

Alice Park Management Plan: 2016 – 2022

This management plan was compiled by Bath and North East Somerset Council's Parks and Green Spaces Service.

Further information about this management plan can be obtained from:

Mark Cassidy, Royal Victoria Park Nursery, Marlborough Lane, Bath BA1 2LZ

Tel: 01225 39 40 41

Email: Mark_Cassidy@Bathnes.gov.uk

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Forward

The management plan for Alice Park has been developed to provide the Sub-Trust with information and knowledge of the Council's maintenance operations. The plan will assist in towards the decision making process about the park's current and future development.

The objectives have been developed to support the aims and the vision of the Alice Park's Sub-Trust to provide high quality, vibrant greenspace and improving standards through community consultation and involvement.

The vision is to nurture community wellbeing and provide a well maintained and safe, healthy and sustainable destination park for all to enjoy.

The Alice Park Trust has not previously applied for a Green Flag Award and given the current financial constraints this would be an aspirational target.

During July 2016 the Parks Management Team undertook a facilitated self-assessment, SWOT analysis, of Alice Park using the field assessment criteria from the Green Flag Award and produced a five-year action plan, for which the Alice Park Sub-Trust could consider.

This Management Plan has been written in a style that reflects the seven Green Flag principles:

- A Welcoming Place
- Healthy, Safe and Secure
- Well Maintained and Clean
- Environmental Sustainability
- Conservation and Heritage
- Community Involvement
- Marketing

The Alice Park Sub-Trust

There are four trustees appointed to the Alice Park trust: Councillors R. Appleyard and L. Patterson - non-voting members, and, Councillors M. Norton and G. Ward - voting members, and, M. Norton – Chairman. There are two Independent members S. McNab and P. Hooper.

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1 Site Summary

Site Name:	Alice Park
Location:	OS Grid Reference: ST 277651
Area:	2.8 ha (8 acres)
Origin:	The Alice Park was given by Herbert Montgomery of Batheaston in 1937 to Bath and North East Somerset Council. The Council is the Corporate-Trustee.
Designations:	Located within the World Heritage City (WHC) of Bath.
Tenure:	Registered Freehold (As Trustee)
Uprn:	100121396530
Comments:	Registered to Official Custodian for Charities on behalf of Alice Park
Full address:	The Alice Park, Gloucester Road, Lambridge, Bath, Bath and North East Somerset, BA1 7BH.

Restrictions for development: The land is subject to restrictive covenants affecting the erecting of buildings and limiting permissible developments on the land itself.

1.1 Site Description & History

Ownership

Alice Park was given in trust to the Council in 1937, for the use as a public park for children and adults, by Herbert Montgomery MacVicar of Batheaston, as a memorial to his wife: Frances Alice Harriet.

Bath and North East Somerset Council is the Corporate Sole-Trustee for Alice Park and currently undertake maintenance of designated zones within the Park.

The Alice Park Sub-Trust was formed in October 2016 and the trustees are aspiring to developing the facilities within the Park.

1.2 Location and structure

Alice Park is located within the boundary of the City of Bath.

Full address: The Alice Park, Gloucester Road, Bath, Bath and North East Somerset, BA1 7BH. OS Grid Reference: ST 764666

Alice Park is situated 2miles to the east of the city centre of Bath and 1.5miles from Batheaston in the west. Within the Lambridge grid-square, the north and western

areas are predominately housing and areas of recreational space, towards the south and east privately owned sports fields, marshland and the River Avon.

The nearest train station: Bath Spa, is approximately 3.1 miles (4.9Km) away in Bath.

Alice Park is located between Gloucester Road in the East and London Road to the South. Alice Park is located within 0.5 miles of the A4 corridor. There is good access to Alice Park using public transport.



Figure 1 Aerial view of Alice Park and surrounding area

Alice Park has one dedicated car park to the north-west of the Park off Gloucester Road, a café, children's playground, children's cycle track, WWI Memorial Area, boules piste, tennis courts and a designated quiet zone.

There are tree and shrub plantings as well as several ponds. There is a tarmac path that leads from the car park to the tennis courts, and a separate tarmac path from the pedestrian entrance off London Road that links with the children's playground. Both paths offer adequate disabled access, though there is no circular route around the Park.

Area covered by management plan

Alice Park is a 3.4 ha (8 acre) in size. This management plan covers Alice Park itself.



Figure 2 Boundary of Alice Park

2 Introduction

2.1 The Management Plan

This document sets out the current management provision of Alice Park, and is designed for the Alice Park Sub-Trust to continue its management and development as an important community asset.

The Council's Parks Department have undertaken a SWOT analysis to identify key areas the development that Alice Park Sub-Trust may wish to consider for the Parks future development. Please refer to the SWOT analysis in section 11: Management.

2.2 Aim:

The aim of the management plan is to provide the Alice Park Sub-Trust with information and knowledge for which areas of the Park is maintained by the Council. The management plan will:

- Provide a maintenance schedule for specific zones of the Park
- Identify aspirational improvements and make recommendations

2.3 Objectives:

- Maintain and enhance the overall condition of the Park
- Provide accessibility for relaxation and enjoyment of the Park
- Provide information about the Park
- Identify new future development opportunities to enhance the Park
- Manage the site in a sustainable manner
- Take into account relevant health and safety legislation.



Figure 3 Youngsters enjoying informal football at Alice Park

2.4 Legislation and Bylaws

Alice Park has a number of specific bylaws established in the Public Health Act 1875, s.164, and in the Open Spaces Act 1906, s. 2; s.15 (more detail can be found in Appendix 1).

