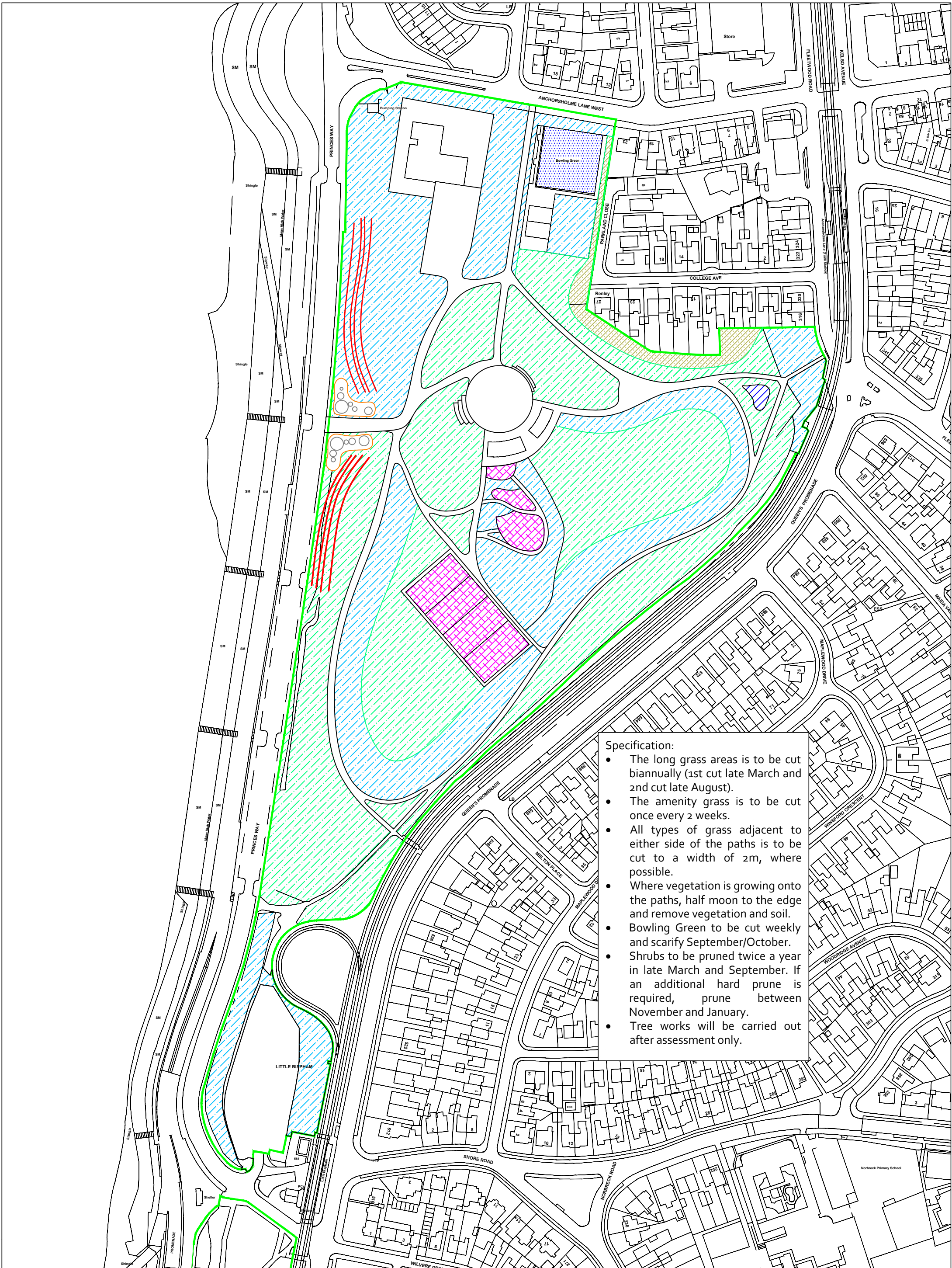
The Parks and Green Open Spaces Service administers the capital budget. The budget is generally allocated in advance and the role of the developing management plans is for better planning of financial resources required so that they can be included in future bids.

Government grants are widely available, their availability is becoming more and more accessible, and therefore, funding pots will be proactively sought in order to benefit and improve the park.

8.1 Friends of Groups

Funds raised by the friends of group can contribute towards the park development plans and be used to implement projects that provide a benefit to the park and friends of group's promotion or marketing. This can also include applying for grants and community funds.

9.0 Appendices



- Specification:
- The long grass areas is to be cut biannually (1st cut late March and 2nd cut late August).
 - The amenity grass is to be cut once every 2 weeks.
 - All types of grass adjacent to either side of the paths is to be cut to a width of 2m, where possible.
 - Where vegetation is growing onto the paths, half moon to the edge and remove vegetation and soil.
 - Bowling Green to be cut weekly and scarify September/October.
 - Shrubs to be pruned twice a year in late March and September. If an additional hard prune is required, prune between November and January.
 - Tree works will be carried out after assessment only.

