

QUEEN'S PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024 – 2029



Document Control Sheet

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

1.0 Introduction

Queen's Park is a small Victorian urban park of approximately four hectares located in the centre of Loughborough. The land was acquired by the Mayor Alderman and Burgesses of the Borough of Loughborough known as "the Corporation" in three lots between 1899 and 1916. Queen's Park is Loughborough's Town Centre Park and, therefore, has a special role serving the cultural and leisure needs of the business and educational communities, tourists and shoppers, as well as the local community.

In order to set out the vision, objectives and priorities for the management of Queen's Park a management plan has been prepared by Charnwood Borough Council's Senior Green Spaces Officer (the landowner), *idvere* (the contractor responsible for the management of Charnwood Borough Council's open spaces) and the Friends of Queen's Park who are the local community group with a vested interest in the park and who undertake voluntary maintenance and fund site enhancements within Queen's Park.

1.1 Purpose of the Management Plan

1.1.2 What is a Park/Open Spaces Management Plan?

A management plan for a public park or open space is a published written document, prepared by parks officers, outlining the aims and objectives in relation to the park or open space.

Its purpose is to balance the priorities, policies and pressures that apply to a particular park/open space and to establish a timescale for putting the objectives into practices. The production of such a document allows the contribution that the park/open space makes to the local community to be measured and progress against key objectives to be monitored by park/open space users.



Ariel photographs of Queen's Park

1.1.3 Why have a Park/Open Spaces Management Plan?

The main reasons to have a Management Plan are:

- To document the park's/open space's history
- To assess priorities and challenges for the future
- To encourage community involvement, interest and support
- To ensure objectives of management and maintenance are documented
- To demonstrate what visitors can expect in terms of service standards
- To promote and market an open space/park
- To monitor and assess changes that occur in an open space/park



Lighting of the Queen's Beacon

The aim of this management plan for Queen's Park, Loughborough is to clearly set out in one accessible and easy to read document how the open space is managed, how the Friends of Queen's Park community group contribute to the management and improvements to Queen's Park and how the projects that are proposed for the next five years will be implemented.

1.1.4 Why are places like Queen's Park so important?

The benefits of providing good quality parks and open spaces are widely recognised. Recent national research shows that:

- 91% of people believe that public parks and open spaces improve the quality of life
- 74% of people believe that using a park or open space is important to their general health

Surveys also revealed what people believe are the 10 best things about parks and open spaces:

- Parks/open spaces are community assets
- Parks/open spaces are places to relax and escape

- Parks/open spaces are great for recreation and exercise
- Parks/open spaces are places to experience nature
- Parks/open spaces are well designed
- Parks/open spaces are good for children and young people
- Parks/open spaces are kept clean and safe
- Parks/open spaces are green places
- Parks/open spaces provide a sense of open space
- Parks/open spaces benefit our mental health and well being

1.1.5 What does this plan contain?

This plan contains 7 key sections, each referring to one of our objectives.

At the end of each section, an action plan is provided, setting out our proposed projects within the open space to meet that objective over the next five years. In setting out these action plans, we have tried to be as realistic as possible, bearing in mind available finance and resources, and have also given careful consideration to the improvements recommended by users, Britain in Bloom and Green Flag judges and other members of the local community.

To limit the overall size of this document, appendices are not attached, but any documents referred to are available upon request from Charnwood Borough Council, *idverde* and the Friends of Queen's Park.

1.1.6 Target Audience and Usage

The management plan encompasses an agreed action plan for change and continued improvements within Queen's Park. It is a working document to assist and support officers of Charnwood Borough Council, *idverde*, the Friends of Queen's Park and users of Queen's Park.

1.1.7 Timescales

The aim of the management plan is to provide guidance for a 5 year period. The plan will then be reviewed and updated to provide guidance for a further 5 years. The plan will be reviewed on a regular basis and will be flexible enough to allow change with varying circumstances. The plan also allows for public input and is designed to be the basis of discussion for the future direction of Queen's Park.

1.2 National Context

It is important to understand the current political and policy context in which park managers, maintenance teams and the local community are operating when developing a management plan for Queen's Park. Parks and open spaces have risen in importance on the political agenda in recent years, and there are now various national strategies that set out the framework for the future management of open spaces and help determine aims and objectives for the open space's future management. Some of the current and relevant publications and policy guidance notes are outlined below.

1.2.1 Green Spaces Better Places

This was published in 2002 and is the final report of the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce. The document provides an assessment and comprehensive review of the state of public open

spaces in England. A number of issues were highlighted in relation to the decline of urban parks and open spaces through a process of poor strategic planning, weak leadership, a lack of funding and the absence of information and data to inform the decision making process.

1.2.2 Parks and Green Spaces: Engaging the Community

This local authority guide, published by Greenspace in 2002, outlines the reason for engaging local communities and encouraging community participation in the management of parks and open spaces. The guide gives advice on the benefits of involving local people in the decision-making process and gives examples of how this can be achieved. The guide suggests that:

- Linking community groups together as part of a wider supportive network can add more support to the local authority.
- Community engagement is a dynamic process, which requires high and sustained levels of involvement.
- Developing site management plans with the community helps to ensure ownership.
- It is important to establish the reason for engaging the community
- Community based activities should complement the activities of the organisation.

1.2.3 Park Life, Urban Parks and Social Renewal

This report was published in 1995 by Comedia and Demos. It is the first real assessment of the state of urban parks and green spaces and is the starting point in the current revitalisation of urban parks and open spaces. The report recognises the need to invest and put open spaces and people at the heart of modern urban regeneration. It also recognises the wider social benefits of high quality open spaces.

1.2.4 Policy Planning Guide No 17 (PPG17)

This sets out the Government's objectives for delivering high quality and sustainable open spaces which meet the aspirations and needs of local communities. The long-term aims of this document are:

- An appropriate balance between new and existing open space provision.
- Clarity for developers in relation to the requirements and expectations of the local planning authorities.
- Through this guide, local authorities are required to demonstrate that the local portfolio of public open spaces meets local demand based upon quality, quantity, accessibility and primary purpose.

1.2.5 Cleaner, Safer, Greener Communities: How to Create Quality Parks and Open Spaces

This was published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2005 and investigates challenges and opportunities associated with parks and open spaces and pinpoints current guidance and powers available.

1.2.6 Does Money Grow on Trees?

In 2005 CABE space published this report highlighting the benefits linked with high quality urban green spaces and the contribution that parks make to a higher quality of urban life. It

looks at the importance of the age and size of the park, adjacent housing, security, innovation and maintenance.

1.2.7 A Guide to Producing Parks and Green Space Management Plans

This was published by CABI Space in 2004 and sets out a framework for developing and writing management plans and green spaces. It provides best practice on the content of management plans, how they should be developed, what they will achieve, when the work will take place and how it will be done.

1.2.8 No trees, No future

Published in 2010 by the Trees and Design Action Group, No trees, no future highlights the wide range of benefits that trees in urban areas bring to both individuals and society as a whole. Particular emphasis is given on the economic, social and environmental benefits trees bring.

1.2.9 Health impact of urban green spaces: a systematic review of heat-related morbidity and mortality

A new systematic review of the impact of urban green spaces on heat-related morbidity and mortality has been published. The study reveals that regions abundant in green spaces report lower rates of heat-related morbidity and mortality in contrast to those with sparse greenery. Additionally, urban vegetation appears to exert a positive influence on mental health and well-being, potentially aiding in offsetting the adverse health repercussions of high temperatures.

1.2.10 Environmental Audit Committee report (January 2024) on heat resilience and sustainable cooling

The Environmental Audit Committee has urged the Government to take action against 7689 heatwaves, and states that without concerted action, heatwaves could claim 10,000 lives in annually in the UK. The report focuses on recommendations about nature-based solutions and highlights the cooling effects of green infrastructure, particularly in urban heat islands.

1.3 Local Strategic Context

This management plan complements the strategic context of a number of local and regional policies which Charnwood Borough Council has developed or signed up to that are appropriate to the management of the site. These include, but are not limited to:

- Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy
- Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Study
- Open Spaces Strategy (2013 -2028)
- 6Cs Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Space for Wildlife – the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan 2016 - 2026
- Charnwood Corporate Strategy 2024-2028
- Charnwood Forest Landscape and Settlement Character Assessment
- The Charnwood Landscape Character Assessment (2012)

- Charnwood Borough Council Tree Policy
- Climate Change Strategy 2023-2030

1.3.1 Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2014

Charnwood Together is the Local Strategic Partnership for Charnwood which has developed the strategy to guide the work of partnership and agencies in securing the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Borough. The strategy sets out a series of themes and strategic objectives to deliver a vision of “an approved quality of life for everyone living and working in Charnwood”.

Strategic Objective SO12 for Places & Environmental Matter states “to maintain and enhance the range of ecological sites, habitats and species found in Charnwood and seek to deliver biodiversity gain and reverse habitat fragmentation.

1.3.2 Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Study (2017)

The OSSR Study (2017) assessed open spaces, sport and recreation within the borough and enabled local people to have a say about what they value in their area. The study produced standards for different types of open spaces, compared these with current open spaces across the borough. In particular the study looked at the amount of open spaces across the borough, its quality and also how close it is to people's homes. Types of spaces that were looked at included parks, natural green spaces, allotments, sports pitches, children's play and youth/adult recreation.

1.3.3 Open Spaces Strategy (2013)

Charnwood Borough Council has produced the Open Spaces Strategy for the provision of open spaces up to 2028, and addresses the findings of the Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Study which was produced in 2010. The Open Spaces Strategy provides a framework for the management, development and maintenance of all open space owned by Charnwood Borough Council and an action plan for the future delivery of open space to meet identified deficiencies.

1.3.4 6Cs Green Infrastructure Strategy (2010)

The Green Infrastructure Strategy sets out a strategic green infrastructure (GI) network for the three counties of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, and Nottinghamshire, and for the three cities of Nottingham, Derby and Leicester (The 6Cs). The strategy also sets out a vision for GI in the area and provides recommendations for the content of GI policies within Local Development Frameworks.

Charnwood Borough Council's Cabinet endorsed a response to the Draft 6Cs Green Infrastructure Strategy in November 2009, and in so doing supported the proposed strategic Green Infrastructure Network that was set out in the consultation document.

1.3.5 Space for Wildlife – the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2026

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LLRBAP) was modelled on the national UK Action Plan but concentrated on habitats and species of local conservation concern. There were 17 Habitat Action Plans and 14 Species Action Plans. When the plan was revised in 2005 an urban habitat plan and additional species plans were added. In addition, the numerous targets and actions detailed in the original plan were considerably reduced in number and simplified.

Space for Wildlife has three main components:

- To promote the restoration, management and creation of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitats.
- To promote the creation of new wildlife habitats in the wider countryside
- To survey, monitor and promote favourable management of existing good sites through the Local Wildlife Sites system

1.3.6 Charnwood Corporate Strategy 2024-2028

The borough Council's Corporate Plan sets out the Council's priorities and objectives for the next four years, which make clear reference to the need for quality open spaces, whilst recognising the need to lead and work with partners. Particularly relevant to this management plan is the ambition of protecting Charnwood's natural resources to provide a borough which is clean and tidy and has a variety of green, open spaces for the benefit of all its residents.

The plan outlines how the Council intend to protect and enhance the green and open spaces of the borough, with particular reference in the theme 'Our Place to.....protect' that 'We will protect our natural resources to provide a borough which is clean and tidy and has a variety of green, open spaces for the benefit of all our residents' and 'protect our built and natural heritage to maintain the character of the Borough by working with local partners to protect the character and identity of our individual communities'.

1.3.7 Charnwood Forest Landscape and Settlement Character Assessment

The Charnwood Forest Landscape and Settlement Character Assessment was carried out in 2008 to provide baseline data to inform the development of plans and policies for the area. It also recommends a working boundary for the Regional Park. The assessment includes Loughborough (Charnwood Forest Fringes).

1.3.8 The Charnwood Landscape Character Assessment (2012)

The Charnwood Landscape Assessment provides a structured evaluation of the landscape of the borough including a landscape strategy with guidelines for the protection, conservation, and enhancement of the character of the landscape, which will inform development management decisions and development of plans for the future of the borough.

1.3.9 Charnwood Borough Council Tree Policy

The tree policy sets out how the borough Council manages its tree stock and the standards to which work is undertaken.

1.3.10 Climate Change Strategy 2023-2030

The Climate Change Strategy sets how the borough Council's commitment to take local action on climate change through adoption of a series of focused themes including land use and biodiversity.

1.4 Our Vision for Queen's Park

Our overall aim is to provide a high quality urban green space, which reflects and benefits the local community it serves. Our vision statement is:

'To preserve and enhance the beauty and heritage of the park, and improve the facilities and accessibility of the park, ensuring that it continues to serve the needs and enhance the wellbeing of the local community, the wider population across the borough and encourages greater numbers of visitors to the town.'



Spring bedding display

1.5 Aims

To achieve this vision, we recognise the importance of working towards an agreed national standard for good practice (Green Flag Award) in the management of parks and public open spaces. We have carefully considered the outlines for a successful open space, and have adapted these to form our seven key service objectives.

- A welcoming public open space
- A healthy, safe and secure public open space
- A clean and well maintained public open space
- A sustainable open space
- An open space that addresses biodiversity and heritage
- An open space where community involvement and participation is actively encouraged
- A well-managed public open space

2.0 General Information

2.1 Location

Site Name:	Queen's Park
Address	Granby Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3DU
National Grid Reference:	SK 453400:19400
UPRN Number:	10012190093
Ward:	Loughborough Southfields
Vice County:	Leicestershire
Planning Authority:	Charnwood Borough Council
Managed by:	Environmental Services section, part of the Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing Directorate within Charnwood Borough Council in partnership with <i>idverde</i> and the Friends of Queen's Park
Land Tenure: Owned by:	Charnwood Borough Council

Queen's Park is located in the heart of Loughborough, approximately 200m west of the Town Hall and Market Place. It is convenient for local residents, shoppers and visitors to the town on foot, by car, bus and rail.



