

# Kings' Park - Retford

## MANAGEMENT PLAN



**Bassetlaw**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
— North Nottinghamshire —



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# Executive Summary

Bassetlaw District Council is committed to providing high quality parks and open spaces throughout the district. This commitment has transformed the parks and open spaces after investments made into the facilities that have often involved pioneering new developments and improvements across the service. The improvements have enabled the Council to apply for Green Flag Awards for its two main town centre parks.

Kings Park in Retford has been successful in achieving the Green Flag Award status since 2008.

The park is managed and maintained by Parks and Open Spaces within Environment Services led by the Neighbourhoods Portfolio.

This management plan has been written as a working document to ensure the Park continues to develop and evolve with the needs and expectations of the public. It enables the Council and partners to keep focused on future strategic aims and aspirations as identified within both management and development planning for the park.

To ensure the plan retains its value as a current working document it will be updated and amended annually to reflect developments and changing priorities.

## Previous Plans

This management plan supersedes, and is built on, the learning from the implementation of numerous previous plans. Consultation with park users, groups, organisations and others with a vested interest in the park's future as a community asset, has consistently shaped development since a significant report proposing improvements was produced in 2000 and a Strategic Development Plan commissioned in 2013.

Both presently and historically, consultation shows Kings Park is valued on a grass roots level as a multi-use recreational green space and resource for all communities in and around the town of Retford. By carrying on the legacy of continuous improvement, the park's role as a key town centre asset becomes steadily more real and visible.

A recent key milestone in the development of the park has been the construction of the now very popular Water Play Splash Park and Performance Area in 2016. These high quality improvements combined within a diverse and extensive recreational landscape has made Kings Park into a 'Destination Park' with cross-generational appeal.

The next phase of development and planning is about unifying all the park's assets at an equal level of quality and ensuring that further development brings important built heritage elements to a greater degree of prominence and relevance as useable assets within the park

# Vision Statement for Kings' Park

To establish the Park as the green and living centre of Retford through the promotion of its heritage, landscape and value as the flagship recreational resource of the town



In support of Bassetlaw District Council's Aim to be:

“A dynamic district where people live, work and prosper and the Council works in partnership with others to develop a better quality of life”



# Statement from the Portfolio Holders



“Kings’ Park has a special place in the hearts of the people of Retford and is clear that it is highly regarded by visitors as well. ‘Mindful escape’, ‘Gorgeous park with something for everyone’. ‘Outstanding children’s play area’, ‘Splendid, a riot of colour.’ These are just some of the comments left about the park online. It is our duty to not only safeguard this Green Space for future generations, but we have a responsibility to ensure it is maintained to our high standards and is accessible and enjoyable for everybody.

Over the last couple of years our acclaimed Panto in the Park series has attracted thousands of people to view outdoor viewings of classics such as Puss in Boots or the more obscure Giant’s Loo Roll. This Management Plan will ensure that we have the platform and facilities to host events such as these in an outstanding Green Space for years to come.”



**Councillor Simon Greaves**  
Leader of Bassetlaw District Council



As Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, I am immensely proud of all the effort that goes into the maintenance and development of the Green Flag award winning Kings’ Park. Our staff display a real pride in the park and the positive benefits that quality green open space and play facilities can bring to residents lives. We will continue to enhance the park’s offer, improve the visitor experience and encourage people to keep coming back. This Management Plan sets out how we will maintain the park and our aspirations for its future development.”



**Councillor Julie Leigh**  
Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods  
Bassetlaw District Council



## Section 1

# The Current Situation

Local Area Profile

Site Introduction

Site Information

Maps and Plans

Facilities

History and Heritage



# 1.1 Local Area Profile

Retford is an East Midlands market town situated 31 miles from Nottingham to the south and 23 miles from Lincoln to the west. Retford forms the second largest settlement in the district of Bassetlaw with a population 21,314.

Two prominent watercourses, the River Idle and the Chesterfield Canal run through the centre of the town adding to its character.

The town has a 750-year-old history as a market town, having been granted its Royal Charter by King Henry III in 1236 when permission to hold a fair was granted, however the borough of East Retford was established even earlier having been founded in 1105 by Henry I to collect tolls from travellers crossing the River Idle.

Retford was reformed by the Municipal Corporations Act 1835 and then remained a municipal borough until 1974 when it was merged into the Bassetlaw district.

Prominent landmarks within the town include a recently refurbished market square with its war memorial overlooked by an ornate Victorian-style town hall.

St Swithun's Church is fronted by Cannon Square which accommodates a cannon captured from the Siege of Sebastopol during the Crimean War, also contributing towards the town's heritage.

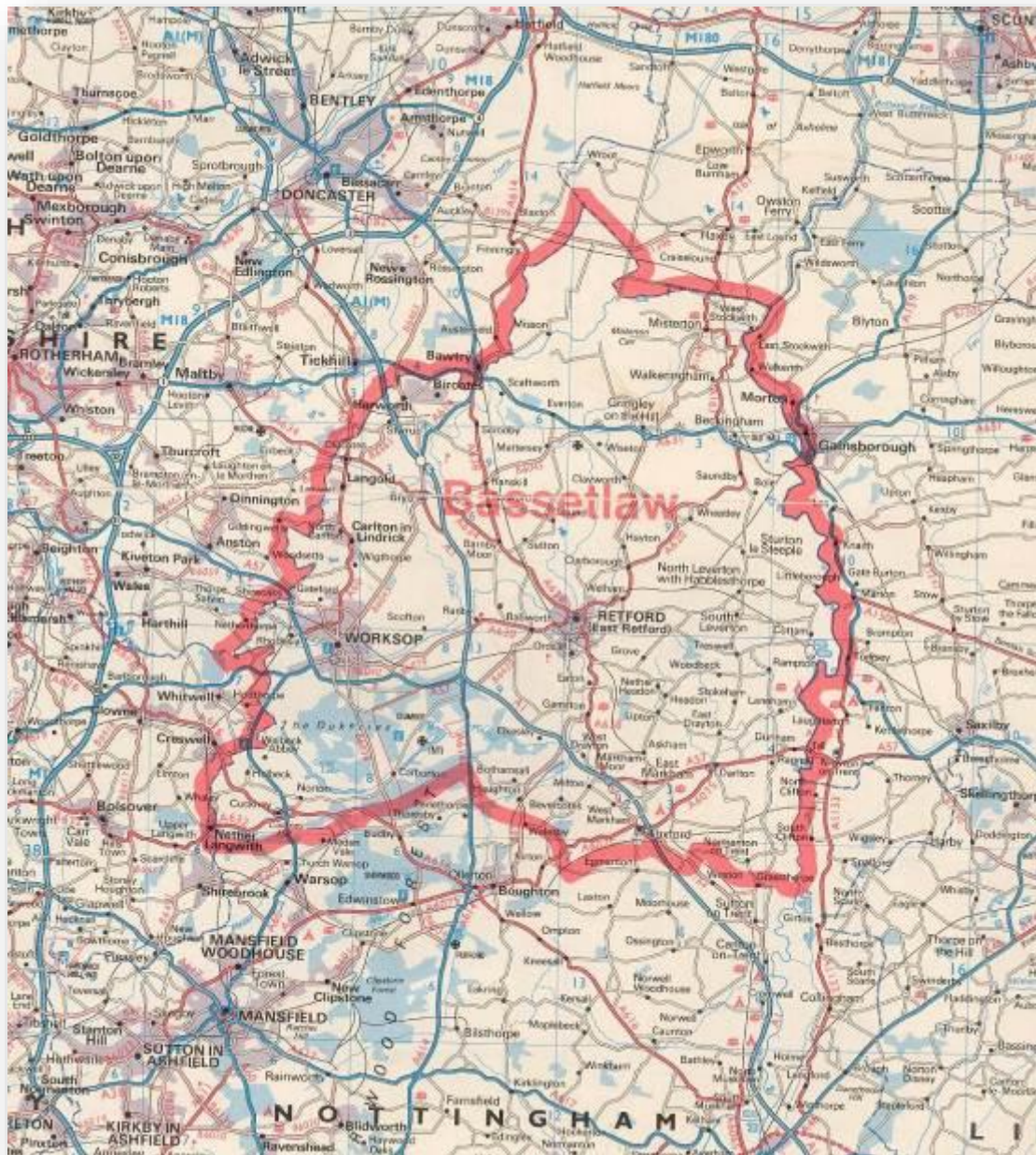
Retford has a strong economy mainly consisting of light industry. The town itself is an important commercial centre for the local area with supermarkets, many independent shops and a market every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

In recent years, Retford has seen a substantial population growth with the provision of many new houses with buyers attracted by Retford's convenient location for commuters.

Retford is conveniently served by the A1 trunk road and the A57 which links Retford to a number of towns and cities. Retford is also served by major rail lines including the east-coast main line with travel to London's Kings Cross accessible within 1 hour 20 minutes.



# Local Area Map





## 1.2 Site Introduction

Located just to the West of Retford Town Centre, the award winning Kings Park sets the standard for green space provision across the district of Bassetlaw.

Covering an area of over 10 hectares, the park is divided into two distinct areas by the River Idle which forms an integral part of the scenic landscape.

To the East of the river, the original Kings Park site is formally landscaped with garden areas which accommodate specimen trees, formal hedges, water features, seasonal floral display beds and well maintained lawns. Facilities including a pavilion, tennis courts and a bowling green are also sited within this area and complement the garden landscapes to provide an ideal setting for relaxation and passive recreational pursuits.



The land to the West of the River Idle was opened as an extension to the original park. In contrast to the formal gardens, this area of parkland offers open green space, which is ideal for ball game activities such as football, cricket and rounders. Towards the northern boundary, parts of the green space are naturally banked, providing an amphitheatre setting for the new multi-use performance area. During winter, if snow prevails, this area becomes a magnet for the youngsters

with sledges, proving that Kings Park is a park for all seasons.

A children's play area with a wide range of modern equipment and popular water splashpark is located in this section of the park and over on the southern boundary young people can enjoy the challenges of the 'Youth Activity Park' with its skateboard ramps and all weather multi-use ball court.

In contrast to its play and recreational facilities, the western half of the Kings Park site accommodates a wildlife garden. Screened by mature trees and naturalised vegetation this once derelict allotment site adjoins the Chesterfield Canal along its western boundary.

# Site Map



## 1.3 Site Information

### Address Details

Name and location:	Kings Park Chancery Lane Retford Notts DN22 6DF
Grid Reference (o/s):	SK 702810
Owned by:	Bassetlaw District Council Queens Buildings Potter Street Worksop Nottinghamshire S80 2AH
Managed by:	Bassetlaw District Council Parks and Open Spaces Unit Carlton Forest Depot Hundred Acre Lane Worksop Notts S81 0TS

### Access Details

Main entrance:	Chancery Lane
Secondary entrance:	Hospital Road
Other entrances off:	Bridgeway Centre Car Park, West Street, West Street Car Park, The Carr, the Chesterfield Canal Towpath

### Access Statement

Bassetlaw District Council continues to fulfil its obligations under The Equality Act 2010 by improving accessibility throughout Kings Park.

Many footpaths and thoroughfares in the park have been made more accessible with either hard or compacted fine aggregate surfacing.

Through a planned programme of refurbishment and ongoing improvements, all reasonable adjustments will be made to increase access levels throughout the park and its facilities.

Where the Management Plan identifies that access to some facilities cannot be addressed through reasonable adjustments, Bassetlaw District Council will plan and seek funding for fully accessible replacements as these facilities approach the end of their serviceable life.



## 1.4 Facilities

- Rose Garden
- Community Garden
- Water Play Splashpark\*
- Kiosk & Public Conveniences\*
- Children's Play Area
- Multi-Use Games Area
- Skate Park
- Multi-Use Performance Area
- Pavilion\*
- Bowling Green\*
- Tennis Courts x2\*
- Wildlife Garden



*\*Seasonal facility only*

Owned and managed by Bassetlaw District Council, the park is open to the public throughout the year.

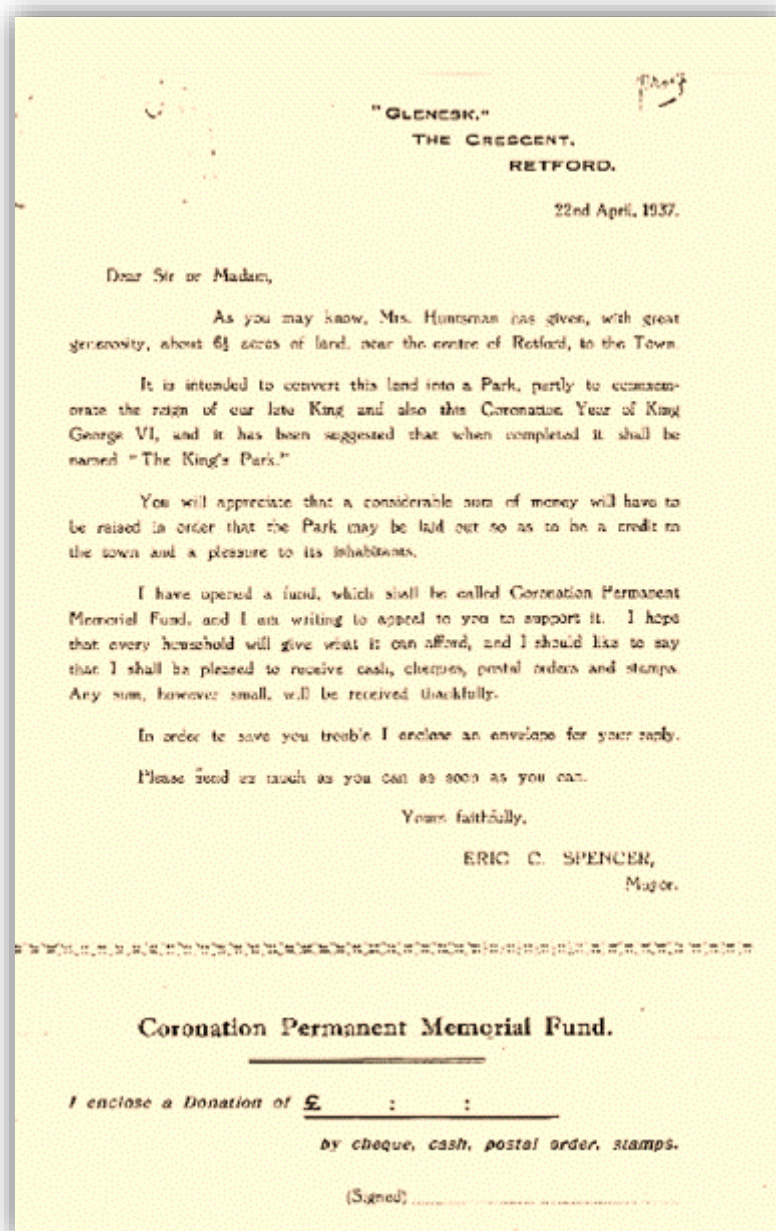
The splashpark facility is open to the public from May to September from 10:00am to 6:00pm daily.