In addition, Alice Park is covered by a legislative framework, which seeks to address and control behaviour and activities within the Park. These issues are actively promoted and enforced in partnership with the Police and other Council departments. Some of the main responsibilities are outlined below:

Table 1 Legislation governing activities in the Park

Legislation	Relevance	Responsible organisation
Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014	Dog Fouling, nuisance, ASB, community safety	Bath and North East Somerset Council/ Police
Environment Protection Act 1990	Noise nuisance, litter, abandoned vehicles, fly-tipping	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Equality Act 2010	Access and participation for disabled people	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Health and Safety at Work Act 1974	Health and Safety of visitors and workers	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999	Health and Safety of visitors and workers	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Licensing Act 2003	Selling and or supply of alcohol at events	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Localism Act 2011	Community Empowerment	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Occupiers Liability Act 1984	Health and Safety of visitors and workers	Bath and North East Somerset Council

Public Health Act 1975	Health and Safety of visitors and workers	Bath and North East Somerset Council
*Town and Country Planning Act 1990	Control over development and change of use to buildings, assets and open spaces	Bath and North East Somerset Council

*Planning controls exist to provide protection for trees. These require six weeks written notice to the planning authority, prior to works undertaken.

2.5 History

1938	<p>The Alice Park was given to Bath for use as a public park by Herbert Montgomery MacVicar of Batheaston. The donation of the park was a memorial to his wife Frances Alice Harriet, who died in 1936 at the age of fifty three. The untimely death of his wife's death was the motivation behind MacVicar's donation of the park in memorial, hence the name: Alice Park.</p> <p>MacVicar founded the park as a facility for the enjoyment and sporting achievement of local children. Several sports clubs were also set up and endowed by MacVicar to the delight of those in Bath at the time. He maintained a close interest in the development of the clubs and attended tournaments by means of a gate between the park and his house, "The Elms". MacVicar believed that access to the sports clubs should be available to all of school age, regardless of background, and subsidised clothing, sports equipment and even transport costs for those unable to afford it themselves.</p>
1938	The park and cottages were laid out and constructed, for the reputed sum of £320,000. The two park keepers' cottages were designed by Geoffrey Jellicoe who was one of the principal figures of landscape design in Bath at the time.
1939-1945	During WWII an underground air raid shelter was constructed, so that the park visitors could seek refuge from German bombs. Once the war was over, the old shelter was turned into a store for sports equipment. Later this building was filled in with concrete, and the outline can just be seen below the tennis courts.
1940	<p>The Tea Chalet, now known as Alice Park Café, was originally called "Jellicoe Tea Rooms" after the park designer.</p> <p>Two cottages were built to house Alice Parks' keepers who each worked on alternate days to keep the grounds in order. The two cottages are now a private residence and the Alice Park Nursery.</p>
1944	Queen Mary visited Alice Park to plant fruit trees in the grounds. The Paddling Pool was later transformed into the present-day sandpit in the children's play area.
1957	Herbert Montgomery MacVicar died in July 1957 at the age of 85. He was buried at the Church of St. John The Baptist in Batheaston next to his wife: Frances Alice Harriet. MacVicar's motto: " <i>make neither fish, fowl nor red herring of one another</i> " which many interpret as: ' <i>all should be equal in the scheme of things</i> ' is chiselled into the four futuristic stone plaques on the cottages.
2009	The Jellicoe Tea Pavilion was transformed into the Café. Much of the original structure still stands, despite the refurbishment.
2010	The 'Time Team*' expressed an interest in excavation of parts of Alice Park. The interest was short-lived on the desk-study revealing only the presence of the old air raid shelter.

*The 'Time Team' is a group of individuals who use ground-breaking methods for archaeological exploration and sites of specific interest and historic importance. Such explorations have been recorded and aired on television, though not for Alice Park.

3 A Welcoming Place

Alice Park has a prominent position in the landscape and within the built environment of this World Heritage City. Its location is such that it is close to a main commuter route into the City and easily accessible from surrounding villages using public transport.

The main entrance to Alice Park, off Gloucester Road, is formally signposted with historic signage. A small car park contains limited car parking spaces. Parking is free. On-road car parking is possible in marked areas along Gloucester Road, but congestion may be problematic.

There is a children's Nursery to the left of the entrance to Alice Park, and the majority of traffic is related to this community provision.

There is an information board inside the main entrance, which is in need of updating.



Figure 4 Gloucester Road and London Road entrance signage

The entrance gate off London Road has Council-branded signage, with an additional cast-iron 'AP' welded to the left-hand gate.

A cast-iron plaque on four steel legs is located in the far end of the main car park before the grassed area begins, pays tribute to MacVicar for the donation of the Park.

During the recent SWOT of Alice Park, it was noted that the Park is absent of interpretation signage and orientation tables, which would benefit both current and future use and retention of users.

Alice Park is generally open on most sides and offers good views of the natural landscape beyond.

The main vehicle entrance and car park has an adequate tarmacadam surface and good for wheelchair access.

The topography of the park is such that there is good pedestrian access to most areas. Though after heavy rainfall, the grassed areas around the quiet zone and ponds are liable to water-logging and so may be problematic for persons with physical limitations and those dependent on wheelchair use.

Additional tarmacadam pathways and access refurbishments have been identified to encircle the park and make it inclusive for DDA accessibility.

There are two relevant policy documents that guide the welcoming nature and accessibility considerations for Alice Park. These form the Council's Access Policy and the Disability Discrimination Policy. The access policy contains eight fundamental principles set out below:

Bath and North East Somerset Council in accordance with its vision and values:-

- 1.1 is committed to equal, independent access for all service users and employees to all of its services and facilities
- 1.2 is committed to the goal of creating a "barrier-free" environment which is accessible to all
- 1.3 will seek to ensure its own buildings are fully accessible and will seek effective solutions to the issue of improving access in listed buildings
- 1.4 will seek to ensure Council information is accessible by provision in alternative formats
- 1.5 will promote the concept of "good access benefits all" both internally to all Council departments and externally to building professionals, interested groups, public agencies, businesses and the general public
- 1.6 will appoint member(s) of staff to implement and review this policy and to reflect the differing needs of the urban and rural areas e.g. an Access Officer to take responsibility for each area
- 1.7 will demonstrate commitment to improved levels of access and facilities in all relevant policy considerations, joint working with other agencies and resource allocation
- 1.8 will seek to promote access improvements in the wider community through its planning and licensing decisions

The guidance document from the Human Rights Commission: “Equality impact assessment quick-start guide”, provide authorities with the necessary understanding for conducting and including equality impact assessments (EIAs) in provision of open space.