This urban green space is an important contrast to the built up nature of the adjacent urban residential environment, which consists of predominately Victorian terraced housing stock and commercial properties within the town centre business area.

The park is bounded by Granby Street to the north and Browns Lane to the south. The Granby Street car park and the Wood Brook (watercourse) are to the east, and the gardens of residential properties (on Frederick Street) complete the boundary on the western side.

2.2 How to find us

By Car:

From the M1 North

Leave the M1 at junction 23 and take the 3rd exit (over the M1) onto the A512 Ashby Road (sign posted Loughborough, A512). Take the first exit across the first roundabout; continuing along Ashby Road. Continue forward at the second roundabout (Ashby Road Roundabout), taking the second exit and continue along Ashby Road to the traffic controlled crossroads (Sainsbury's Supermarket will be on the left and the Schofield Centre and no entry will be ahead). Turn right at these crossroads into Frederick Street. Follow the road round bearing into Browns Lane. At the traffic lights turn right and continue straight on. Follow the road, bearing to the left into Granby Street. The public car park (adjacent to Queen's Park) is approximately 100 yards on the left hand side.

From the M1 South

Leave the M1 at junction 23 and take the 1st exit onto the A512 Ashby Road (sign posted Loughborough, A512). Take the first exit across the first roundabout; continuing along Ashby Road. Continue forward at the second roundabout (Ashby Road Roundabout), taking the second exit and continue along Ashby Road to the traffic controlled crossroads (Sainsbury's Supermarket will be on the left and the Schofield Centre and no entry will be ahead). Turn right at these crossroads into Frederick Street. Follow the road round bearing into Browns Lane. At the traffic lights turn right and continue straight on. Follow the road, bearing to the left into Granby Street. The public car park (adjacent to Queen's Park) is approximately 100 yards on the left hand side.

3.0 Site Description

3.1 Queen's Park

Queen's Park was an open display of civic pride following the Incorporation of the Borough, but it was also intended to improve the education and morals of the town's working classes. The theme of social improvement, evident in the opening speech which stressed that the main beneficiaries of the park would be the working classes, was reinforced by the building of the public baths and the Carnegie Library beside the park, and the bandstand within it. Bandstands were seen as having a reforming potential.

Victorian parks were principally conceived for a passive use and whilst there was no provision for any sports in the original park, the extended Queen's Park included two bowling greens, of which one survives and a tennis ground, which has now been removed. The park has, therefore, been an important leisure and recreation resource for the town since its inception and is widely used today both formally, for concerts at the bandstand and from the Carillon, and informally, for general recreation, summer picnics and open air events.

The layout and design of the park needs to be recognised and retained. In particular the formal layout of the paths around the Carillon that contrast with the picturesque layout of the earlier park. Most of the paths are defined by avenues of trees, which make a significant contribution to the character of the Park by providing a setting for the buildings, shade for the paths and defining the open spaces.

The original gates and iron railings along the Granby Street frontage and at the Browns Lane entrance are still in place. They help to define the Victorian character of the park and the overall street scene. The Browns Lane boundary is defined by a dense hedgerow and a rustic wooden fence, which appears to be the original fence built when the park was extended as it is similar in design to the park's original rustic bridges.

Today, Queen's Park is a major feature of Loughborough. The Charnwood Museum as a place of education and for exhibitions is an attraction for many people. During 2006 and 2007 significant infrastructure improvements were made. Toilet refurbishments were completed in 2008 and the children's play facilities were replaced at the same time. Further improvements to try and alleviate persistent flooding within the park and path resurfacing work were carried out in 2023-2024.

3.2 Climate

The nearest weather stations are located at Loughborough University and East Midlands Airport.

Specific information regarding the micro climate of the Queen's Park and the surrounding area is not available so the climate can only be related to local records.

The mean monthly temperature for Loughborough is 13°C with summer averages of 16°C (July and August) and winter averages of 3°C (January). The average frost-free period for the region is 140 days and the growing season stretches from the middle of March to late November.

The rainfall for the area is moderate with a range of 550-875mm with prevailing winds coming from the west and southwest.

Air pollution may have an influence on the local climate, but detailed information is unavailable.



A dusting of snow in the park

3.3. Geology

The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 digital scale maps indicate that the underlying geology of the Loughborough area consists of alluvium which is loose, unconsolidated soil or sediments which has been eroded, reshaped by water in some form, and redeposited in a non-marine environment. Alluvium is typically made up of a variety of materials, including fine particles of silt and clay and larger particles of sand and gravel. This overlays bedrock derived from the Gunthorpe Member – Mudstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 229 to 246 million years ago in the Triassic Period.

3.4 Topography

Located within the Soar Valley, Loughborough forms part of the ancient river floodplains. The topography of Queen's Park is very flat and, in common with other areas within Loughborough, the site is prone to flooding.

3.5 Hydrology

The flood plain, as defined by the Environment Agency, covers approximately 60% of the eastern portion of the park. The Wood Brook forms part of the eastern boundary to the park. There are three linked waterways associated with the park. In winter the Wood Brook is a fast flowing channel of water passing along the eastern boundary and beneath the town in a culvert to reduce the risk of flooding from the brook into the park and town. This feeds a shallow, narrow stream that opens to a pond (pond 1) to the west of the junior play area and bowling green. This stream and pond was formerly enclosed by very dated and tired shrub bed plantings. The area was redeveloped in 2016 as Charnwood Borough Council's and *idverde's* commitment to continuous improvement within the park. A bog garden/stream planting scheme that creates a feature of the Wood Brook and the ornamental bridge was created in order to open up the vista across the park and to create a brand new habitat within this urban environment to help increase biodiversity by providing nectar sources for pollinating insects.



The Wood Brook before redevelopment



After the redevelopment in 2016

Water flows from pond 1 underground to feed a further pond (pond 2) in front of the Charnwood Museum. Pond 2 is broader and divided by a small footbridge. Both ponds have become popular duck feeding areas and are aerated through fountains which provide oxygen and help to move the water. The formal edges to the waterways were created many years ago in order to stabilise the banks of the ponds which suffered erosion through heavy use. In the event of flooding, *idverde* staff will remove members of the public from affected areas by erecting warning tape and signs. In severe circumstances the park will be closed if it is deemed necessary.



Water fountain in pond 1

3.6 Archaeology

There is no documented evidence of archaeological interest within Queen's Park.

3.7 Visual Character

Queen's Park is a good example of a small Victorian park, important for its picturesque layout and design, its plants and trees, and its function and the context in which it was developed.

The park provides an extensive area of mature and open landscaping in a relatively self-contained space with well-defined boundaries. It is enclosed by the buildings on Ward's End and Frederick Street and has long open boundaries to Granby Street, defined by the original bow topped railings, and to Browns Lane, defined by hedgerows and rustic wooden fencing.

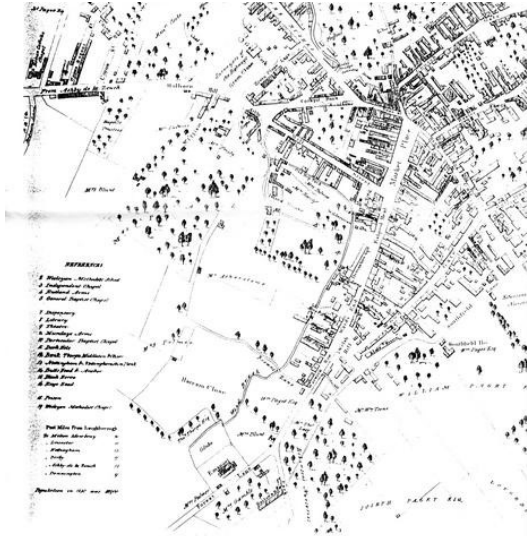
3.8 History

The creation of Queen's Park was prompted by Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in June 1897 and today it covers an area of approximately 4 hectares (10 acres).

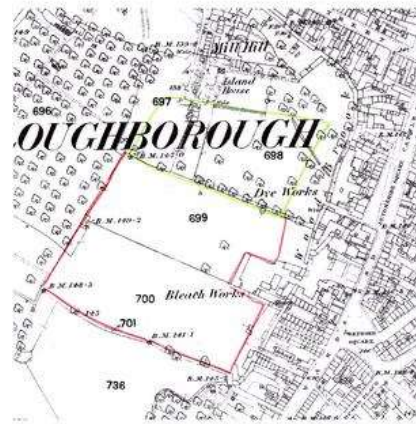
The basic structure was developed between 1899 and 1928. Four acres of land, previously belonging to the old Island House Estate, were adapted at a cost of £1,500. Mr Paget Southfield began the park fund with a donation of £500 in 1897 and 38 people subscribed a total of £770, which left a total of £230 to be raised by the town-folk of Loughborough. During 1908 an additional 6 acres of land were acquired by the Corporation and £1,250 borrowed in order to develop the park over several years. In 1916 the third and final phase of the park was agreed upon, after the death of a Mr. John Clarke. The executors of his will negotiated the

sale of 3,064 square yards of land to the Corporation, including the land and buildings forming the site of the old Bleach Yard, and a portion of land adjoining the bowling green in the park.

Ordnance Survey Map XVII.8 25" to 1 mile
1886



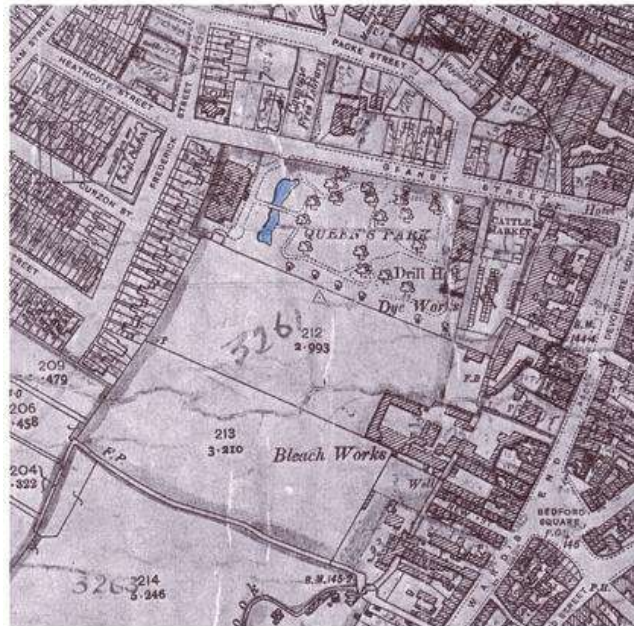
OS Map 1830



Original Area of Park
Extension to Park

OS Map 1886

Ordnance Survey Map XVII.8 25" to 1 mile
1901



OS Map 1901

To celebrate the Jubilee the town had already been promised a new public baths by Joseph Griggs, a local businessman and the first Mayor of the Borough, and a further £1,500 was raised by public subscriptions, sufficient for the Corporation to purchase Island House and its gardens, about 1.6 hectares (4 acres) of land to the south of Granby Street.



A postcard illustrating the bandstand and the new memorial baths

The opening ceremony for the new park took place on 22 June 1899, two years after the Diamond Jubilee. The ceremony included the planting of an English oak sapling by the Mayoress, Mrs Hiram Coltman. The Loughborough Monitor and News of Thursday 24 June 1899, noted that this was a hurriedly arranged ceremony as the sapling had been presented only a few days earlier by a local florist who had grown it from an acorn planted in September 1888 to mark the incorporation of the Borough of Loughborough.

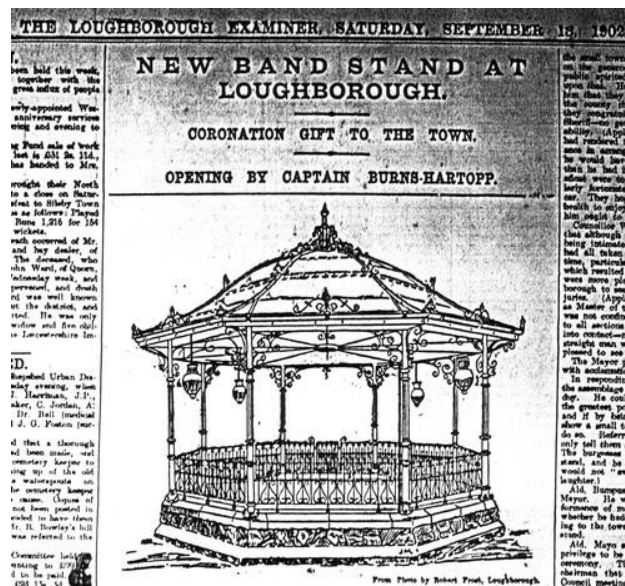
In his opening speech Councillor Hanford is reported as saying that “the special advantage of the park would fall to the artisan people of Loughborough, the working classes. They would gain a larger advantage if they got the park, there would be a wide walk around it and a good number of seats. As commemorative projects they would have in Loughborough public baths so that they could wash and be clean, a drill hall where young people could be drilled and be strong and healthy and a public park in which the strong might find recreation and those who were convalescent take their ease”.

Kelly's Directory of 1908 notes that the grounds were well laid out by the Corporation and ...‘contain fine trees and a small lake, over which there is a rustic bridge. In the centre there is a covered bandstand...’. The 1904 Ordnance Survey plan shows the basic layout of the park, with two entrances from Granby Street and the picturesque manner of its lay out, having a fairly simple tree-lined, figure-of-eight walk with an ornamental pool which was crossed at the time by a timber rustic bridge.



The rustic bridge crossing the ornamental pool

To mark the coronation of King Edward VII in August 1902 a bandstand was presented to the park by Councillor W H Whootton. Pictorial evidence from September 1904 shows an ornate bandstand made of cast and wrought iron, situated in the centre of the park.



Article from the Loughborough Examiner 1902

On 21 June 1905 the Carnegie Free Library was opened on a site directly opposite the park, further concentrating the civic functions of recreation and learning within this part of the town. An early picture taken of the Library from within the park shows the decorative bow-top iron railings and gate to Granby Street, which are still in place.