## 1.5 History and Heritage

Retford's Kings Park is set within a rich, diverse cultural and archaeological landscape and is located immediately to the west of Retford Town Centre.

The site for the original Park, which occupies the land from Chancery Lane to the River Idle was donated by Mrs M J Huntsman of West Retford Hall in 1937.

A public appeal (see below copy of a letter seeking support) by the Borough of East Retford raised £2,000 (equivalent to about £95,250 today) towards the estimated cost of £8,000 (equivalent to about £381,000 today) to develop the park.



Above: A copy of the Mayor's letter appealing for public donations to build the Park 1937

Due to its low lying nature the land was raised between 1937 and 1938 using the town's refuse with landscaping on top.

The design and costing for the Park was provided by Mr H W Tee who was the Borough Engineer and Surveyor for the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich.

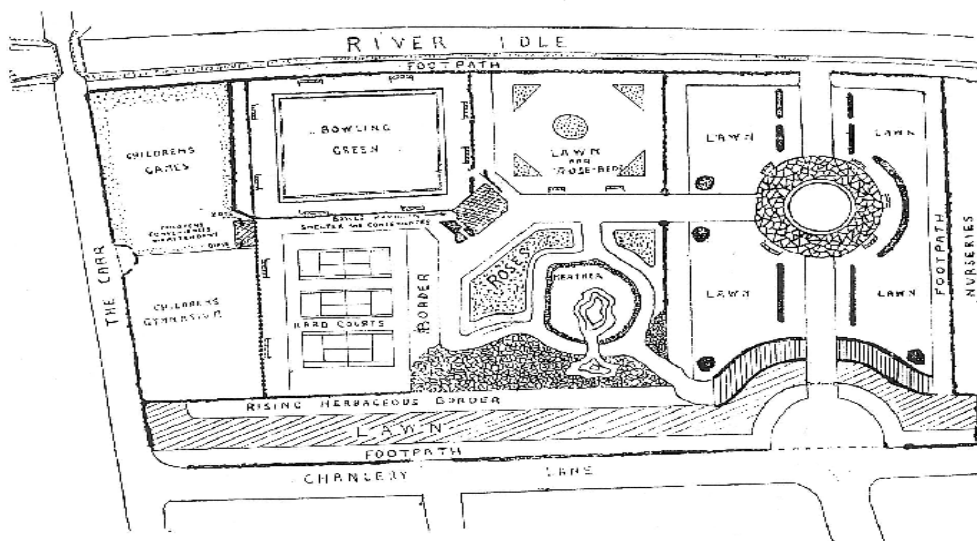
Quotations were received from a number of local companies including Mr B R Neale, Mr G F Gyles, Messrs Curtis and Howell Ltd and W Neal and Son.

Some of the most expensive items at the time were:

- Provide and lay Bowling Green £488.50
- Provide and lay natural stone in rockery and plant with rock plants and alpinas £754.80
- To provide and erect thatched pavilion £427.82

The layout for the park is very similar to the present design with the exception of the children's games and children's gymnasium, which were sited on the now extended car park for ASDA.

Suggested equipment for the gymnasium included swings, a chute, a merry-go-round and a jungle-gym. For the children's games area, it was suggested that the area should be left grassed for the children to romp about and play ball games with an area for a sand pit.



The Park was officially opened on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 1938 to commemorate the reign of King George V and the Coronation of King George VI. A further donation of the land by R H Williamson to the west of the River Idle allowed for an extension of the Park which was officially opened 27<sup>th</sup> April 1960. Kings Park's central feature, the River Idle followed the line of Carr Dyke within the Park, which represents the historic Parish boundaries of East and West Retford. The course of the Idle was diverted and canalised in 1777 when the Retford section of the Chesterfield Canal, designed by master engineer James Brindley, was constructed.

Canalisation was necessary as the river would have been in close or immediate proximity of the raised banks of the canal to the southwest of the Park. Carr Bridge, that crosses the Idle within the Park, is thought to have been constructed at the same time as the canal as an access route associated with the construction of the canal.

The brick boundary wall adjacent to Rectory Road/Hospital Road was constructed in the early-19th century. 1826 saw the addition of a dower house (West Retford Cottage) in the south west corner of the site for the widow of William Huntsman (of West Retford Hall). Much of the landscaping throughout the west half of the park dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with open vistas, lawned areas, tree belts and specimen trees located throughout.



Above: Boundary Wall adjacent to Rectory Road/Hospital Road

## Features of Significance

### West Retford Hall (built 1699, Grade II listed)

The oldest part of the park is that which immediately surrounds West Retford Hall. This was laid out in a rectangular plot on higher ground, perpendicular to both the former roadway that ran across the front of the hall to the North-West and the former course of the River Idle, now called Carr Dyke, to the south east. The enclosure of 1774 saw the roadway stopped up and a new road built further to the North-West, utilising a former access to the old West Retford Hall (now the site of Trinity Hospital), this road being called Hospital Road. A series of outbuildings adjacent to the hall, including stables, were also constructed in this period, probably for George Brown Esq (also of Ordsall Hall).



Above: Main façade of West Retford Hall

## Celebrating and upgrading Kings Park heritage

Some elements of the rich and diverse heritage landscape on the east side of Kings Park require upgrading to return them to a condition in keeping with and doing justice to their original quality when the park was first opened. This includes finding new 'park community' uses for The Pavilion and Bowling Green which are now largely unused. New uses will both conserve and return them to being assets central to the life of the park. During February 2019 a public consultation was held in and around The Pavilion to gauge the level of public support for a Heritage Lottery Fund application to pay for a wide range of major improvements. Other related improvements include reinstating York Stone paving from the Chancery lane entrance, major upgrading of footpaths and installing period styled park furniture. Public support was overwhelmingly in favour. A full Stage 1 application has been submitted in November 2019 and further work is expected to be necessary to progress within this and other stages of the bid process.

## Section 2

# Assessment and Analysis

Assessment and Analysis

Service Assessment

Site Ecology

Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

SWOT Analysis

Environmental Performance Assessment

Marketing and Communication

Community Events





## 2.1 Assessment and Analysis

Section one of this Management Plan has provided factual background information about Kings Park as an established green space amenity and its relevance in supporting Bassetlaw District Council's broader aims and objectives.

Section two of the plan will present general aspects relating to the current situation and incorporates the outline recommendations from the Strategic Development Plan (2013) delivering a clear direction for the management and development of Kings Park.

This second stage will be achieved through a process of assessment and analysis based on an evaluation of:

- Operational Services – in the form of a 'Service Assessment Report'
- General recommendations – in the context of the park
- Areas for further Investigation – in terms of considerations

## 2.2 Service Assessment

### Introduction

Having gained quality assurance recognition for Kings Park, Bassetlaw District Council will continue to work with interested parties to retain the prestigious Green Flag Award, at the same time ensuring that the local community has access to a valuable green space asset.

A key element of this process will continue to involve input from the local community to ensure that 'their park' is managed and developed to serve 'their needs'.

Development phases since 2000 have focused on restoration projects and improvements to all areas of the park vicinity.

In order to action these commitments, the District Council's Parks and Open Spaces Team have produced this Kings Park Service Assessment Report.

## Area A – The Rose Garden

### Present Condition Assessment

Kings Park's original rose garden feature, which was eventually removed in 2009, consisted of triangular, rectangular and circular shaped beds, laid out in a grassed area adjacent to the River Idle.

The Design for a new replacement rose garden, now constructed on the site of the original feature, was based on ideas and a concept sketch drafted by the District Council's Parks and Open Spaces Team. The project was then developed through to its delivery with the assistance of Nottinghamshire County Council's Landscape Design Team.

Officially opened in 2010, the rose garden feature incorporates an analemmatic sundial provided by the Rotary Club of Retford.

The new rose garden consists of segmented beds, crushed stone paths and themed seating provision, accommodated within a circular design.



This well maintained formal feature was planted with a wide range of colourful, highly scented roses (over 900 in total), including climbing varieties which are supported on ornate metal archways.

A carved stone rose feature provides a centrepiece within this symmetrically designed landscape.

### Proposed Improvement Works 2013-2022

As one of the parks most recently upgraded areas the scope for further improvement works within the rose garden are limited. Therefore, just one proposal has been highlighted for consideration:

- The upgrading of access paths by replacing existing crushed stone surfaces with functional attractive materials (e.g. resin-bonded gravel).

## Area B– The Rock and Water Garden

### Present Condition Assessment

In 2005 the District Council's Parks and Open Spaces Management and Landscape Teams embarked on a major project to restore Kings Park's most interesting landscape feature.

The park's rock and water garden feature had lost its impact due to a gradual decline in resources. The restoration project focused on the site's two main features, an informal pond and a limestone rock garden.

For a number of years, the pond had failed to retain its optimum water level due to fractures in its concrete base. Following a draining and de-silting operation, the ponds basin was repaired, refilling and replanted with aquatic and marginal species.

An extensive area of overgrown limestone rock garden adjacent to the pond was reclaimed in an operation that involved the repositioning and re-alignment of several prominent rocks.

Beds within the rock garden were subsequently replanted with a range of conifers, alpiners and herbaceous plants to create an integrated backdrop to the restored water feature.

This well-maintained feature has also benefitted from the installation of traditional style furniture, footpath improvements and shrub border replanting works.

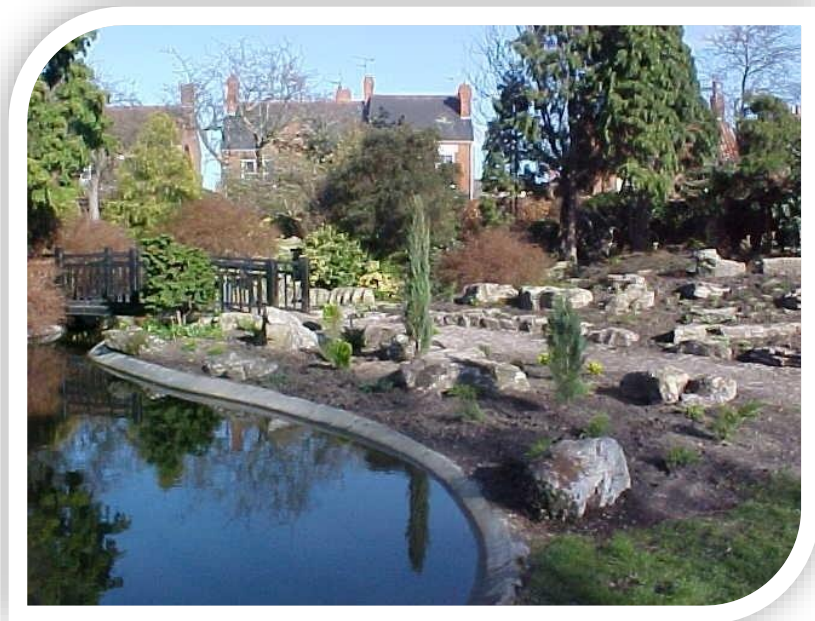
New bulb plantings and a water reflective winter stem border have ensured that the revamped landscape provides all year round interest.

Once a congregating area for drinkers this visually attractive site now affords a quiet tranquil environment for relaxation, following the inclusion of Kings Park into the town centre alcohol ban.

### Proposed Improvement Works 2013-2022

The potential for improvements in this area within this period is likely to be limited. However, one significant project would be to renovate the large mature shrub border at the rear of the site. Therefore, suggested improvements are as follows:

- To redesign and replant the long shrub border to rear of the rock and water garden feature, which runs parallel to the Chancery Lane boundary
- To refresh the rock garden and small shrub borders with new plants.



## Area C– The Floral Display Garden

### Present Condition Assessment

In the autumn of 2000, the District Council Landscape Team started work on the regrading and re-seeding of Kings Park's formal, ornamental lawns.

This large-scale project involved the distribution of 600 tonnes of imported top soil to address a settlement and undulation problem which had previously devalued the visual impact of seasonal bedding displays.

In the spring of 2001, realigned seasonal display beds were re-cut into the newly established lawns. These were complemented in 2003 by the reintroduction of a traditional style herbaceous border.

In 2009, the impressive main entrance feature at Chancery Lane (also at Hospital Road) was fully restored by skilled craftsmen. The remedial works included metalwork fabrication and painting and stone masonry skills to re-align and clean the large stone pillars.



In May 2014, the main entrance to the park at Chancery Lane had a quartet of new bespoke Victorian style gas lanterns fitted onto the stone pillars of its Chancery Lane entrance.