For the purpose of understanding the specific leases and Council’s grounds maintenance operations, Alice Park has been split into eight zones and this plan has been written in the format of a Green Flag management plan:

1. Children’s Playground and segregated cycle track
2. Informal leisure areas
3. Tennis Courts
4. Boules Piste
5. Community garden
6. Quiet zone with ponds
7. Café
8. WWI Memorial Garden

1. Children’s playground and segregated cycle track

The Children’s playground is located in the south-west corner of Alice Park between the café in the top-left corner and London Road in the bottom-left. The playground is fenced and gated access which segregates it from the rest of Alice Park at limited security. Items of play equipment include swings, cradle swing, sandpits and logs & bark pit, as well as a weather-resistant ping pong table.

The children’s cycle track is located in the southern area of Alice Park. The track is line-painted as a mini-road, and supports the education of safe road usage both as a young pedestrian and cyclist. The track substrate is tarmac with natural ground surround.

The SLA for the inspection of the Children’s playground equipment can be found at Appendix F.

2. Informal leisure areas

The main recreational activity is dog walking, along with jogging, ball games and enjoying a quiet moment to simply appreciate the park. Local sports groups with player age groups ranging 5-16 years old regularly utilise the expanse of grass in the middle of Alice Park as informal football pitch and other team-game activities.

The SLA for Grounds Maintenance can be found at Appendix D.

3. Tennis Courts

There are 6 outdoor all-weather tennis courts in Alice Park. The courts are located in the northeast area of the park. The courts are surrounded by high

chain-link fencing and have gated access for added security. There is seating for spectators and or players at the edge within the playing space.

The Tennis Hut faces towards the tennis courts and is used during matches to record scores between players. The hut also serves as a storage facility for game equipment.

Tennis is a popular with a wide age range of users. Due to high footfall and usage the substrate and fencing are becoming worn; and these have been identified from the Parks SWOT as an area in need of refurbishment, please refer to the Management Section 11.

The tennis courts are maintained by the Council and the surfaces are treated annually with algal growth inhibitors.

The SLA for tennis court maintenance can be found at Appendix D.

4. Boules piste

The Boules Piste (Petanque) is located at the southern-area of Alice Park between the Children's Playground and the Shelter. Boules are popular sport and pastime in Alice Park, and now more so now following the inclusion of Pétanque in recognition for inclusion in the 2024 Olympic Games.



Figure 5 The Boules Piste

The substrate can be raked and treated systemic weed killer. There may be the requirement for an annual algal-growth inhibitors treatment.

The SLA for boules piste maintenance can be found at Appendix D.

5. Community garden

The Community Garden is located in the northern part of Alice Park. The Community Garden is situated to the right of the Parks' Cottages and to the left of the Yew hedge which separates it from the WWI Memorial Garden and the rest of Alice Park.



Figure 6 Repurposed wooden pallets give low-cost natural seating

The Community Garden was set up by a local resident and is maintained by local interested people and members of Transition Larkhall.

The garden area includes fruit trees, a wildlife pond and log seating for social gatherings.

Between the Parks' Cottages and the Community Garden stands a green Oak shelter. This is used for many community events and family-orientated activities.

The Oak Shelter is available for hire. The Council did not provide this provision, nor make any revenue income from the asset.

6. Quiet zone with ponds

The Quiet Zone with Ponds is located in the far northern part of Alice Park. This zone is secluded from the main expanse of green open space. The informal seating faces the ponds and towards the park to offer a place for uninterrupted relaxation and contemplation.



Figure 7 The Ponds in the Quiet Zone

The pond water is aerated by a pump located in the Pump house. The water is topped up using potable water piped from the nearby Park's Cottages mains tap.

The SLA for grounds and pond maintenance can be found at Appendix D.

7. The cafe

The Café is located in the west of Alice Park, situated close to the right-hand side of the main entrance gate off Gloucester Road. The café was originally the changing rooms for cricket and football team. The building was refurbished in 1970's and later in 2008.

The café offers Wi-Fi access, and is open throughout the year, except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

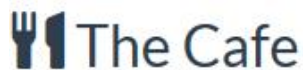


Figure 8 The Cafe at Alice Park

The café has an undercover outside seating area, making it suitable for year-round use.

Because the café is providing and selling food to the public, the café (owner and employees) needs to be conversant and compliant with Food Safety Legislation. Food safety inspections are carried out by the Council's Food Safety Team.

The café is available to hire for small to medium-sized events. The hire of the Café is not arranged through the Council, nor is any income generated from the private hire of the café.

The café has a bespoke website, which can be accessed using this link: <http://www.alicepark.co.uk/>. The dedicated website provides visitors with sufficient information about access and using the café and hire of the facilities. As well as a location map. Although in the future, the Trust may wish to consider being responsible for managing the website.

8. WWI Memorial Garden

The WWI Memorial Area is situated within a short distance from the main entrance off Gloucester Road. There is good access to the memorial area via a tarmacadam path. The Memorial is located in front of the Yew hedge that forms the boundary to the Community Garden.

The stone memorial plaque is a poignant reminder to those who gave their lives for others. The WWI Memorial Garden area includes a well-kept lawn, planted areas and several benches that face inwards to the centre of the park.



Figure 9 The WWI Memorial Area

The council cut the grass and maintain the shrubberies in the WWI Memorial Area.

4 Healthy, Safe & Secure

Bath and North East Somerset Council make every effort to ensure that all park users feel safe and secure in a healthy environment, and a number of measures have are undertaken to achieve this.