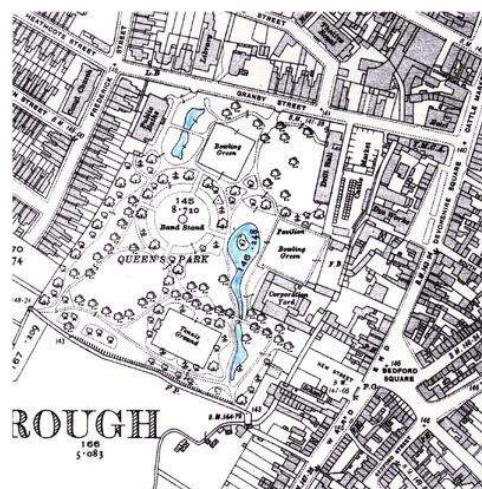


Early postcard of Queen's Park showing the Granby Street Entrance and decorative iron railings

Between 1905 and 1907 the original park was extended as a result of the purchase of 2.4 hectares (6 acres) of land from the adjoining dye works. The development of this extended park included the digging out of a second ornamental lake, with a small island at its centre. The soil from the lake was then used to create a raised table for use as the bowling green.

The Ordnance Survey plan of 1921 shows that the park extension had also been laid out in a picturesque manner having a rough figure-of-eight circuit of paths lined by trees and the bandstand relocated to the centre of the park standing within a large circular open space. The plan also shows a tennis ground towards the southern boundary of the park and two bowling greens.

Ordnance Survey Map XVII .8 25" to 1 mile
1921



OS Map 1921

z3.9 Current Use

Queen's Park is a major feature of Loughborough and is a much loved and well used amenity space. The Carillon Tower is a symbol of the town. Views of the park, the tower, the bandstand, the floral displays and the trees in spring and summer and the view from the park to the Carnegie Library all figure in picture postcards. The park is a place for tourists and for local people to relax in. It is well used for festivals and commemorations. The Charnwood Museum as a place of education and for exhibitions is an attraction for many people.

3.10 Buildings and Structures Description

There are several buildings and structures of note within Queen's Park.

3.10.1 Loughborough War Memorial and Carillon Tower

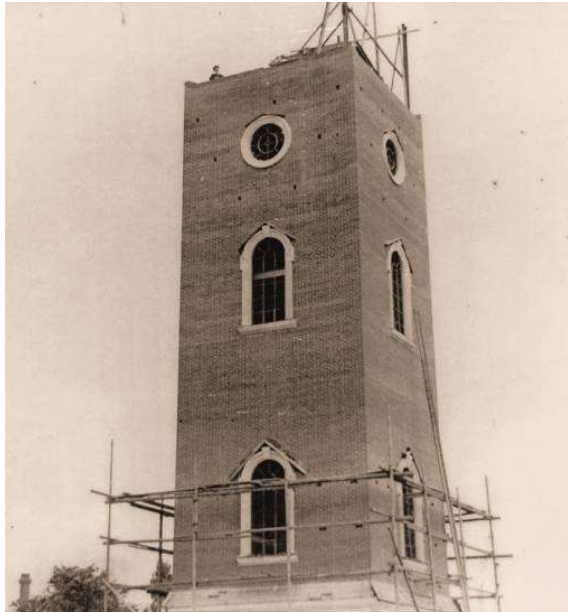
In 1919 the population of Loughborough was asked to vote for the kind of memorial they wished to see in the town to commemorate those who had died in the First World War.



5th Battalion Leicester Regiment mustering in Queen's Park

Among the proposals were a statue, a football field, a health centre and even houses to be built within the park for disabled ex-servicemen. The public voted for a carillon; a bell tower was thought to be fitting given that Loughborough had a bell foundry and that there were several carillons in Flanders. The foundation stones were laid in 1922 and Mrs Godber whose son Private W. Godber had been killed in the war laid one of the first stones. The stone she layed is marked with a cross at the corner of the building. A subscription list raised £23,000; a considerable sum of 16 shillings (80 pence) for every man woman and child in Loughborough. The bells were made by the Taylor's Bell Foundry, the largest of which was paid for by Mr John

William Taylor who lost three of his four sons in the war. The foundry is still in existence today. The bricks were made by Tuckers, the Loughborough Brick Makers. It is a red brick that complements the surrounding area and stays clean (the clay pit on the Leicester Road from which the clay was extracted to make the bricks has since been filled in and is now known as Charnwood Water. The steel work was produced by Herbert Morris of Empress Road. The roof of the tower is made of copper which has oxidised to the green we now see today.



The Carillon under construction



The large bell was donated by John William Taylor who lost three sons in the First World War

Construction ended in 1923 and the 46-metre high tower and the belfry contains 47 bells. The Carillon was officially opened on July 22, 1923.



The official opening of the Carillon in July 1923

Four straight pathways radiating out from the tower were laid out in contrast to the informal layout of the original park. The formality of the memorial was further increased by the construction of a new gateway to New Street at the end of the longest axis from the Carillon. In 1928 a stone balustrade was erected around the tower and the original rustic timber bridges were replaced by new ornamental stone bridges to match the balustrade.

The Loughborough Carillon is a grade II listed building and is first and foremost a war memorial to the fallen in two world wars, but it is also a museum with artefacts, documents and items that recall the events of those wars as they relate to Loughborough people. The Carillon tower is owned by Charnwood Borough Council, but is administered by a board of trustees.



The Loughborough War Memorial & Carillon Tower



Remembrance Poppies flutter from the top of the Carillon

13.10.2 Charnwood Museum and Café (formerly Queen's Hall)

Charnwood Museum is a Victorian red brick building which houses artefacts relating to Loughborough and the wider Borough. The Museum has two temporary exhibition galleries, education rooms and a gift shop. It is managed in partnership by Leicestershire Country Council (LCC) and Charnwood Borough Council. Charnwood Borough Council own and maintain the building, whilst LCC own and maintain the artefacts and provide the professional management and services for the museum.

Before 1897, Loughborough could still boast of having its own public baths - unheated of course, but then the baths were only huts at the edge of the canal, making use of the canal water. And there was the luxury of having a keeper who fished any carcasses out of the gratings every morning!

However, Mr. Griggs' offer to build a public baths as a permanent memorial for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 was gratefully accepted by the Town. Built at a cost of £3,000, the baths were formally opened by the Marquis of Granby on 10th August 1898.

The facilities provided four first class baths, five second class baths and a laundry at the back with three large washtubs, a large 'revolving washing machine with wringer' and a hydroextractor to spin dry the laundry before airing on clothes horses.

The swimming pool itself was filled with 70,000 gallons of water and operated on the "filler usage system". It cost 2d to swim in the morning when the water was fresh and clean, 1d for the middle classes later in the day, and half a penny for the children in the evening by which time the water was dirty. A gang of men would arrive to empty the pool, scrub, clean and refill it ready for the following day. It was heated by a 20 horse power Cornish boiler which generated steam through pipes so that it circulated through the baths. It was not until 1934 that a chlorination and infiltration system was installed.

Modern swimming baths opened at the Loughborough Leisure Centre, Browns Lane in 1975 and a scheme to convert the old baths into a general-purpose hall was approved by Charnwood Borough Council's Estates and Recreation Committee on 7th February 1980. The conversion took 12 weeks whereby seven steel beams were laid across the pool and 35 tonnes of concrete put over the top whilst the structure of the building was retained. The building was re-named Queen's Hall.



The old swimming baths within the Charnwood Museum

A cafeteria and patio garden was added to the Queen's Hall in 1981 and the Charnwood Museum opened within the Hall in April 1999.



Charnwood Museum and café

The outdoor seating area at Queen's Park café was improved during March/April 2024 to include improved access, a new canopy, landscaping and furniture. The patio area was re-laid with new paving and the steps removed to make the seating area level to improve accessibility. The addition of the canopy now offers visitors more protection from the weather. An illuminated archway to the entrance of the café with additional lighting was also installed and the area surrounding the patio was re-landscaped with sustainable planting. The improvements were made as part of the £2.87 million Living Loughborough project which is being led by Charnwood Borough Council, in partnership with Love Loughborough BID.



Official re-opening of the refurbished café seating area



Refurbishment works to the café



As a result of the outdoor seating area refurbishment the mosaic located in the ground of the former patio had to be removed. The mosaic was salvaged by The Friends of Queen's Park who are currently looking to restore and display the artefact elsewhere in collaboration with Charnwood Borough Council.

13.10.3 Bandstand

The bandstand was presented to the park to mark the coronation of King Edward VII in August 1902. The structure is centrally located within the park and has an open aspect with formal paths radiating out to other areas of the park. It is popular as a meeting place for visitors and also accommodates many of the park events including free band concerts, which are advertised on the Charnwood Borough Council website.



The bandstand in summer



The bandstand in winter

3.10.4 Swan Maze

The Swan Maze was created in 1992 to commemorate the centenary of Loughborough as a borough. The object is to find the route to the Swan sculpture (created by sculptor, David Tarver) located in the centre of the Gazebo via beige coloured pavers set in fine red gravel.

The maze is located in an area of the park that is currently under refurbishment due to the construction of the new Hope Bell which will be finished in 2025.



The Swan Maze

3.10.5 Aviary

The aviary was opened by the Mayor Alderman, Mrs Cope, in August 1955 and was originally located where the Swan Maze now stands. It was re-sited to its present location in 1980 to provide the birds with greater shelter from the sun and wind. It is composed of 4 compartments. The day-to-day management and care of the birds is undertaken by *idverde* on behalf of Charnwood Borough Council. The Friends of Queen's Park work closely with Men and Women in Sheds who help to make and supply nest boxes for the birds. The aviary is a very popular visitor attraction, especially for children in the summer. However, it is recognised that the structure is need of refurbishment and the Friends of Queen's Park are working with Charnwood Borough Council to find a funding solution to enable necessary refurbishment to take place.



Aviary birds

3.10.6 Public Toilets & Service Provider Mess Room

There are five public toilets in a single block on site. A small fee is charged for their use which helps towards their maintenance costs which are covered by Charnwood Borough Council. The idverde mess room is located at the end of the toilet block.



Queen's Park Public Toilets

3.10.7 The Bell Casing from Great Paul

The 14 tonne bell casing used to cast 'Great Paul' which hangs in St Paul's Cathedral, London is installed in the park.

The casing and Great Paul were made by Taylor's Bell Foundry in 1881 and Great Paul is the largest bell ever cast in Britain.

Taylor's is now the only fully working bell foundry in the UK since the closure of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London.



'Great Paul' being transported to London



The bell casing from 'Great Paul' installed in Queen's Park

3.10.8 Bowling Green

Queen's Park Bowls Club leases the bowling green and clubhouse. One rink is available for casual use by non-club members – tickets are available from the Museum with bowls, jacks and scoreboards available on loan. Charnwood Borough Council carries out repairs and maintenance to the clubhouse and idverde cares for the green itself on behalf of Charnwood Borough Council.



The bowling green and club house

3.10.9 Children's Play Areas

In the early 1960's a playground was laid out near the Carillon and in 1968 two other play areas were built in the south-east corner of the Park. The three play areas are to the south of the park. Their location encourages circulation within the park and thereby discourages anti-social behaviour. It also ensures that the main entrances off Granby Street remain tranquil places for relaxed and informal visits. The junior play area is in the south-east corner of the park. Two adjacent senior play areas are towards the south-west. The play areas conform to National Playing Field Association NEAP standards.



Junior Play Area

3.10.10 The Hope Bell

The Hope Bell marks the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Charnwood community and will be a lasting tribute to the NHS and key workers. Set in a space for reflection to remember those lost during the pandemic, it has been designed to be a beacon of hope and a brighter outlook for the future, as well as a reminder of how communities came together to support each other in challenging times.

The Hope Bell is a clock chime installation comprising four quarter chime bells and the main Hope Bell to sound the hours. The bells are supported by four steel pillars leaning inwards to reflect people coming together or almost hugging, something people said during the consultation phase of the project that they missed in the early days of the pandemic.

A band of gold-coloured aluminium, inscribed with Mary Elizabeth Frye's poem 'Do Not Stand By My Grave And Weep', is wrapped around the top of the structure, encircling the bells to give a visual feeling of sound emanating from them.

'Do not stand by my grave and weep,
I am not there; I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sun on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight.
I am the soft-star shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there: I did not die.'

Mary Elizabeth Frye

The base of the structure, which is lit, is made of Portland Stone in keeping with the base of the Carillon Tower. The structure is 7.5 metres tall.



Artist Impression of the Hope Bell

The bells were fittingly cast by John Taylor & Co. Bell foundry, the last major bell foundry in the UK. The Hope Bell was the first of the five bells to be cast in March 2023.

The Hope Bell (the hour bell) weighs over a ton at 1,270kg (25cwt) and has a diameter of 149cms (4ft 11in). It plays a D note.

Quarter bell 4 weighs 406kg (8cwt) and has a diameter of 89cm (2ft 11in). It plays an A note. Quarter bell 3 weighs 228kg (4.5cwt) and has a diameter of 70cms (2ft 3.5in). It plays a D note. Quarter bell 2 weighs 203kg (4cwt) and has a diameter of 63cms (2ft 07in). It plays an E note. Quarter bell 1 weighs 152kg (3cwt) and has a diameter of 56cms (1ft 10in). It plays and F# note.

Work commenced on the construction of the Hope Bell during the autumn of 2024 and was completed in 2025.



The Hope Bell under construction within the park

The Hope Bell project is part of the Lanes and Links project, led by Charnwood Borough Council, which aims to better link the park and the town centre. It was funded by Loughborough Town Deal, which secured £16.9 million for the Government's Towns Fund.

3.11 Landscape Description

3.11.1 Links and Corridors

Although Queen's Park is bounded on all sides by residential housing, busy main roads and a large car park, the local geography of Loughborough has an abundance of green open spaces and countryside. The Wood Brook provides a direct wildlife corridor link throughout the site. Queen's Park is an important green oasis for local wildlife within the built environment.



Enhanced stream planting along the Wood Brook within the park

3.12 Grassland Description

Queen's Park is covered by 80% grassland. This provides a very good backcloth for its urban surroundings. In addition it provides an excellent surface where people can visit the site for both active and passive recreation and enjoy activities on a safe and easily managed surface.