During the restoration works of the main entrance gates and railings in 2009 the original plans for the gates were found in the Bassetlaw Museum archives by members of the Retford Civic Society.

It was discovered that prior to the park opening in 1938 two large lanterns were intended to be placed on the main gate pillars. Funds were not available for the two main lanterns on the gate pillars at the time and these were never produced. Only two smaller gas lit lanterns were installed on the corner stone pillars for the opening of the park.

The decision was taken in 2013 by the Friends of the Park to complete the original project as intended.

A joint venture between Retford Civic Society, the Council and other local organisations secured the necessary funding to commission the manufacture of two new larger sized lanterns for the main gate pillars and restore the existing two lanterns to their former glory.

The new lanterns included the theming of the lighting to ensure the use of the low energy bulbs resemble the orange glow of the original gas lamps.



The impressive main entrance way to the park on the gates now looks as originally as intended with the addition of exact replicas of the two smaller lanterns on its corner pillars.

Through its location and design the floral display garden site forms Kings Park's most prominent feature.

Although the gardens are accessible from the park's main pedestrian thoroughfare, this formal landscape feature provides an ideal environment for relaxation and passive recreation.

The successful delivery of the planned improvement works enhances the visual impact of the landscape within the park's main vista. The reformed beds now accommodate traditional colourful floral displays set within well-maintained lawns in a formal landscape which also includes the herbaceous feature, specimen trees and a water feature.

The grand main entrance to the park can now be seen and appreciated by all visitors from a distance following the prohibiting of parking in front of the gates.

### Proposed Improvement Works 2013-2022

Beyond the visual improvements already achieved, this key area still provides scope for a varied range of improvement projects within this period. These are as follows:

- The installation of an automatic irrigation system to aid the establishment and survival of newly planted beds (particularly seasonal displays) and borders. Reducing labour costs and water charges.
- The partial redesigning of the herbaceous border to refresh its appearance and to introduce a range of more drought resistant species.
- The installation of themed curved benching to replace existing seating provision around the park's centrally sited circular pond.
- The upgrading of thoroughfare routes and access paths in keeping with the heritage of the park.
- Prohibit parking in front of the Chancery Lane entrance gates (introduced February 2019).



## Area D– Goodwin Hall Gardens

### Present Condition Assessment

Following years of gradual decline, the tired landscape of the Goodwin Hall Garden was eventually redesigned and redeveloped through a project which embraced partnership working and local community input.

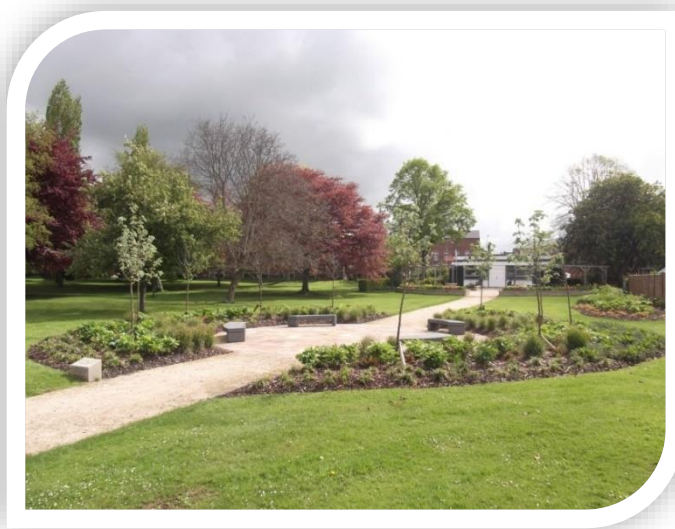
This re-styled landscape adjacent to the River Idle was re-opened from 2011 when it was renamed The Goodwin Hall Community Garden.

Following consultation exercises with local user groups, the services of a private sector landscape architect were procured and a design reflecting community views was produced.

While retaining aspects of its original layout, the significantly revamped gardens now incorporate a number of new and diverse features. These include an impressive winter border, a patio with raised beds, seating and trellis work and a secret garden with an ornate seating feature.

The delivery of this very successful partnership project was made possible by a significant grant aid contribution from Nottinghamshire County Council and through the considerable efforts of the Retford Civic Society who provided a key supporting role throughout.

The revamped Goodwin Hall Community Gardens have established well and its features are now fully integrated within the surrounding landscape.



The grass, beds and border features are well-maintained in accordance with standards applied in other high-amenity areas within the park.

### Proposed Improvement Works 2013–2022

Although only recently developed, the parcel of land now named as the Goodwin Hall Community Garden extends significantly beyond the new landscape previously described. There is ample opportunity therefore to consider developing and delivering a number of complementary projects over the next few years. These may include:

- A planned second-phase of the recently completed scheme linking the new features into the adjoining 'arboretum' area. This community project would involve the under-planting of seasonal bulbs and low growing herbaceous plants in drifts below the trees.
- Improvements to the specimen tree collection, developing this part of the site formally as an 'arboretum' feature.

- The installation of new themed seating further along the riverside walk thoroughfare.
- Modifying the surface finish on the new stone path leading to the recently restored central seating area and the Goodwin Hall patio.

## Area E– The Sports Area

### Present Condition Assessment

This area has benefitted from a number of improvements in recent years. These include:

- The installation of an automatic irrigation system serving the 6-rink bowling green.
- The resurfacing of access routes and footpaths.
- The upgrading of boundary fences and gates.
- The installation of be-spoked ornate access gates, to secure the bowling green facility.
- The upgrading of site furniture and signage.
- The construction of a new access ramp into the pavilion.
- The refurbishment of the park's tennis facility (2 courts) in 2011 and remarking of both courts in 2019.



This area consists of two seasonal sports facilities, a contained bowling green and refurbished tennis courts.

The bowling green continues to be maintained to the high standards associated with this type of traditional municipal provision, within a present area enclosed on all four sides by mature formal hedges.

This part of the site, which also accommodates a large herbaceous and shrub border, has

been enhanced by significant improvements to its paths, furnishings, fences and gates. The installation of new gates now allows the closure of the facility during the closed winter season, diverting pedestrian traffic along a new footpath adjacent to the tennis courts.

The once dilapidated tennis courts have been extensively refurbished with a colour coated tarmac surface over a reconstructed sub-base, enclosed by replacement perimeter fencing.



The Kings Park Pavilion which has also benefited from small scale improvements is sited alongside the two sports facilities.

### Proposed Improvement Works 2013-2022

Due to the extensive range of improvements that have been undertaken within this relatively small area, scope for further development over the next few years will be limited. However, three small scale projects have been identified at this stage:

- To convert the seasonal floral display bed to an herbaceous border style planting (completed May 2013)
- To invigorate the old shrub border feature with new plantings.
- The installation of new fencing to upgrade the park's outer boundary between the tennis courts and the Asda car park (completed February 2015)

## Area F– West Retford Hall Field and Performance Area

### Present Condition Assessment

This area of the park can boast a number of mature specimen trees laid out amongst an open area of grassland allowing for the site to be used for informal recreation (ball games etc..) and as a backup for small community events and organised activities particularly during the summer months or when ground conditions may not be favourable on the main events field. It is ideally located next to the Hospital Road entrance into the park.

Kings Park second main entry gates at Hospital Road were restored in conjunction with the Chancery Lane park entrance in 2009, as part of a prominent heritage project.

A site information board for the park, along with improved signage and lockable bollards, have been installed adjacent to this well used-access into the park.

The field also benefitted from renovation works carried out in 2010 on the Hospital Road and Rectory Road brick walled boundaries. Mowing routines along those two walled boundaries have creased to promote a softening of the field edge landscape and to create wildlife habitat margins.

The eastern lower end of the field accommodates the newly built 'performance area' in the park. Set within its own natural amphitheatre, it can be used for the staging of a wide range of events from performing arts to live music. The bespoke performance area with its permanent roof canopy replaced the previous concrete platform that was known as the 'bandstand'.



## Proposed Improvement Works 2013–2022

A new bespoke performance area to replace the former concrete block that was previously the bandstand facility (completed 2017).

Consultation exercises in July 2012 lead to the decision for the new performance area facility to be of a modern stylised design and for the new facility to be relocated to optimise the viewing potential from the large grass bank opposite.

Two other projects that maybe considered are:

- The upgrading and regrading of the main thoroughfare path leading from the Hospital Road gates to Carr Dyke. Altering the gradient slightly at certain locations and resurfacing with a suitable material.
- The introduction of more small scale habitat areas.

## Area G– The Children’s Play Area

### Present Condition Assessment

This extremely well-used facility has recently benefited from the new water splash park installation and other developments in 2016 being incorporated into this existing equipped play area that was totally re-built during the mid-2000’s, in accordance with recommendations from the Kings Park Development Plan 2000.

A replacement Lappset timber multi-unit designed with an emphasis on integrated play was installed in 2000 which pre-dates all the other items of play equipment now on the site. This unit has now reached the end of serviceable life with proposals to replace it completely.

All the out dated play items previously on the site in 2005 was removed from the area to create space for the installation of a re-designed facility which complemented the timber Lappset unit with an extensive range of modern and dynamic equipment that was newly available at the time.

As result of these developments, this children’s facility now provides a high level of play value through a varied range of challenging and stimulating equipment.

A new 'ability whirl' roundabout was installed in the play area in October 2017 after a combination of the local community fund raising and donations from various local groups and organisations provided the necessary funds to purchase the roundabout. Installed flush to the ground it allows for easy access for wheelchairs and pushchairs with two enclosed wheelchair stations. It allows for parents or carers to sit on the roundabout at the same time to share the experience.



### Proposed Improvement Works 2013–2022

Municipal play equipment of the type and quality of that installed in Kings Park has a life expectancy of around twenty years. It is anticipated therefore that there will be no need for a further radical refurbishment of the Kings Park play facility before 2024/25 (beyond the chronological scope of this ten-year Development Plan).

However, in order to ensure that the facility maintains its appeal for park users and that it fulfils future aims and objectives, the introduction or implementation of the following measures may be beneficial:

- The upgrading of the wet pour rubber safety surface around the timber multi-unit. Incorporating new ground graphic games to enhance the play value of this feature.
- The Installation of two or three additional innovative play items to refresh the site prior to its next full refurbishment (circa 2024/25), in order to maintain play value and user interest.

## Area H– Water Splashpark

### Present Condition Assessment

This area of the park is one of the most popular areas of the park visited, by young people and families particularly from May to September following the installation of the new watersplash park facility in 2016. The facility is recognised as a significant enhancement both for the park and for the local area.

The themed water/sand play facility with its mix of multiple water jets and sprays, small paddling area, push button directional water guns with water bucket drops and play operated water turning wheels such as the Archimedes screw complements the existing equipped play

area alongside. It was designed to be accessible for children of all ages and abilities with brightly coloured safer surfacing defining different zoned areas for play.

Included in the development was the construction of a kiosk/WC building which was shortlisted as a finalist in the Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Building Excellence Awards 2017 for



the best public service building. It was recognised for its innovative design, sustainability and improving building standards. The kiosk and toilets are open daily during the summer months when the splash park is open for use. Both the kiosk and public toilets are managed and maintained by a private kiosk operator under a licence agreement.

A number of picnic tables and furnishings made from recycled plastics have been installed on the site to provide areas for sitting and relaxation.

The development of this area also included the installation of a new CCTV camera that is linked into the town centre system for monitoring and recording purposes. The camera covers the play area and surrounding areas including the nearby performance area giving greater reassurances to users of the park.

Containing no significant landscape features this site, as with most of Kings Park's western side consist of regularly maintained open grassland, again catering for informal recreational use.

The play area field is bordered by the Carr Dyke watercourse on its eastern edge and accommodates a number of mature managed trees mainly around its perimeters.

### [Proposed Improvement Works 2013-2022](#)

This area is ideally located to accommodate environmental initiatives with an educational value alongside new high-impact recreational facilities. In view of these mixed opportunities, this new plan revisits some earlier proposals and introduces significant new initiatives for this site:

- The installation of benches and tables to create a picnic area (completed March 17)
- The installation of an outdoor BBQ facility
- Subtle modifications to the landscape to create a low maintenance natural play environment (using logs, boulders, grass mounds etc.), near to the existing play area
- The installation of a water splashpark facility adjacent to the existing children's play area (completed August 2016)



- The provision of a seasonal kiosk/shop/toilet facility to cater for increased demand arising from potential developments within this and other areas of the park (completed May 2017)
- The creation of an annual meadow to provide floral colour from a natural habitat which will encourage butterflies, bees and other insects.

## Area I– The Wildlife Garden

### Present Condition Assessment

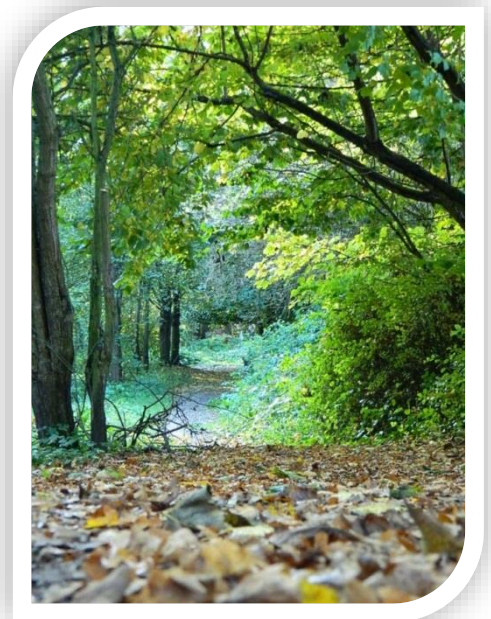
This designated habitat area has continued to benefit from subtle improvement works since 2003, these include:

- Remedial tree and shrub pruning works
- Planned changes to grass mowing regimes
- Planting of additional native trees and shrub species to encourage wildlife
- The installation of bird and bat nesting boxes
- Path extensions and upgrades
- Boundary fence upgrades
- The installation of basic interpretative signage.