As part of Bath and North East Somerset Council's approach to health and safety, the Parks Service has a number of generic and specific procedures in order to comply with current legislation, e.g.: Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

Health and safety within the park is taken very seriously and is the responsibility of everyone working and using the park. Risk assessments are the cornerstone of Health and Safety systems and all procedures, control measures and safe working practices stem from this process.

The full suite of Health and Safety documents are reviewed annually. All documents are held electronically on Council-maintained database, and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

There are two full-time Parks Support Officers who visit all Bath and North East Somerset Council's parks on a scheduled basis or when emergencies arise. The Officers are responsible for reporting damage or repairs on the spot in any park or council property e.g. graffiti, vandalism, fly tipping etc. , as well as to monitor the clearing of litterbins and provide general advice to park users.

Regular visits by the Parks Manager compliments the roles of the Parks Support Officers roles to review safe working practices and resolve particular matters of concern.

There are an adequate number of litter bins around the park for the disposal of litter and waste. Dog waste has been down-graded to non-hazardous and can now be put in the same receptacle. Waste bins have awareness stickers on them to encourage pet owners to dispose of faecal waste responsibly. Generally, pet owners pick up and dispose of dog waste either by using the litter bins or taking it off site.

Over the last few years, there has been no evidence of drug or alcohol misuse or anti-social behaviour within Alice Park. The Council has a good working relationship with local PCSOs and the Police to swiftly resolve any situations that occur.

The Parks Service regularly uses the Community Payback Team for reparation of any damage that has occurred as a result of anti-social behaviour.

There is open access throughout Alice Park, but there is no designated public right of way within title ST 764666. The main route surfaces are DDA compliant, please refer to Section 3: A Welcoming Place.

5 Inspections and Risk Management

The Council has a comprehensive risk management system where all data is held electronically. A well-established hazard, near-miss and accident-reporting procedure is in place for:

- All Council employees,
- Volunteers and community groups.

Both managers and personnel are required to take action to manage potential risks by implementing safe systems of working and reporting to the Council's Health and Safety Team.

The Parks Manager carries out regular comprehensive risk assessments for grounds maintenance activities, which includes specific facilities such as the play area and tennis courts.

Alice Park is quality inspected once per month, and a risk assessment carried out annually (Appendix 2).

All events and activities which take place on site have risk assessments written for them. Anyone who wishes to run events must have the relevant insurance with a minimum of £500,000.000, and if the event is being organised for children or young people they must have current Disclosure Barring Service checks (DBS), in place (formally criminal record check).

A copy of the current risk assessment for the park can be found in Appendix 2

5.1 Play area inspections

The play areas in the Park are inspected on a daily basis. A full inspection is undertaken Monday to Saturday, with a brief inspection on a Sunday. This is done 364 days of the year, the only exception being Christmas Day.

The inspection team is on site throughout the daylight hours. An external inspection is also undertaken twice yearly by Zurich Municipal Insurance.

Play Safe software (PSS) is used at the play area sites, to upload 'live' inspections undertaken. On-site information can be added quickly and easily. This is managed by the Technical Officer.

The SLA for Children's Play Equipment Inspections can be found at Appendix F.

5.2 Visitor Safety

Pedestrian (on foot or bicycle) access to Alice Park is 24hrs a day, 365 days of the year. The Parks Service seeks to provide a healthy and secure venue for all visitors through the provision of quality facilities and activities, such as:

- Reporting all near-misses and accidents to the Parks Manager;

- By providing accessible toilet and drinking water facilities. Public toilets are managed and maintained by an external company: Healthmatic.
- Drinking water is available from the café open throughout the year from 09:00 to 17:30 (10:00 to 17:30 on Sundays) April to October, and 09:30 to 16:30 (10:00 to 16:30 on Sundays) November to March.
- Working with the police on security and safety matters.
- By providing lighting around main buildings.
- Providing regular controls of grounds and parks staff.
- Address episodes of vandalism, graffiti and other anti-social behaviour swiftly;
- Provide areas to secure bicycles when not in use.

Horse-riding is not permitted throughout or in any part of the Park, due to potential safety conflicts of vehicles and or pedestrian users.

There are several disabled parking bays with drop kerbs for ease of access.

5.3 Tree Management and Inspections

Trees and woodlands are vital elements within the urban and rural landscapes, increasingly becoming appreciated beyond their beauty and seen to fulfil practical roles such as climate-proofing, flood risk reduction and air conditioning. As well as authenticating, punctuating and framing the historic landscape.

Many of the trees located within Alice park bring particular significance to the amenity and the local area, and are protected under legislation (please refer to Section 2.4)

The overall goal is to remove any non-native species and re-plant to the original landscape; to encourage and maintain species diversity within the Park.



Figure 10 Trees of significance in Alice Park

Routine Tree inspections are carried out by a qualified Arboricultural Officer. The frequency of tree inspections is based upon the location of specific species, as identified in the table 2 below.

The Council's Tree Officers are committed to carrying out a visual tree safety inspection in spring and autumn, and a list is then drawn up of:

1. Any trees that need further clarification from the B&NES Tree Officer;
2. Any tree work that needs to be carried out by the B&NES Parks and Open Spaces Tree Team / private contractor.

Table 2 Tree Inspections

Risk Zone Categories	Colour Codes	Examples (but not the comprehensive list of sites)
Very High Risk	Red	<p>To be surveyed annually</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trees near railway lines 2. Schools (high risk areas) 3. RVP play area (highly used all year round) 4. Arterial road traffic routes (B&NES maintained – A4, A36,A37) 5. Pedestrianised shopping areas 6. High use car parks (Charlotte St + park/rides) 7. Top priority trees in lower risk areas (big/old)
High Risk	Orange	<p>To be surveyed every 2 years</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A roads 2. Play areas and play grounds 3. Special event sites 4. Urban green areas (Queen Square/St James/Circus) 5. Other city and town main car parks 6. Schools
Moderate Risk	Yellow	<p>To be surveyed every 3 years</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. B roads + urban highway trees 2. Well used park areas (Parade/Botanics/RVP/Keynsham Mem) 3. Business units (Wansdyke/Linear Way)
Low Risk	Green	<p>To be surveyed every 4 years</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. C roads 2. Residential OAP homes + SS sites 3. Moderate use Park areas (Recreation fields/RVP areas/outskirt parks) 4. Rural car parks
Very Low Risk	Blue	<p>To be surveyed every 5 years</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low use roads 2. Cycle paths (Bath-Biton/MSN Greenway) 3. Woodlands

5.4 Maintenance of equipment, buildings and landscape

Alice Park contains buildings and structures some of which are historical, and other functional, such as the scoring hut. Historical structures, such as the Memorial beside the ponds, are inspected and placed onto a condition survey or ORMS report which is undertaken by the Council's Property Services department. The ORMS report prioritises and identifies associated costs of repair, renovation or replacement.