Amenity grass forms the bulk of the grassed areas in the park and is the most noticeable of all features. The grass surface, despite regular usage, is relatively undamaged and maintained in line with the horticultural grounds maintenance specification.



Grassed area by the Carillon

3.13 Features

The site contains the following physical characteristics

- The Wood brook and two pools
- Flower beds
- Shrub borders
- Trees
- Paths

3.14 Horticultural Description

Queen's Park is a small Victorian park with a mixture of amenity grass, mature amenity trees, shrub beds and flower borders. New horticultural features designed to enhance the aesthetic value and biodiversity within the park are being gradually introduced through the partnership of Charnwood's Environmental Services, *idverde* and the Friends of Queen's Park. These horticultural features are being designed to be in keeping with high aesthetic character of the site and also to encourage more biodiversity into the park.



New Agapanthus beds leading to the bandstand



Stream planting by the Wood Brook

3.15 Arboricultural Description

Queen's Park is a rich source of mature trees within such a built up urban environment and contribute to the character of the site.

There is a good mixture of native and non-native amenity trees on the site which include species such as:

- Cedar
- Horse Chestnut
- Oak
- Lime Beech
- Willow
- Alder
- Robinia
- Laburnum
- Cherry
- Yew
- London Plane
- Maple
- Holly



Tree-scape in Queen's Park

3.16 Ecological Description

Queen's Park is primarily designed as an ornamental Victorian Park, with its formal layout and high maintenance features. Never-the-less it has a number of areas of conservation interest and habitats that are potentially valuable for wildlife. There are a large number of mature trees and shrubs in the park, and although these are predominantly ornamental, non-native species, they provide significant food and cover for squirrels, birds, bats and insects.



Mature trees provide habitats as well as observation and hunting platforms for resident Tree Keepers and Kingfishers



Wildflowers and annual bedding provide nectar for beneficial pollinating insects

Annual bedding and other flowering plants, including wildflowers, provide a source of nectar for butterflies and other insects and the water features attract significant numbers of waterfowl and amphibians into the park.

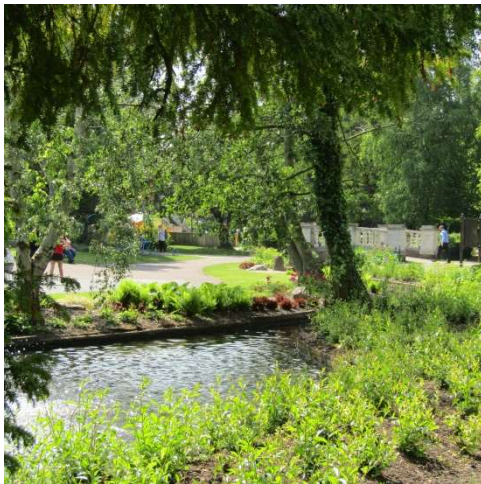
There are records of pipistrelle bats regularly using the Queen's Park for feeding, and a rare barbastelle bat was recently found injured in a car park close to Queen's Park. The barbastelle was nursed back to health by the Bat Conservation Trust and released back into the park. It is recognised that the mature trees within Queen's Park could provide potential roost sites for bats, however due to the high volume usage that the park enjoys it is not safe to leave trees to become hollow or collapse. Therefore, a number of bat boxes have been installed in the

park to provide roost sites, and the toilet building has been designed to incorporate a bat loft.

Future planting plans will include a larger proportion of native trees and shrubs where possible and designated areas will be set aside for less formal, wildlife friendly management, in locations where this will not conflict with the need to maintain the park's formal appearance. Idverde will continue to develop formal bedding and sustainable planting schemes using plants species and varieties that are attractive to pollinating insects to help increase the biodiversity within the park.

A number of bird boxes are also located in the trees around Queen's Park. The woodland edge type habitat provided by the park is ideal for a variety of common garden bird species such as robins, tits and finches. The planting of more native trees and shrubs will also benefit the park's bird population.

The Wood Brook stream/bog planting has been specifically designed to provide a niche habitat within the park for amphibians, other animals and insects as well as moisture loving plants. The ponds attract a number of mallards, moorhens and coots, which are popular with visitors who bring food for them.



Moisture loving planting scheme along the Wood Brook



Moorhens regularly nest and raise chicks within the park

CHAPTER 2

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

This chapter states the current management position at Queen's Park using the key criteria set for the Green Flag Community Award. A SWOT analysis is undertaken for each of the 7 Green Flag criteria, to assist in the formation of the aims and objectives for the park. .

4.0 Introduction

The Green Flag Award and the accompanying Guide, 'Raising the Standards (updated 2016) provide a useful tool for assessing the quality and performance of open spaces.

The management approach and service delivery is summarised using the criteria headings given in the Green Flag Guide. Using the SWOT technique the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats are identified.

5.0 A Welcoming Place

'The overall impression for somebody approaching and entering the site should be positive and inviting'. (Raising the Standard).

5.1 Good and Safe Access

The plan below shows the main entrances and hierarchy of the paths for Queen's Park.



There are six entrances to Queen's Park, all of which are used extensively on a daily basis by pedestrians and park users.

These are as follows:

- Museum entrance (Granby Street)
- Town centre entrance (Granby Street)
- Granby Street car park entrance

- New Street entrance
- Browns Lane east entrance
- Browns Lane west entrance

The park is relatively small and cannot accommodate unregulated visitors in cars. Therefore, vehicles are not normally permitted on site except for authorised disabled drivers and other authorised vehicles. There are two parking spaces for authorised disabled visitors and access is controlled by park staff and authorised partners. This effectively segregates pedestrians and drivers. For drivers there is a pay & display car park adjacent to the park in Granby Street.

Making parks and open spaces more accessible is one of the key aims of Charnwood Borough Council. The main paths within the park provide good access for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Benches are situated along the main paths providing opportunities for all users to rest.



View into Queen's Park from the New Street entrance

The park opens at 7.30am Monday to Friday and 8.10am on weekends.

The park closes at different times during the year. The last gate to be locked is Granby Street as follows:

January	4.30pm
February	5pm
March	6pm
April	8pm
May	9pm
June	9pm
July	9pm
August	8pm
September	7pm

October 6pm
 November 4.30pm
 December 4pm

5.2 Access for People with Disabilities

An accessibility audit report stated that overall the disabled access on site was good, although accessibility to the upper floors of the Carillon is limited. It is recommended that further footpath resurfacing work, together with more benches would make for a more welcoming experience for the visitor with mobility difficulties.

The play area is compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and incorporates elements suitable for children with disabilities. Park benches are also DDA compliant.

5.3 Signage

Queen's Park is not specifically signed from the road approaches although the Carillon is via brown signs. However, it is well known (and used) locally. There is, potentially, a requirement to link Queen's Park into the strategic network. However, the park is well sign posted via the way finder posts and new monolith maps within the town centre.

Interpretation signs and maps are installed within the park and are continuously reviewed to ensure their relevance and accuracy.

SWOT ANALYSIS – A Welcoming Place

Strengths	Weakness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access for disabled • Site accessible 7 days a week, 365 days per year • Pedestrian only access points • Friendly and knowledgeable staff & volunteers • Multi purpose amenity areas • Low instances of graffiti/vandalism and dog fouling • Pleasant landscaping around the site in general • A permanent member of staff is on site during the working week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve approach signage to the site • Improve signage within the park
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from local and wider community • Ample space for small events • Increased education opportunities and facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occasional instances of graffiti and vandalism • Regular flooding during winter • Erosion and heave on pathways

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used by local school children on a daily basis • Opportunities for volunteers 	
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Bullet Points for Action

- Review signage outside and inside the site.
- Seek funding for site interpretation boards.
- Lobby CBC for continued funding to maintain and repair paths where necessary
- Maintain and improve good relationship with the Police, local residents and site users.

6.0 A Healthy, Safe and Secure Site

The Green Flag Award Guidance Manual (Raising the Standard) states that:

‘The park or green space must be a healthy, safe and secure place for all members of the community to use’ (Raising the Standard).

Charnwood Borough Council have the key responsibility to monitor health and safety on the site. The following are some of the procedures used by Charnwood Borough Council and their service providers to ensure a safe environment for members of staff and the public.

- Organisation, implementation and communication: Each park has a local H&S plan that is regularly checked, through safety audits clearly communicated and understood by all staff.
- Risk Management: Each park has Risk Assessments and Safe Systems of Work in place that cover all activities, operations and adhere to the current legislation.
- Training: all staff receive a thorough H&S induction, followed by regular recorded and evaluated training determined by legislation, risk assessment and duties.
- Volunteers, contractors and suppliers: Each park has local arrangements to ensure that all third parties are working in accordance with H&S legislation.
- Accident and near miss reporting: procedures are in place to ensure the reporting, investigation and analysis of accidents, incidents and near misses.
- Checklists, inspections and maintenance records: statutory tests and inspections undertaken in accordance with current legislation and infrastructure is regularly inspected and recorded.
- Policies: specific policies on water safety, tree safety, vehicle safety and lone working are in place.
- Monitoring and review: H&S policies and plans are reviews on an annual basis

6.1 The Way Forward

One of the challenges with Health & Safety related work is making all staff aware of current and up to date legislation through regular staff meetings and training.

6.2 Health and Safety Policy

Both Charnwood Borough Council and *idverde* have very comprehensive Health and Safety Policies in place. A copy of these policies is available for viewing on request.

6.2.1 Queen's Park – Health and Safety Guidelines

Idverde and Charnwood Borough Council are committed to ensuring the health, safety and welfare of all employees whilst at work and other persons, including the community, who may be affected or at risk by the activities within the site.

The Queen's Park Management will:

- Maintain any place of work in a safe and healthy condition, provide safe access and egress and take all reasonable steps to protect staff from violence and harassment.
- Provide comprehensive information, instruction, training and supervision to enable all employees to work safely and contribute positively to their own safety and that of the public.
- Provide and maintain plant, equipment and systems of work that are safe and without risk to health.
- Ensure arrangements are in place for the safe use, storage and transport of articles and substances which are inherently or potentially dangerous.
- Ensure the reporting, monitoring and investigation of hazards, accidents, ill health and dangerous occurrences.
- Development of a process for the continuous review of health and safety standards within the area of responsibility

Responsibility of Employees:

- All employees should co-operate and work in partnership with management to implement the policy.
- Work safety must be maintained at all times within the agreed safe systems of work, codes of practice and procedures.
- Instructions and training provided by line managers or supervisors must be strictly followed.
- Employees must be aware of how their actions may affect the health and safety of other employees and members of the public.
- Ensure that any workplace hazard including defective tools, machinery and equipment are immediately reported to their supervisor.
- All accidents involving injury to persons, damage to machinery or equipment, including near misses, must be reported to the supervisor.
- Wear any personal protective equipment provided for use whenever necessary whilst at work.

6.3 First Aid

The on-site park keeper is a trained first aider and there is an emergency first aid kit located in the staff mess room. Furthermore, first aiders and first aid kits are available for organised activities.

6.4 Graffiti and Vandalism

In order to address these issues the following principles have been adapted as part of the park management:

- Maintain effective surveillance and visibility
- Encourage/increase natural surveillance (site users/volunteers)
- Create a positive identity and attractive environment
- Involve local people to take an interest in the site. This is done in conjunction with the Friends of Queen's Park and other local park users
- Increase the visible presence of site officers and volunteers to help reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour

6.4.1 Dealing with Graffiti

Graffiti is identified either by the service provider or members of the public 7 days a week.

Occasionally graffiti is daubed on benches, litter bins and on lamp posts.

Minor applications of graffiti are removed by the park keeper using Plastic Safe which has been COSHH assessed. These minor types of graffiti are normally removed within 24 hours of being identified.

Major applications or difficult to remove graffiti is reported to Charnwood Borough Council and logged onto the Customer Relationship Manager System. This then generates the request for *idverde* to remove the graffiti within 48 hours of being identified. In reality removal normally occurs sooner, within 24 hours.

Racist or offensive graffiti is removed as a priority within 24 hours of being identified.

6.4.2 Dealing with Vandalism

Vandalism is identified either by service provider or members of the public, 7 days a week.

Minor vandalism is made safe by carrying out a full repair or by isolation of the area in question to ensure nobody is injured by the damage.

For technical repairs, specialist companies may need to be brought in to rectify the fault. This would be done in conjunction with Charnwood Borough Council and *idverde*.

In cases of major vandalism the area is made safe (without putting oneself at risk) and isolated e.g. fenced off. The fault is reported to Charnwood Borough Council and logged onto the Customer Relationship Manager System which generates the repair request to the appropriate Service Provider.

6.5 Security within the site

Queen's Park is a public open space designated as a premier park within Loughborough. Therefore, it does benefit from having a permanent park keeper on site. In addition to this, crews of mobile staff from *idverde* and Serco Ltd are regularly on site throughout the week completing scheduled work. All service provider staff wear uniforms and high visibility vests over clothes so that they are easily recognisable by the public, Charnwood Borough Council Officers and other partners. The site is also subject to arbitrary patrols by *idverde*'s Ranger Service personnel during the weekends. The Rangers are also easily recognisable from their uniform. Good relationships with the Neighbourhood Police service have also been forged over the years with the aim of making the area feel secure.

Some areas of the site also benefit from CCTV and natural surveillance from local residents who live on the perimeter of the park. The site also benefits from being well used by legitimate park users which increases security further. There are many and varied types of users which means that the site is busy in the early morning, throughout the day and into the evening. The park is also locked at night.

6.6 Control of dogs

Responsible dog owners are welcome in the park. In return, the park is well used and respected. Entrance signs caution dog owners to clear up after their pets.

Dog fouling is dealt with in a number of different ways:

- Bins are provided at strategic areas within the site and are emptied by Charnwood Borough Council's waste provider in line with the contractual programme.
- Members of the public are minded of the policy if the dog is caught fouling.
- Periodically Charnwood Borough Council Environmental Services and the Dog Warden will carry out educational promotions on the site.

The above measures are generally successful in ensuring that incidents of dog fouling are few and that dogs are kept under control within the park. This ensures that all park users have a pleasant visit.