By design, this area differs considerably from the parks high-amenity landscape features to the east of the River Idle.

In order to encourage the wildlife, its main body of vegetation is left to grow naturally and maintenance tends to be restricted to occasional pruning operations to facilitate access, tree works and litter collections.

The wildlife garden is at its most interesting during the spring nesting season and then again between September and November when native species display rich autumn leaf colour and a range of winterberries.



### Proposed Improvement Works 2013–2022

Although the wildlife garden is managed as a controlled natural environment, there is still scope for further projects which will enhance its amenity value.

Proposals for future works may include:

- The installation of rustic style benches to complement the landscape and provide visitors with an opportunity to view and study the wildlife, in a relaxed environment
- The continued introduction of new native species to encourage wildlife e.g. wild meadow flowers to attract butterflies, bees and other insects
- The upgrading of the basic interpretative signage to offer more information for interested visitors.



## Area J– The River Idle Field

### Present Condition Assessment

The previous plan made no recommendations for the implementation of development or refurbishment projects in this key area of the park. Therefore, in accordance with the plan and without detriment to its usage, the River Idle Field has been maintained rather than developed.

Forming the park's largest open feature, this accessible, level green space satisfies two main functions.

- 1) Throughout the year it provides a spacious environment for informal play and recreation.
- 2) On specific occasions this site is used to accommodate events and organised community activities.



The site continues to be maintained satisfactory to specified standards in respect of its informal and planned usage.

### Proposed Improvement Works 2013–2022

Due to this sites recreational value, it is essential that the River Idle Field retains it spacious open qualities and that no new projects impact on this main attribute.

However, as part of the 2013–2022 Development Plan key proposals need to be given due consideration.

- The installation of a power supply to assist with the staging of organised events and activities.
- The installation of low level flood lighting to illuminate the willow tree feature along the field's riverside boundary.
- The installation of outdoor gym equipment to form a 'Health and Wellbeing Park' adjacent to Carr Dyke on the fields eastern boundary.

## Area K– The Celery Field ‘Youth Activity Park’

### Present Condition Assessment

Prior to the planned development works the Celery Field adjacent to the main body of Kings Park accommodated an isolated, well-worn half pipe skate ramp.

In August 2002 works commenced on the first phase of a major scheme, to develop the under used site as a recreational facility for older children and young people.

Following the installation of a multi-use games area ‘MUGA’ in 2002, the ‘Celery Field Youth Activity Park’ was completed the following year with the construction of a bespoke concrete skate park and the refurbishment of the original ramp.

Supplementary site improvement works have since included the installation of a youth shelter and the construction of a tarmac access path.



Previously described as a green space annexe, the Celery Field is now fully integrated into the Kings Park landscape.

The site, in particular its skate park facility, is well used by young people, as a hub for social interaction and as an established base for wheeled sport recreation.

Although regularly ‘tagged’ by users, the surfaces and walls of the skate park are generally free from offensive graffiti.

In 2016 the area also benefitted from the installation of CCTV camera with lighting linked into the Town Centre CCTV system.

### Proposed Improvement Works 2013–2022

The sturdy construction and low maintenance properties associated with the site’s concrete skate park, ramp and MUGA ball court contribute significantly to the durability and longevity of the youth activity park.

However, such facilities do become out-dated by design, as regular users seek more stimulus and fresh challenges. This factor has been considered as part of the following draft proposals:

- The modification of features i.e. ramps/jumps/grinds etc. on the existing concrete skate park to update the facility and enhance its recreational value.

- The extension of the existing concrete skate park to increase the range of features i.e. ramps/jumps/grinds etc.
- The cladding of the existing skate park's concrete platforms to enhance the appearance of the feature and aid litter clearance.
- The installation of timer-controlled flood lighting.
- The construction of additional hard-surface footpaths to complement the upgrading of other youth park features.
- The regrading of a grass section within the Celery Field to accommodate 5-a-side goal posts and increase the recreational value of the site.

## Area L– The Walled Nursery Garden

Due to previous uncertainties about its future role within the park's infrastructure, the area of land which once housed the District Council's Plant Nursery was not previously addressed in respect of its development potential and was therefore omitted from the previous plan (2000).

This area no longer functions as a Nursery and through natural regeneration of woodland vegetation the site has moved from being merely 'derelict' to having major potential as a biodiversity asset. Previous development options have included creating a community garden on the site.

For reasons of poor access, potential for vandalism and some health and safety concerns, this option is no longer under consideration. The second option of managing the site as an area for wildlife is now the most feasible development scenario, especially when combined with existing and adjoining mature oak woodland in this area. To facilitate this exercise in line with references to the park's other eleven named areas this site will be labelled as 'Area L' with a possible change from the provisional title 'Walled Nursery Garden' to 'Walled Garden Wood'.

For assessment purposes this new site will incorporate the small but valuable, previously detached, mature woodland copse, which encroaches on its eastern boundary. The combined woodland area would become a much-needed area of 'minimal disturbance' for wildlife and a buffer zone between the park and District Council Depot. Given the size of King's Park and already ample access to semi natural areas, this becomes a very worthwhile option for the site.

### Present Condition Assessment

Having ceased functioning as part of the District Council's nursery facility, it has become overgrown with a combination of native vegetation and imported hardy stock trees and shrubs. The remains of abandoned glasshouse bases and polytunnel frames, partly hidden by the overgrown vegetation, contribute to the site's currently derelict appearance.

The site's main heritage attribute, again partially obscured, is an original brick boundary wall, which once formed part of a traditional walled garden feature belonging to West Retford Hall. Although potentially impressive, the wall is in need of major remedial works in respect of both safety and appearance.

The mature woodland that merges with the old nursery site is dominated by oak trees with an understory of yew and laurels. A number of bird and bat nesting boxes have been installed amongst the trees as part of an environmental project undertaken with the support of the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.

Below the tree canopy the site consists of a vehicular track and a number of unmade paths which lead from the lower end of the Rectory Road Parks Depot into the park.

### Proposed Improvement Works 2013-2022

At this initial stage, the general concept of creating a 'minimal disturbance', woodland buffer zone has a number of positive aspects that would include:

- Providing a valuable and relatively undisturbed woodland habitat area.
- Creating a unique urban woodland with a composition reflecting the historic uses of the park.
- Acting as a buffer zone between the park and District Council Depot.
- Provide a base for environmental education/training projects.
- Regenerate Kings Park's only derelict area.
- Collectively, the above may strengthen the parks Green Flag status particularly in respect of the Sustainability, Community Involvement and Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage criteria.

Initial actions should therefore include:

- Carry out a baseline botanical survey of former nursery site and adjoining mature woodland.
- Survey condition of Walled Garden boundary wall and identify remedial actions.
- Choose unobtrusive fencing material for use on woodland buffer zone boundary.
- Link the project with other park improvement initiatives and their supporting community groups.

## 2.3 Site Ecology

Kings Park is a very important green corridor in the heart of Retford town centre. In the context of its location Kings Park holds a very diverse assemblage of habitat types. The large combination of habitats, including semi natural areas, defines Kings Park as an important central 'green hub' within an urban environment that is largely hostile to wildlife. With the exception of landscapes specifically managed for wildlife, it is likely that the overall value of Kings Park for wildlife could well exceed that of many areas of Retford's intensively farmed surrounding countryside.

The range of habitat types and features on site includes:

- Many mature parkland trees and other tree species producing nectar, pollen and feeding opportunities for invertebrates and birds along with nesting sites.
- Diverse flower and berry producing shrubbery with long seasons of availability.
- A wide range of nectar and pollen sources from planted bulbs and flowers.
- Aquatic habitats encouraging waterfowl to the site.
- The River Idle running through the site with mature riverside Weeping Willow trees and marginal vegetation offering scope for enhancement.
- An additional stream sized water body called Carr Dyke running parallel to the River Idle across the playing field.
- Medium sized pond with mature planting, shrubs and trees.
- Large expanses of short mown grassland (some less disturbed areas) as foraging opportunities for ground feeding birds.
- Areas of relatively undisturbed tall herb vegetation and mature trees in the park's wildlife area.
- A low disturbance area of newly regenerated woodland alongside mature oak trees.

Kings Park has been included within the Retford Conservation Area since 2012. This designation recognises the park as a place where built heritage, human history, culturally important planting schemes and wildlife can and do coexist. Greater public acceptance for accommodating and improving biodiversity outcomes increasingly allows park management to combine the needs of wildlife and people without conflict. These opportunities will be exploited through an ongoing programme of adjustments to the overall management of Kings Park and will be detailed within the management plan.



## 2.4 Biodiversity Landscape and Heritage

The combined elements of biodiversity, landscape and heritage are seamlessly interwoven and are largely inseparable within the context of the overall cultural landscape of Kings Park. It is the combination of these elements and underlying rich history that gives Kings Park a distinctive sense of place and unified character as a park landscape.

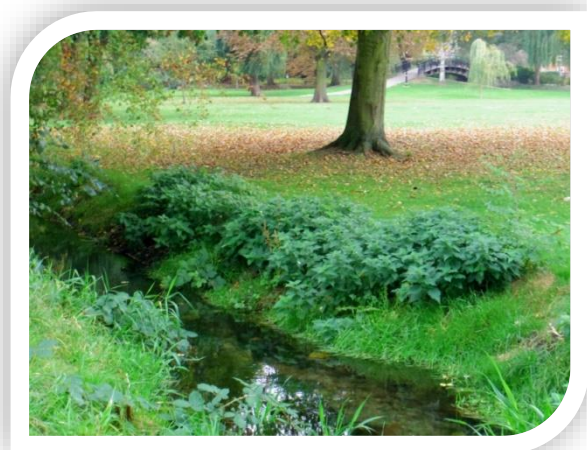
For the purposes of the management plan each element will be looked at separately in order to highlight the challenges and opportunities each key part presents.

### Biodiversity:

The biodiversity value of Kings Park offers numerous challenges and opportunities for improvements. As stated in the Ecology section this must be achieved through enhancing and harmonising both semi natural and human created landscape features and planting. The many areas of well-established mature trees and semi natural vegetation combined with mature and seasonal planting can be kept in harmony while adding greater diversity to the wider cultural landscape.

Aims to improve the overall landscape for biodiversity include:

- Improve marginal vegetation cover along the River Idle and Carr Dyke.
- Increase the extent and quality of long grass/wildflower areas.
- Create minimal disturbance habitats in areas of low public access e.g. a buffer zone in woodland between the Depot and the park.
- Collect baseline biodiversity data and species lists for Kings Park.
- Monitor and record protected species such as bats using the site.
- Improve the management of ground flora in the wildlife area.
- Maximise the value of ornamental planting for wildlife.



Marginal vegetation in need of enhancement at Carr Dyke

Enhancing biodiversity/wildlife values in Kings Park creates many opportunities for wider public involvement. Labour intensive enhancement planting lends itself well to community events and could also involve the Kings Park Volunteer Gardeners and local organisations who have historically supported the park's development.

Opportunities to enhance biodiversity could be better exploited with a Development Worker in a volunteer coordinator role steering community involvement and raising their capacity to take ownership. The Development Worker role could also support/coordinate flora and fauna surveys and create opportunities to involve the public in the very positive process of recording increasing diversity.

### Heritage Planting Schemes and Wider Landscapes:

Locally important heritage planting schemes highly valued by visitors are predominantly found on the older, original park located on the east side of the River Idle. Features include:

- Formal bedding displays along main walkway from Chancery Lane entrance.
- Extensive and diversely planted shrub and herbaceous borders.
- Mature specimen trees dating from the park's opening and before.
- A large and well established rose garden.
- The original pond with long established, mature planting and rockery stone features.

Wider landscape features on the west side of River Idle include:

- Extensive parkland landscape with tree belts, specimen trees and extensive short mown amenity grassed areas.
- Semi natural mature and regenerating woodland areas.
- Mature riverside Weeping Willow trees along length of River Idle.

### Aims to Improve Heritage Planting Schemes and Landscapes:

- Discourage the further development of evolved footpaths and reduce trampling around important specimen trees.
- Develop site specific Tree Management Plan.
- Continue proactive health and safety work to retain riverside Willows where possible, replacing any felled trees in a timely manner on a like for like basis.
- Maximise the value of all existing and new planting to retain the heritage character and improve wildlife values around Kings Park.
- Achieve a unified 'heritage' style for all signage, seating and litter bins.

### Built Heritage:

Previous development phases have given significant emphasis on the play offer and Events Area developments at Kings Park. The Water Play Splash Park and Events Area completed in 2016 have been highly successful in making Kings Park a 'destination park' attracting large numbers of visitors from Retford itself and a very wide surrounding area. Other work to retain the value of heritage planting key to the park's identity must now be extended to bring built heritage elements to the same level of quality and prominence.

The main built heritage elements include:

- The now disused Bowling Green Pavilion building.
- The Bowling Green, currently disused but maintained as a heritage element.
- The historic Chancery Lane entrance gateway with period railings and pillar-lanterns.
- Extensive early 19<sup>th</sup> century brick boundary walling along Hospital Road and the boundary with the Chesterfield Canal towpath.

- Impressive west entrance gateway with stone pillars and gauged brickwork.
- Attractive built heritage elements around original pond including footbridge.
- Extensive paved area from Chancery Lane entrance with potential for reinstatement of original styled York Stone paving.

