

Survey of Alice Park [revised]

Introduction

This survey was carried out *in Spring 2019* at the request of the former Chairman of the Alice Park Trust Sub-Committee. He was concerned that certain elements of the park were in a dilapidated state and therefore did not present the park at its best. The survey is limited to those parts which are readily accessible to users. The survey does not include the interior elements of the playground and parts of the park not under direct control of the Trust. The observations are based on a circular tour of the park starting and finishing at the vehicle entrance in Gloucester Road. *This survey has been updated following another inspection in November 2020.*

Detailed Observations.

1. Entrance Gates.

The lower hinge to the right hand (southern) gate has been broken probably by vehicle impact and the gate has been removed for safety reasons. It is presently secured to the adjacent railings. The hinge requires repairing.

The southern gatepost is out of alignment and will require re-adjusting *or replacing* for the gates to operate correctly *before the hinge is refitted.*

2. Car Park Surface

The markings on the surface are so far worn that the limits of the pedestrian walkway, the bays reserved for disabled parking and the limits of prohibited parking for access of emergency vehicles to the main area of the park are no longer clear. These need to be repainted.

The provision of supplementary signage would assist in making the intention of the markings clearer.

3. Drain to the Car Park.

This is subject to frequent blockage. The cause of this should be investigated and appropriate remedial action taken.

4. Commemoration Plaque.

Situated between the nursery and the emergency entrance, the front left-hand support of the plaque has been impacted and distorted (probably by a vehicle). This requires repair. The structure and the plaque should be cleaned and repainted.

4.a. Protective Bollards

One of the decorative protective bollards which delineate the car park from the adjacent grassed area is missing. The bollard in question is important because it contributes to the system of bollards that control access of vehicular traffic to the main park. As such it should be replaced

5. There are two “prohibition of cycling” notices painted on the surface of the existing northern pathway. If the Trust is of the opinion that cycling on the footpath is prohibited, these require repainting.

6. Park Benches

The wooden surfaces to most the benches round the park would benefit from cleaning and retreating to improve their appearance.

Two benches (one in the lower tennis court; another nearest to the London Road entrance) have lost the top rail to their backs which should be replaced.

The left-hand support to the bench near the London Road is out of alignment and requires readjusting.

Some of the benches in the area between the northern element of the path and the hedge adjacent to the community garden have loose and/or missing seating rails these should be repaired or replaced as necessary.

7. Tennis Pavilion.

The guttering and down piping are rotted. (The downpipe has been removed to prevent it falling onto passers-by). The whole should be inspected as a matter of urgency and replaced/repaired as necessary.

Parts of the weatherboarding walls are broken. These require repairing.

Some of the wooden tiles to the roof are distorted and/or missing allowing potential for water to enter the interior of the building. These should be adjusted, repaired or replaced as necessary.

The top rail to the northern side of the staircase leading to the eastern external door has disappeared making the staircase dangerous for users. This should be replaced.

8. Iron Gates to London Road Entrance.

These have slipped in their restraining hinges and foul the restraining plate at ground level making them difficult to open and close readily. These should be adjusted to ensure their efficient operation. The missing bolt to the western gate should be replaced.

The smaller eastern gate could benefit from the installation of a self-closer to ensure that the gate returns to the closed position to ensure the safety of children using the park

9. Pergola.

The wood to the whole structure requires cleaning and repainting.

Some of the wooden roof tiles are distorted or cracked and require repair or replacement. There appears (from ground level) to be no protection to the ridge of the roof.

10. Perimeter Fence.

Close to the junction with London Road, a lower rail to the fence bordering Gloucester Road has been damaged (possible by someone standing on it to gain access to the park. This should be repaired and additional measures put in place to prevent unauthorized access.

11. Street Marking to Children's Cycle Play Area

These markings are faded and worn and require repainting.

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There are two sources of electricity, one to the pavilion adjacent to the tennis courts, the other servicing both the café and the toilet block. The Electricity at Work Regulation requires that these should be periodically examined and tested to ensure adequacy and integrity by a competent person and certificates provided.

There is evidence that the supply is nearing its capacity to supply the café and the toilet block. This should be investigated with a view to upgrading the supply to deal with the increased loading.

13. Tennis Courts

The surfaces to the courts have been recently cleaned. The renovation of these is currently under review and dilapidations will be addressed as part of that programme.

Conclusion

These matters are put before the Sub-Committee for its consideration. *The items in italic font have been included as a result of the re-inspection. Some items that have been dealt with since the original report have been deleted.*