6.7 CCTV cameras

There is one CCTV camera within the park. This is located by the public toilets and *idverde's* mess room. The camera is maintained by Charnwood Borough Council.

6.8 Vehicle management

With the exception of authorised disabled access, vehicular activity within the park is minimal. However, from time to time *idverde* and other Services Providers may require vehicular access to undertake necessary contractual scheduled work. All vehicles working on the site must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Maximum speed on site is 5mph
- Hazard lights must be used at all times
- All commercial vehicles must be fitted with reversing beepers
- In the event of having to reverse on site, a banks man must be used, the maximum weight of vehicle permitted is 7.5 tonnes (although smaller vehicles should be used wherever possible). All large vehicles entering the site should do so with prior permission from the Environmental Services Department, Charnwood Borough Council.

6.9 Lone Workers

Scheduled maintenance within the park is undertaken by the service provider, *idverde*. *Idverde* have a policy that covers lone working, whereby staff are encouraged to work in pairs, but where this is not possible staff have mobile phones which give them direct access not only

to the main depot, but also the Police if need be. Risk assessments are carried out to assess the level of risk involved.

6.10 Water Safety

The Wood Brook runs through the site. The area where the brook enters the park is fenced off. However, the banks in more shallow parts of the brook remain unfenced as this area is considered to be a semi-natural area that is important to local wildlife. This also provides local schools with an ideal educational resource for nature studies and stream dipping. The ornamental ponds are also not fenced off as it is felt that this would detract from their aesthetic value.

6.11 Lighting

The main paths in the park are lit by street lighting. The lighting columns are the responsibility of Leicestershire County Council's Highway Department.

6.12 Risk Assessments

Risk assessments are carried out in all areas of the workplace and are designed to identify risks and hazards on site. They are a combination of both generic and specific assessments. Any activity undertaken on site is always subject to risk assessment and these are made available for all members of staff and any voluntary participant to view prior to engaging in an activity.

All risk assessments are reviewed, updated as required and audited on an annual basis by *idverde's* Compliance Department. Copies of risk assessments are held at *idverde's* main depot at Derby Road.

6.13 COSHH Assessments

COSHH assessments are carried out on chemicals (e.g. graffiti remover, herbicides) used within the park. These are held at the Derby Road depot and are available upon request.

6.14 Site Inspections

The play equipment in Queen's Park is inspected on a daily basis by ROSPA trained *idverde* staff. An inspection sheet is completed for each play area. Any issues are reported to *idverde's* Contract Manager and Charnwood Borough Council. Equipment found to be defective is, in the first instance, isolated and taped off to prevent the public from using it. In some instances the equipment is removed, pending repair. An independent annual inspection is also carried out in addition to the daily checks.

A general site inspection of the entire park is also made on a daily basis. Any major issues are reported to *idverde's* Contract Manager and Charnwood Borough Council Environmental Services and logged onto the Customer Relationship Manager System. In addition to these checks, joint inspections are carried out on the site by Environmental Services Officers and *idverde*. These inspections cover health and safety as well as monitoring of working practices and the performance of the site.

SWOT ANALYSIS – Healthy Safe and Secure

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular Inspection regime • Risk assessments in place • Bollards and railings in place at main entrances to prevent vehicular access • Regular liaison with local Police and community Police Support Officers • Out of office call out procedures in place in the event of emergencies e.g. storm damage • Nature of the park encourages healthy activities such as walking and active play • Paths are well lit • Low instances of dog fouling • Regular litter collections • Active community involvement within the park • Residential properties border the park • Engagement with local children and young people • Site is very busy and well used by local community and visitors • Park is locked at night • Park is a designated non-alcohol zone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It can be difficult to remove visitors from the park at closing time • Lighting is not available on all of the paths
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to increase fitness events, sponsored walks/runs etc • Improve off site signage • Improved facilities offers wider range of engagement on site with community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graffiti on occasions • Vandalism on occasions • Occasional unauthorised parking on the site • Occasional ASB within the park i.e. within the bandstand and homeless sleepers

Bullet Points for Action

- Continue to promote the site as a place for health and well being
- Lobby Leicestershire County Council to improve the lighting within the park
- Lobby CBC for additional CCTV Cameras
- Maintain and improve good relationship with the Police, local residents and site users.

7.0 Well Maintained and Clean

‘A prerequisite of a well-used, healthy and safe green space is a high standard of maintenance and cleanliness’ (Raising the Standard).

Maintenance, litter collection and bin emptying are carried out routinely on a daily basis given the popularity of Queen's Park.

7.1 Litter and Waste Management

As Queen's Park is Loughborough's major park within the town centre it is a very busy open space. The high number of people using the site means that issues such as maintenance, litter collection and bin emptying must be carried out routinely and effectively.

All bins separate cans and plastic bottles. This encourages visitors to dispose of waste easily and safely and assists the Borough with its recycling and waste minimisation policy.

There are litter bins placed at strategic points within the park, so that people do not have to walk too far to place litter in a bin. Queen's Park is litter picked daily and the bins are emptied daily. The litter is collected by Charnwood Borough Council's waste service provider, Serco Ltd. The contract with the Serco is output rather than frequency based. This means that litter collection, bin emptying and site cleansing is undertaken as often as is required on site rather than on a specific day each week. In reality this translates to litter collections being undertaken twice a week during the winter and daily during the summer when the park is especially busy.

Serco separate the litter at their depot and all recyclable materials are sent to Casepak Recycling in Leicester. Further litter picks are undertaken on the site by the Friends of Queen's Park and other volunteers.

7.1.1 Specialist Waste

In the very rare event that needles and syringes are found, these are reported immediately to Environmental Services and the waste is removed by Serco Ltd using specialised equipment. The response time for drugs/dangerous waste is within 3 hours. In the meantime public access to the contaminated area is restricted by ensuring it is taped off.

7.1.2 Composting

Any green waste generated from routine scheduled maintenance is either chipped on site and left for top dressing flower borders or removed and composted at the Derby Road depot. The resulting compost is used around the Borough as required.

7.2 Services

Water

Mains water is supplied to *idverde's* mess room and toilet block as well as the café and museum.

Electric

Electricity on the site is used to power *idverde's* mess room, toilet facilities, the Carillion, café, museum and the fountains in the ponds.

Toilets

Lack of public toilets was highlighted in visitor surveys undertaken in 2006 and 2007 after the old toilets were closed in 2004 due to them having become socially unsafe and there being evidence of drug taking. They were refurbished in 2008 following consultation with stakeholders including the Friends of Queen's Park and the police.

Park visitors are also able to use the public conveniences at the museum.

7.3 Security

The presence of a full time park keeper/head gardener and other gardening staff provide an emergency point of contact in the event of an incident in the park. Queen's Park is the only park in Loughborough that is locked and has a low level of anti- social behaviour with no major incidents reported in 5 years. This is probably due to the high level of staff presence, size and location, standard of maintenance, frequency of activities and visitor numbers providing natural surveillance. There are clear procedures for dealing with damaged playground equipment and removal of graffiti, dog mess and drugs paraphernalia.

A comprehensive pruning programme has taken place to reduce shrubberies to improve the plant quality and natural surveillance.

It is considered that the presence of easily identifiable *idverde* staff makes more of a positive contribution to improving public safety and security and the perception of safety than the installation of CCTV.

7.4 Grounds Maintenance

Queen's Park is maintained by *idverde* on behalf of Charnwood Borough Council. Mobile crews support the work undertaken by the park keeper/head gardener carrying out other scheduled tasks such as tree surgery and heavy winter pruning.



Grounds maintenance within the park in the early 1900's

The Friends of Queen's Park and other volunteers also augment the scheduled grounds maintenance tasks by undertaking light duties such as weeding, planting, leaf sweeping etc. under supervision from trained *idverde* staff.

Where specialist work and repairs to the infrastructure of the site are required, specialist teams/contractors are brought in to carry out this work e.g. playground specialist for play equipment and surface repair. The supply and maintenance of hanging baskets is carried out by contractors whose work is monitored by *idverde* and Charnwood Borough Council.



The Carillon clothed in scaffolding during refurbishment work in 2018



Floral basket display in the Queen's beacon

7.5 Maintenance of Buildings and Structures

All buildings and structures within Queen's Park are maintained by Charnwood Borough Council.

7.6 Site Infrastructure

The general infrastructure of the site has remained relatively unchanged over the years. The main paths are in relatively good repair.

Gates and fences within the site are the responsibility of Charnwood Borough Council Asset Management Department. Generally, damaged areas are made safe by *idverde* and repairs are carried out by specialist contractors.

7.7 Site Furniture

In order to avoid the piecemeal introduction of a range of furniture, a standard park style for seating, litter bins, bollards, signage, lighting columns and fittings has been adopted throughout the park.

7.7.1 Site Signage

The installation of a range of signs can cause unnecessary clutter and therefore the amount of signage is kept to a minimum. Entrance and heritage signs were installed in 2007 and interpretation signs are added (where appropriate) to new features within the park as they are developed.

A community notice board was installed in the park in 2018, the funding for which was raised by the Friends of Queen's Park. The notice board provides information on events and community activities within the park. The Friends of Queen's Park are responsible for ensuring the notices within the notice board are kept current and up to date.



The community notice board is maintained and refreshed by the Friends of Queen's Park

7.7.2 Seating

Seats are situated along the path at intervals to provide the pedestrian and other site users with adequate places to stop and rest, if need be. A new commemorative bench was installed along the main path leading to the Carillon to mark Queen Elizabeth's 90th Birthday in 2016.

In addition to the permanent benches in the park specially commissioned Ladybird Book seats are installed in the park and throughout the town every October to mark The Loogabaroooga Festival. This is an annual event for families who love books and illustrated literature. The benches form a trail around the town, whereby visitors are encouraged to find all the different books represented on the benches.





The Ladybird Book benches installed within Queen's Park to celebrate the Loogabarooga Festival

7.7.3 Litter Bins

Litter bins are placed strategically throughout the park and visitors are encouraged to recycle their waste in the appropriate bins. Some of these bins are beginning to look tired and will require replacing within the next few years. However, they are repainted on an annual basis by volunteers and The Friends of Queen's Park in order to extend their lifespan and ensure that they do not detract from the high visual amenity impact of the park.



Volunteers from Loughborough University Human Resources Department repainting the bins and benches within the park

7.8 Fences

The original gates and bow topped iron railings along the Granby Street frontage and at the Browns Lane entrance are still in place. They help to define the Victorian character of the park

and the overall street scene. The Browns lane boundary is defined by a dense hedgerow and rustic wooden fence, which appears to be the original fence built when the park was extended.

7.9 Vehicle/Machinery Maintenance

All vehicles/grounds maintenance machinery is inspected/checked on a daily/when used basis, in line with the manufacturer’s instructions. This is recorded on a check sheet which is retained for inspection. All *idverde*’s equipment is serviced by in house engineers based at the Derby Road Depot, whilst the vehicles are maintained by the appropriate manufacturer.

7.10 Storage of Tools, Materials and Equipment

All grounds maintenance tools, materials and equipment are stored in areas where there is no public access.

7.11 Personal Protective Equipment

All required PPE is identified through risk assessments and accepted good practice and is issued to service provider staff and volunteers on an individual basis. This includes:

- Protective suits
- Goggles for eye protection
- Ear protection and ear plugs
- Gloves

7.12 Pest Control

It is recognised that despite the picturesque and formal layout of Queen’s Park there is ample scope to encourage biodiversity and wildlife. The occurrence of pests such as rats is drastically reduced through regular litter removal and by keeping the site well maintained and clean.

Any practical activity on site led by *idverde* involving members of the public includes a full Health and Safety talk prior to commencing. This includes raising participant’s awareness of washing hands before eating, drinking or smoking due to the potential of contracting infections such as Leptospirosis via infectious soil, and also what symptoms to be aware of and action that should be taken if an infection is suspected.

SWOT ANALYSIS – Clean and Well Maintained

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good standards of grounds maintenance • Good standard of litter removal • Vehicular and maintenance equipment in good condition • Infrastructure in good condition • Qualified service provider staff and knowledgeable volunteers • No evidence of fly tipping • Little evidence of graffiti 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate has seasonally increased the growth rate of grass and other vegetation resulting in increased maintenance requirement • Litter trapped in the Wood Brook, often being brought down stream • Deterioration of site furniture such as benches and litter bins • Some signs within the park are looking tired and dated

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate visitors on the importance of removing or recycling waste/litter Continue to develop and upgrade work with schools and local community to develop the site's future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased costs in emptying litter bins Increased costs in removing graffiti Increased costs of renewing litter bins Limited funding for future revenue and capital investment

Bullet Points for action

- Seek funding and support to renew site signage
- Review the style of existing formal site furniture
- Seek funding and support to renew the litter bins and benches where necessary

8.0 Sustainability

'Methods used in maintaining the green space and its facilities should be environmentally sound, relying on best practice according to current knowledge' (Raising the Standard).

8.1 Environmental Sustainability

Idverde is committed to delivering Charnwood Borough Council's Environmental Policy which aims to follow the principles of sustainability in all areas of work.

This simple principle supports the UK Government Sustainability Development Strategy 'Securing the future' produced in 2005.

Charnwood Borough Council's service provider for the management of open spaces, *idverde* is ISO 14001 accredited.

8.2 Sustainability Policies

Both Charnwood Borough Council and *idverde* have Environmental Policies. These policies use inter-linked themes that can be applied as a 'test' or a checklist for the performance of specific open spaces within the Borough. A copy of these policies is available upon request.

8.3 Waste Minimisation and Recycling

Charnwood Borough Council manages and controls waste, littering and fly tipping in a proactive manner.

Charnwood Borough Council also operates a garden green waste scheme, whereby less bulky green waste can be collected into brown bins. The green waste from these bins is taken to the County Council recycling facility in Lount near Ashby De La Zouche where it is treated and turned into compost.