The Bowling Green Pavilion building, Bowling Green area and reinstatement of York Stone paving are very high capital cost elements and will require major funding input from The Heritage Lottery Fund. Public consultation results show good support for accessing this funding source and for a proposed new use as a Heritage Centre and Park Community Cafe. Other less capital intensive built heritage work and biodiversity improvements could be developed into a much wider regeneration project with far reaching community development and social inclusion outcomes. This may be achieved by accessing funding through the Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund. Consultation has again shown support for applying to this funder and for including marginalised and disadvantaged community members in projects such as restoring the Hospital Road boundary wall and numerous biodiversity improvement works.



The extensive early 19<sup>th</sup> Century western boundary wall

### Scoping Exercise:

In August 2018 Bassetlaw District Council commissioned a scoping exercise to identify the potential training and development opportunities within restoration projects in four major parks including Kings Park. The result of the exercise identified a very wide range of opportunities linked to reintegration and employability that could engage disadvantaged and marginalised community members. Achieving combined physical improvement and social outcomes fits very well with the funding criteria for the Reaching Communities Fund. An additional benefit for Kings Park could be involving people engaged in anti-social behaviour on the park as active participants in achieving improvement works. Through this approach there could even be potential to reduce this ongoing problem experienced by most public parks.

### Aims to Restore and Develop Built Heritage:

- Complete all pre – funding work to support current and later funding bids.
- Cost all heritage works into a series of ‘projects’ including smaller scale works.
- Carry out further consultation as necessary to identify future improvement priorities.

Carry out major Heritage Lottery funded works on east side of park within shortest possible timescale if funding is secured.

- Design heritage interpretation materials to follow completion of major capital improvement works.
- Complete longer-term restoration work as ongoing projects to maximise number of participants and social outcomes.

The Parks and Open Spaces Team will proactively seek funding from various sources to achieve continuous improvements for Kings Park. Future updates to this management plan will detail progress through funding stages and outcomes as they arise.

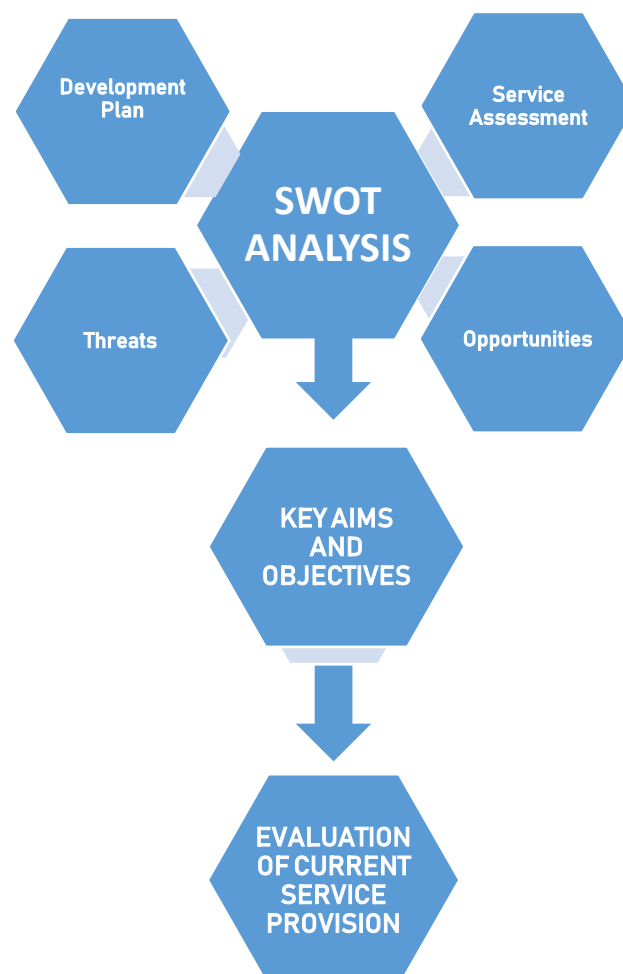
## 2.5 SWOT Analysis

Following a detailed assessment of the maintenance and management of Kings Park and a review of current practices in respect of community engagement, the identified objectives can be evaluated through a SWOT analysis to establish a way forward.

'S'	STRENGTHS
'W'	WEAKNESSES
'O'	OPPORTUNITIES
'T'	THREATS

Through its application, this process will establish the following:

- Current and future working practices in respect of maintenance operations
- Current and future management practices in respect of the site's role as a community asset
- Current and future opportunities to develop the site and improve services





## SWOT ANALYSIS – A WELCOMING PLACE

Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close proximity to town centre;</li> <li>• Accessible to all, young and old, individuals and groups;</li> <li>• Grand main entrance with open aspect;</li> <li>• Welcoming signs with informative site map;</li> <li>• Inviting, clearly visible formal gardens with adequate seating provision.</li> </ul>	Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited toilet provision (seasonal opening only);</li> <li>• Some issues of anti-social behaviour;</li> <li>• Similar to other parks there is poor wet weather resilience;</li> <li>• Some pedestrian access routes in need of upgrade.</li> </ul>
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install additional directional and interpretive information signs inside and outside the park;</li> <li>• Install additional heritage-themed furnishing, including additional litterbin provision as features are restored.</li> </ul>	Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vandalism, environmental crime;</li> <li>• A reduction of staff skill levels (in line with national trends);</li> <li>• Reduced maintenance standards, resulting from budget saving exercises;</li> <li>• Cuts to funding impacts on the quality on offer e.g. gardens, ground, paths, lighting and play.</li> </ul>

## SWOT ANALYSIS – HEALTHY, SAFE AND SECURE

Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All play equipment and safer surfacing compliant with European safety standards;</li> <li>• Key risk assessment procedures in place;</li> <li>• Staff fully trained in respect of water play safety and hygiene routines;</li> <li>• CCTV in operation;</li> <li>• 'Park Watch' scheme providing peak season patrols and all year round response call out;</li> <li>• Patrols by community support officers;</li> <li>• Park officially designated as an alcohol-free site;</li> <li>• Open aspects in most areas of the park.</li> </ul>	Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site not staffed at all times (e.g. weekends during winter months);</li> <li>• No Park Ranger Service.</li> </ul>
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicise when the site is staffed;</li> <li>• Introduce further risk assessment procedures;</li> <li>• Organise more health-orientated activities and events;</li> <li>• Engage the public via the implementation of the Council's Customer and Community Engagement Strategy.</li> </ul>	Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-social behaviour;</li> <li>• Restricted staff presence.</li> </ul>

## SWOT ANALYSIS – WELL MAINTAINED AND CLEAN

Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular grounds maintenance operations carried out to a high standard;</li> <li>• Litter collections carried out on a regular basis;</li> <li>• Implementation of Dog Control Orders;</li> <li>• Dedicated revenue budgets;</li> <li>• Additional regular help from Volunteer Gardeners;</li> <li>• Well trained, motivated and experienced staff;</li> <li>• Full-time member of staff on site (weekdays);</li> <li>• Additional member of staff May-September.</li> </ul>	Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responses not always on the same day unless safety implications arise.</li> </ul>
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage park users to report damage and littering;</li> <li>• Educate children and young people to respect the park through established links with local schools;</li> <li>• Improved seasonal bedding displays through the use of an automatic irrigation system.</li> </ul>	Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future cuts in revenue budgets resulting in reduced maintenance standards;</li> <li>• Potential flood damage through high water levels on the River Idle;</li> <li>• Lack of capacity within the workforce;</li> <li>• Limited resources.</li> </ul>

## SWOT ANALYSIS – ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of pesticides and herbicides kept to a minimum;</li> <li>• The use of recycled materials in furnishings;</li> <li>• Commitment to reduce peat use;</li> <li>• Regular maintenance and replacement programme for plant and machinery;</li> <li>• The recycling of green waste arising from site based operations;</li> <li>• Recycling bins on site;</li> <li>• Automatic irrigation system operational on bowling green facility.</li> </ul>	Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited recycling facilities on site;</li> <li>• Limited interpretation about the value of the site's conservation and habitat assets.</li> </ul>
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop the huge educational and interpretive possibilities in respect of the environment;</li> <li>• Potential to engage the community on 'green' projects;</li> <li>• Provide park users with more on-site recycling facilities;</li> <li>• Potential to extend an automatic irrigation system for seasonal flower bed displays.</li> </ul>	Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abuse of the fabric of the park;</li> <li>• Destruction of wildlife habitats through ignorance and vandalism;</li> <li>• Lack of dedicated officer time in this specialised service area.</li> </ul>

## SWOT ANALYSIS – BIODIVERSITY, LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE

Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park sited within a designated conservation area;</li> <li>• The park has valid historical links;</li> <li>• Original landscape features retained and restored;</li> <li>• Existing natural areas providing wildlife habitats;</li> <li>• Mature tree collection identified and recorded, enhancing topography of the whole site;</li> <li>• Bird and bat nesting boxes installed;</li> <li>• Rich heritage.</li> </ul>	Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of on-site interpretive information;</li> <li>• Local value only environmentally.</li> </ul>
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To complete the restoration of key landscape heritage features;</li> <li>• Potential to develop the fabric of the park in all areas;</li> <li>• To re-establish a Service Level Agreement with the Nottingham Wildlife Trust;</li> <li>• Develop the potential of designated conservation areas to support native flora and fauna;</li> <li>• To increase the diversity of the tree and shrub cover within the whole park;</li> <li>• To increase the dead wood habitat conservation areas;</li> <li>• To have interpretive information linked to school curriculum.</li> </ul>	Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vandalism;</li> <li>• Lack of specialist restoration skills from service providers;</li> <li>• Reduced resources;</li> <li>• Loss of commitment.</li> </ul>



## SWOT ANALYSIS – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public consultation exercises undertaken for community input into the future management and development of the park;</li> <li>• Established independent Volunteer Gardeners Group;</li> <li>• Park accessible to all of the community groups and organisations;</li> <li>• Well-established community events and activities;</li> <li>• Established links with children and young people through schools and youth services;</li> <li>• Range of events from small-scale through to large scale;</li> <li>• Community events widely published to promote the park;</li> <li>• Strong links to the community.</li> </ul>	Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No teenage or young people's representation present on the Volunteer Gardeners Group.</li> </ul>
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The introduction of educational walks, talks and projects in partnership with others;</li> <li>• Liaise with local youth panels on regular basis;</li> <li>• Examine the feasibility of a site based 'park watch', involving the local community;</li> <li>• Promote the park to non-users and to other Council services;</li> <li>• Development of education programmes linked to heritage and the environment;</li> <li>• Partnership working with other organisations to deliver some services e.g. creation of new habitats;</li> </ul>	Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community groups deterred from using the park due to liability factors, the need for risk assessments, and insurance cover;</li> <li>• Limited officer time and direct communication;</li> <li>• Lack of promotion and marketing of the site for other uses due to limited budget provision.</li> </ul>

## SWOT ANALYSIS – MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION

Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is very well known locally;</li> <li>• Good links with community groups;</li> <li>• Local marketing of specific activities carried out in-house or by event organisers;</li> <li>• Information items for park noticeboards;</li> <li>• Use of social media channels to promote events and activities;</li> <li>• Dedicated web page developed and active;</li> <li>• Strong links with Council's Public Relations Team;</li> <li>• Positive press releases to publicise achievements, activities and events in the park</li> <li>• Positive reviews on Trip Advisor (awarded Certificate of Excellence).</li> </ul>	Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No information leaflet specifically for the park;</li> <li>• Lack of data on visitor numbers and characteristics of visitors;</li> <li>• Lack on online presence (and limited marketing).</li> </ul>
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging local media to attend events in Kings Park;</li> <li>• Continue to develop the park's webpage;</li> <li>• To build on the wealth of available archive material;</li> <li>• Collection of visitor data to identify annual visitor numbers and motivations for visiting;</li> <li>• To build on new links with local traders for the display of publicity material.</li> </ul>	Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited financial resources;</li> <li>• Withdrawal of corporate support.</li> </ul>

## SWOT ANALYSIS – MANAGEMENT

Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular input from an experienced, motivated management team;</li> <li>• Good standards of grounds maintenance specified and monitored;</li> <li>• Strong commitment to the restoration, development and maintenance of Kings Park;</li> <li>• Dedicated team following management plans and pursuing funding opportunities;</li> <li>• Motivated by achieving 5<sup>th</sup> favourite park in the nation People's Choice Awards competition in 2014 and achieving continued Green Flag status since 2008.</li> <li>• Motivated by winning UK's Best Park (East Midlands) 2019 by the Fields in Trust;</li> <li>• Partnership working;</li> <li>• Strong management team;</li> <li>• Single ownership/control;</li> <li>• Low sickness levels amongst staff;</li> <li>• Horticulture Apprenticeship Scheme.</li> </ul>	Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of opportunities to recruit new management staff to the service;</li> <li>• Staff time constraints.</li> </ul>
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop regular school and other group use of the site;</li> <li>• Establish on-site staffing rotas;</li> <li>• Adjust maintenance to support the planned improvements to the landscape and facilities;</li> <li>• To promote and market the site via the Customer and Community Engagement Strategy.</li> </ul>	Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cuts in revenue budget affecting management staffing;</li> <li>• Decreased numbers of dedicated staff;</li> <li>• Change in the political will and priorities.</li> </ul>

## 2.6 Environmental Performance Assessment

### Grounds Maintenance

Service Area	Operational Activities	Aims and Objectives	Options and Opportunities
Grass Mowing (low amenity areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carried out once a week during growing season</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grass kept short to reduce invasion of weeds. No weedkiller or fertilisers are used.</li> <li>Clippings/arising from mowing operations left on areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify areas where frequency of mowing can be reduced i.e. areas around groups of trees/creation of wildflower margins on perimeters.</li> <li>Introduce native bulbs such as bluebells and snowdrops into those areas to increase biodiversity and interest.</li> </ul>
Grass Mowing (Ornamental lawns)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By pedestrian cylinder mower with box collection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain high standard of maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recycling of all arisings through green waste composting skips on site</li> </ul>
Strimming works around trees, bins and obstructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carried out on a weekly basis during growing season</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternative to weed killer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure bins and obstructions are located off grassed areas wherever possible or provide a concrete pad beneath</li> </ul>