Figure 11 Memorial plaque situated close to the ponds

Functional structures i.e. the café and Oak Shelter are managed and maintained by the lessees.

Future improvements will always balance the importance of the landscape and the views with the other benefits of any proposal.

6 Well maintained and clean

The Council's grounds maintenance team work hard to keep Alice Park free of litter and graffiti. The Council's partnership with the local police helps reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Any vandalism is quickly repaired to try to avoid an air of neglect and further episodes.

There are adequate waste receptacles around Alice Park, of varying designs. It is anticipated that over time the Trust will elect to standardize waste receptacles to an English Heritage Style, or similar, to reflect the significance of the Park. New bins will gradually be installed and older bins will be withdrawn over time.

The Parks Service uses the Environment Protection Act 1990 litter code standard for cleaning, from Grade A: no litter or refuse, to Grade D: heavily littered with accumulations. Alice Park is Grade A.

The cleanliness of Alice Park is appreciated by its users.

7 Environmental Sustainability

A recycling area is located close to the Café. Receptacles for cans, glass, paper and cardboard helps to contribute to a reduction of waste leaving Alice Park otherwise designated for landfill.

Bath and North East Somerset Council has corporate Environmental Policy which was adopted by the Policy and Resources Committee on 16 June 1997. The Environmental Policy covers the following areas:

- a. The council's corporate responsibility
- b. Protect and enhance the natural and historic environment
- c. Protect and enhance the built environment
- d. Encourage healthy living
- e. Raise awareness of environmental issues
- f. Monitor and minimise pollution
- g. Lessen the impact of transportation
- h. Reduce environmental damage resulting from the use of energy and resources

An Environmental Checklist has been prepared to identify the scope of the environmental impact of all service areas and support the Environmental Policy (Appendix 3).

In terms of Alice Park, the Parks Service is progressing towards sustainability by:

- Reducing the number of our own vehicles entering the Park,
- Reviewing and stopping the tipping of green waste at the Council's waste transfer station, Midland Road. This initiative seeks to reduce tipping costs and additional transport costs associated with taking it to a registered composting facility,
- Take green waste (leaves and grass) directly to Kensington Meadows for composting. Take all other green waste gets taken to a green waste recycling facility for composting. Both methods aim to reduce travelling and transport costs as well as the need for using imported compost,
- Reducing the frequency that grass is cut throughout the year. By leaving areas of long grass, these act as wildlife corridors, creating wild flower areas to attract pollinating species and rich biodiversity, where possible,
- Encourage more healthy activities and events such as: tennis, boules, cycling, running, and fitness classes.

7.1 The Pesticide Management Policy

The Council has a Pesticide Management Policy, a Code of Practice and Guidance on the Safe Use of Pesticides. The Pesticide Management Policy includes a Pesticide Management Strategy which is summarised below:

- Consider non-chemical alternatives

- Reduce to a minimum pesticide usage
- Use pesticides which pose the lowest acceptable risk (to the user, public and environment)
- Ensure pesticides are applied in a safe and proper manner
- Withdraw pesticides which appear on the MAFF Red List or EU Black List
- Withdraw the use of pesticides which pose unacceptable hazards to human health or the environment (as identified by UK regulatory authorities).

The Authority has also adopted a hierarchy of controls to eliminate or reduce the risks from chemical pesticides.

The Code of Practice and Guidance on the Safe Use of Pesticides requires that where pesticides are used only those on the Council's Approved list may be applied.

Use of pesticides in Alice Park does not form part of the regular maintenance operations although use of pesticides within the park is permitted at the discretion of the Parks Manager.

The grounds maintenance specification allows for the use of herbicides, pesticides and fungicides where this is considered to be the most appropriate method of control in line with the Pesticide Management Policy. Please refer to Appendix 4 for more detail.

8 Conservation, Heritage and Habitat

Alice Park is one of 36 designated Conservation Areas in Bath and North East Somerset. As an area of special architectural and historic interest the Council's management is keen to preserve and protect this area for current and future generations, and maintenance regimes have changed dramatically over recent years to increase biodiversity and support wildlife.

Alice park sits within a World Heritage City of historic Bath with its links to Roman occupation archaeological finds are found in the park. A range of surveys have been carried out, details available from the Council's Archaeological Officer on request.

The different zones of Alice Park (please refer to Section 3: A Welcoming Place), support an array of wildlife species. The following sightings have been reported at Alice Park: Foxes, Badgers, Deer, Rabbits, Otters, Squirrels, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Buzzard, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Green Woodpecker, Greenfinch, Jay, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Skylark, and Harlequin Ladybird. Alice Park supports healthy populations of Blackbird, Blue Tit, Buzzard, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Green Woodpecker, Greenfinch, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Skylark.

9 Community Involvement

For the local community Alice Park is hugely important, and the Council values community effort and has recognised the importance it has not only to the park, but to individuals within the group and to the wider community.

Alice Park has several local community user-groups that regularly take an interest and benefit in community activities at the Park. Two members of the Sub-Trust are drawn from the local community.