8.4 Green Waste Recycling on Site

Due to the formality of Queen's Park and the high number of visitors the park attracts it is not appropriate to leave felled timber on site to provide a habitat for wildlife, play opportunities,

craft materials and seating. Therefore the timber is removed by the service provider/tree contractor and sold as cord wood to be used for a variety of timber products, or re-used on other sites. However, other green waste is, where possible, composted on site. Where this is not appropriate it is removed from site as part of maintenance operations. The material is transferred to *idverde's* depot on Derby Road where it is shredded, composted and then 12 months later returned to sites across the Borough to be used in a variety of ways i.e mulching, woodchip paths.

8.5 Pesticide Use

A pesticide is a generic name for herbicides, insecticides, fungicides etc.

The management fully promote an Integrated Pest Control Management (IPM) system using cultural, biological and, only where absolutely necessary, a chemical approach using the most environmentally friendly products.

In general, herbicides are not used within the park however, Glyphosate is used to control weeds in circumstances where manual weeding is not effective e.g. on paths. As foot traffic is high and paths are generally of tarmac, weed growth on paths is light.

In order to produce a bowling green to a good standard it is necessary to use fungicides, and moss killer; these pesticides are used sparingly and only following inspection by trained staff.

The application of any chemical treatment within Queen's Park is carried out by *idverde* using qualified, competent operatives in line with the Control of Pesticides Regulations Act and following a full COSHH assessment of the product.

8.6 Peat Use

Peat is not used for any horticultural maintenance within the site.

8.7 Storage of Chemicals

All chemicals, if used, are applied by *idverde* and are not stored within the park. In circumstance where chemicals would be required, they will be brought to the site for use and removed afterwards by the service provider.

8.8 Procurement

Charnwood Borough Council and *idverde* have a strong commitment to protecting the environment and will endeavour to minimise the impact on the environment whilst carrying out operational maintenance and management.

Wherever possible, our aim is that all material and consumables purchased for use across the borough are as environmentally friendly as possible by ensuring that:

- All shrubs, trees and wildflowers are sourced from UK nurseries where possible
- That only accredited growers are used and that they can demonstrate good environmental practises on their nurseries
- That all plants sourced are grown in a reduced peat medium
- Equipment made from recycled, sustainable or ethically traded material is purchased where practical

- Tools and equipment are only replaced when they meet the end of their useful life.

8.9 Housekeeping: Reducing Water Use

Everyone involved with the management and maintenance of Queen's Park are aware of the importance of reducing water consumption. In order to help achieve this, idverde have adopted a policy of using drought resistant plant varieties where applicable and undertake watering in the early morning or late evening to reduce evaporation and avoid general wastage.

Bedding plants sourced for the floral displays within the park and across the Borough are also grown in a sustainable manner that helps to reduce water consumption. A unique wetting agent, H2Gro granules, is incorporated into the growing media which holds the maximum amount of water within the compost. It is an effective and reliable way of guarding against plant stress and improves the uptake of nutrients resulting in healthier plants. The product is also safe to beneficial microbes.



Summer bedding schemes are designed with drought tolerant varieties to conserve water

8.10 Energy Conservation

Every effort is taken to reduce energy consumption within the park. The lights are controlled via dusk to dawn sensors/timers to minimise energy consumption and the water fountains are switched off at night.

Idverde also have a policy of operating electric vehicles where practical.

There is no mains gas within Queen's Park.

8.11 Resource Conservation

Mulching of shrub beds is undertaken to reduce the need for watering, using natural leaf litter generated on site and, where required, composts generated from the service providers green waste production across the Borough.

Bedding plants sourced by idverde are grown in a potless tray system whereby each plant is grown in a cell with no pot. All trays are collected by the nursery and are sterilised and re-used the following season. This drastically reduces the impact on the environment and helps to conserve precious resources.

8.12 Arboricultural Management

A variety of native and non-native trees create a canopy within the park that can be appreciated from the ground or from the top of the Carillion and also screens nearby homes and businesses and creates a sense of enclosure.

The aging tree stock in the park is recognised. New plantings have taken place over the last three years to produce a more diverse age range. This is an ongoing process, particularly as many of the mature trees are showing signs of dieback. The shade cast by trees creates a cool environment for summer visitors. Heavy shade, however, has a detrimental effect by suppressing grass and shrub growth. This is a challenge for the management team to manage the tree stock while restocking to ensure continuity and the redesigning of shrubberies and experimenting with shade tolerant grasses.

The existing trees are being carefully managed by the Charnwood Borough Council's Senior Green Spaces Officer to maintain their life expectancy. The parks trees are assessed on a regular basis in accordance with Charnwood Borough Council's Tree Policy. If a potential problem is observed it is referred to the Charnwood Borough Council's tree contractor for a more thorough inspection.

8.13 Tree Work

This is normally divided into two areas:

1.) Routine or Programmed Work

Work is identified from the Charnwood Borough Council's tree survey inspections. An instruction is then given by the Charnwood Borough Council's Senior Greenspaces Officer to the Council's tree contractor to carry out the work.

2.) Emergencies

When a tree is damaged an assessment is carried out by Charnwood Borough Council's Senior Green Spaces Officer. The tree is identified and made safe to ensure members of the public do not come into contact with the tree. Once the tree has been made safe the Senior Green Spaces Officer will instruct the Council's tree contractor to implement the necessary work.

SWOT ANALYSIS – Sustainability

Strengths	Weakness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composting of green waste to promote sustainability • Sorting and recycling of waste left by site users • Commitment to tree/shrub replanting programme and retention of existing ones • Use of pesticides kept to a minimum • Mulching of beds using recycled material • No peat used • Measures in place to reduce water • Reduced use of plastic with potless growing system and recycling of trays reduces impact on the environment • The service provider is ISO 1401 accredited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ageing tree population
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with school children and the local community to educate on good environmental practices and on responsible dog ownership • Continue to work with suppliers to develop recycled materials and environmentally sustainable technology as part of sustainable procurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decay in mature trees • Changes in legislation • Increased litigation

Bullet Points for Action

- Strive to purchase equipment with highest energy savings
- Reduce energy dependency
- Continue environmental education with school children and local community particularly in the use of plastic and recycling
- Develop a tree planting programme to ensure continuity of trees within the park

9.0 Biodiversity and Heritage

'Particular attention should be paid to the conservation and appropriate management of natural features, wildlife and flora, buildings and landscape features. These features should serve their function well without placing undue pressure on the surrounding environment' (Raising the Standard).

9.1 Cultural Landscape

Queen's Park lies within a conservation area. It contains a rich and varied range of buildings that have an important heritage to both the local community and the region as a whole. The Victorian Queen's Hall was built in 1897 as The Memorial Baths providing public baths and a public swimming pool is a distinctive red brick building; it is now home to Charnwood Museum. Loughborough War Memorial Tower is a Grade II listed building and was erected in 1922-3 and comprises a Portland stone basement, brick tower with Portland stone dressings, copper bell storey and lantern. The tower is the site of the town's Remembrance Ceremonies.

The Bandstand was presented to the Park to mark the coronation of King Edward VII in August 1902. It occupies the very centre of the park, and is a meeting place for people of all ages and the centre for music events.

These buildings and features stimulate interest for members of the public and form an integral part of Queen's Park. Annual condition surveys and subsequent works have ensured that these heritage features are maintained in a good condition. The surveys are completed by Charnwood Borough Council's Asset Management Team. Where there is a need to carry out works, the associated cost is absorbed within the relevant service specific budget with an allocation from capital funds if necessary.



The bandstand, museum and Carillon are integral cultural landscape features within Queen's Park

9.2 Water Features

The Wood Brook runs through the site and together with the footbridge is an attractive feature within the landscape that provides great wildlife value. In order to ensure it continues to do so it is important to ensure that it is kept clean and free from pollution. This also prevents flooding to the adjacent residential areas. Charnwood Borough Council has a Flood Defence Policy Statement and sustainable drainage management practices and structure in place to ensure that the Wood brook is kept clean. Leaf debris is regularly cleared out of the ponds and the Wood Brook as part of *idverde*'s routine maintenance schedule.

The planting beside the Wood Brook was redeveloped in 2016 as part of Charnwood Borough Council's and *idverde*'s commitment to continuous improvement and development within the park. The redevelopment of the area was specifically designed to retain the high horticultural aesthetic value of Queen's Park, whilst providing a unique damp habitat for moisture loving plants and amphibians.



The Wood Brook before redevelopment

After redevelopment

9.3 Fauna

Queen's Park provides a number of interesting micro-habitats, and as further projects are implemented and mature it is anticipated that a greater and increasing diversity of wildlife will be recorded using the park. Idverde and Charnwood Borough Council are committed to work in partnership with local communities to document different fauna seen within the park and encourage children to participate in events that are specifically designed to encourage further biodiversity within the park, such as making temporary bird feeders, building bird boxes etc.



Loughborough Brownies making habitat piles for wildlife within Queen's Park

All planting schemes are designed to encourage biodiversity within Queen's Park and particular attention is paid to providing flowers that are rich in nectar for pollinating and beneficial insects, particularly in the early spring and late autumn when food sources are relatively scarce.



Spring flowering plants provide nectar sources for emerging queen bees and single flowers provide food in summer

9.4 Grasslands

The grassland within Queen’s Park consists mainly of amenity grass which has a relatively poor conservation value. However, wild flowers are sown in various beds within the park in order to increase biodiversity.

9.5 Trees

Whilst there are no ‘ancient’ trees within Queen’s Park, there are a large number of mature trees, relative to the park’s small size. It is recognised that many of the trees within the park are of the same age and that a programme of tree planting is necessary to ensure continuity for future generations.

SWOT ANALYSIS – Biodiversity and Heritage

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment of Charnwood Borough Council and idverde to develop Queen’s Park in a manner that actively encourages and increases biodiversity Varied environmental education opportunities on offer The Council’s Sustainable Community and Space for Wildlife strategies recognise the value of Queen’s Park Recycling of waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A full biodiversity survey of flora and fauna on the site has not been undertaken Organised, site specific tree planting programme not in place
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New plantings of trees/shrubs to consist of berried plant material and plants/flowers to be attractive to pollinating insects to increase biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced budgetary pressure within Charnwood Borough Council and reduced funding opportunities for the voluntary sector Wildlife areas could be vulnerable to antisocial behaviour

Bullet Points for Action

- Undertake a biodiversity survey of the park
- Develop a tree planting programme
- Develop and implement specific measures to benefit bird and bat populations
- Creation of more planting schemes, where applicable, to attract and support increased biodiversity
- Monitor and record any ‘hot spots’ of antisocial activity

10.0 Community Involvement

Community involvement in Queen’s Park is led by the Friends of Queen’s Park working with Charnwood Borough Council Environmental Services and contractor, idverde. In addition to the Friends of Queen’s Park many corporate volunteer days are organised within the park with

local business such as British Triathlon, Loughborough University, Asda and local Brownies and Scouts groups.

10.1 Community Involvement and Partnership

Charnwood Borough Council and *idverde* work in partnership with the Friends of Queen's Park, a community group that strives to ensure that users and the wider community are engaged in all aspects of the park's management, maintenance and future development.

The partnership was formed in September 2006 and has already proved successful in engaging the community into the management process. The Friends Group is increasingly involved in community consultation and the fostering of new community activities. The Friends of Queen's Park played an active role in the development of this Management Plan for the park.

The Friends of Queen's Park meet on a regular basis (6 times a year) and have representatives on other committees throughout Loughborough such as the Loughborough in Bloom Board and It's Your Neighbourhood Community Participation Board. The group also hold regular site meetings with Charnwood Borough Council Environmental Services and *idverde* to discuss any issues and the development of future projects within the park.

The volunteer work and events organised by the individual partners represented on the Friends Group contributes enormously to community involvement. They work with local schools, community groups and statutory agencies to deliver activities for the local community aimed at enhancing the park.



The Friends of Queen's Park weeding in the park

The Friends of Queen's Park and Young People

One of the aims of The Friends of Queen's Park is to positively engage with local children and young people as they are the future of the group, the park and the community.

In addition to independent use of the site by schools and youth groups, organised projects with the Friends of Queen's Park include:

- Bulb planting
- Wildflower sowing
- Tree planting
- Organized litter picks and leaf clearance
- Weeding
- Removal of bedding plants



The Friends of Queen's Park work closely with young people within the park

Outside of school the Friends of Queen's Park, together with Charnwood Borough Council Environmental Services and *idverde*, are looking at ways of encouraging young people and the local community to get active and adopt a healthy lifestyle by creating new projects and various walking trails within the park.

How the partnership works

The role of local decision-making in the management of Charnwood Borough Council's open spaces lies with the Environmental Services department within the framework of national, local strategy policies and frameworks. The Friends of Queen's Park function within this framework working with the local authority and its partner agencies e.g. *idverde*, Serco Ltd, police and health bodies.

In order to maintain and increase this level of partnership working there is regular dialogue between all of the partners at formal and informal events.

The management of the park is carried out by *idverde*, on behalf of Charnwood Borough Council in conjunction with The Friends of Queen's Park who regularly volunteer within the park with other local volunteer groups.

10.2 Public Consultation

The Friends of Queen's Park work to keep the local community informed about events and activities through attending regular meetings, regular email updates, the Loughborough In Bloom website, local newspaper publications such as the Loughborough Echo and the Community Notice Board within Queen's Park.

Any proposed major changes within Queen's Park are managed by Charnwood Borough Council through wider consultation, including Ward Committees.

10.3 The Role of the Friends of Queen's Park

The role and responsibility of the Friends of Queen's Park is to promote and maintain the interests of the local community in the detailed management and development of Queen's Park.

The role of the Friends of Queen's Park is summarised as follows:

- 'Oversee' the management and development of Queen's Park
- Consider and comment on any proposals for physical development/improvements, activity/project work on the site.
- Help monitor any Service Level Agreement and contract work in the park
- Undertake minor maintenance and any projects to improve the park with the agreement of Charnwood Borough Council Environmental Services.

10.4 Membership of The Friends of Queen's Park

The membership of the Friends of Queen's Park is open to all local residents and site users.