Hedge cutting (low amenity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carried out once a year using tractor and side arm flail cutter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain perimeter boundary hedges to provide an attractive and effective barrier</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish uncut margin, two metres wide against hedgerows to provide wildlife refuge - cut every 3 years at end of February to prevent scrub development</li> </ul>
Hedge cutting (high amenity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carried out twice a year using hand held hedge trimmer. Works not carried out until July after bird nesting season</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain high standard and provide effective barrier between boundaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce number of cuts to once a year where appropriate i.e. beech hedges.</li> <li>Recycle all arisings through green waste composting skips on site</li> </ul>
Use of pesticides and herbicides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid use unless essential. If necessary, carried out once a year to control weed growth on paths and hard standing areas. Use other methods of weed control such as cutting and manual weeding. Apply mulches around plants to suppress weed growth</li> <li>Use of nematodes for the control of chafer grub pests within high amenity lawn areas (where necessary)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of control droplet applicators for targeted use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of manual traps and encourage natural predators with the planting of beneficial plants i.e. companion planting.</li> <li>Use of natural organic products/treatments</li> </ul>
Selective weed spraying of lawns and application of fertiliser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carried out once per year or as required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kept to a minimum by high standard of turf renovation and maintenance</li> </ul>	

Watering of seasonal bedding displays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irrigate (when necessary) during the first four weeks after planting particularly during drought conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aid the establishment of newly planted seasonal bedding plants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install an automatic watering system</li> </ul>
Herbaceous borders, rose and shrub plantings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply mulches around plants to suppress weed growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhances environment increasing food availability of insects, birds and mammals</li> <li>• Reduces use of herbicides and fertilisers.</li> <li>• Reduces need for watering and improves the soil structure and fertility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities for own green waste composting for reuse</li> </ul>
Tree works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All arisings to be chipped and left on site, where appropriate and practicable. Where possible large timber to be left on ground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reduce waste/ transportation</li> <li>• To provide habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other options for use of surplus arisings and timber</li> </ul>

## Landscape Works (hard & Soft)

Service Area	Operational Activities	Aims and Objectives	Options and Opportunities
Tree planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose tree species appropriate to location and setting</li> <li>• Wherever possible all tree planting will use bare-rooted field grown nursery stock</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhances environment and provides habitat for wildlife</li> <li>• Provides shade, shelter and educational resource</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an information tree trail walk leaflet</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces effects of climate change</li> </ul>	
Landscaping and tree planting including seasonal bedding displays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate humus material to improve soil structure and moisture content at time of planting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High organic content and fertility status, therefore no need to add compost or fertiliser throughout the growing season</li> <li>• Good water holding capacity and drought resistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider use of sustainably sourced topsoil, where topsoil needs to be imported</li> </ul>

## Machinery & Equipment

Service Area	Operational Activities	Aims and Objectives	Options and Opportunities
Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the use and impact of vehicles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce pollution/CO2 emissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Servicing intervals/hours of use between servicing is strictly adhered to for extended machinery life and reduction of emissions</li> <li>• Maintain/replace catalytic converters/particulate traps in line with the manufacturers recommendations</li> <li>• When purchasing or leasing new vehicles consider fuel efficiency</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider alternative technologies eg vehicles able to run on compressed natural gas, bio diesel, liquid petroleum gas and electric</li> </ul>
Mowers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve efficiency in day to day operational works</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mowers replaced every 5 years to ensure reliability and thus, reduce pollution/C02 emissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Servicing intervals/hours of use between servicing is strictly adhered to for extended machinery life and reduction of emissions</li> <li>Maintain/replace catalytic converters/particulate traps in line with the manufacturers recommendations</li> </ul>
Hand held machines ie trimmers, blowers, hedgecutters etc.,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve efficiency in day to day operational works</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce operational costs</li> <li>Machines replaced every 3 years to ensure reliability and thus, reduce pollution/C02 emissions</li> </ul>	

## Miscellaneous

Service Area	Operational Activities	Aims and Objectives	Options and Opportunities
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Use of detergents/cleaning products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used in grounds maintenance compound/park toilets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply COSHH assessment before buying new products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase products that are biodegradable where possible try to ensure they are 100% biodegradable</li> <li>• Purchase phosphate free detergents</li> <li>• Purchase HCFC/CFC free aerosols</li> <li>• Avoid aerosols – use pump action recycled plastic containers</li> </ul>
Energy consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce CO2 emissions in buildings through more energy efficient heating and lighting systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce emissions and costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the options of generating on site electricity ie solar, wind</li> <li>• Source greener energy suppliers</li> <li>• Consider options for re-using rainwater/grey water recycling systems</li> </ul>
Recycling (bins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of recycling bins next to entrances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycling of paper, plastics and cans</li> <li>• Bins installed as part of 'on street' recycling initiative scheme 2012</li> <li>• Re-use of existing resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage visitors to segregate waste arising from their visits into the recycling bins</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce impact on the environment</li> </ul>	
Furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use recycled plastic timber substitutes where possible. Including benches, fencing, signs and posts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support sustainable market for recycled products</li> <li>• Low maintenance and extended lifetime of product</li> </ul>	
Composting – green waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of green waste skips for off-site composting ie grass clippings, shrub prunings etc.,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve recycling and reduce costs of waste sent to landfill</li> <li>• Reduce impact on the environment</li> <li>• 100% of green waste is recycled</li> <li>• On average 67% of <u>all</u> skip waste produced by the parks service is composted annually.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider further options for on-site recycling of materials</li> </ul>
Dog fouling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of dog bins next to entrances. Enforcement action, including high profile days and well publicised prosecutions</li> <li>• Dogs are banned from within enclosed children's play areas as part of the Council's Public Spaces Protection (Dog Control) Order 2018</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better environment, encourages greater use of green spaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide dog bags available for use</li> <li>• Encourage reporting of offenders</li> </ul>

Provision of wildlife boxes (bat, bird and insect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide boxes in suitable locations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increases and retains a greater diversity of wildlife – reduce numbers of plant pests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage local schools/friends group in monitoring of the boxes</li> </ul>
Peat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of reduced peat content compost or peat free alternatives where appropriate</li> <li>• All annual bedding plant supplies are grown within a minimum 40% reduced peat compost</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevents destruction of low land peat bogs and their wildlife.</li> <li>• Use of peat-free compost avoids the need to send green waste to landfill sites and thus, reduce impact on the environment</li> </ul>	
Painting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not use paints which contain lead or solvents</li> <li>• Use high quality paints needing less frequent painting</li> <li>• Dispose of paint tins, containers and brushes appropriately</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce emissions</li> <li>• Avoid contamination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose water based or paints based on plant oils such as linseed oil and not remanufactured paints</li> </ul>
Timber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select timber from sustainable sources, such as FSC products or equivalent</li> <li>• Use durable preserved timber that conforms to BS 8417 code of practice and will not soil hands or clothing and is harmless to human, animals and plant life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not buy products made from tropical hardwood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider buying reclaimed timber and products from reclaimed timber merchants ie used railway sleepers</li> <li>• Use timber from native sustainable certified sources in Europe</li> </ul>

Plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use biodegradable alternatives to plastics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce impact on the environment</li> <li>• Reduce costs of waste sent to landfill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-use or recycle plastics</li> <li>• Request pot-less tray systems from growers for the annual bedding plant supplies</li> </ul>
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## 2.7 Marketing & Communication

The Parks and Open Spaces Management Team continue to follow its outline Marketing Plan. By maintaining strong links with the local community, through regular consultation and public involvement, the park provides a valuable venue and facility for a diverse variety of events and activities throughout the year.

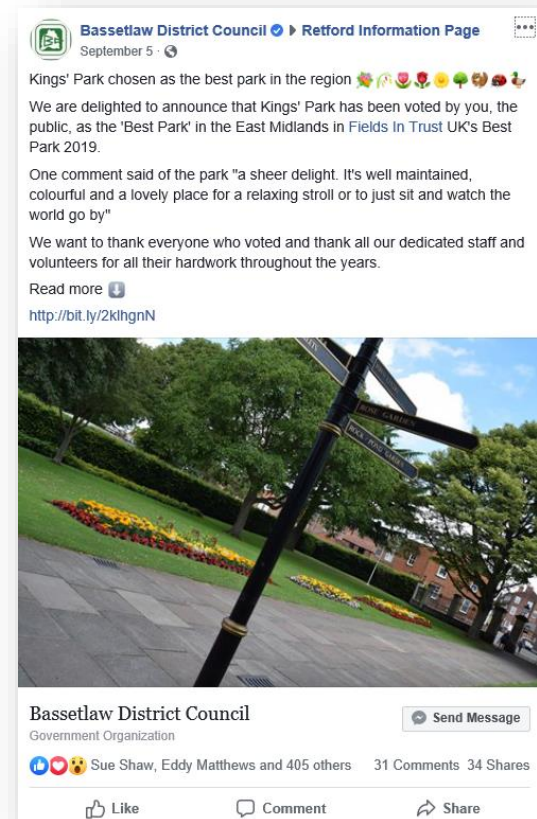
The Plan was produced to formulate a strategic approach towards the marketing of Kings Park. Its main aims are:

- To secure return visits from existing users and encourage new visitors to Kings Park.
- To encourage visitors to stay longer when they visit.
- To actively encourage all sectors of the community to play a positive role in the use and development of Kings Park.
- To encourage the use of Kings Park based on equal opportunity principles.

The Council's Public Relations Team work closely with local and regional press to successfully raise Kings Park's profile and promote its value as a destination site at the heart of its community. Social media marketing also provides an extremely useful way of them engaging with visitors, the local community and encourage footfall to the park.

There are multiple information boards placed around the entrances to the park that display current events and activities.

Improvements to the Council's website have led to a more user-friendly platform for mobile devices and has a strong emphasis on self-service. Visitors to the site can submit general enquiries relating to its services, report incidents and book events and activities in the Council's parks and open spaces.



(Source: Facebook)

The Parks and Open Spaces Management Team have further developed and formally adopted this approach to facilitate its application to other key green space sites under their jurisdiction.

### Understanding the needs of visitors

Consultation continues to be undertaken at a number of community events staged in Kings Park. As well as delivering feedback on the particular event it has also provides a profile from park users based on age, gender, where they live and to some extent their economic profile.

In addition, further consultation exercises will be undertaken by a combination of the following:

- Random user surveys throughout the year
- On-line surveys using the Bassetlaw District Council and the Parks and Open Spaces websites
- Collecting feedback on specific proposals (e.g. The Service Assessment Report) at organised public meetings and drop-in sessions



Fundamentally, the customer research will continue to identify:

- What the public like about Kings Park
- What the public dislike about Kings Park
- What would encourage the public to make better use of Kings Park

### Aim One – To encourage existing users and new visitors to Kings Park

Two key actions have been identified to assist with the delivery of this particular aim:

(1) Raise the profile of Kings Park by:

- Developing the Kings Park website
- Continuing to use Bassetlaw District Council's social media channels to engage with existing and new visitors. This will include partnership working
- Continuing to produce information items for park noticeboards
- Utilising the quality images submitted from park users
- Encouraging local media to attend events in Kings Park

- Maintain the Volunteer Gardeners Group and to focus on new themes and initiatives
- Creation of a Development Worker role to deliver specific initiatives and projects

(2) To better inform users and potential users about Kings Park by:

- Working with other local groups to inform members about the park and its activities for Bassetlaw, e.g. voluntary services, local community groups, health and wellbeing charities, schools and young people's services
- Working actively with other agencies such as the Police and the Council's Community Safety Team to address any specific problems if and when they arise, e.g. vandalism and abuse.
- By continuing to prepare press releases to publicise achievements, activities and events in Kings Park
- By continuing to build on the positive publicity achieved through press coverage of park based activities and the installation and opening of new facilities
- Continuing to use Bassetlaw District Council's social media channels to promote events and activities and the Council's future plans for Kings Park. This will include partnership working

## Aim Two - To encourage visitors to stay longer in their visit

Five key actions will have a collective role to play in helping to achieve this aim:

1. By staging a programme of events and activities in Kings Park. The Parks and Open Spaces Management Team have developed this initiative in recent years and now lead on the administration and management of community events. They also act as an agent in approving and supporting other agencies to stage their own events, a practice which is actively encouraged.
2. By developing the work undertaken by schools to promote the park as an educational asset.
3. By continuing to work with the Council's Active Communities Team to promote Kings Park as an accessible green space for sporting activities and games.
4. By working with hospitals and care organisations to help establish Kings Park as a venue to contribute towards public health and wellbeing.

5. By promoting an overall positive image for the park by combining and managing all of the aforementioned actions.

### **Aim Three – To actively encourage all sectors of the community to play a positive role in the use and development of Kings Park**

The key actions for the successful delivery of this aim will be achieved as follows:

- By supporting the Kings Park Volunteer Gardeners, encouraging as wider representation from the community as possible to reflect local views and opinions
- By developing social media sites to encourage a greater input for children and young people who have historically have been difficult to involve with the park and its development
- By running consultation sessions to seek public views in the next stage of ongoing park improvements
- By contacting local schools, community organisations, voluntary groups, government agencies and the Bassetlaw Council for Voluntary Services to make them aware of Kings Park as a high-profile venue for staging events and educational activities.