9.1 Alice Park Community Garden

The Community Garden was developed from an area of unused ground situated to the right of the Parks Cottages and to the left of the Yew hedge that forms the boundary of the WWI Memorial Area. This derelict ground has since been transformed into a vibrant Community Growing space, by enthusiastic local people of Transition Larkhall.



Figure 12 Local volunteers planting-up the raised beds

Alice Park Community Garden is ideal for people who do not want the regular commitment of an Allotment-garden plot, but want the psycho-social and physical benefits of working collectively together, to participate in knowledge-sharing in a relaxed social setting.

In 2013, a hard surface was laid in the garden for improved access. A green oak open shelter provides protection from the elements and space for courses and other activities.

The Oak Shelter is also available for hire. Please contact Transition Larkhall for further details: <http://apcg.co.uk>



Figure 13 The Oak Shelter – a hub for social events

To communicate with users of the Community Garden, Transition Larkhall uses the following:

- A website: <http://apcg.co.uk> which is well-established and includes information regarding forthcoming events;
- A dedicated email address: info@aliceparkcommunitygarden.org
- Direct flyers attached to the Oak Shelter and located in strategic places around the park;
- A notice board by the main gate;
- A dedicated webpage listing forthcoming gardening-related talks and events;
- A Facebook page.

9.2 Bath Mums

Bath Mums represent a significant portion of user groups to Alice Park. Bath Mums is Alice Park's community hub which promotes and endorses child-related activities at Alice Park.

This group also promotes the café to sell products that are Fairtrade, Organic and Local food. Bath Mums have their own bespoke website, which can be accessed via this link: <https://bathmums.co.uk/>.

The Website is maintained by Bath Mums, not by the Council.

9.3 Events at Alice Park

The expanse of open space in the centre of the Park plays host to a variety of events throughout the year, and brings enjoyment to large numbers of people, both residents and visitors. Local events are considered important components of cultural life as well as having a positive effect on the wellbeing and image of the area and supporting the local economy.

In 2015, Alice Park was host to:

- 3 Day Larkhall Festival (First Bank Holiday in May)

- Marque In The Park Classic Car Show (first Sunday in September)
- Big Pink Thing musical fundraiser for breast cancer (second Sunday in October)
- Quiet fireworks
- Halloween
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Julian House Big Sleep Out (first Friday night in March)
- Another Party In The Park (August bank holiday Monday)
- Live Music and DJ's most weekends through Summer



Figure 14 Events at Alice Park

Events are promoted either by the Council or through external organisers. The Council is actively using social media (@BathnesParks) to proactively encourage more users to destinations. And, external event organisers regularly use the Bath Tourist Information Office to promote events for visitors and tourists. All events are subject to a Licence agreement which is also linked in to the Outdoor Events Policy (please refer to Section 2.4: Legislation and Bylaws).

The current B&NES Council Events Policy can be accessed here:
http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/events_policy.pdf

The Event Organiser's Toolkit is the more detailed working document that translates the local authority policy into practical terms:
<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/sport-leisure-and-parks/event-organisers-information/event-organisers-toolkit>

10 Marketing Strategy

The marketing strategy for Alice Park sits alongside the Council's marketing work to promote all Parks and Green Spaces within the district of Bath and North East Somerset.

During 2016, the Parks Service has been developing a comprehensive marketing strategy to commence in 2017. The Parks Service has strengthened its links with the Communications and Marketing Department of the Council to ensure that all good news stories are sufficiently and regularly promoted (please refer to Section 9: Community Involvement).

The aim for 2017 is to utilise several different marketing tools, which includes social media, Council webpages as well as revitalising leaflets specifically about the Park.

11 Management

The Parks Service is currently undergoing staff transformation and intends to produce a 10 year Management Plan for Alice Park in association with the Alice Park Sub-Trust, which will identify aspirations for future development and improvement of the Park for all user-groups. The SWOT analysis undertaken in 2016 can be viewed in Table 3 below.

Tables' 3-11 SWOT analysis from 2016

Entrance – Gloucester Road

Internal		External	
Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and obvious entrance to the park • Entrance is close to the Children's Play Area and Café/ Lavatories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Railings are in need of painting • Signage is tatty and back to front • There is only a bare earth path between the car park and the café • The Nursery wildflower bed appears messy and unappealing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A main Alice Park sign mentioning the Sub Trust and a second board for information and notices • Install a formalised path between the car park and the café • Improve the stand for the Alice MacVicar sign • Remove the nursery bed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget pressures will impact on what can be achieved and more importantly what can be maintained

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed tree saplings (Ash and Sycamore) are present in the shrub border immediately adjacent to the right hand side of the café and should be removed winter 16/17 • Beds in front of Healthmatic toilets are full of weed and shrubs that are over mature. • Tree canopies are low and inhibit relaxation and exclude DDA accessibility • Presence of bike rack clutters the main entrance 	<p>and return to grass but plant the wider lawn area with successional spring bulbs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install low walls, fill with soil and plant with low-growing herbaceous shrubs in front of Healthmatic toilet • Clear beds in front of Healthmatic toilet and replant using shade tolerant architectural plants • Raise canopies of lime trees obstructing paths and other trees around café seating area to increase DDA accessibility • Relocate bike rack inwards of park entrance to entice people into the park. 	
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WWI Memorial Area

Internal		External	
Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing path to the war memorial facilitates wheelchair access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of distinct formality to memorial area. • Plaque needs to be refreshed and repositioned. • Community garden obscured by yew hedge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add curved stone wall with embedded seating to either side at the end of the path leading to the memorial. • Remove old plaque plinth and replace with improved plinth and position plaque to face upwards. • Replace Cherry trees with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget pressures will impact on what can be achieved and more importantly what can be maintained.

		fastigate trees to create more formal look and under-plant with curving swathe of flower bulbs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce width of community garden Yew hedge by a third. 	
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Central Area

Internal		External	
Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open area facilitates a number of informal activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of designated social picnicking/ barbeque seating space / facilities. • Main planting of Daffodils are now quite old and are coming up blind. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install a small number of barbeque benches. • Mow off Daffodil bulbs on flat, but retain on the slope. Plant white bulbs on slope for a more striking effect. • Plant bulbs around the old stump. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget pressures will impact on what can be achieved and more importantly what can be maintained.