10.5 Skill Sharing and Networking

The Friends of Queen's park are very well known locally and regularly attend other types of community meetings within Loughborough. Group members are also happy to give a helping hand to other local community groups with their volunteering activities, thus helping to share their skills and knowledge. They also work very closely with Loughborough in Bloom (LiB).o



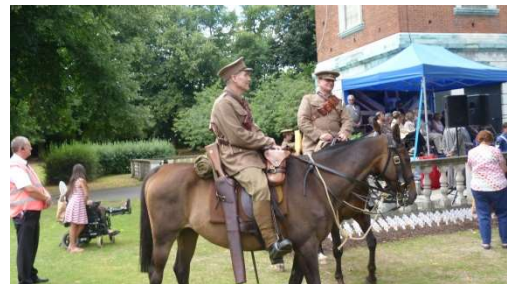
The Friends of Queen's Park working collaboratively LIB, other community groups, and local schools School to deliver projects for Remembrance Sunday in Queen's P

10.6 Appropriate Provision for the Community

The park is well used, with many people returning often and staying for significant periods. The members of the Friends Group have stated that it is highly valued by them and local residents. The Chairperson refers to Queen's Park as a "Victorian Gem".

Past user surveys highlighted the closed park toilets and age of play equipment. These issues were subsequently addressed with the toilets being refurbished in 2008 and the play equipment replaced at the same time with the investment of £400,000. The Aviary replacement is addressed within the Action Plan.

Numerous events are held within the park on an annual basis. However, due to the limited size of the open areas within the park and the proximity to residential properties care is taken to vet potential events carefully. It is important to ensure that the park is not damaged and remains a tranquil sanctuary for those wanting to escape the busy town centre. Nearby Southfields Park is arguably more appropriate for large, noisy events. Local residents and community groups are encouraged to organise and participate in events via the Green Spaces website and notice boards.



Numerous events are held in Queen's Park on an annual basis



Queen's Park forms an integral part of the judging route for Loughborough in Bloom, showcasing horticultural achievement and community engagement

SWOT ANALYSIS – Community Involvement

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong and active local community group • Well established links with local schools and the local community • Local schools use the site for educational visits • Strong community ownership and commitment to the park's future development • Strong links with Charnwood Borough Council and the service provider, <i>idverde</i> • Park is home for a wide variety of community led activities • Strong links with other local community groups in the town • Strong links with other partner organisations • Links with national organisations such as East Midlands in Bloom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties in engaging with some of local residents
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closer development support from <i>idverde's</i> Ranger Service • Added value gained from the input of local businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published material and marketing not always finding some of the local community

Bullet Points for Action

- Continue good working relationships with Charnwood Borough Council, *idverde* and local volunteers
- Continue to develop partnerships with other local community groups to share information and expertise
- Continue to develop educational visits
- Continue to engage with businesses and other volunteer groups
- Broaden methods of engagement with communities via social media

11.0 Marketing and Communication

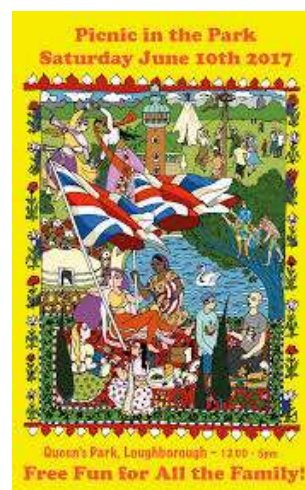
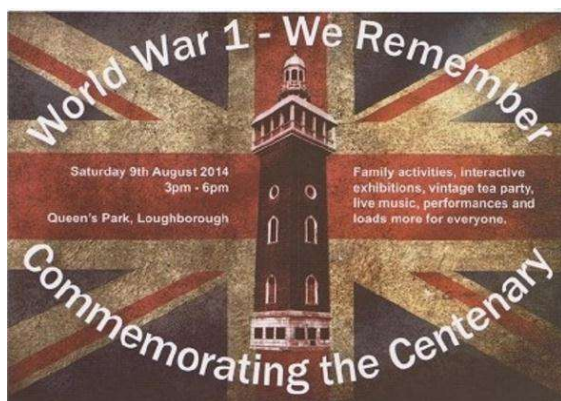
A Charnwood Borough Council Leisure Magazine is delivered to every home in the borough. This is a 16 page magazine delivered twice a year and regularly includes articles on Queens Park and other parks in the Borough.

Idverde support local and corporate volunteers by offering volunteering sessions within the park which are documented as case studies and placed on both the CBC and *idverde* websites.

Events and activities for the park, museum and Carillon museum are organised, managed and promoted through Charnwood Borough Council's Culture, Arts and Heritage Team. The team regularly updates the Events Notice Board to ensure that it is current and well presented. Charnwood Borough Council's Events and Queen's Park social media account provides information about the park and events and these are updated regularly. Events in the park are also promoted through local newspapers and on local radio by Charnwood Borough Council's Communications Team.

The Museum produces the Charnwood Museum Leaflet and leaflets publicising special museum events and exhibitions. The Carillon Museum volunteers produce a 28 page booklet about the history of the building and activities.

The Culture, Arts and Heritage Team are responsible for the upkeep of the branded brown Charnwood Promotions signs around the Borough including the sign by the museum at Pond No 1. All the Charnwood Promotions signs in the town also feature Queen's Park events information.



Posters advertising events in Queen's Park

SWOT ANALYSIS – Marketing

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published material is developed and published via Charnwood Borough Council, idverde, The Friends of Queen's Park and other local community groups • Good relationship with local press that help to promote Queen's Park and events held within the park • Links on other social media websites • Ample notice boards within the park to promote events and activities within the park • Some events are locally well known and well attended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing is dependent upon limited funding • Limited social media skills within the Friends Group

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve marketing of the park • Develop the website more • Maximise the potential of press releases for the park • Promote the park as an educational tool for schools. • Retention of the Green Flag Award • Make better use of the Council's Marketing Officers skills and contacts • Promote the park as a place of wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budgetary pressures on marketing materials

Bullet Points for Action

- Improve marketing with the Friends of Queen's Park via a physical and virtual leaflet
- Consider promoting the park via a calendar
- Continue to develop social media marketing of the park

12.0 Management

'A Green Flag site must have a management plan. It must set out the balance between all the priorities, policies and partners that apply. It should establish a timescale for putting objectives into practice. It must be actively implemented and regularly reviewed' (Raising the Standard).

12.1 Personnel

The staff structure as detailed below shows how the park is managed in relation to the overall structure of Environmental Services Department of Charnwood Borough Council.

- Director of Neighbourhoods and Community Well Being
- Head of Services
- Contract Manager
- Senior Green Spaces Manager
- Contract Officers
- Management of Open Spaces Contractor (*idverde*)

12.2 Management of Queen's Park

The Management of Open Spaces in Charnwood was outsourced in 2014 for a period of 10 years with the option of two 5 year extensions. The contract was awarded to a private contractor, Quadron Services Limited; now called *idverde*. All operational grounds maintenance staff were TUPE transferred to *idverde*. The contract is output based rather than frequency.

As the service provider, *idverde* work in partnership with Charnwood Borough Council and are responsible for the operational grounds maintenance within the park. Charnwood Borough Council retains the responsibility for the Policy developments and improvements within

Queen's park and all other public open spaces. Queen's Park is managed in accordance with the Management of Open Spaces contract and the more site specific Queen's Park management plan. The management plan is a collaborative working document between Charnwood Borough Council Environmental Services, *idverde*, and the local community represented by the Friends of Queen's Park.

CBC's commitment to achieving Green Flag status and retaining such a prestigious accreditation has in itself raised the profile of the service within Charnwood Borough Council. The service's profile has been further enhanced by capital investment of £1,525,000 over the past the past ten years which was invested in the replacement of children's play areas in Loughborough's parks (£1,350,000), infrastructure improvements in Queen's Park (£200,000) and The Outwoods (£50,000) and new toilets in Queen's Park (£150,000).



Charnwood Borough Council and idverde are committed to Green Flag

However, it is recognised that continued investment is required particularly in the maintenance of the aviary, site drainage and the replacement of senile trees and site furniture.

12.3 Quality Systems and Performance Evaluation

Currently the aim of managing open spaces is to not only achieve consistently high standards of grounds maintenance work across the Borough, but also to incorporate Charnwood Borough strategic policies and development plans. To achieve this performance evaluation is used across the Borough, combining both client and service provider.

Performance evaluation is a management system operated jointly in partnership between *idverde* and Charnwood Borough Council's Environmental Services. The system provides comprehensive, robust and consistent records, Borough wide, for undertaking managing and evaluation of grounds maintenance work.

Key performance indicators have also been built into the contract as a means of measuring continuous improvements across all open spaces, including Queen's Park.

12.4 Financial Management

The budget for the Management of Open Spaces was allocated based on land typology across the entire Borough and not specifically set for each individual park and open space. There is, therefore, no site specific budget available. The full programme of work for the site is included within the Bill of Quantities. If Queen's is to continue to expand and improve its facilities then it is clear that further revenue will have to be raised from alternative sources. Plans are in place to seek further funding for future projects from community led grants, external third parties such as the National Lottery, Britain in Bloom and local business sponsorship as well as Charnwood Borough Council.

SWOT ANALYSIS – Management

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong and committed management structure Support from Charnwood Borough Council Officers and the local community Support from idverde and trained staff Close working relationship on site between Service Provider staff and the local community Long term contract provides stability and allows for strategic planning and management of the park Financial commitment from the Council Budgetary controls in place Park is well maintained, well used and loved by local community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no site specific budget in place No budget identified for infrastructure improvements such as drainage & refurbishment of the aviary
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to explore further opportunities for raising capital and revenue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in budgets Change of control within the council No site specific forward capital programme in place

Bullet Points for Action

- Continue good management and budgetary practices
- Retain support from Councillors and local community
- Continue to develop the park in conjunction with all interested parties involved with the site
- Retain the Green Flag to help develop and maintain the park's high profile

CHAPTER 3

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

This chapter in the Queen's Park management plan brings together the information from Chapter 1 and the analysis in Chapter 2 to devise a series of aims and objectives for the future management of the site. These are then extended to produce a series of management recommendations.

The management plan is a working tool to provide the focus for all involved in the management and development of Queen's Park. It helps to avoid misunderstandings and provides accurate information to enquiries from park users.

The plan should not be used in isolation, but has clear links with other council strategies and policy documents.

12.0 Introduction

With respect to the historical and environmental background of the site, and analysis of all consultation carried out with the general public, community groups and other organisations, a series of aims and objectives have been produced with the help of a SWOT Analysis. Relevant management prescriptions are then clarified detailing the actions required to meet the aims and objectives.



Queen's Park in the autumn

13.0 Aims, Objectives and Methods

13.1 Aim: To provide a welcoming site for all visitors

13.1.1 Objectives

- To ensure the park is visually welcoming

- To facilitate access from local routes and surrounding areas
- To have clean signage at the entrances of the site
- To encourage equal access for members of the community to make use of the park

13.1.2 Methods

- Continue to improve the maintenance of the park
- Improve signage within the surrounding area and within the park
- Improve the quality of the site furniture
- Improve and maintain pathways
- Identify funding opportunities

13.2 Aim: To provide a healthy, safe and secure site for all users

13.2.1 Objectives

- Maintain park infrastructure to a high standard
- Maximise options for healthy lifestyles
- Address and resolve anti-social behaviour issues including dog fouling
- Ensure health and safety procedures are in place and implemented

13.2.2 Methods

- Promote the park as a place for health and wellbeing
- Dog fouling- continue to promote responsible dog ownership through park signage, local campaigns and educational means in conjunction with Charnwood Borough Council's Enforcement Officers
- Maintain risk assessments for the site
- Maintain regular checks in the park and its facilities
- Offer a variety of health and wellbeing activities through the implementation of new projects
- Continue to seek funding to improve and maintain park infrastructure
- Identify and work with partners to promote positive behaviour and divert away from anti-social behaviour

13.3 Aim: To achieve a consistently high standard of maintenance and cleanliness

13.3.1 Objectives

- Ensure there is a comprehensive management system in place for grounds maintenance, ecological management, cleansing and maintenance of the park's infrastructure
- Ensure regular joint inspection and performance monitoring of maintenance issues
- Ensure park users have an opportunity to comment on maintenance issues

13.3.2 Methods

- Maintain all machinery/equipment in line with manufacturer's recommendations
- Review, monitor and maintain grounds maintenance specification

- Review and monitor contractual obligations of service providers e.g. litter bin emptying
- Undertake customer surveys within the park at regular intervals

13.4. Aim: To advocate and demonstrate sustainable environmental management

13.4.1 Objectives

- Minimise the use of pesticides
- Encourage recycling of materials

13.4.2 Method

- Minimise the use of pesticides through good horticultural practice
- Focus on recycling of all materials within the park from green waste
- Develop a sustainability checklist with partners and stakeholders
- Continue to promote and deliver environmental education with school children and the local community

13.5 To protect, conserve and promote biodiversity and heritage value

13.5.1 Objectives

- Recognise and celebrate important landscape and ecological features
- Encourage biodiversity within the site

13.5.2 Methods

- Develop new habitats for wildlife
- Record and monitor biodiversity within the park
- Maintain and manage the tree stock
- Maintain all natural features



The floral displays in the museum beds and 'Great Paul' bell casing

13.6 Aim: To actively promote and enable community participation and involvement

13.6.1 Objectives

- Promote the Friends of Queen's Park to encourage wider membership and active participation in the management and maintenance of the park
- Provide and support a varied programme of activities and events
- Undertake regular consultations and surveys using a range of techniques
- Promote community led activities within the park
- Promote and support the RHS Britain In Bloom It's Your Neighbourhood campaign

13.6.2 Methods

- Continue good working relations with local community groups and stakeholders
- Continue to assist helping the Friends of Queen's Park, partner organisations and other local community groups develop projects and activities to improve the community in which the park is located



British Triathlon corporate volunteer day in Queen's Park

13.7 Aim: To ensure effective and viable management

13.7.1 Objectives

- Ensure high standards are maintained through suitable financial provision
- Ensure alternative funding sources are explored
- Ensure adequate staff and volunteer resources are maintained
- Ensure that the management plan is regularly reviewed and updated
- Ensure continued co-operation between partners, volunteers, service providers and the local authority

13.7.2 Methods

- Continue good management and budgetary practices
- Review the grounds maintenance specification
- Service providers to review training through Personal Development Reviews

- Maintain a level of good quality staff and volunteers that can support the park and help to develop it further
- Continue opportunities for the local community to be involved in the management of their park



Spring bedding in Queen's Park

CHAPTER 4

HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN WE'VE ARRIVED?