### **Aim Four – To encourage the use of Kings Park based on equal opportunity principles**

In order to achieve this aim, it will be essential for the Parks and Open Spaces Management Team to offer opportunities and stage events which reflect and represent the social, economic and cultural profile of the community.

The consultation exercises previously outlined will help establish needs to address and therefore how best these equal opportunities could be delivered.

## 2.8 Community Events

Over the last few years, the Parks and Open Spaces Management Team have organised and staged community events in Kings Park. These highly successful activities have supplemented those run by other organisations and groups:

### 2019

- Junior Orienteering (February) – Approx. 100 attendees
- Spring Clean (March) – Approx. 15 volunteers
- DP Bootcamp Sessions (April/May) – Approx. 10 attendees per session
- Retford Charter Day (May) – Approx. 8,000 attendees
- Everyone Walk (June) – Approx. 50 attendees
- Retford Armed Forces Day – Approx. 1,000 attendees
- Retford Guide and Scout Carnival – Approx. 300 attendees
- Wet Sponge Throwing Charity Fundraiser (NCS) – Approx. 20 participants
- Panto in the Park (July) – The Little Mermaid (Talegate Theatre) – Approx. 600 attendees
- Panto in the Park (August) – Jack and the Beanstalk (Talegate Theatre) – Approx. 800 attendees
- Panto in the Park (August) – The Wizard of Oz (Talegate Theatre) – Approx. 1,200 attendees
- EAT Lunch Club (August) – Approx. 30 children
- Pilates in the Park (September) – Approx. 50 attendees
- Charity Dog Show (September) – Approx. 100 attendees

Panto in the Park



### 2018

- Duck Race hosted by the Retford Operatic Society (March) – Approx. 200 attendees
- Retford Charter Day (May) – Approx. 8,000 attendees
- Brass Band Concert (May) – Approx. 80 attendees
- Retford Armed Forces Day (June) – Approx. 1,000 attendees
- Retford Guide and Scout Carnival (June) – Approx. 300 attendees
- 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kings Park (June) – Approx. 2,000 attendees
- Lynx Archery Sessions (August) – Approx. 80 attendees
- Panto in the Park (August) – The Giant's Loo Roll (Talegate Theatre) – Approx. 600 attendees
- Panto in the Park (August) – Alice in Wonderland (Talegate Theatre) – Approx. 600 attendees
- Panto in the Park (August) – Wind in the Willows (Talegate Theatre) – Approx. 500 attendees
- Cross Country Match (Sept) – Approx. 500 attendees



- Crocus bulb planting with volunteers from Retford Rotary Club (November) – Approx. 15 volunteers
- Junior Orienteering (February 2019) – Approx. 100 participants

## 2017

- Duck Race hosted by the Retford Operatic Society (March) – Approx. 200 attendees
- Retford Charter Day (May) – Approx. 6,000 attendees
- Spring Clean Litterpick (May) – Approx. 10 volunteers
- Xplorer Junior Orienteering (May) – Approx. 25 participants
- Retford Armed Forces Day (June) – Approx. 1,000 attendees
- Retford Guide and Scout Carnival (June) – Approx. 300 attendees
- Picnic in the Park (July) – Approx. 200 attendees
- Skatefest (July) – Approx. 300 attendees
- Club Energy Sports Day (August) – Approx. 100 participants
- New Performance Area Official Opening (August) – Approx. 100 attendees
- Cross Country Match (Sept) – Approx 500 Attendees
- Crocus bulb planting with volunteers from Worksop Rotary Club (October) – Approx. 10 attendees

Bassetlaw District Council remain committed to promoting Kings Park as a valuable venue for community events and will therefore:

- Continue to support and promote establishment of annual events
- Support and assist newcomers in establishing and developing regular events and activities
- Stage successful District Council led events and activities aimed at raising public awareness of the park's value.

The Parks and Open Spaces Management Team will use its Marketing Strategy to advertise Kings Park as a 'Green Arena' for educational establishment, community organisations and local businesses to stage events and showcase their services and skills.

## Community Involvement

As part of a public engagement process, the District Council has contacted local schools and a number of community organisations to make them aware of the Park as a high-profile venue for staging events, activities and educational assignments. Ongoing engagement with local groups and organisations including those listed below will continue.

### SCHOOLS

- Bracken Lane Primary
- Carr Hill Primary
- Hallcroft Infant
- Ordsall Primary
- Retford Oaks Academy
- St Giles Special School
- St Joseph's Catholic School
- St Swithun's C of E Primary and Nursery
- The Elizabethan Academy
- *Plus 15 further catchment schools*

### NURSERIES

- Shaping Futures
- All Aboard Nursery
- Claremont House
- *Plus 10 other nurseries which serve the Retford catchment area*

### CHURCHES

- West Retford Baptist Church
- Retford Methodist
- Grove Street Methodist
- St Joseph's RC
- New Life Christian Centre
- St Swithun's

### COMMUNITY GROUPS & CLUBS

- Retford Civic Society
- Retford Lions
- Muddy Fork (Wellbeing and Mental Health Support Charity)
- Goodwin Hall
- Inner Wheel Club
- Rotary Club
- Retford & District Archaeological & Historical Society
- Retford & District Photographic Society

## Evaluation of Events

Events and activities held at Kings Park are evaluated around the following five key areas:

1. Pre-event social engagement
2. Actual day attendance
3. Attendee satisfaction
4. Press and media coverage
5. Post-event brief

### Pre-event social engagement

Through the Council's Communications Team using social media channels to drive attendance, hype and engagement to the event. Levels of interaction are monitored for tweets, likes, shares and comments in addition to audience demographics and clicks per post. Anticipated attendance figures generated,

### Actual day attendance

Achieved through on-site engagement and interaction with attendees, conversation platforms, social media mentions and questionnaires.

By estimating actual attendance as well as audience profile and type.

Through feedback from event participants on public interaction and trade levels.

### Attendee Satisfaction

Attained through surveys, verbal conversation, social media and data acquired.



### Press and media coverage

Level of coverage and presence in local press and media post-event. Measuring positivity against negative feedback.

### Post Event Brief

Through event de-briefing sessions to evaluate success and improve future planning, setup and delivery.

### Bassetlaw's Safety Advisory Group

In 2015 Bassetlaw joined the Nottinghamshire Safety Advisory Group. The Group ensures that all events delivered on Council-owned sites are well organised, safely delivered and in accordance with legal responsibilities as landowners. By working in partnership with the group, all agencies (i.e. Police, EMAS, Fire Service and Nottinghamshire County Council) are aware of public events taking place in the local area.

The group's aim is to:

- Ensure the highest attainable standard of public safety at events in Nottinghamshire
- Encourage a culture of event safety and promote good practice in safety and welfare planning for events
- Provide a multi-agency forum for the coordination of advice to event organisers
- Provide professional advice on the suitability of event management plans and associated documents provided by the event organiser

As part of this process the Parks Management Team have produced its own well-structured Event Management Plans and also offer advice and support to others planning to hold events within its open spaces to encourage public involvement and participation.



## Section 3

# Delivery and Implementation

Aims and Objectives

Action Plans

Financial Resources

Staffing Resources



## 3.1 Aims and Objectives

The future direction and development of Kings Park has been set out through the 10-year development plan which was produced after extensive consultation was undertaken with its users, visitors and residents. Wider consultation included Members, stakeholders, organisations and groups with an interest in the park.

The focus of the development works over this 10-year period (2013 – 2022) identified a number of significant large scale projects/schemes for the park that have already been delivered through this plan. Those projects/schemes included the new water splash park play area, kiosk and toilets facilities and performance area for staging a wider range of events. The key actions remaining have been listed with emphasis on built heritage and conservation to bring it to the same level of prominence as seen with the past developments on the infrastructure and new play/recreation facilities within the park.

All the development works will be delivered in line with the Green Flag judging criteria as follows:

Aim One	• Create a welcoming place
Aim Two	• Ensure that the Park is healthy, safe and secure
Aim Three	• Ensure that the Park facilities are well maintained and clean
Aim Four	• Ensure environmental management of resources
Aim Five	• Ensure management of biodiversity, landscape and heritage
Aim Six	• Encourage and sustain community involvement
Aim Seven	• Ensure effective marketing and communications
Aim Eight	• Ensure future viability of the Park through effective management

## 3.2 Action Plans

The action plan relates to the identified works associated with each specific character area within the park. These key actions are seen as being achievable and deliverable within the timescale where the necessary funding resources can be secured.

Key Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed/recommended improvement works across the character areas identified through service assessment and public consultation</li> </ul>
Indictive Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimated costs related to funding the improvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>M Minimal</li> <li>£ &lt;£5,000</li> <li>££ £5,001-£25,000</li> <li>£££ £25,001-£50,000</li> <li>££££ £50,001-£100,000</li> <li>£££££ £100,001&gt;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Timescale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I Immediate (up to 3 years)</li> <li>M Medium (between 3-6 years)</li> <li>LT Long-Term (over 7 years)</li> </ul>
Staffing Resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>L Low</li> <li>M Medium</li> <li>H High</li> </ul>
Potential Sources of Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HLF Heritage Lottery Funding</li> <li>RC Reaching Communities</li> <li>BDC Capital Resources</li> <li>CIL Community Infrastructure Levy</li> <li>S106 New housing developments</li> <li>Other Grants/Funding opportunities/initiatives</li> <li>Revenue Maintenance budgets</li> </ul>

Key Actions For Character Area (A-K)	Indicative Cost	Timescale	Potential Funding Source	Staff Resource
<b>The Rose Garden (A)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The upgrading of access paths by replacing existing crushed stone surfaces with functional attractive materials (e.g. resin bonded gravel).</li> </ul>	££	I	HLF	L
<b>The Rock and Water Garden (B)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To redesign and replant the long shrub border to rear of the rock and water garden feature, which runs parallel to the Chancery Lane Boundary;</li> <li>To refresh the rock garden and small shrub borders with new plants.</li> </ul>	££	M	Other	H
	£	M	Other	H
<b>The Floral Display Garden (C)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The installation of an automatic irrigation system to aid the establishment and survival of newly planted beds (particularly seasonal displays) and borders. Reducing labour costs and water charges;</li> <li>The partial redesigning of the herbaceous border to refresh its appearance and to introduce a range of more draught resistant species;</li> <li>The installation of themed curved benching to replace existing seating provision around the park's centrally sited circular pond;</li> </ul>	££	I	BDC	L
	£	I	Revenue	M
	££	I	HLF	L

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The upgrading of thoroughfare routes and access paths by replacing existing paved and crushed stone surfaces with functional attractive materials (e.g. resin bonded gravel).</li> </ul>	£££££	I	HLF	L
<b>The Goodwin Hall Garden (D)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A planned second-phase of the recently completed scheme linking the new features into the adjoining 'arboretum' area. This community project would involve the under-planting of seasonal bulbs and low growing herbaceous plants in drifts below the trees;</li> <li>Improvements to the specimen tree collection, developing this part of the site formally as an 'arboretum' feature;</li> <li>Modifying the surface finish on the new stone path leading to the recently restored seating area and the Goodwin Hall patio.</li> </ul>	££	M	Other	M
	£	M	Other	M
	££	L	Other	L
<b>The Sports Area (E)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To invigorate the old shrub border feature with new plantings.</li> </ul>	£	M	Revenue	M
<b>The West Retford Hall Field and Performance Area (F)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The upgrading and regrading of the main thoroughfare leading from the Hospital Road gates to Carr Dyke. Altering the gradient slightly at certain locations and resurfacing with a suitable material;</li> <li>The introduction of more small scale habitat areas;</li> </ul>	££	I	Other	L
	M	I	Other	L



<b>The Children's Play Area (G)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replacement of the timber multi-unit and wet pour rubber safety surface around the timber multi-unit. Incorporating new ground graphic games to enhance the play value of this feature;</li> <li>The installation of two or three additional innovative play items to refresh the site prior to its next full refurbishment (circa 2024/25), in order to maintain play value and user interest.</li> </ul>	££££	I	BDC/CIL	M
	££	M	BDC	M
<b>Water Splashpark (H)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subtle modifications to the landscape to create a low maintenance natural play environment (using logs, boulders, grass mounds etc.) near to the existing play area;</li> <li>The creation of an annual meadow to provide floral colour from a natural habitat which will encourage butterflies, bees and other insects.</li> </ul>	M	I	Revenue	L
	£	M	Other	M
<b>The Wildlife Garden (I)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The installation of rustic style benches to complement the landscape and provide visitors with an opportunity to view and study wildlife, in a relaxed environment;</li> <li>The continued introduction of new native species to encourage wildlife e.g. wild meadow flowers to attract butterflies, bees and other insects;</li> <li>The upgrading of basic interpretive signage to offer more information for interested visitors.</li> </ul>	£	M	Other	L
	M	I	Revenue	M
	£	I	Other	M
<b>The River Idle Field (J)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The installation of low level flood lighting to illuminate the willow tree feature along the field's riverside boundary;</li> </ul>	£	LT	Other	L

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The installation of outdoor gym equipment to form a 'Health and Wellbeing Park' adjacent to Carr Dyke on the field's eastern boundary.</li> </ul>	££	M	BDC	L
<b>The Celery Field 'Youth Activity Park'(K)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The modification of features i.e. ramps/jumps/grinds etc. on the existing concrete skate park to update the facility and enhance its recreational value;</li> <li>The extension of the existing concrete skate park to increase the range of features i.e. ramps/jumps/grinds etc;</li> <li>The cladding of existing skate park's concrete platforms to enhance the appearance of the feature and aid litter clearance;</li> <li>The construction of additional hard-surface footpaths to improve access and complement the upgrading of other youth park features;</li> <li>The regrading of a grass section within the Celery Field to accommodate 4-A-Side goal posts and increase the recreational value of the site.</li> </ul>	£££	M	S106/CIL	M
	£££	M	S106/CIL	M
	££	M	BDC	L
	££	M	S106/CIL	L
	£	M	S106/CIL	L