Pond Area

Internal		External	
Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pond adds a point of interest and is something not seen in every park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak and somewhat piecemeal design that does nothing to define the area. • Pond water has become stagnant and needs to be remedied. • Memorial plaque beside pond is in need of cleaning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add white/ silver planting to border hedge. • Remove Berberis. • Plant trees for autumn colours e.g. Acer. This may fit in with the war memorial aspect. • Revitalise/refresh tree and planting landscapes: seasonal colours/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget pressures will impact on what can be achieved and more importantly what can be maintained.

		distinctions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant white bulbs. • Remove weed trees in border hedge. • Restore water flow to revitalise pond water quality. 	
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Tennis Court Area

Internal		External	
Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly defined purpose for this area. • Revenue stream with potential for growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut back encroaching northern boundary vegetation from "Horseshoe Walk". • Metal object protruding from ground on path between courts and boundary hedge requires removal. Creates a tripping hazard and health and safety risk. • Lack of a water source makes it difficult to maintain the courts and the pond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace corroded iron fencing around tennis courts and resurface courts. • Speak to property services regarding repairs to the Tennis hut weatherboards, and roof tiles are broken in places. • Create footpath between tennis courts and children's cycle track to extend the 'Horseshoe Walk'. • Add a measured distance track between the tennis courts and the fence line. • Need to ensure a new water source close to the tennis courts for pressure washing /maintenance of courts / topping up of pond if needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget pressures will impact on what can be achieved and more importantly what can be maintained.

Children's Cycle Track Area

Internal		External	
Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design type suitable for designated age of users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proximity of gate to busy road. Lack of welcome sign at this entrance. Lack of horticultural interest. Benches face away from the track. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install pedestrian safety barrier at gate onto road near children's cycle track. Install Welcome to Alice Park sign at this entrance. Plant bulbs in this area. Add hedging to fence line adjacent to cycle track. Consider repositioning benches to face children on cycle track. Install miniature road signage to improve the play interest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget pressures will impact on what can be achieved and more importantly what can be maintained.

Shelter

Internal		External	
Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bedding costs low as grown by Council. In-house ground staff maintenance. Recently revitalised and appointed Trustees. Actively publicised on Council web-page and social media. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure in need of repair and refurbishment. Uneven ground. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paint and repair shelter, repair roof and replace missing slats beneath seat. Install guttering on roof to prevent rainfall run off forming muddy areas on ground (where would guttering drain to?) Fill and grass over unsightly puddle depression on ground. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trustees and or local communities resisting improvement changes and Council-intervention at the Park. Funding and revenue security.

Play Area

Internal		External	
Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generous footprint. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poorly defined boundary that is too close to the road. Lack of seating for parents and carers. Gates are not self-closing so reliant on users always closing the gates behind them. Equipment appeals to a narrow age range. The play equipment is dated and over supplies swings at the expense of more interesting units. Underutilised Table Tennis table. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant more trees at southern corner against the road and possibly redefine the boundary by pulling the hedge line in toward the park and away from the road. Install self-closing gate at play entrance closest to London Road. Install more benches. Relocate the Table Tennis table to a space outside the play area to encourage adult/young adult play. Perhaps the café could rent out paddles and ping pong balls? Shift entrance to play area away from the café to divert foot traffic from café al fresco dining area. Swap the stressed arch swings and the Springies to make room to install a new multi activity climbing frame with slide for older children. Install 3 new Springies in a group facing inwards together. Install a small water play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget pressures will impact on what can be achieved and more importantly what can be maintained.

		feature e.g. water pump and rill. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swap some tarmac for grass along the edges of the play area and then alter the grass edge to a wavy design. • Swap some tarmac in the centre of the play area for a more playful (porous) surface using Eco mulch or Nott sport etc. • Swap two flat swings for tango seats (dual seat swings for sharing “carer and baby”) Swap the logs in the bark pit for a see saw or low rotator / wok. 	
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General and Throughout

Internal		External	
Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bins throughout park are of variable condition and type. • Benches in poor condition. • What should be a circular path ceases three quarters of the way around the park. • Lack of signage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardise the type of bin throughout. • A number of benches need either replacing or refurbishment. • Add new bin beside each new bench. • Create a pathway between the pond area and the London Road to link the two sides of the park and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget pressures will impact on what can be achieved and more importantly what can be maintained.

		create all weather access for users of buggies, wheelchairs etc. • Add interpretation and direction signage throughout the park.	
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Some of the costs associated with the maintenance of the Park are included in the grounds maintenance SLA held by Bath and North East Somerset Council.

11.1 Aspirational Plan and Timeline

The aspirations for Alice Park are itemised in the plan overleaf, along with forecast timescale. Source of funding not yet determined and the amount of works/improvements done will be dependent upon how much funding is available. Funding streams will need to be secured before works are agreed and commissioned.

The following abbreviations are used in the aspiration plan overleaf :

PM = Parks Manager

AO = Arboricultural Officer

OM = Operations Manager

PO = Projects Officer

PS = Property Services

FG = Friends Group

Comms = Communications & Marketing Dept.