Chapter 4 of the Queen's Park management plan is the final chapter and provides the focus for ongoing improvement and development. An action plan for the next five years is set out with an explanation of how the plan will be reviewed and monitored.

14.0 Introduction

The intended actions required to continue to improve Queen's Park in relation to the issues raised in the previous sections are set out in this final chapter.

Charnwood Borough Council's Environmental Services will implement the action plan with the support from their Management of Open Spaces service provider, idverde and their waste service provider, Serco Ltd, the Friends of Queen's Park and other community partners.

The management plan is a live document that is responsive to change. Amendments will be made to reflect change and incorporate the views of users and the wider community.

15.0 Action Plan 2024-2029

The action plan is divided into the 7 aims as identified previously

- To provide a welcoming park for all users
- To provide a healthy, safe and secure park of all users
- To achieve a consistently high standard of maintenance and cleanliness
- To advocate and demonstrate sustainable environmental management
- To protect, conserve and promote biodiversity and heritage value
- To actively promote and enable community participation and involvement
- To ensure effective and viable management

All the aims have relevant actions, which correspond with the objectives identified in Chapter 3. A performance measure is identified together with a nominated person/group responsible for the action and relevant timescales.

Progress is measured with appropriate comments and the action plan covers the full duration of the management plan and is split into five sections.

QUEEN'S PARK ACTION PLAN 2024-2029

Aim – To Provide a Welcoming Site for all Visitors

Objectives	Action	Performance Measure & Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Timescale
Improve directional signage from surrounding link roads	Improve signage from main roads such as Frederick Street and Wards End	Investigate with CBC Public Realm and Leicestershire County Council Highways department to establish viability and costs of directional signs	CBC Environmental Services CBC Public Realm LCC Highways Department	12 months
By having clean signage at the entrances and within the park	Ensure that signage and site furniture is kept clean	'Added-value' work by <i>idverde</i> , Volunteer management monitored by CBC Environmental Services	CBC Environmental Services/ <i>idverde</i> /SE & Friends of QP & Volunteers	Weekly
Review and seek funding for new site signage/interpretation signs	Identify requirement and seek additional funding	Contractual funding KPI monitored by CBC	CBC/ <i>idverde</i> & Friends of QP	Ongoing as required with new developments
Encourage equal access for members of the community to make use of the site	Identify and obtain funding to supply extra benches to assist those with mobility problems	Obtain costs for benches (plus fitting). Locate and secure funding	CBC Environmental Services/ <i>idverde</i> & Friends of QP	2025/26 - Benches are currently under consultation with some new benches being installed with the new Hope Bell
Plan and develop inclusive projects for all users	Ensure that proposed new projects for the site are inclusive	Installation of new projects	CBC Environmental Services/ <i>idverde</i> & Friends of QP	Ongoing

Aim – To Provide a Healthy, Safe and Secure Site for all Users

Objectives	Action	Performance Measure & Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Timescale
Maintain structures and infrastructure to a high standard	Maintain regular checks of the site and undertake repairs as identified. Where major repairs are identified include CBC Asset Management if required. Funding solution being currently sought for the repair/refurbishment of the aviary	Regular checks by <i>idverde</i> CBC Asset Management and CBC Environmental Services	CBC Environmental Services Contract Manager CBC Asset Management, <i>idverde</i>	Ongoing rolling programme of inspection.
Address and resolve anti-social behaviour issues around dog control and dog fouling	Dog fouling – continue to promote responsible dog ownership through site signage, local campaigns and educational means in conjunction with CBC Environmental Services Waste Officers and CBC Dog Wardens	Evidence of improved cleanliness	CBC Environmental Services Contract Manager CBC Dog Wardens	Ongoing
Maximize options for health	Continue promotion of the park as a place for health and wellbeing through Walk 2000 initiative, Active Charnwood Activities, nature trails, gardening projects and volunteering	Consolidation of infrastructure, implementation of new projects and support for volunteers from CBC Environmental Services & CBC Sports & Leisure dept. <i>idverde</i> and SE	CBC Environmental Service Contract Manager CBC Sports & Leisure <i>idverde</i> SE Friends of QP & volunteers	Ongoing
Ensure Health and Safety procedures are in place and implemented	Review H&S policies and associated documentation and update on an annual basis or as necessary.	Appropriate Health & Safety documentation in place	CBC Environmental Services <i>idverde</i> & SE	Annually and as required for each new individual activity

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Improve site security through closer liaison with Police	Monitor, record & report any hotspots of anti-social behaviour	Attendance at Neighbourhood meetings	CBC Environmental Services <i>idverde</i>	Quarterly
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Aim – To Achieve a Consistently High Standard of Maintenance and Cleanliness

Objectives	Action	Performance Measure & Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Timescale
Ensure that there is a comprehensive management system in place for grounds maintenance.	Review, monitor and maintain grounds maintenance specification and contractual obligations of service providers..	95% compliance as measured by joint inspections and audits Monthly MOS meetings. Achieve Community Green Flag	CBC Environmental Services <i>idverde</i> SE	Monthly
Continue a programme of improving site furniture	Identifying funding support through CBC and local initiatives	CBC Continuous Improvement Plan	CBC Environmental Services <i>idverde</i> Friends of QP & volunteers	Review annually
Manage litter & graffiti	Where ever possible same day cleaning of graffiti. For more difficult/large quantities of graffiti to be removed within 24-48 hours. Litter to be collected as per maintenance schedule	No litter/graffiti in the Park.	CBC Contract Manager, Serco, <i>idverde</i>	Most incidents of graffiti are removed the same day. Although, on occasions more difficult graffiti was removed within 48 hour period.
Footpath/Path repairs	To carry out emergency repairs within 24 hours. Where major repairs are needed, temporary repairs will need to be carried out within 24 hours. Costings/implementation for major repairs need to be arranged as soon as possible	Regular monitoring Call out fees for contractors from £100	CBC Contract Manager	All paths are currently in fairly good condition. Sections of path were last resurfaced in 2018

Aim – To Advocate and Demonstrate Sustainable Environmental Management

Objectives	Action	Performance Measure & Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Timescale
Undertake a sustainability audit	Develop a sustainability checklist with partners and stakeholders	Documents for inclusion in the management plan	CBC Environmental Services <i>idverde</i> Friends of Queen's Park & Volunteers	12 months
Strive to purchase equipment with highest energy saving	Review horticultural markets for technological advancements	New but efficient maintenance machinery when procured	<i>idverde</i>	As required
Reduce energy dependency	Monitor and evaluate fuel and energy usage on machinery and vehicles. Implement manual horticultural practices where practical	Recording of usage each month	<i>idverde</i>	Monthly
Continue to promote and deliver education with school children and the local community	Encourage participation from local communities and schools	Record the number of visits and volunteer hours	<i>idverde</i> Ranger Service Friends of QP & Volunteers	Ongoing
Promote additional tree planting and develop a tree replacement strategy	Seek additional funding from CBC, Woodland Grants and other funding sources	Increased level of tree stock within the site	CBC Environmental Services <i>idverde</i> Friends of QP & volunteers	Ongoing/ 24months
Compost Green Waste	Horticultural arisings chipped and reused on site where practical or removed from site for composting at <i>idverde</i> and County Councils re-cycling facilities	Green waste removed from site and composted by licensed contractor	<i>idverde</i> SE	Ongoing throughout the year
Reduce water consumption	Mulching of borders where practical to reduce evaporation and use drought resident plants	Healthy plants	<i>idverde</i>	Each spring and summer bedding design programme & ongoing

Aim – To Conserve and Promote Biodiversity and Heritage Value

Objectives	Action	Performance Measure & Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Timescale
Develop and manage an ecological management system	Produce and maintain regular records of flora & fauna with records of management work undertaken	Completion of ecological records and recording of management work	<i>Idverde</i> & commercial partners CBC Environmental Services Friends of QP & Volunteers	2020
Recognize and celebrate important landscape and ecological features	Promote conservation value with interpretation signage where appropriate. Manage areas for wildlife conservation and biodiversity Record and monitor wildlife Encourage participation from local communities and schools	Increased evidence of wildlife and biodiversity through records	<i>Idverde</i> CBC Environmental Services Friends of QP & volunteers	Ongoing
Ensure a good standard of maintenance for the landscape and ecological features	Develop relevant management plans	Completion of management plans	CBC Environmental Services <i>Idverde</i> Friends of QP & volunteers	2020
Encourage biodiversity within Queen's Park	Develop and maintain new wildlife habitats Build and erect wildlife habitats	Increase the range of plant species within the Park Adopt and implement IPM management techniques within the site	<i>Idverde</i> CBC Environmental Services Friends of QP & volunteers	Ongoing
Manage mature trees to promote biodiversity	Identify/plan for future tree works	Increased biodiversity	CBC Environmental Services <i>Idverde</i>	Ongoing as per CBC Tree Policy

Aim – To Actively Promote and Enable Community Participation and Involvement

Objectives	Action	Performance Measure & Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Timescale
Continue to work in partnership with the Friends of QP and the local community in the development and maintenance of the site	Generate the management plan for Queen's Park in conjunction with CBC partners and the Friends of Queen's Park and local community groups Continue work with the Friends of QP to support funding applications for projects as required.	Continued involvement and input of the local community within the site Successful funding applications for site improvements Development and installation of site enhancements	CBC Environmental Services <i>idverde</i> Friends of QP and local community groups	Completed in 2018 but reviewed annually Ongoing
Promote the Friends of QP	Promote the group via the CBC & <i>idverde</i> websites, case studies, local press coverage and notice boards Develop and identify funding for a leaflet	Greater awareness of the group and increased membership	CBC Environmental Services <i>idverde</i> Friends of QP	Ongoing Leaflet to be completed 2019
Continue to develop partnerships with other local community groups to share information and expertise	Attend and support events and forums		CBC Environmental Services <i>idverde</i>	Ongoing as required
Continue to develop educational visits for schools and youth clubs e.g. Scouts etc.	Continue the good relationship with schools and local community groups	Increased community activity within the park	<i>idverde</i> CBC Environmental Services Friends of QP	Ongoing
Engage with corporate businesses and other groups	Identify sponsorship opportunities and activities in line with the overall management plan of the site	Sponsored projects and activities	<i>idverde</i> CBC Environmental Services Friends of QP	Ongoing

Aim – To Actively Promote and Enable Community Participation and Involvement (Cont'd)

Objectives	Action	Performance Measure & Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Timescale
Broaden methods of engagement with the community	Attendance at other local meetings Consider the use of new media and engagement methods i.e. Twitter etc.	Increased awareness of the Queen's Park and membership of the Friends of Queen's Park	idverde CBC Environmental Services Friends of QP and local volunteer groups	Ongoing as required

Aim – Marketing

Objectives	Action	Performance Measure & Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Progress
Improve marketing possibilities by ensuring high standards and suitable financial provision	Ensure high standards of maintenance of facilities and features within the Park Promote through media/leaflets/web sites etc to endorse and sponsor events	Increased number in events Increased number of visitors to the Park Increased number in volunteers	CBC Marketing and Communications	Ongoing
Identify alternative funding sources	Apply to bodies such as: Local organizations e.g. Parks 4 Play, National Lottery etc	Finance being made available to carry out project work	CBC Green Spaces Officer, idverde	Ongoing

Aim – A Well Managed Site

Objectives	Action	Performance Measure & Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Timescale
Review Management Plan for the Park	Review, amend & update Management Plan	Current and up to date Management Plan Cost absorbed within existing budgets	CBC Contract Manager, <i>idverde</i> Friends of QP	Ongoing annually
Tree Surveys and risk assessments	Review and update tree surveys in line with CBC Tree Policy	Completed surveys and risk assessments	CBC Environmental Services <i>idverde</i>	In accordance with CBC Tree Policy and risk assessments annually or as required with new projects
Ensure adequate staff resources are maintained	Maintain a level of good quality staff to ensure continued support for the Forest Road Green Belt Gardeners and help to develop the site further	Staffing levels and support to be maintained at current level by the service providers	CBC Environmental Services QSL SE	Ongoing
COSHH Assessments	Review/Update COSHH Assessments	Complete COSHH Assessments as required	<i>idverde</i>	Ongoing. Internal & 3 rd party audits carried out on annual basis
Performance Monitoring	Risk assessment, COSHH assessments, sickness returns, budgets	Completed returned sheets	<i>idverde</i> Contract Manager/ CBC	Completed monthly
Maintain and improve standards of grounds maintenance	Monitor the horticultural quality of work undertaken by <i>idverde</i>	Random evaluation of completed work in accordance to the works programme	CBC Contract Manager, Client Officers	Audits undertaken on a monthly basis
Ensure essential non-programmed works are carried out where necessary	Authorise Service Provider to undertake necessary work through the raising of a Variation Order	Raised Orders	CBC Contract Manager	Ongoing where necessary
Purchase materials as required	Complete purchase orders as required	Raised purchase orders	<i>idverde</i> CBC	Material equipment delivered. Ongoing
Maintain site Safety Documentation	Check and update file	Annual Health & Safety Assessment	<i>idverde</i>	Ongoing – audited on annual basis
Ensure Park features and equipment are in	Check play areas, pool, fence line etc. for damage	Completed check sheets archived at the Depot	<i>idverde</i>	Ongoing

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good working order and condition				
Update Machinery.	Review machinery performance and update where necessary. Review markets for technological advancements	New machinery. No cost to existing budgets	<i>idverde</i>	Ongoing
Provision of adequate funding for major refurbishments	Review the drainage across the site and look a flood alleviation methods – obtain costings Review cost of refurbishment to aviary	Identify potential third party funders and develop a funding proposal	<i>idverde</i> CBC Environmental Services Friends of QP	2020
Retention of Green Flag	Submit Queen's Park Green Flag Application	Retention of Green Flag	CBC Environmental Services <i>idverde</i>	2019/20