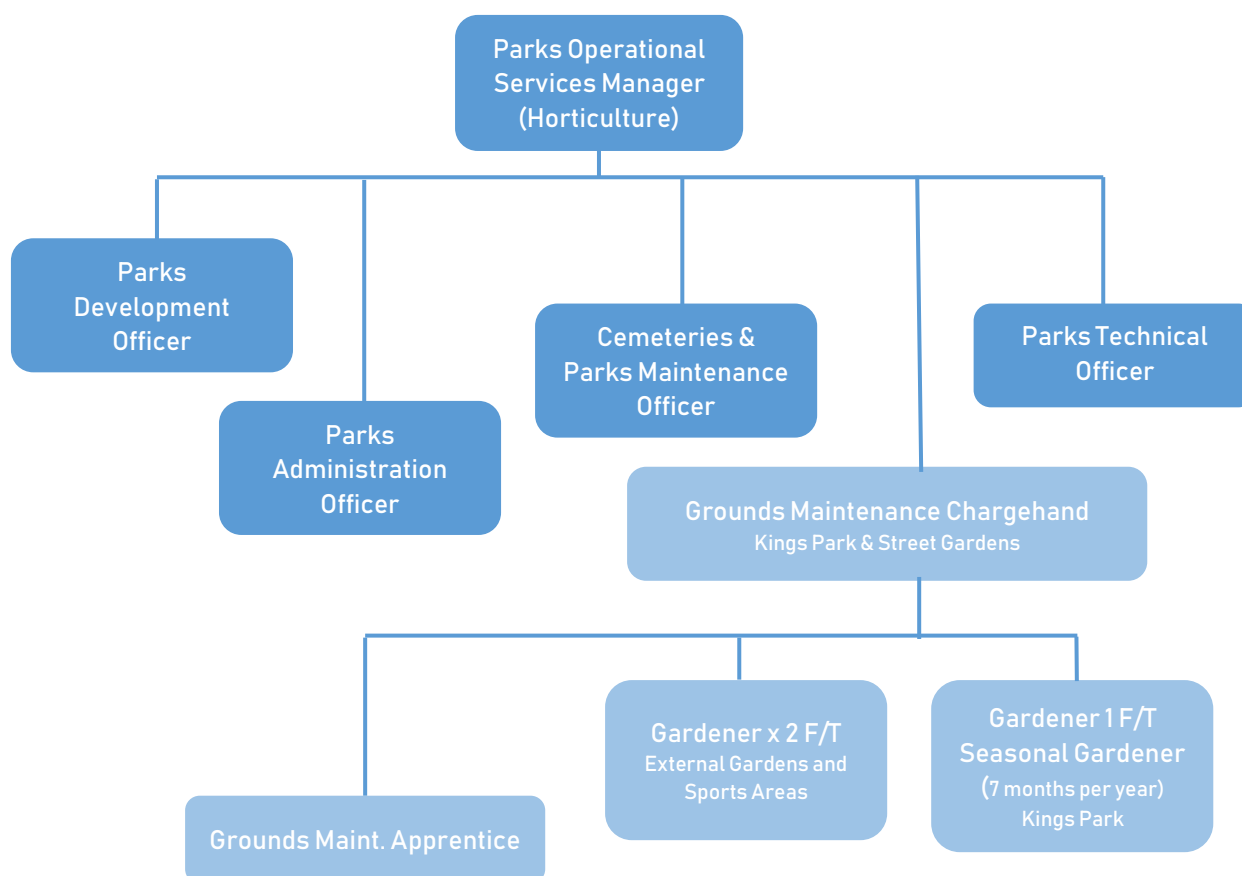
## 3.2 Financial Resources

Set out below is the annual maintenance budget associated with Kings Park

		Annual Cost
Annual Bedding Management	Maintenance	13,241.59
	Plants, bulbs and fertilisers	3,146.99
Shrub/Herbaceous Border Management	Ornamental shrub borders	13,783.11
	Herbaceous Border	2,013.48
Rose Garden Management	Maintenance	1,802.99
Grassland Management	Ornamental lawns	3,990.96
	Amenity lawns	6,773.21
Hedgerow Management	Ornamental	2,763.92
	Amenity	28.59
Play Areas and Skate Park Management	Inspections	894.32
	Maintenance/repairs	6,409.13
Bowling Green Management	Maintenance	7,984.28
	Irrigation	272.00
Waste & Litter Management		20,737.40
Security & Park CCTV system	Park Watch Patrols/Call Outs	1,305.33
	CCTB/Alarm System Maintenance	855.00
Tree Management	Maintenance/repairs	6,691.96
Building Management	Maintenance/repairs	735.20
TOTAL		£93,429.46

## 3.3 Staffing Resources

### Structure



The above structure chart relates to Bassetlaw District Council's overall Parks and Open Spaces Management and Grounds Maintenance staff that covers Kings Park.

The dark blue colour illustrates the officers involved in the management of Kings Park whereas the lighter-blue colour illustrates the staff who are directly involved with the grounds maintenance operations within the park.

The park has two full-time staff with additional staff brought in at specific times as appropriate. The park also benefits from seasonal staff and volunteers to assist when necessary, particularly when planting and removing seasonal bedding displays.

The unit has particular expertise in bowling green maintenance and arboricultural work.

Plant and tools available for the park are funded from the Grounds Maintenance budgets held within the Parks and Open Spaces Unit.

The manpower, resources and management being employed at the park are subject to an annual review to ensure the needs and standards are being met.

## Section 4

# Monitoring and Review

Working Practices

Conservation and Heritage

Marketing and Communications

Management Plan

Supporting Documentation and Information Items

Contact Details



## 4.1 Monitoring and Review

Having established a range of aims and objectives through the documented analysis process, it is essential that measures are in place to monitor progress in delivering and reviewing actions accordingly.

This Management Plan will be used to focus on this monitoring process as follows:

### 4.1.1 Monitoring and Review of Working Practices

Having achieved and retained Green Flag status, Bassetlaw District Council will ensure that a raft of recognised good working practices are applied to maintain the high standards already achieved in Kings Park.

In a proactive approach the Parks and Open Spaces Management Team will regularly review and revise, where necessary its risk assessment procedures and response mechanisms.

Meeting quarterly with the Parks and Open Spaces Management Team will monitor and review the following:

- Grounds maintenance procedures
- Risk assessment procedures
- Remedial works
- Inspection routines
- Improvement works

### 4.1.2 Monitoring and Review of Conservation and Heritage

Having restored many of Kings Park heritage features, the Parks and Open Spaces Management Team will ensure that all such assets are regularly monitored for fair wear and tear and the adverse effects of possible abuse.

Any such outcomes will be acted upon through appropriate practices to avoid further deterioration or long-term dilapidation.

In order to ascertain the success of conservation projects the Parks and Open Spaces Management Team will work in partnership with the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and volunteers to undertake surveys.

These will include:

- Nesting box survey
- Habitat provision and management
- Flora and fauna studies and reports

### 4.1.3 Monitoring and Review of Marketing and Communications

In recent years Kings Park has attracted a lot of positive media interest. It has featured regularly in the local press and received occasional coverage on regional radio stations. It has also been used, on more than one occasion, as a venue for the filming TV programmes which have been broadcast nationally.



The Park and Open Spaces Management Team will monitor on an annual basis the amount and type of coverage Kings Park receives. The Team will continue to work closely with the Council's own Public Relations Unit to develop ideas which will create media interest and promote the Park still further.

The feedback from public consultation exercises as referred to in the new draft Marketing Strategy will be assessed and monitored on a regular basis to address local needs.

#### 4.1.4 Monitoring and Review of the Plan

This fourth version of the Kings Park Management Plan will be used as a working document to deliver ongoing improvement and restoration projects. It will also enable the Parks and Open Spaces Management Team to focus on the maintenance and development of the site as a whole, in so doing, consolidate the positive work undertaken in recent years.

The Management Plan has set delivery targets that are, in theory, measured and achievable. In order to ensure that as many, if not all, targets are reached, the Parks and Open Spaces Management Team will meet at regular intervals to monitor and review progress.

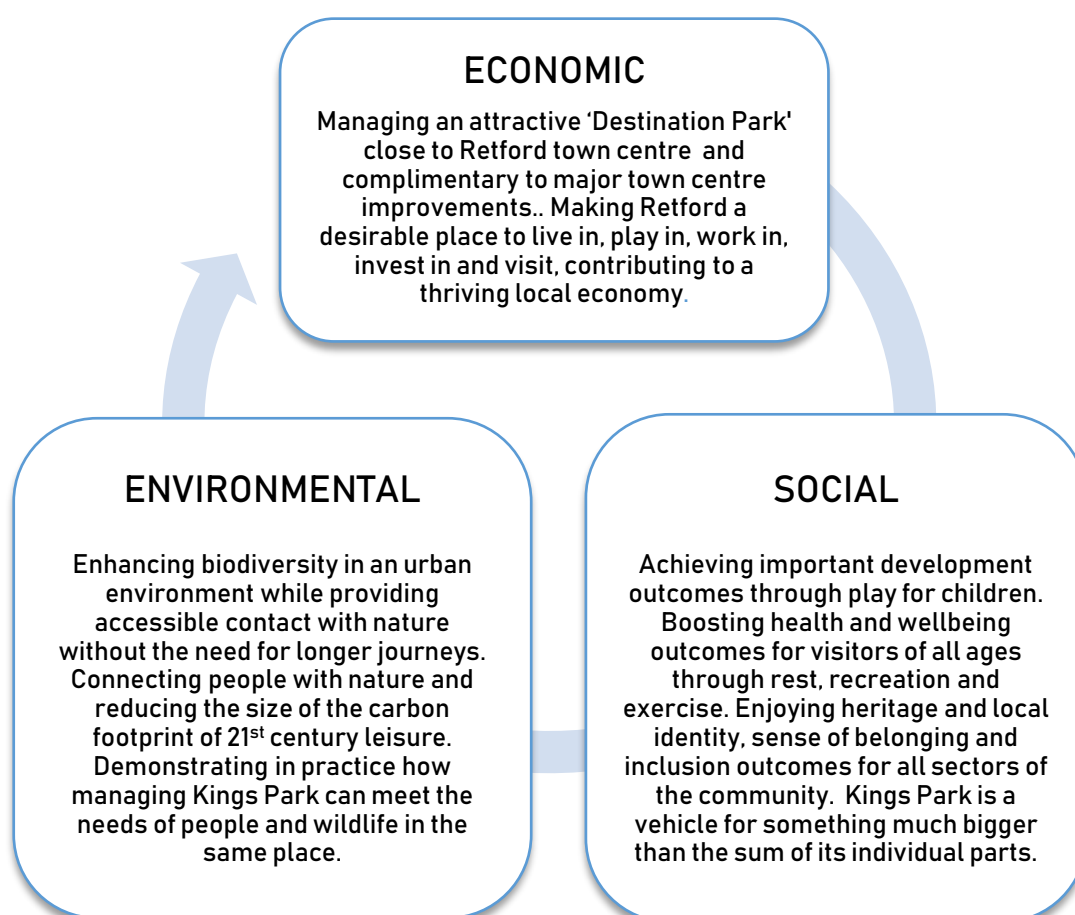
It is inevitable that the delivery process will meet with challenges and constraints, which could impact negatively on the development and use of the facility.

However, through the support of partnership working and from a strong commitment from its staff, Bassetlaw District Council are confident that its aims and objectives will be delivered and that its vision for Kings Park can be achieved.

## 4.2 Policy Context

In developing this plan, it is important to recognise how the park and its role links into the strategic aims and objectives within the context of policies at all levels. This plan complies with the very broad and current policy framework from a national to a local level.

The breadth of individual policies within this framework is far too great to include fully in the management plan. This simplified diagram encapsulates the key themes into which the overall policies relate to Kings Park.



The full suite of the policy framework, including relevant guidance, can be accessed via the descriptions and links contained within the Appendices.

## 4.3 Supporting documentation and information items

The following supporting documentation and information items can be found within the separate appendices to this plan:

### Section 1: Maintenance/Inspection

- Risk Assessments
- Play Area Inspections
- Risk Control Sheets
- Water Play Park Maintenance
- Grounds Maintenance Specifications (examples)
- Bills of Quantity (examples)
- Tree Management

### Section 2: Policy Documents/Strategies

#### National:

- State of UK Public Parks by the Heritage Lottery Fund (Published 2016)
- The Parks Action Group
- The Charter for Parks
- The National Planning Policy Framework
- Sport England
- Trees for Cities
- The Design Council

#### Regional:

- Nottinghamshire County Council

#### Local:

- Bassetlaw District Council:
  - Planning – The Core Strategy
  - The New Bassetlaw Local Plan 2019
  - Conservation and Heritage Appraisal
  - Parks and Play Area Policy 2017
  - Renewal of Public Open Spaces Protection (Dog Control) Order 2018
  - Control of Alcohol Consumption in Public Places 2010
  - Graffiti Removal Policy 2006
  - Registration of Parks and Gardens 2018

### Section 3: Supplementary Items

- Park Watch Scheme

This Management Plan is underpinned by supporting documentation contained in the following supplementary manuals:

- Kings Park Maintenance Operators Manual\*
- Kings Park Health and Safety Manual\*
- Kings Park Community Events Manual\*
- Kings Park Development Manual\*

\*Documents will be available as requested to support the Green Flag Award desk assessment

## Contact us



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We can arrange for a copy of this document in large print, audiotape, Braille or for a Language Line interpreter to help you.



**Bassetlaw**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
— North Nottinghamshire —