Green Flag criteria: To ensure Alice Park is welcoming and accessible to all users

Area of Park	Action Point	Aspiration	Year 1 2017/18	Year 2 2018/19	Year 3 2019/20	Year 4 2020/21	Year 5 2021/22
Entrance	1.1a	A main Alice Park sign mentioning the Sub Trust and a second board for information and notices	#				
	1.1b	Install a formalised path between the car park and the café		#			
	1.1c	Improve the stand for the Alice MacVicar sign			#		
	1.1d	Clear beds in front of Healthmatic toilet and install low walls from the entrance. Plant with low-growing herbaceous shrubs		#			
	1.1e	Raise canopies of Lime trees obstructing the paths and other trees around café seating area to increase DDA accessibility	#	#	#	#	#
	1.1f	Relocate bike rack inwards of the park entrance to entice people into the park	#	#			
WWI Memorial Area	1.2a	Add curved stone wall with embedded seating area to either side at the end of the path leading to the memorial		#			
	1.2b	Remove old plaque plinth and replace with improved plinth and position plaque to face upwards		#			
Central Area	1.3a	Install a small number of barbeque benches	#	#	#	#	#
Tennis Courts	1.4a	Replace corroded iron fencing around tennis courts and resurface courts		#	#	#	
	1.4b	Create footpath between tennis court and children's cycle track to extend the 'Horseshoe Walk'		#	#		
	1.4c	Add a measured distance track between the tennis courts and the fence line			#	#	#
Children's Cycle Track	1.5a	Install pedestrian safety barrier at gate onto road near children's cycle track		#			
	1.5b	Install a 'Welcome to Alice Park' sign at the entrance of Childrens' area	#				
	1.5c	Consider repositioning benches to face children on cycle track.		#			
	1.5d	Install miniature road signage to improve the play interest and instill safety awareness early-on	#				
Shelter	1.6a	Paint and repair shelter, repair roof and replace missing seat slats beneath the seat	#	#	#	#	#
	1.6b	Install guttering on roof to prevent rain runoff forming muddy areas on the ground.		#	#		

Play Area	1.7a	Install self-closing gate at play area entrance closest to London Road	#				
	1.7b	Install more benches for social group gatherings		#			
	1.7c	Relocate the Table Tennis table to a space outside the play area to encourage adult/ young adult use and play.		#			
	1.7d	Shift the entrance to the play area from the café to diver foot traffic from café al fresco dining area			#		
	1.7e	Swap the stressed arch swings and the springies to make room to install a new multi-activity climbing frame with slide for older children			#		
	1.7f	Install 3 new Springies in a group facing inwards together			#		
	1.7g	Install a small water play feature e.g. water pump & rill			#		
	1.7h	Swap two flat swings for tango seats (dual seat swings for sharing "carer and baby"). Swap the logs in the bark pit for low rotator/ wok/ see saw		#			
General	1.8a	Create a new pathway between the pond area and the London Road to link the two sides of the park and create an all-weather access for users of buggies, wheelchairs etc.			#		
	1.8b	Add interpretation and directional signage throughout the Park		#			

Green Flag criteria: To maintain the highest standards of horticulture, cleanliness and grounds maintenance

Area of Park	Action Point	Aspiration	Year 1 2017/18	Year 2 2018/19	Year 3 2019/20	Year 4 2020/21	Year 5 2021/22
Entrance	2.1a	Remove the Nursery bed and return to grass but plant the wider lawn area with successional spring bulbs	#				
WWI Memorial area	2.2a	Replace Cherry trees with fatigiate trees to create more formal look and underplant with curving swathe of flower bulbs		#			
Central Area	2.3a	Mow off Daffodil bulbs on flat, but retain the slope. Plant white bulbs on slope for a more striking effect	#	#	#	#	#
	2.3b	Plant bulbs around the old stump	#				
Pond Area	2.4a	Add white/silver planting to border hedge	#				
	2.4b	Remove Berberis		#			
	2.4c	Plant trees for autumn colours e.g. Acer. This may fit in with the war memorial aspect	#	#	#	#	#
	2.4d	Revitalise/ refresh tree and planting landscapes: seasonal colours/ distinctions		#			
	2.4e	Plant white bulbs	#	#	#		
	2.4f	Remove weed trees in border hedge	#				
Children's Cycle	2.5a	Plant bulbs in this area	#				
	2.6a	Add hedging to fence line adjacent to cycle track		#			
Shelter	2.6b	Fill in and grass over unsightly puddle depression on ground	#				
General throughout	2.7a	Replace old bins with a new bin to keep all bins to similar style		#			

Green Flag criteria: To adopt environmental management principles and therefore reduce the impact of management operations on the environment

Area of Park	Action Point	Aspiration	Year 1 2017/18	Year 2 2018/19	Year 3 2019/20	Year 4 2020/21	Year 5 2021/22
General	4.1a	Review tree replacement policy to maintain Park character	#	#			
	4.1b	Review pesticide use and reduce where possible	#	#	#	#	#
	4.1c	Maximise use of local contractors	#	#	#	#	#
Tennis Courts	4.2a	Need to ensure a new water source close to the tennis courts for pressure washing/ maintenance of courts/ topping up of pond if necessary			#		
Play Area	4.3a	Plant more trees at southern corner against the road and possibly redefine the boundary by pulling the hedge line in toward the park and away from the road		#			
	4.3b	Swap some tarmac for grass along the edges of the play area and then alter the grass edge to a wavy design			#		
	4.3c	Swap some tarmac in the centre of the play area for a more playful (porous) surface using Eco mulch or Nott Sport etc.			#		

Green Flag criteria: To promote biodiversity through appropriate management and to enhance the local historic significance of the park

Area of Park	Action Point	Aspiration	Year 1 2017/18	Year 2 2018/19	Year 3 2019/20	Year 4 2020/21	Year 5 2021/22
Pond Area	5.1a	Restore water flow to revitalise pond water			#		
Tennis Courts	5.2a	Repair Tennis Court hut weatherboards and replace broken roof tiles			#		
General	5.3a	Standardise the type of bin throughout	#	#	#	#	#
	5.3b	A number of benches need either replacing or refurbishment to in-keeping with heritage style	#	#	#	#	#

Green Flag criteria: To actively promote the park to all potential users

Area of Park	Action Point	Aspiration	Year 1 2017/18	Year 2 2018/19	Year 3 2019/20	Year 4 2020/21	Year 5 2021/22
Marketing	7.1a	Monitor and review the Council's webpage	#	#	#	#	#
	7.1b	Promote key areas within the park using social media	#	#	#	#	#